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Chess Room Newsletter #900

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« Previous (/web/20200924042709/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/899)

Next » (/web/20200924042709/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/901)

Newsletter #900

Jan 10, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM
- Scholastic Chess in 2020
- New Things for Mechanics' in 2020
- 2020 US Amateur Team West
- Wednesday Night Blitz
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- Tony's Teaser
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- TNM Games
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM Begins!

The first TNM of the new decade started off with many strong players and new faces. This 3-section, 7-round format will already have more than 100 players by the start of round 2 and promises some very exciting matches. The championsip section started with some very intriguing matches, with board 1 pairing FM Josiah Stearman against the winner of last marathon's A/B section Jonah Busch. Though Jonah was largely dominant in the last TNM, he got a lesson from the tournaments top seed as Stearman quickly took control against an Alekhine's Defense and ended things early. Another top A/B section finisher from a previous TNM Ako Heidari also played up and got a handful in the first round against FM Kyron Griffith. Heidari blundered the exchange early and Griffith slowly pressed on to victory. There were no big surprises in the first round in this section, and round 2 will have more exciting match ups as the first round winners meet and those who took first round byes enter the fight.

FM Josiah Stearman plays white against A/B TNM champ Jonah Busch. FM Kyron Griffith just finishes winning the exchange on board 2.

Fear the pink hoodie! NM Rui Yang Yan plays fierce fighting chess under that seemingly innocent attire.

In the A/B section, nearly half the players who have a point after the first round did not play in the previous TNM. It is great to see new faces joining chess' greatest weeknight tradition. In the under 1600 section, nearly 50 players are competing for section supremacy, and it will take all 7 rounds to determine a winner for sure. It is a joy to see so many club players looking to socialize, learn and move up the ladder, and we are happy to see so many newcomers to chess move into tournament play.

We will have more details on the sections as the rounds develop. As always, FM Paul Whitehead is our amazing commentator for the TNM rounds, providing live coverage of games and playe interviews. We look forward to having guest commentators, as well as special guests.

To watch the replay of round 1 coverage, please follow this link here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yZO1nI6vk4)

For a full list of standings and results from the round, click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://www.milibrary.org/tuesday-night-marathon)

Scholastic Chess in 2020

Looking ahead of the new year, we are excited about many events in plans:

2020 US Amateur Team West Nationals - Kids Championship
Saturday, February 15, 2020 @ Hyatt Regency Burlingame
Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-us-amateur-team-west-kids-national-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020USAmateurTeamWestKIDSNationalChampionship)

2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship
Saturday, March 28, 2020 @ Golden Gate Park
Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-san-francisco-scholastic-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020SanFranciscoScholasticChampionship) - Flyer (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://www.milibrary.org/sites/default/files/SFScholastic_Mar28.pdf)

First Kids Swiss tournament of 2020 - Saturday, January 18 10AM

3 sections: 700+, 400-699, and under400
First round: 10AM and then rolling schedule
Prizes: Trophies to Top 5 trophies, medals to all others!
Ideal for new tournment players - notation and use of clock is not neccessary!
Register (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-kids-swiss-jan-2020-1) - More information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissJan20201)

NEW Things @ Mechanics' For 2020!

The new year brings a reflection of where we are and where we want to go. We introduced many new ideas in 2019, and for the most part, I think they have served to elevate our chess club and created a tighter community among the chess players playing at our club. We had many innovations in 2019, such as providing live broadcasting of games, providing live commentary, creating FIDE rated rapid events and expanding the number of tournaments and types for regular and scholastic events. We have also expanded our scholastic outreach programs, providing free chess in 17 public schools through the generous donations of many individual supporters and organizations. We now also provide free weekday classes taught by GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead and continue our free kids class on Saturdays and women's class on Sundays. We have also expanded the size and scope of our fee based after school programs, creating a comprehensive program in schools and scholastic tournaments for those players to improve on their skills.

We want the focus in 2020 to be on strengthening these new ideas and programs, being careful not too add too many new things without taking the time to gauge the success of what has recently added. We want to focus on providing the highest quality in everything we do, so we are looking for ways to provide a better interactive broadcast experience for our events, raising money to support more free programs, and offering new venues for tournaments and camps. A legendary flight instructor in San Jose who was my flight instructor many years ago, Amelia Reid, always told her students that a good pilot is always learning. Even though she had logged over 55,000 hours of flight time, she was always looking to improve. While we are proud of the quality and innovation at our club, we are laways looking to make it even better.

This being said, we do have some new ideas we are looking to try out for 2020. Some of these are just concepts, and some are in development, here goes:

- Mechanics' Institute mate in 2, mate in 3 puzzle composition contest.
- FIDE/USCF rated Blitz tournaments.
- Mechanics' online match #2, #3 - USA club and an international club.
- More community outreach; enaging diverse communities through chess

We will have more details soon, but these things **will** happen. We look forward to an amazing 2020!

Lastly, we want to thank our entire chess community for their encouragement and support. We truly feel like we are part of a family and community here and we want to strengthen that spirit tc keep the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club as one of the world's great chess clubs. Thank you all, and please reach out to us if you have any questions.

Abel Talamantez and the Mechanics' Institute Chess Team

2020 U.S. Amateur Team West National Championship Coming to Burlingame Hyatt, Organized by Mechanics' Institute Chess Club

The greatest team tournament in the nation is making it's west appearance this year at the Hyatt SFO in Burlingame, right off the 101 freeway and very close to the Milbrae BART and CalTrain stop. This tournament is part of a 4-tournament series (West, East, North and South) where 4-player teams are formed with the requirement being the combined ratings of the 4 players must be under 2200. It is a team score, so a match against another team will be judged based on the combined scores of the 4 players. For example, if 2 players on your team win, 1 draws and the other loses, it is a match score of 2.5-1.5 and you would score 1 point for the match victory. A 2-2 match score means a half point for the team, etc. This 6-round event brings teams of players together for fun, for competition, and is one of the funnest tournament experiences of the year. The winning team goes on to compete in the national championship online later in the year, between the winners of the North, South and East.

There will be many section prizes as well, with awards for best under 2000 average rating, 1800, 1600, 1400, 1200 etc. We also have many soecial award categories such as best Women's team, best College team, best Elementary Team, and best Family team among others.

You don't even need to hvae a full team to participate. You may enter as an individual entry and we will put together teams. What is special about this event is that teams are listed in order acccording to rating, so board 1 -4 on your team is determined by rating and you play the board 1-4 order of another team. But another team may have a GM on board 1 and if you are a strong A player playing board 1 on your team, you get paired against a GM! In this event, you never know who you are playing, and all that matter is the overall team result.

This year's event is even more special, as we will be broadcasting 5 matches via DGT voards (20 games!) and we will have live commentary on site by GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead via our Twitch channel https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

Come an join the action and fun the weekend of February 15-17, 2020. For more information and to register, please follow this link (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042709/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/usatw)

We hope to see the Mechanics' community in full force!

Wednesday Night Blitz Report

Expert Jules Jelinek not only directed the January 8th edition of the Wednesday night blitz, he won the event as well! His score of 9 -3 edged out Expert Carlos Davila who scored 8.5 - 3.5. Clear 3rd with 8 - 4 was Jaynusz Kudelka, Expert from Poland.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Famous Chess Games You Should Know.

The “Miniature” - World Champion Examples, Part 1.

By FM Paul Whitehead

FM Paul Whitehead lectures during his free Thursday evening class at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club 5:30-7pm

One of the great pleasure of chess is winning a quick game: we get to go home early, we get to walk around and look at other games – we have won, but others are still struggling! I must say however, that most of these games are nothing to write home about. Our opponents make some elementary mistake, they blunder, they overlook our threats. We feel great that we've won a quick game – but was it art?

The chess "miniature" is usually a game that lasts about 25 moves, give or take. Sometimes there's a serious blunder as in this famous example, where former World Champion Anatoly Karpov dropped a piece vs. GM Larry Christiansen in 1993:

12…Bd6?? was refuted by 13.Qd1, and black resigned. Surely the quickest loss of Karpov's career!

But it's not exactly chess art.

If this game gives some hope to us all, the following examples might squelch that: it's usually the stronger player that prevails: hungrier for the win and with superb tactical awareness, the World Champions and their kind have shown it's not only possible to win quick games, but to do so in brilliant fashion. From Paul Morphy's famous win over the Duke at the Opera in 1858 to Magnus Carlsen's crush of Anish Giri 2019, the best players have elevated the miniature win to crowd-pleasing chess art.

I'm including some VERY famous games here. Why revisit these old curios? It's been my experience that the average club player either

a. Doesn't know the games, or -
b. Needs a refresher.

I'm starting part 1 out with Paul Morphy and the above-mentioned game, and on through Max Euwe's victory over Bobby Fischer 99 years later. Parts 2 and 3 will take us from Botvinnik to Carlsen.

Sit back and enjoy these timeless masterpieces. As usual, my intention is not to provide exhaustive analysis but to point the reader in a certain direction: towards the greatest chess games ever played.

These particular ones are short and sweet.

(1) Paul Morphy - Duke Karl / Count Isouard [C41]

Paris Paris FRA, 1858

This is one of the most famous games of all time, but well worth reviewing. The timeless themes of rapid development and sacrificial finish are displayed here in full force. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4?!** Dubious. **4.dxe5** Already black must part with his bishop (developing white's queen) to avoid losing a pawn. **4...Bxf3 5.Qxf3 dxe5**

6.Bc4 Threat: 7.Qxf7 mate. **6...Nf6** Maybe 6...Qf6 7.Qb3 c6. But who wants to play like this? **7.Qb3!** The double threat on b7 and f7 means black is losing material already. **7...Qe7** Better than 7...Qd7 8.Qxb7 Qc6 9.Bb5! winning immediately. Black hopes for 8.Qxb7 Qb4+ and trying to survive a pawn down. **8.Nc3** Development! **8...c6 9.Bg5** Yet another piece moves out. Morphy's opponents often looked like they were playing in slow motion. **9...b5** Black thrashes out, but... **10.Nxb5!**

The rest of the game is not difficult, but it's nice to see the way white's pieces leap into the attack one after the other. **10...cxb5 11.Bxb5+ Nbd7 12.0-0-0 Rd8**

13.Rxd7! Rxd7 14.Rd1 Qe6 Black tries to get out from all the pins. **15.Bxd7+ Nxd7**

Now comes the final brilliant shot. **16.Qb8+!! Nxb8 17.Rd8#**

The economical way that Morphy handled his pieces and the final attack is just incredible. **1-0**

(2) Wilhelm Steinitz - Ed Pilhal [C52]

Vienna Vienna AUT, 1862

Wilhem Steinitz was World Champion from 1886 to 1894. Nicknamed the "Austrian Morphy" he was a feared attacking player in his youth. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4**

The Evans Gambit - also played by Fischer and Kasparov! **4...Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d4 exd4**

Castling is safer. Over and over in these "miniature" games development - and falling behind in development - is the theme. **8.Ba3! d6 9.e5! dxe5** Black should consider 9...Ne4 followed by ...d5 to keep the e-file closed. **10.Qb3**

Black is in serious trouble. **10...Qd7 11.Re1 Qf5 12.Bb5 Nd7 13.Qd5!**

White moves in for the kill, threatening 14.Bxc6 and 15.Qxa5. Black's king is caught in the cross-fire, and there's no defense. **13...Bb6 14.Nxe5 Ne7 15.Nxd7!!**

As so often is the case, a sacrifice ends the game. **15...Qxd5 16.Nf6+ Kd8** Or 16...Kf8 17.Bxe7 mate. **17.Bxe7#**

This is why you should consider castling early! **1-0**

(3) Amos Burn - Emanuel Lasker [D32]

Hastings Hastings ENG, 02.09.1895

Emanuel Lasker was World Champion longer than anyone, 27 years from 1894 to 1921. He wasn't known for winning short brilliancies (actually he was on the receiving end of a couple) but this little gem against the Englishman Amos Burn is worth a look. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c5 5.e3 Nc6**

Black employs Tarrasch's set-up, and this position is still quite common through all levels of strength. **6.cxd5 exd5** Taking back on d5 with the knight would be the so-called "Semi-Tarrasch". **7.Bd3 a6 8.dxc5** White gives black an isolated queen's pawn. **8...Bxc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bd2 Re8**

White's play has been a bit lackadaisical. Black has great freedom of movement, and perhaps already stands better. **11.Rc1 Ba7 12.Ne2 Bg4 13.Bc3 Ne4** Black's pieces cross the 5th line... **14.Ng3**

14...Nxf2!? White's do-nothing play emboldens black. **15.Rxf2 Rxe3 16.Nf5?** As so often happens when under pressure, the defender cracks. 16.Be2 or 16.Be1 would offer a much better defense. **16...Rxf3! 17.gxf3 Bxf5 18.Bxf5 Qg5+**

Black wins everything back - with interest. **19.Bg4 h5 20.Qd2? Be3**

Not the flashiest game, but one that illustrates an important point: the hungrier player, and the one who is willing to calculate some variations, will prevail over the player who just shows up and pushes the wood around. **0-1**

(4) Jose Raul Capablanca - Charles Jaffe [D46]

NYSCA ch New York, NY USA, 05.03.1910

Capablanca was World Champion from 1921 to 1927. This game is often used to illustrate certain attacking motifs. **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c6 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 Nbd7**

A variation of the QGD seen to this day. **6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.e4 dxe4** Another approach, perhaps more dynamic, is 8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 e5 as played by Ding Liren recently against Giri. **9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 Nf6 11.Bc2**

White has more space, and black will find it hard to free his position. **11...h6** Maybe now was the time for 11...c5! **12.b3 b6 13.Bb2 Bb7 14.Qd3 g6 15.Rae1**

White continues to build up his forces. Black has made no obvious mistakes, yet his position is critical. **15...Nh5?! 16.Bc1 Kg7 17.Rxe6!**

Threatens 18.Rxg6+ and if 17...fxe6 18.Qxg6+ Kh8 19.Qh7 is mate. **17...Nf6 18.Ne5** White pours it on. **18...c5?** Black decides to go out in a blaze of glory. If instead 18...Bxe5 19.Rxe5 and he'd stand no chance against Capablanca's ruthless technique. **19.Bxh6+!** White destroys the black king's pawn cover. **19...Kxh6 20.Nxf7+!**

This final blow smashes the defenses. It's mate next move. **1-0**

(5) Alexander Alekhine - Emanuel Lasker [D67]

Zurich Zurich SUI, 25.07.1934

When World Champions play each other you might get a peaceful outcome... or a real bloodbath! **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bg5 Nbd7**

We are getting a Classical QGD. **6.e3 0-0 7.Rc1 c6 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7**

White has tried almost every move under the sun here. 11.Ne4 is Alekhine's patent. **11.Ne4 N5f6 12.Ng3 e5** Here 12...Qb4+ 13.Qd2 and then trading queens is the safest option for black. **13.0-0 exd4 14.Nf5 Qd8**

Black has to be careful. If 14...Qb4 15.Qxd4. White is fully developed and threatens 16.Bxf7+. **15.N3xd4 Ne5 16.Bb3 Bxf5 17.Nxf5 Qb6?!**

Suprisingly this is a mistake, and Black is in trouble. He could have kept a level position with 17...g6! to evict the white knight ASAP. **18.Qd6!** This is a powerful rerouting of the white queen. **18...Ned7 19.Rfd1 Rad8 20.Qg3!** With simple moves white starts closing in on the black king. **20...g6 21.Qg5 Kh8** [21...Qb5 22.Bxf7+ Rxf7 23.Nh6+ Kf8 24.Qxb5 cxb5 25.Nxf7 Kxf7 26.Rc7 is a nice line. Black is paralyzed and busted.] **22.Nd6 Kg7 23.e4**

Black can hardly move, and the end is near... **23...Ng8 24.Rd3** Bringing up the reserves. **24...f6 25.Nf5+ Kh8 26.Qxg6!**

A pretty finish. 26...hxg6 27.Rh3+ Nh6 28.Rxh6 is checkmate. **1-0**

(6) Max Euwe - Robert James Fischer [D35]

Euwe - Fischer m New York, NY USA, 09.03.1957

Max Euwe was World Champion for 2 years, from 1935 to 1937. He and Fischer played a 2-game match, with the other game a draw. This game was played on Fischer's 14th birthday. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Bb4**

You can call this a Nimzo-Indian, maybe a Ragozin Defence to the Queens Gambit... perhaps just a variation of the Queens Gambit Exchange Variation. **6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 c5!?**

Kind of loose, but this is Bobby Fischer! However, 7...g5!? which looks even looser, is the move here. **8.Bd3 Nc6 9.Nge2** The Knight is well placed here, ready to spring to f4. **9...cxd4 10.exd4 0-0 11.0-0**

11...Be6 12.Bc2 White sets up the classic queen and bishop battery on the b1-h7 diagonal, and black is under some pressure. **12...Be7 13.Nf4 Qb6?** Misplacing the queen and losing the game. 13...Bg4, or even 13...g5!? were better tries. **14.Bxf6! Bxf6 15.Qd3**

Uh oh. **15...Rfd8 16.Rae1 Nb4** There was no defense, for example 16...Qxd4 17.Qh7+ Kg8 18.Rxe6! fxe6 19.Nxe6+ and 20.Nxd4. **17.Qh7+ Kf8**

18.a3! There are other winning moves, but this simple move underlines black's utter helplessness: he can't cover d5. **18...Nxc2 19.Ncxd5 Rxd5 20.Nxd5**

Black loses his queen or gets mated. Perhaps Fischer's worst defeat. **1-0**

Tony's Teasers

This week's problem:

Mate in 3, white to move. J. Moller 1911

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Practical Chess Openings 1:

The London System – 1.d4 and 2. Bf4 (or 2. Nf3 and 3.Bf4)

The London System starts with the queen's pawn, 1. d4, but does not follow with the classic Queen's Gambit move 2. c4. This keeps the game more closed as there is no pawn interaction to open things up and result in tactical play quickly. Thus, it is an easy system for the White player and can be used against virtually any Black defense. White develops the pieces in a systematic way – usually Bf4, Ngf3, Nbd2, Bd3 (or e2) with pawns on c3, d4, e3 to form a solid wedge in the center. This is usually accompanied by castles and pawn to h3 to give the dark-squared bishop a hiding place on h2. Play is solid and slow to develop, but it can frustrate the player of the black pieces as there is little to hit at.

The system was not very popular until ten years ago when people started looking more at alternative openings. Then Magnus started to play it and it has become one of the hottest openings these days. If you are psychologically prepared for a slower, positional game you will find the London System a very practical choice.

We give two common lines of the opening and two games of Magnus' to illustrate play.

(1) White - Black [A45]

London System

1.d4 d5 We will consider the lines of 1...Nf6 in the next example. **2.Bf4** Diagram

This is the defining move of the London System, but White could also play 2. Nf3 first and then 3. Bf4. **2...Nf6 3.Nf3 e6** Black could also consider playing 3...Bf5 in the same solid spirit as White. That's equal, yet White can try various ideas with the extra tempo. **4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.Bg3** This is slightly better than trading bishops on d6. Now if Black trades on g3 White will have an open h-file and solid king side pawns. **7...0-0 8.Bd3** Diagram

Black must now choose between playing for the pawn break ...e5 or playing on the queenside. **8...b6** [An alternative to play for the ...e5 break is 8...Re8 when White might try 9.Ne5 to stop the break.] **9.0-0 Bb7 10.Qe2 Bxg3 11.hxg3 Qd6 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.e4** Diagram

is reasonable for both sides, though White has a solid and slightly more comfortable position. *

(2) White - Black [D00]

London System, 08.01.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 2...e6 3. Bf4 would be like the following games. **3.Bf4 Bb7 4.e3 d6!?** This is an interesting plan for Black to cover the e5 square. [4...e6 5.Nbd2 d5 6.c3 c5 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.h3 Is like the 4rth example.] **5.Nbd2 Nbd7 6.h3** so that the bishop has the safe retreat square on h2 **6...g6 7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.c3** Diagram

9...Re8 10.a4 a5 There is a fight for central square after Black makes an advance of the c or e pawn. It is important though not to give ground on the flanks for no reason. **11.Bh2 e5** Diagram

The position is fairly level. White is very solid and doesn't fear the advance or the exchange of the black e-pawn. Black must be careful about being too aggressive, e.g. **12.Re1 c5?! 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Nc4** leaves weakened squares in the Black camp. It is this kind of play that make players choose the London system. *

(3) Carlsen,Magnus - Nakamura,Hikaru [D02]

World Blitz Final, 30.12.2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 c5 The classical, aggressive pawn advance attacking the center. **4.e3 e6 5.Nbd2 Bd6** Diagram

This is straightforward play by Black. Now 6. Bg3 is most commonly played, but Magnus plays a different way. When playing the London System you have choices of logical moves. **6.Bxd6 Qxd6 7.dxc5 Qxc5 8.c4 dxc4?!** [8...0-0] **9.Bxc4** Now White has some lead in development. **9...0-0 10.Rc1 Qe7 11.0-0 b6 12.Qe2 Bb7 13.Rfd1 Nbd7 14.Ba6** White is two tempi ahead in development but it's not easy to make inroads against the solid Black position. **14...Nc5 15.Bxb7 Qxb7 16.Ne5 Ncd7 17.Qf3! Qa6** [Nakamura didn't want to suffer a slightly worse endgame after 17...Qxf3 18.Ndxf3 Nxe5 19.Nxe5 Rac8 20.Nc6 Rc7 21.b4] **18.Nc6 Kh8 19.Nc4 Qxa2 20.g4 Nc5 21.Nd6** Diagram

The White position is very active with the two strong knights deep in the Black camp. Black must be very careful. **21...Nb3?** [Needed was the active 21...Qxb2! when White has choices but no clear path to a big advantage. e.g. 22.Rc4 *(22.Ne7 h6 23.h4 Nd3 24.g5)* 22...Nd5 (22...Nfd7 23.Nxf7+?? (23.g5 Ne5 *(23...g6)* 24.Nxe5 Qxe5 25.Nxf7+) 23...Rxf7 24.Qxf7 Rf8)] **22.Rc2 Qa4?! 23.Rc4 Qa6 24.g5 Nd7 25.Rh4 Nbc5** Diagram

26.Nxf7+ This in winning, but mate in three was to be had with 26. Rxh7+! Kxh7 27. Qh5+ Kg8 28. Ne7 mate. **26...Rxf7** [26...Kg8 27.Ne7#] **27.Qxf7 Qe2 28.Rxd7 Nxd7 29.Qxd7 Rf8 30.Rf4! 1-0**

(4) Magnus Carlsen (2844) - Evgeny Tomashevsky (2728) [D02]

Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (6), 22.01.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 b6 4.e3 Bb7 5.h3 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 c5 8.c3 Nc6 9.Nbd2 d5 Diagram

This is the most classic set up of the London System. All white pieces are on their "London" squares. Black is developed yet has a worry with the e5 square. **10.Qe2 Bd6 11.Rfe1!? Ne7** [11...Bxf4 12.exf4 gives White firm control of e5.] **12.Rad1 Ng6 13.Bxg6! hxg6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Ne5 g5?!** Diagram

16.f4! gxf4 17.Rf1! Nd7 [White gets a kingside attack on 17...fxe3 18.Rxf6! exd2 *(18...gxf6 19.Qg4+ Kh7 20.Rf1!)* 19.Rxd2 Qd8 20.Rf4] **18.Qh5 Nf6 19.Qh4 Qd8** [19...fxe3 20.Rxf6] **20.Rxf4 Ne4?** Black bails out into a bad endgame, which gives poor prospects against Magnus. Better was to endure the pressure in the middlegame after [20...Nd7 21.Qh5 Nf6 22.Qe2 Nd7] **21.Nxe4 Qxh4 22.Rxh4 dxe4 23.dxc5 bxc5 24.Rd7 Rab8 25.b3 a5 26.Rc7** White wins a pawn as one rook must gaurd the bishop and the other f7. 26...f6? 27. Ng6 is a quick mate. **26...a4 27.bxa4 Ba8 28.a5 Rb7 29.Rxc5 Ra7 30.Nc4** Diagram

1-0

2020 Wilkerson Memorial TNM Games Round 1

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Stearman,Josiah P (2445) - Busch,Jonah M (1944) [B03]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.1), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Nf3 [7.Be3 Bg7 8.Rc1 0-0 9.b3 is the "Voronezh System"] **7...Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Rc1 Nc6** [9...Bg4 10.h3 *(10.Be2 d5!?)* 10...Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nc6 12.Qd1 d5] **10.Be2 Bg4 11.b3** [11.d5!?] **11...e5** [11...d5 has a big plus score (75%) over 40+ games.] **12.dxe5 dxe5 13.0-0 f5 14.c5+/= f4!?N** [14...Nd7 15.Ng5 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 f4 17.Ne6 Qe7 18.Nxf8 Rxf8 19.Qc4+ Qf7 20.Qxf7+ Rxf7 21.Bd2 Nxc5 22.f3 Nd4 23.Be1 e4 24.fxe4 Nxe4 25.Kh1 Nxc3 26.Rxc3 Nc6 27.Rd3 g5 28.Bc3 Bxc3 29.Rxc3 Re7 30.g3 fxg3 31.Rxg3 Rg7 32.Re3 h5 33.Re8+ Kh7 34.Ref8 Nb4 35.R8f7 a6 36.a4 Nd3 37.R1f5 1-0 (37) Leniart,A (2488)-Krasenkow,M (2635) Gorzow Wielkopolski 2014] **15.Bd2 Nd7 16.Ne4**

[16.b4! now appears to be best] **16...Nf6?!** [The other way to contest e4 is possibly better: 16...Bf5 17.Bc4+ *(17.Nd6 e4!* gets a bit annoying for White *18.Nxb7 Qc7 19.Nd6!? exf3 20.Bxf3 Nde5* is a wild position.*)* 17...Kh8 18.Bd5 Nf6 19.Bxc6 bxc6 20.Nd6 Ne4! Black holds his own.] **17.Nd6 Bxf3?** [17...Ne8!? does something about the knight on d6.] **18.Bxf3 Qd7 19.Bc3 Rad8 20.b4 Ne8 21.b5 Nd4 22.Nxb7 Nxf3+ 23.Qxf3 Qxb5? 24.Nxd8 1-0**

(2) Heidari,Ako (1940) - Griffith,Kyron (2434) [A24]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.2), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.d3 d6 6.Rb1 e5 7.e3 c6 8.Nge2 Re8 9.b4 a6N [9...Be6 10.0-0 d5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.b5 Qd7 13.Ne4 Qe7 14.Qa4 c5 15.Ba3 Nd7 16.Rbc1 b6 17.d4 exd4 18.exd4 Rac8 19.dxc5 bxc5 20.N4c3 N7b6 21.Qe4 Qg5 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Qf4 Qxf4 24.Nxf4 Bxg2 25.Kxg2 c4 26.Rc2 g5 27.Ne2 Red8 28.Rb1 Rd5 29.Bc1 c3 30.Rb3 g4 31.Be3 Rd3 32.a4 Nxa4 33.Bxa7 Rd7 34.Be3 Rb7 35.Rb4 Nb6 36.Rxg4 Kf8 37.Bd4 Bxd4 38.Rxd4 Rc5 39.Rxc3 1-0 (61) Klebel,M-Autenrieth,M (2360) Abensberg 1987] **10.a4 d5 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Qb3**

Be6 13.d4 Nc6 14.0-0 exd4 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.exd4 Bf5 17.Be3? There's no reason to drop the Exchange like this. **17...Bxb1 18.Rxb1 Rc8 19.Nxd5 Nxd5 20.Bxd5 Rc7 21.b5 Rf8 22.bxa6 bxa6 23.Bb7 Bxd4 24.Bxd4 Qxd4 25.Bxa6 Rc3 26.Qa2 Qc5 27.Qe2 Rc2 28.Qf3 Ra2 29.Bb5 Rd8 30.Rf1 Kg7 31.h4 Ra3 32.Qe2 Rxg3+ 33.Kh2 Rc3 34.Qg4 Rd4 35.Qg5 Qd6+ 36.Kg1 h6 37.Qg2 Rxh4 38.Re1 Qd4 39.Kf1 Rch3 40.Bc6 Rh2 41.Qg1 Qc4+ 0-1**

(3) Winslow,Elliott C (2223) - Argo,Guy (1939) [A25]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.3), 07.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 f5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.e3 d6 6.d3 g6 7.Nge2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Rb1 Qe8 10.b4 g5 11.f4 exf4 12.gxf4 g4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.cxd5 Nd8 15.Qc2 Rf7 16.e4 Bd7 17.Bb2 Rc8 18.Bxg7 Rxg7 19.Nd4 c5 20.bxc5 Rxc5 21.Qd2 Bc8 22.Rfe1 g3 23.exf5 gxh2+ 24.Kh1 Qa4 25.Rb4 Qd7 26.Ne6 Nxe6 27.f6 [27.fxe6!] **27...Rg6** and Black lost on time **1-0**

(4) Lum,Michael K (1914) - Yan,Ruiyang (2221) [E17]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.4), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.b3 Be7 5.Bb2 0-0 6.Nf3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.d4 b6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Nc3 Nbd7 11.e3 Rc8 12.Ne5 cxd4 13.exd4 [13.Qxd4 Nxe5 (13...Bc5 14.Qf4 Bd6 *(14...Nxe5 15.Qxe5 Qd7)* 15.Nxf7! grabs a pawn) 14.Qxe5 Nd7 15.Qd4 Bf6 16.Qd2 Bxc3 17.Bxc3 and White has collected some positional plusses, 1-0 (30) Repka,C (2487)-Ratsma,R (2295) Zadar 2017 **13...Ne4 14.Nxe4?!N** White tries to affect the balance. [Predecessor: 14.Qd3 f5 *(14...Nxe5 15.dxe5 Nc5 16.Qd4 Ne6)* 15.Ne2 Bd6 16.Nf4 Qe7 17.f3 Nxe5 18.dxe5 Bc5+ 19.Bd4 Qxe5 20.Rad1 Ba6 21.Qe3 Bxd4 22.Rxd4 Bxf1 23.Bxf1 Rc3 24.Nd3 Qe8 25.fxe4 fxe4 26.Qd2 exd3 27.Qxc3 Qe3+ 28.Kg2 Qf3+ 29.Kh3 Qxf1+ 30.Kh4 Qf6+ 31.Kh3 Qf5+ 32.Kh4 Rf6 0-1 (32) Delahaye,R (2153) -Bollengier,A (2253) Saint-Quentin 2012; 14.Ne2 Ba6 15.Nd3 Bg5 16.Nb4 Bb7 17.Nd3 is a quick and dirty perpetual.] **14...dxe4 15.Qe2 f5 16.Rac1 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Qd5** [17...Bc5 18.a3 a5 19.b4!?] **18.Rfd1 Rxc1 19.Bxc1** [19.Rxc1?! f4!?] **19...Qxe5 20.Qc4+ Kh8 21.Bf4**

Black may have won a pawn, but White's activity and threats make it hard to go anywhere with it. **21...Qf6** [21...Qc5 22.Rd7 Bc8 23.Rxa7+/=] **22.Qc7 Ba6 23.Be5?!** [23.h4!+/- provides an escape square along with the threat of Bg5.] **23...Qe6 24.Qxa7?** Too clever. [24.Rd7 Re8 25.Bf1 Bxf1 26.Kxf1 a6 27.Bd4 b5 28.Kg2= is still an extra pawn, but that's about it.] **24...Be2! 25.Re1 Qxe5 26.Rxe2 Bc5 27.Qd7** [27.b4 Bxb4 28.Qxb6 Bc5 29.Qb2 Bd4=/+] **27...Qf6** [27...f4!; 27...e3!] **28.Qd2 Rd8 29.Qb2?**

[29.Qc1] **29...Rd1+** [29...e3!-+ crashes the gate immediately.] **30.Bf1 Qd6 31.Qc2 h6! 32.Qc4?!** [32.b4!? (last chance) 32...Bxb4 33.Qc8+ Qf8 34.Qxf8+ Bxf8 35.h4-+] **32...Qe5 33.b4 Rd4 34.Qa6 Rxb4 35.Qc8+ Kh7 36.Bh3 g6 37.Qd7+ Qg7 38.Qxg7+ Kxg7 39.Rc2 Kf6 40.Kf1 Rb1+ 41.Kg2 g5 42.f3 Rg1# 0-1**

(5) Tsodikova,Natalya (2204) - Lehman,Clarence E (1907) [C24]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.5), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 Qd6?!

8.d4!? e4?! [8...Nb6! 9.Bb5 exd4 would keep Black in the game.] **9.Bxd5 Qxd5 10.Nc3 Qh5 11.Nxe4** White is simply up a good center pawn. **11...Bg4 12.Ng3 Qd5 13.c3 0-0-0 14.Qd3 f5 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Qxf3 17.gxf3 g6 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Bxd6 Rxd6 20.Nf1 Kd7 21.Nd2 Re6 22.Re3 Nd8 23.Nc4 Rxe3 24.fxe3 Ke6 25.e4 c6 26.Rd1 fxe4 27.fxe4 Kf6 28.Rf1+ Ke6 29.Ne3 h5 30.e5 Rg8 31.Rf6+ Ke7 32.Kf2 Rf8 33.Rxf8 Kxf8 34.Kf3 Ne6 35.h4 Kf7 36.Ke4 g5 37.hxg5 Nxg5+ 38.Kf5 Ne6 39.Ng2 b5 40.Nf4 Nxf4 41.Kxf4 a5 42.Kg5 Ke6 43.Kxh5 Kd5 44.Kg5 c5 45.Kf6 cxd4 46.cxd4 Kxd4 47.e6 Kd3 48.e7 Kc2 49.e8Q Kxb2 50.Qxb5+ Kxa2 1-0**

(6) German,Felix (1895) - Ivanov,Aleksandr (2174) [D10]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.6), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 e5 3.e3!? Going into less familiar territory. **3...Nf6 4.d4 e4 5.c4 c6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Nf4 h6 11.f3 g5**

12.fxe4! Bg4 [12...gxf4 13.exd5! is good for White.] **13.Qd3?** [Simply 13.Nfe2+/- is a pawn up.] **13...dxe4!** [But not 13...gxf4 14.e5! with another mass of pawns.] **14.Nxe4 gxf4 15.Rxf4 Bh5 16.Rh4 Bg6 17.Rxh6 Kg7** There's no attack, and Black's just up material. **18.Rxg6+ fxg6 19.Ng5 Qd6 20.d5 Nxd5 21.Nh3 Rad8 0-1**

(7) Walder,Michael (2124) - Reichwein,Axel (1892) [A36]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.7), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 c5 5.e3 0-0 6.Nge2 Nc6 7.0-0 Na5?! Just ends up losing two moves. **8.d3 Rb8 9.a3 Nc6 10.Qa4 a6 11.b4 b6 12.Rb1 Bb7 13.d4** White has made good use of his extra moves, and taken over the center and queenside. **13...cxd4 14.exd4 Qc8 15.Bf4 Ra8 16.d5 Nd8 17.Qb3 d6 18.Rbc1 Nd7 19.Rfd1 Ne5 20.Na4 Qc7 21.Be3 Nd7 22.Bh3 f5**

23.c5! The breakthrough. **23...bxc5 24.bxc5 Ne5 25.c6 Bc8 26.Bb6 Rb8 27.Rb1 Rxb6 28.Qxb6 Qxb6 29.Nxb6 Ndf7 30.Bg2 g5 31.Nxc8 Rxc8 32.Rb7 Nd8 33.Rxe7 Bf6 34.Ra7 Ng4 35.Rb1 f4 36.c7 1-0**

(8) Melville,Cailen J (1884) - Boldi,Ethan (2090) [D06]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.8), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6?! 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.e4 Nb6 6.Nc3 c5 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.0-0 a6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.g3 cxd4 11.Bf4 Bd6 12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.e5 Qb4 14.a3 Qxb2 15.Ne4 Nc8

16.Bd3 [16.Nfg5! h6 17.Nxf7! Kxf7 18.Bh5+ Ke7 19.Qg4 g5 20.Nxg5 Rg8 21.Qf4 is a blistering attack. Note Black's "poisoned pawn" development.] **16...Bc6 17.Nfg5 Nd7 18.Qf3 Rf8 19.Rfb1?! Qc3! 20.Nxc3 Bxf3 21.Nxf3 dxc3 22.Rc1 Ncb6 23.Rxc3 Nd5 24.Rc2 Ke7 25.Rb1 b6 26.Rbc1 Nc5 27.Bf1 Rfc8 28.Nd4 Kd7 29.Bg2 Nd3 30.Rxc8 Rxc8 31.Rxc8 Kxc8 32.f4 g6 33.Bh3?!** [33.Bxd5 exd5 34.Kf1 is some chance to survive; now Black is won.] **33...Kc7 34.Kf1 Nb2 35.Ke1 Nc4 36.Bf1 Nde3 37.Bd3 Nxa3 38.Bxa6 Nec2+ 39.Nxc2 Nxc2+ 40.Kd2 Nd4 41.Ke3 Nf5+ 42.Kf2 Kc6 43.Bc8 b5 44.Ke1 Ne7 45.Ba6 Kb6 46.Bxb5 Kxb5 47.Ke2 Kc4 48.g4 Kd4 49.Kf3 Nc6 50.h4 Nxe5+ 51.fxe5 Kxe5 52.h5 gxh5 53.gxh5 f5 0-1**

(9) Childress,Jason (2073) - Weng,Nicholas (1864) [B21]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.9), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Qe2 Be7 9.Rd1 e5 10.Be3 a6 11.Rac1 0-0 12.a3 b5 13.Bd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Bb7 15.Bb6 Qd7

16.Nxe5? A complicated miscalculation. **16...Nxe5 17.Rc7 Bxd5! 18.Rxd7 Bc4!** and Black gets far too much for the queen. **19.Qe3 Nxd7 20.Bd4 Rfd8 21.f4 Nc5 22.Qg3 Bf8 23.Re1 Re8 24.Qf3 Nxe4 25.Rd1 f5 26.g4 fxg4 27.Qxg4 Nf6 28.Qg3 Be7 29.f5 Rac8 30.Re1 Bd8 31.Rc1 Be7 32.Re1 Kf7 33.Rd1 Bf8 34.Bxf6 gxf6 35.b3 Be2 36.Rd2 Rc1+ 37.Kf2 Rf1+ 38.Kg2 Rxf5 39.h4 Bh6 40.Rxd6 0-1**

(10) Persidsky,Andre (1856) - Snyder,Larry (2061) [D94]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.10), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 c5 7.dxc5 Qa5 8.0-0 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Qxc5 10.Be2 Nc6 11.Na4 Qa5 12.Bd2 Qc7 13.Nc3 a6 14.Rc1 e5 15.Qc2 Qe7 16.Rfd1 h6 17.Na4 Bf5 18.Qc5 Rfe8 19.Qxe7 Rxe7 20.Nb6 Ra7 21.Bc3 Ne4 22.Be1 Re8 23.Bd3 Nd6 24.Bxf5 Nxf5 25.Bc3 Bf6 26.Nd7 Bg7 27.Nb6 Bf6 28.Nd7 Solid play by both players. **1/2-1/2**

(11) Gaffagan,Steven (2060) - Perlov,Alexander (1825) [E11]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.11), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Bxd2+ 6.Nbxd2 0-0 7.Bg2 c6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Qc2 Re8 10.Rfd1 b6 11.Rac1 Bb7 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4 Qe7 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Red8 17.h4 g6 18.Bf3 Rab8 19.Qf4 c5 20.Bxb7 Rxb7 21.Rd6 Rbd7 22.Rcd1 Kg7??

23.Qf6+! 1-0

(12) Maser,Thomas F (1900) - Kaplan,Glenn (1676) [B09]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.12), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.e5 dxe5 6.dxe5 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Ng4 8.Ke1 c6 9.h3 Nh6 10.g4 Nd7 11.Nf3 Nb6 12.Be3 Be6 13.Rd1 Nd5 14.Bd2 Nxc3 15.Bxc3 Bd5 16.Kf2 0-0 17.Bd3 f6 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Bd2 Nf7 20.Rhe1 b6 21.Be4 Bxe4 22.Rxe4

22...e5? [22...Nd6] **23.Bc3! Rad8 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.fxe5 Be7 26.Ke2 c5 27.Re3 c4 28.Re4 b5 29.Rd4 Ng5 30.Nxg5 Bxg5 31.Kf3 Kf7 32.Ke4 Ke6 33.b3?!** [33.Bb4! seems to keep a winning position.] **33...Rxd4+ 34.Bxd4?!** [34.Kxd4!? cxb3 35.axb3 Be7 36.Ba5 a6 37.c4] **34...cxb3 35.cxb3 a6 36.Bb6 Bd2 37.Bc7 Bc3 38.h4 Bb2 39.h5 Bc3 40.a4 bxa4 41.bxa4 Bb2** Good defense by Glenn. **1/2-1/2**

(13) Cortinas,Martin A (1662) - Breedt,Rudolph F (1882) [E67]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.13), 07.01.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 Nbd7 7.c4 Re8 8.0-0 e5 9.e3 c6 10.Nc3 e4 11.Nd2 d5 12.b4 Nb6 13.c5 Bg4 14.Qb3 Nbd7 15.a4 Nf8 16.Rfe1 Qd7 17.f3 exf3 18.Nxf3 Qf5 19.Ne5 Bh3 20.e4 Qh5 21.exd5 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Ng4 23.Nxg4 Qxg4 24.d6 Ne6 25.Ne2 Nxc5 26.bxc5 Rxe2+ 27.Rxe2 Qxe2+ 28.Kg1 Bh6 29.Bc1 Qe1+ 30.Kg2 Bxc1 31.Qc2 Qd2+ 32.Qxd2 Bxd2 33.h4 Bc3 34.Rd1 Rd8 35.Kf3 f6 36.Rd3 Bb4 37.Re3 Rd7 38.Rd3 b6 39.d5 cxd5 40.cxb6 axb6 41.Rxd5 Rxd6 42.Rb5 Ba5 43.Rb3 Rd4 44.Ra3 Rc4 45.Ra2 Kf7 46.g4 Ke6 47.Kg3 Kd5 0-1

(14) Royzen,Igor (1868) - Lin,Aung Tun (1657) [A47]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.14), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.e3 b6 4.Nf3 Bb7 5.Bd3 Nh5 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Bxe7 Qxe7 8.c3 f5 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.0-0 d6 11.Qe2 a5 12.g3 Nd7 13.e4 f4 14.e5 dxe5 15.Nxe5 Ndf6 16.Rae1 Qe8 17.Bb5 c6 18.Bd3 Kh8 19.Ne4 Rd8 20.Ng5 c5

21.Nxe6 Rd6 22.Nxf8 Qxf8 23.Bc4 Bd5 24.Bxd5 Rxd5 25.g4 g6 26.gxh5 Nxh5 27.Nf3 Qf5 28.Qe6 1-0

(15) Carron,Joel (1645) - Abraham,Renjish (1861) [B21]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.15), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 d6 5.Nf3 Nf6?! [5...Nc6 6.Bc4 a6 *(6...e6)*] **6.Bc4** [6.e5!?] **6...Nc6?**



7.0-0 [7.e5! dxe5 *(7...Nxe5?? 8.Nxe5 dxe5 9.Bxf7+)* 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 *(8...Nxd8 9.Nb5 Rb8 10.Nxe5 e6 11.Bf4)* 9.Ng5 Ke8 10.Nb5] **7...e6 8.Qe2 a6 9.Rd1 Qc7 10.Bf4 Nh5 11.Be3 b5 12.Bb3 Be7 13.Rac1 0-0?!**

14.Nd5! exd5 15.exd5 Bg4 16.Rxc6 [16.dxc6!] **16...Qd7 17.Rdc1** [17.h3!] **17...Rfc8?!** [17...Nf6 18.h3 Bh5] **18.Qc2?** [18.h3+-] **18...Nf6 19.Rxc8+ Rxc8 20.Qxc8+ Qxc8 21.Rxc8+ Bxc8 22.Nd4= Kf8 23.Nc6 Ke8 24.Nxe7 Kxe7 25.Bd4 Bb7 26.Kf1 g6**

27.Bxf6+? [27.a3 Nxd5 28.Bxd5 Bxd5 29.Bc3=] **27...Kxf6 28.f4 Kf5 29.g3 Ke4-+ 30.Bc2+ Kd4 31.Ke2 Bxd5 32.a3 a5 33.Kd2 Be4 34.Bb3 d5 35.Bd1 b4 36.axb4 axb4 37.Bb3 Bb1 38.Kc1 Bd3 39.Kd2 Bc4 40.Bc2 b3 41.Bd1 Ke4 42.Kc3 Ke3 43.Bxb3 Bxb3 44.Kxb3 d4** Renjish smoothly took advantage of his possibilities. **0-1**

(16) Ricard,Bruce (1849) - Raza,Aezed (1643) [B22]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.16), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 g6?! Sometimes you play both ...e6 and ...g6, but it just looks strange here. [3...d5 heads for some French positions where White is already committed to c2-c3: 4.exd5 *(4.e5* is the Advance Variation*)* 4...exd5 *(4...Qxd5!?)* 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 Nge7 looks a lot like seven (!) of the games where Korchnoi had Black vs. Karpov in their 1974 Candidates Finals match. All were drawn. (Shades of recent world championship matches, except that every time Korchnoi varied he lost drastically!)] **4.Nf3 Qc7 5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 d6 7.Re1 Ne7 8.Na3 a6**



[8...cxd4 9.cxd4 0-0] **9.e5?!** Objectively maybe not best, but after Black's response it pays off handsomely! **9...b5?** Asking for trouble... **10.Bxb5+!** ...which White provides! **10...Nbc6** [10...axb5 11.Nxb5 is going to be a lot of pain for Black. Unfortunately the text move isn't really any better.] **11.exd6 Qxd6 12.Nc4 Qc7 13.Bxc6+ Qxc6** [13...Nxc6 14.d5!] **14.Nfe5!** White doesn't let up! **14...Qc7 15.Qf3** A fine "flash attack" by Bruce! **1-0**

(17) Hansen,Mateo (1624) - Drane,Robert (1812) [A85]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.17), 07.01.2020

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 b6 7.d5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 f4 10.e4 fxg3 11.e5 gxf2+ 12.Kxf2 Ne4+ 13.Ke3 Nc5 14.Qh5+ Ke7 15.Be2 Qe8 16.Qf3 Qf7 17.d6+ cxd6 18.exd6+ Ke8 19.h4 Bb7 20.Qxf7+ Kxf7 21.hxg5 Kg7 22.Rh5 Bxg2 23.Nf3 Nc6 24.gxh6+ Kf6 25.Nh4 Rag8 26.Rg1 Bh3 27.Rxg8 Rxg8 28.Bd1 Bf5 29.Nxf5 exf5 30.Bc2 Ne4 31.Bxe4 fxe4 32.Kxe4 Kg6 33.Rh1 Rh8 34.Rf1 Kxh6 35.Rf7 Rh7 36.Rf8 Kg7 37.Rc8 Kf6 38.Kd5 Rh5+ 39.Ke4 Ke6 40.Rg8 Re5+ 41.Kf4 Kxd6 42.Ra8 Rc5 43.Ke4 Rxc4+ 44.Kd3 Ra4 45.Rh8 Rxa3 46.Rh6+ Kc7 47.Kc2 Na5 48.Rh4 b5 49.Rh5 a6 50.Rd5 Nc4 51.Rd3 Ra2+ 52.Kc1 Rh2 53.Kd1 a5 54.Ke1 a4 55.Rd5 Kc6 56.Rd1 Rh1+ 57.Ke2 Rxd1 0-1

(18) Mercado,Adam (1789) - Tamondong,Cesar B (1617) [B32]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.18), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 b5 8.Nd5 Rb8 9.c3 [9.c4! doesn't let Black off so easy.] **9...h6?!** [9...Be7!? 10.Nc2 Nf6] **10.Be3 Nf6 11.Qf3 Be7** [11...Nxd5 12.exd5 Ne7=/+ isn't exactly Caruana-Carlsen, but it sure looks similar.] **12.Nc2** [12.Be2] **12...0-0 13.Be2 Be6 14.0-0 Ng4 15.Bd2 Bg5 16.Rad1** [16.Bxg5 Qe7 17.Rfd1] **16...Bxd2 17.Rxd2 Ne7 18.h3 Bxd5 19.hxg4 Bb7?!** [19...Be6] **20.Rfd1 Qa5 21.Nb4** Around now Black must wish he'd nudged that White pawn to d5. **21...f5?** [21...Nc8 and hang on...] **22.Qd3** [22.Rxd6 Bxe4 23.Qe3 and it turns out Black has a lot more weak pawns than just d6.] **22...fxe4 23.Qxd6 Rbe8 24.Qe6+?!** [24.Qxe5 Nd5 25.Qd6 Nxb4 26.Qxb4 Qxb4 27.cxb4 e3 is unhealthy pawns, but; Best is to get out of the way of the rooks with 24.Qc5] **24...Kh8 25.Rd7??** White must have simply missed Black's next [25.g5! still gives Black a rough time.] **25...Bc8! 26.g5 Bxd7 27.Rxd7 Nf5!?** [27...Nc8 28.Qxa6 Qxa6 29.Nxa6 Rd8 30.Bxb5 Black should be okay.] **28.Qg6 Rd8?**



[28...Ne7 29.Qxa6 and it's back to those three passed pawns on the queenside to counter the extra exchange.] **29.Bg4!** Black crumbles. **29...Rxd7 30.Bxf5 Rxf5 31.Qe8+! Rf8** [31...Kh7 32.g6#!] **32.Qxf8+** Great finish by Adam! **1-0**

(19) Rakonitz,David (1613) - Babayan,Gagik (1784) [D59]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.19), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Bd3 [10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Rc1 Be6 12.Qa4 c5 13.Qa3! Rc8! was the truly archetypal game Fischer - Spassky, World Championship (9) Reykjavik 1972, and quite a few games before and after.] **10...Bb7 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Rc1 c5 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.Bf5 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.Bh3 Ba6 18.Re1 c4 19.Qa4 Bc8 20.Bxc8 Rfxc8 21.Qa3 Rc7** Black's pawns aren't really any weaker than White's, at least that one on b2 is a problem. **22.Qc3 Qxc3 23.Rxc3 Rb7 24.Re2 a5 25.Kf1 f5 26.Rcc2?!** [White probably needed to shake the tree with 26.b3; or 26.g4] **26...Kf7 27.Red2 Ke6 28.Ke2 a4!** Black keeps improving his position, while White can no longer really do anything. **29.a3 g5 30.h3 h5 31.g3** [31.g4!?] **31...g4 32.h4 Rb3 33.Ke1 Ke5 34.Kf1 Rab8 35.Kg2**

35...Rd3! 36.Rxd3? cxd3 37.Rd2 Ke4 38.Kf1 Rc8 39.Ke1 d4 [39...Rc1+ 40.Rd1 Rxd1+ 41.Kxd1 Kf3 42.Ke1 Kg2 is the cool takedown. *(42...d2+* (does also work)*)*] **40.exd4 Kxd4 41.Kd1 f4** This wins, [but it's Zugzwang after 41...Rc7! 42.Ke1 Rc1+ 43.Rd1 Rxd1+ 44.Kxd1 Ke4 45.Kd2 Kf3 46.Kxd3 Kxf2 is still there.] **42.Ke1** [42.gxf4 Rf8 43.Ke1 Rxf4] **42...fxg3 43.fxg3 Ke3** [43...Rc1+ 44.Rd1 Rc2] **44.Kd1 Rf8** An admirable grinder by Gagik. [44...Rf8 45.Ke1 Rf1+! is still some icing on the cake.] **0-1**

(20) Acosta,Anthony (1762) - Casares Jr,Nick (1600) [C27]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.20), 07.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.d3 c6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bg5 0-0 7.a3 Be6 8.Bxe6 fxe6 9.Qd2 b5 10.d4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Bxd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 Qe7 14.0-0 Nbd7 15.Rfd1 Qe6 16.Qxd6 Qg4 17.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.f3 Qg5 19.Qxc6 Qe3+ 20.Kh1 Nh5 21.Qd5+ Rf7 22.Qxa8+ 1-0

(21) Hack,Richard (1567) - Boldi,Nicholas (1754) [A13]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.21), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 e6 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.d3 Nf6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.b3 Bd7 10.Bb2 Rc8 11.e3 a6 12.Ne2 Qe7 13.a3 Rfd8 14.Qd2 b5 15.b4 a5 16.bxa5 Ra8 17.Bc3 Bxa3 18.Ned4 b4 19.Bb2 Nxa5 20.Bxa3 bxa3 21.Rfb1

21...Rdb8? [21...e5-/+] **22.Rxb8+ Rxb8 23.Qxa5 Rb2 24.Rxa3 e5 25.Nb3 Bb5 26.Bf1 h6 27.Nfd2 Ng4 28.h3 Nf6 29.Ra1 Bc6 30.Qc3 Rxb3 31.Qxb3 e4 32.d4 g5 33.Qb6 Bd7 34.Ra7 h5 35.Nb3 h4 36.g4 Qe6 37.Qxe6 fxe6 38.Nc5 Be8 39.Nxe6 Nh7 40.Rg7+ Kh8 41.Re7 Ba4 42.Ba6 Bc6 43.Rc7 Be8 44.Rc8 Nf6 45.Bb5 Kh7 46.Bxe8 Nxe8 47.Rxe8 Kg6 48.Nc7 Kf7 49.Re5 Kf6 50.Rxd5 Kg6 51.Rf5 Kh6 52.d5 Kg7 53.d6 Kh8 54.d7 Kg7 55.d8Q Kh7 56.Rf7+ Kh6 57.Qf6# 1-0**

(22) Madhavan,Srikrishnan (1720) - Yamamoto,Craig (1500) [A85]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.22), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 c6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Ne4 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Qc2 b6 11.Rac1 Bb7 12.a3 Nd7 13.b4 e5 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Qa2 Nxc3 16.Rxc3 Rfc8 17.Rfc1 Rxc3 18.Rxc3 e4 19.Rc7! exf3

20.Bb5? [20.Ba6!! Qd6 *(20...Bxa6 21.Qxd5+)* 21.Rxb7 Nf6 22.gxf3 should win for White.] **20...Rc8! 21.Rxb7 Rc1+ 22.Bf1**

22...fxg2?? [22...Qe4! 23.gxf3 Qxf3 24.h3 Nf6 and Black is winning.] **23.Qxd5+ Kh8 24.Qxg2 1-0**

(23) Morgan,Jerry (1467) - Mays,Jerry L (1700) [A03]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (1.23), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.f4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d3 d5 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.Qe1 0-0 8.c3 d4 9.Na3 Nd5 10.e4

10...dxe3 11.Bxe3 Nxe3 12.Qxe3 Re8 [12...Be6 13.Qxc5 Qxd3] **13.Nc2?** [13.Nc4] **13...Qb6 14.Rab1 Be6 15.d4 cxd4 16.Nfxd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Bxa2 18.Nc2 Qxe3+ 19.Nxe3 Bxb1 20.Rxb1 Rab8 21.f5 e6 22.fxg6 hxg6 23.Nc4 Re7 24.Rd1 Rc7 25.Na5 Kf8 26.Kf2 Ke7 27.Ke2 f5 28.Rd2 Bf6 29.c4 g5 30.Ke3 Be5 31.Bxb7 Rbxb7 32.Nxb7 Rxb7 33.Kf3 Rxb2 34.Rxb2 Bxb2 35.h4 gxh4 36.gxh4 a5 37.c5 a4 0-1**

(24) Gimelfarb,Ilia (1599) - Revi,Frank (1298) [B22]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.24), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nc6?! [2...d5; 2...Nf6; 2...d6; 2...e6; 2...g6] **3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 e6 5.d5 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 exd5 7.exd5 Qe7+ 8.Be2 Ne5 9.a3 Bc5 10.b4 Bb6 11.d6 Qf6 12.Nh3**

12...Nf3+ 13.Bxf3 Qxc3+ 14.Bd2 Qe5+ 15.Qe2 Qxe2+ 16.Kxe2 Bd4 17.Ra2 Be5 18.Bf4 Bxf4 19.Nxf4 Nf6 20.Re1 0-0 21.Kf1 Ne8 22.Rd2 Rb8 23.b5 b6 24.Re7 a6 25.a4 axb5 26.axb5 Bb7 27.Rxd7 Bxf3 28.gxf3 Nf6 29.Rc7 g5 30.Nd5 Ne8 31.Rc6 Rb7 32.Rxb6 Ra7 33.Ra6 Rb7 34.b6 Kg7

35.Ne7 Nxd6 36.Rxd6 Rxe7 37.Ra7 Rxa7 38.bxa7 Ra8 39.Ra6 Kf8 40.Kg2 Ke8 41.Kg3 f5 42.f4 g4 43.Kh4 Kd7 44.Kg5 Kc7 45.Kxf5 Kb7 46.Ra4 h5 47.Kg5 1-0

(25) Rushton,Peter (1294) - Starr,Albert (1552) [C42]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.25), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bc4 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.d3 Qe8 7.Ne2 Be6 8.b3 Bxc4 9.bxc4 Ba5 10.Ba3 c5 11.Nh4 g6 12.Rb1 Qc6 13.Ng3 Nbd7 14.Nf3 Rab8 15.Rb3 Bd8 16.Bb2 Re8 17.Re1 Nf8 18.c3 Ne6 19.Ne2 Be7 20.d4 Qc7 21.d5 Ng7 22.Ng3 Nd7 23.Re3 Nb6 24.Nd2 Bg5!

25.Rf3 Bxd2 26.Qxd2 Nxc4 27.Qd3 Nxb2 28.Rxb2 c4 29.Qd2 b5 30.a3 Rf8 31.h4 f6 32.Qe3 a6 33.Ne2 Qd7 34.Rh3 f5 35.exf5 Nxf5 36.Qc1 Qf7 37.h5 Ne7 38.hxg6 Qxf2+ 39.Kh2 Nxg6 40.Qh6 Rb7 41.Rd2 Rg7 42.Ng3 Qf4 43.Qxf4 Nxf4 44.Rh6 Kh8 45.Nf1 Rfg8 46.Ne3 Rg3 47.Rxd6 Rxe3 48.Rxa6 Rxc3 49.d6 Rd8 50.g3 Nh5 51.Rd5 Rd3 52.Rxb5 Nxg3 53.Rxe5 Nf1+ 54.Kg2 Nd2 55.Kf2 R3xd6 56.Rxd6 Rxd6 57.Re8+ Kg7 58.Re7+ Kg6 59.Re3 Rc6 60.Rg3+ Kf5 61.Ke2 c3 62.Rg1 Ne4 63.Rc1 h5 64.Kd3 h4 65.Kd4 Ng3 66.Rc2 h3 67.Kd3 Ne4 68.a4 Nc5+ 69.Kd4 Nxa4 70.Rf2+ Kg4 71.Kd3 c2 0-1

(26) Simpkins,Jerry (1539) - Ahrens,Richard (1256) [C41]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.26), 07.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bg4 6.Be2 Qd7 7.Bxg4 Qxg4 8.Qxg4 Nxg4 9.Nf5 g6 10.Ne3 Nxe3 11.Bxe3 Bg7 12.0-0-0 Bxc3 13.bxc3 0-0 14.Bd4 f5 15.exf5 Rxf5 16.g4 Rf3 17.h4 c5 18.Be3 Rf6 19.Rd5 Nc6 20.h5 Ne7 21.Rd2 b6 22.Bg5 Re6 23.Bxe7 Rxe7 24.hxg6 hxg6 25.Rxd6 Kg7 26.f4 Rae8 27.f5 gxf5 28.gxf5 Re1+ 29.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 30.Kd2 Rf1 31.Rd7+ Kf6 32.Rxa7 Rxf5 33.Rb7 Rf2+ 34.Kc1 Rf1+ 35.Kb2 Ke5 36.Rxb6 Kd5 37.a4 Rf7 38.a5 Ra7 39.a6 Kc4 40.Rh6 Kb5 41.Kb3 Rxa6 42.Rxa6 Kxa6 43.Kc4 Kb6 44.Kd5 Kb5 45.c4+ Kb4 46.c3+ Ka5 47.Kxc5 Ka6 48.Kd6 Kb7 49.c5 Kc8 50.Kc6 1-0

(27) Cendejas,Jon (1254) - Jade,Valerie (1532) [C02]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.27), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.e5 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4?! [5...Qb6; 5...Bd7; 5...Nge7] **6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 Qb6 9.Nb3 Nge7 10.Bd3 0-0 11.Qc2 Qb4+ 12.Qd2 f6 13.0-0 fxe5 14.dxe5 Qxd2 15.Nbxd2 b6 16.Rfe1 Nb4 17.Bb1 Ba6 18.Nd4 Bd3 19.a3 Bxb1 20.Raxb1?!** [20.axb4!+-] **20...Nd3 21.Re3 Nxf2 22.Nxe6 Rf5 23.Rf1 Ng4 24.Ree1 Rxf1+ 25.Nxf1 Rc8 26.Nd4 Rc4 27.Nf3 Rc2 28.b3 b5 29.Nd4 Rb2 30.Ne3 Nxe5 31.Nd1 Rd2 32.Nxb5 Nd3 33.Rf1 Ng6 34.Nf2 Ngf4 35.Nxd3 Nxd3 36.Nxa7 Nb2 37.Nc6 g6 38.h3 d4 39.Rf2 Rd1+ 40.Rf1 d3**

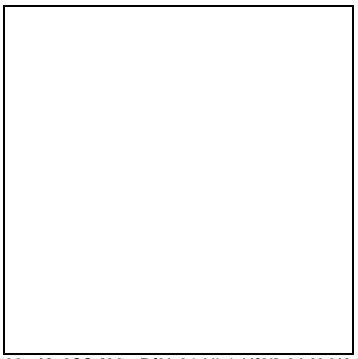
41.Ne5? Now the pawn queens. [41.Rxd1 Nxd1 42.Ne5 Nb2 43.Nf3 and White would win] **41...Rxf1+ 42.Kxf1 d2 0-1**

(28) Chan,John (1506) - Morgan,Jacob (1227) [D30]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.28), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 Be7 4.c4 d5 5.c5 0-0 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.e3 b6 8.cxb6 axb6 9.Be2 Nd7 10.Nc3 c5 11.0-0 c4 12.a4 Ba6 13.Re1 Re8 14.e4 Nf8 15.e5 Be7 16.g3 Bb4 17.Qc2 f6 18.Red1 Ng6 19.Na2 Be7 20.Ne1 fxe5 21.Bh5 exd4 22.Bxg6 d3 23.Bxh7+ Kxh7 24.Qb1 Rf8 25.Ng2 Bc5 26.Rf1 Qf6 27.Nc3 Bb7 28.Qd1 Kg8 29.Qg4 Rae8 30.Nf4 Bc8 31.Qh5 Qf5 32.Qxf5 Rxf5 33.Kg2 Bb7 34.f3 Bd6 35.Nb5 Bxf4 36.gxf4 Rxf4 37.Nd6 Re7 38.Rfe1 Bc6 39.Kf2 d4 40.Nxc4 Rxf3+ 41.Kg1 Rf5 42.Ne5 Rg5+ 43.Kf2 Re8 44.Nxd3 e5 45.Ke2 Rg2+ 46.Kd1 e4 47.Nb4 Bb7 48.Ra3 Rxb2 49.Na2 d3 50.Re3 Rf8 51.Nc3 Rf1+ 52.Re1 Rxe1+ 53.Kxe1 Rxh2 54.Kd1 g5 55.a5 bxa5 56.Rxa5 e3 57.Rxg5+ Kf7 58.Rg1 Rh1 59.Rxh1 Bxh1 60.Ke1



60...Ke6?? [60...Bf3! 61.Nb1 Kf6!] **61.Nd1! Ke5 62.Nxe3 Kd4 63.Kd2 Bf3 64.Nf5+ 1/2-1/2**

(29) Frank,Robert H (1222) - Rothman,Ivan (1487) [A49]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.29), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.b4 h6 8.Bb2 Nh7 9.e4 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Bxe5 dxe5 13.Nb3 Qe7 14.c3 b6 15.Qe2 Be6 16.Qb2 Rad8 17.Rad1 Kg7 18.Nd2 f6 19.Bf3 Ng5 20.Bg2 c6 21.h4 Nf7 22.a4 Rd6 23.Nf3 Rfd8

24.Qe2?? Bc4 25.Qc2 Bxf1 26.Rxd6 Qxd6 27.Kxf1 Qd3+ 28.Qxd3 Rxd3 29.c4 Ra3 30.b5 Rxa4 31.Nd2 cxb5 32.cxb5 Nd6 33.Bh3 Nxe4 34.Nxe4 Rxe4 35.Bg2 Rb4 36.Bc6 Kf7 37.Kg2 Ke7 38.f3 Kd6 39.g4 Kc5 40.Kg3 Rxb5 41.Bxb5 Kxb5 42.Kf2 a5 43.Ke2 Kc4 44.Kd2 a4 45.Kc2 b5 46.Kb2 b4 47.Ka2 Kc3 48.h5 gxh5 49.gxh5 Kc2 50.Ka1 b3 51.f4 b2+ 52.Ka2 b1Q+ 53.Ka3 Qb3# 0-1

(30) Hilliard,Michael (1476) - Chambers,Wolfe (1182) [D02]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.30), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e3 g6 4.Nbd2 Bg7 5.a3 e5 6.dxe5 Nxe5 7.Be2 Ne7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Rb1 c5 10.b3 b6 11.Bb2 N7c6 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Nf3 Re8 14.c4 Bf5 15.Bxe5 Bxb1? [15...Bxe5 16.Bd3 is equal (doesn't lose the exchange)] **16.Bxg7! Kxg7 17.Qxb1 d4 18.Qb2** White's two pieces are clearly more powerful than a rook. **18...Qd6 19.exd4 cxd4 20.Nxd4 Re4**

21.Nf5+ 1-0

(31) Gimelfarb,Natan (1134) - Ansari,Jahaan (1461) [D20]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.31), 07.01.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.c4 dxc4 6.Bxc4 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Ng5 Nc6 9.0-0 Ng4 10.Nxf7 Rxf7 11.Qf3 Qf8 12.Bxf7+ Qxf7 13.Qxf7+ Kxf7 14.Nc3 Bf5 15.Rad1 a6 16.Bf4 Bd6 17.Bxd6 cxd6 18.Rfe1 Nf6 19.f3 Rd8 20.Ne4 Ne8 21.Ng5+ Kf6 22.Ne4+ Kg6 23.g4 Bc8 24.d5 Ne5 25.Kg2 Nf6 26.Nxd6 Nxf3 27.Nxc8 Nxe1+ 28.Rxe1 Rxc8 29.Rd1 Nxg4 30.Kf3 Nf6 31.d6 Kf7 32.d7 Rd8 0-1

(32) Sachs-Weintraub,Julian (1429) - Dubensky,Walter (1120) [D06]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.32), 07.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.e4 Nb4 5.a3 N4c6 6.Bb5 g6 7.d5 a6 8.Qa4 Bd7 9.dxc6 Nxc6 10.Be2 Ne5 11.Qd1 Bg7 12.Nf3 Nc6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Nc3 b5 15.Be3 Qc8 16.Nd4 Rd8 17.Nxc6 Bxc6 18.Qc1 Qe6 19.f3 Rd6 20.Rd1 Bd7 21.Bf4 Be5 22.Rxd6 cxd6 23.Bxe5 Qxe5 24.a4 b4 25.Nd5 Qd4+ 26.Kh1 Kf8 27.Qh6+ Ke8 28.Qxh7 Kd8 29.Qg8+ Be8 30.Qf8 Ra7 31.Rb1 e6 32.Nf4 b3 33.a5 Qd2 34.Qh6 e5 35.Ne6+ 1-0

(33) Wagner,Tyler (1050) - Allen,Tom Carter (1426) [C63]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.33), 07.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d3 fxe4 5.dxe4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bc5 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bg5 Qe8 9.Bxf6 Rxf6 10.Qd5+ Kh8 11.Qxc5 Qg6 12.Qe3 d6 1-0

(34) James,Charles (1404) - Dunlap,Steven (1037) [E34]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.34), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nb6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Be3 0-0 9.Bd3 Re8 10.0-0 e5 11.a3 exd4 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 dxe3 14.dxc6 exf2+ 15.Kh1 Ba5 16.Rad1 Qe7 17.Rxf2 bxc6 18.Re2 Be6 19.Nd4 Qf6 20.Nxc6 Bb6 21.Bxh7+ Kf8 22.Be4 Bg4 23.Bf3 Bxf3 24.Qh7 Bxc6?? 25.Qh8# 1-0

(35) Nicol,George R (1015) - Harris,Clarence (1402) [C55]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.35), 07.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Bd2 d6 7.c3 Bg4 8.Re1 Qc8 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nbd2 Ne7 12.h3 Bd7 13.d4 Ng6 14.Nf1 Nf4 15.N1h2 Bxh3 16.gxh3 Qxh3 17.Bf1 Qh5 18.Nd2 Qg6+ 19.Qg4 Bg5 20.Ndf3 f5 21.exf5 Rxf5 22.dxe5 h5 23.Qg3 dxe5 24.Nh4 Bxh4 25.Qxg6 Nxg6 26.Bd3 Bxf2+ 27.Kf1 Rf6 28.Re2 Bg3+ 29.Kg2 Bxh2 30.Bxg6 Rxg6+ 31.Kxh2 Re6 32.Kh3 Rf8 33.Kh4 g6 34.Rg1 Kg7 35.Rg5 e4 36.Reg2 Rf4+ 37.Kh3 Kh6 38.R5g3 e3 39.Re2 Rfe4 40.Kh2 g5 41.Kh3 h4 42.Rg4 Kh5 43.Rxe4 Rxe4 44.Kg2 Kg4 0-1

(36) Olson,David R (1400) - Tabatabai,Ashkon (962) [A28]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.36), 07.01.2020

1.Nf3 Nc6 2.c4 e5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nd5 Bc5 5.d3 Ng4 6.e3 0-0 7.Be2 Bd6 8.0-0 Qe8 9.h3 Nh6 10.a3 e4 11.dxe4 Qxe4 12.Bd3 Qe6 13.Ng5 Qe5 14.f4 Qe8 15.Nxh7 f6 16.Nxf8 Qxf8 17.Qh5 Bc5 18.Nxc7 Rb8 19.Rf3 a6 20.Rg3 Be7 1-0

(37) Ballantyne,Andrew (877) - Cole,Tony (1400) [C01]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.37), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Qd2?! h6 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.Nf3 [9.f4!? might be necessary to bandage up some dark squares and prevent ...Bg5.] **9...Bg4 10.Be2?** [10.Kb1] **10...Bxf3! 11.gxf3** [11.Bxf3?? Bg5] **11...Qd6** [11...Nc6! 12.Rhg1 Kh8 13.Rg4 An unusual and creative defense of d4, but... 13...h5! Usually asking for trouble, but here it brings trouble to White. *(13...Bg5! 14.f4 Bf6 15.f5 Bg5! 16.f4 Bf6!* is pretty funny (as well as strong)*.)*] **12.Nb5 Qb6 13.Rhg1** (Threatening h6) [13.Kb1] **13...Kh8!=/+ 14.Qb4?** Now d4 is a problem. [14.Kb1; 14.Nc3; 14.Rg3!? Nc6 15.Rh3 dreams of a sacrifice on h6, but Black counters that with 15...Ne7! 16.Rxh6+ gxh6 17.Qxh6+ Kg8-+] **14...Nc6** [14...a6?? 15.Qxf8+] **15.Qc5**

15...Rad8 [15...Nxd4! 16.Qxb6 Nxe2+ 17.Kd2 axb6 18.Kxe2 c6 followed by picking off White's queenside.] **16.Qxb6 cxb6 17.c3 a6 18.Nc7? Rd7** The knight is trapped. **19.Nxa6 bxa6 20.Bxa6 Ra7 21.Bb5 Ne7 22.Kb1 Ng6 23.Bc6 Ne7 24.Bb5 Rc8 25.Rge1 Kg8 26.Bf1 Kf8 27.Bh3 Rca8 28.a3 b5 29.Bf1 Ra5 30.f4 Nc8 31.Bh3 Nd6 32.Re2 Bh4 33.Bg2 Ne4 34.Bxe4 dxe4 35.Rxe4 Re8 36.Rxe8+ Kxe8 37.Ka2 Bxf2 38.b4 Ra7 39.Kb3 Kd7 40.Rd2 Be3 41.Rg2 g6 42.f5 g5 43.Rg3 Bf4** and Black won around move 67. **0-1**

(38) Martin,Michael J (1387) - North,Jeff (867) [B50]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.38), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 [4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4; 4.e5!? dxe5 5.Nxe5] **4...e6 5.Qe2 Nc6 6.d3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Rad1** [9.Bd2 , kick the knight back (10.h3), try again] **9...Nxe3 10.Qxe3 Bf6 11.Qe1 a6 12.a3 b5 13.Ba2 b4 14.Na4 Bd7 15.Bb3 bxa3 16.bxa3 Rb8 17.Rb1 Qc7 18.Nc3 Qa5 19.Na4 Qc7 20.Nc3 Na5 21.Ne2 c4 22.dxc4 Nxc4 23.a4 d5 24.exd5 exd5 25.Ned4 Rfe8 26.Qc3 Qf4 27.Bxc4 dxc4 28.Rxb8 Rxb8 29.g3 Qg4 30.a5 Bf5 31.Re1 Be4 32.Qe3 Re8 33.Qf4 Qxf4 34.gxf4 Kf8 35.Re3 Bxd4 36.Nxd4 Bxc2?? 37.Rxe8+ Kxe8 38.Nxc2 Kd7 39.Ne3 c3 40.Kf1 Kd6 41.Ke2 Kc5 42.Kd3 Kb4 43.Nd5+ Kxa5 44.Nxc3 f5 45.h4 g6 46.Nd5 Ka4 47.Nc7 a5 48.Ne6 Kb4 49.Kc2 Kc4 50.Nf8 a4 51.Nxh7 a3 52.Kb1 Kb3 53.Nf8 a2+ 54.Ka1 Kc4 55.Nxg6 Kd5 56.h5 1-0**

(39) Byrd,Bill - Lintz,Michael Harry (1376) [C36]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.39), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 exf4 4.Nf3 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Be2 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 Qc6 9.Nc3 b6 10.Kh1 Bb7 11.d5 Qd7 12.Nd4 c6 13.Bxf4 Bxf4 14.Rxf4 cxd5

15.Rxf6! gxf6 16.Bg4 Qd6 17.Bf5 Qf4 18.Qh5 h6

19.Ne6! fxe6 20.Qg6+ Kh8 21.Qh7# 1-0

(40) Roberts,Joseph (1358) - Hall,Diana [B01]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.40), 07.01.2020

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 e5 5.Nf3 f6 6.Be3 Nc6 7.d5 Nce7 8.a3 Bf5 9.b4 0-0-0 10.Nb5 Qxd5 11.Nxa7+ Kb8 12.Be2 b6 13.Nb5 Nc6 14.0-0 Nge7 15.c4 Qd7 16.c5 bxc5 17.Bxc5 Nd5 18.Qa4 Nb6 19.Bxb6 cxb6 20.Rfd1 Qe7 21.Rac1 Be4 22.Nd2 g6 23.Nxe4 Bh6 24.Rxc6 Rxd1+ 25.Bxd1 Qd7 26.Rc7 Qxc7 27.Nxc7 Kxc7 28.Qa7+ Kc6 29.Ba4+ Kd5 30.Nxf6+ Ke6 31.Qxb6+ 1-0

(41) Pagan Griso,Simone - Neugut,Eitan (1322) [B13]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.41), 07.01.2020

1.d4 c5 2.e3 cxd4 3.exd4 d5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bg4 7.Be2 dxc4 8.Be3 e6 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Nb5 Bb8 11.Na3 0-0 12.Nxc4 Nd5 13.Nfe5 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Nce7 15.Rac1 Nf5 16.Nd2 Bxe5 17.dxe5 Qa5 18.a3 Ndxe3 19.fxe3 Qxe5 20.Nc4 Qb5 21.Qf3 Rac8 22.e4 Nd4 23.Qd3 Rfd8 24.Qxd4 Rxd4 25.Nd6 Rdc4 26.Rxc4 Qb6+ 27.Kh1 Rxc4 28.Nxc4 Qd4 29.Rc1 g5 30.h3 b5 31.Na5 Qxb2 32.Rc7 Qxa3 33.Rxa7 Qc1+ 34.Kh2 Qf4+ 35.Kh1 Qxe4 36.Rc7 Qe1+ 0-1

(42) Chambers,Don (1298) - Johnson,Nathaniel [C41]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.42), 07.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 d6 3.Nf3 h6 4.Nc3 c6 5.d4 Nd7 6.0-0 Ngf6 7.Be3 Qc7 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Ne2 Be7 10.c3 0-0 11.Qb3 b5 12.Bd3 a5 13.Ng3 a4 14.Qd1 Rb8 15.Nf5 Qd8 16.b3 a3 17.b4 Nb6 18.Qb3 Be6 19.Qxa3 Bxf5 20.Nxe5 Bxe4 21.Bxe4 Nxe4 22.Nxc6 Qc7 23.Nxb8 Rxb8 24.g3 Nc4 25.Qc1 Nxe3 26.Qxe3 Ng5 27.g4 Bf8 28.a4 bxa4 29.Rxa4 Rc8 30.Rc1 Qd7 31.b5 Qxg4+ 32.Rxg4 Bc5 33.Qd3 Ne6 34.Kg2 Rd8 35.Qf5 Rd2 36.Rf1 Kh8 37.Qxf7 Ng5 38.Qh5 Rd5 39.Re4 Kh7 40.Re6 Rd6 41.Qg6+ Kh8 42.Re8# 1-0

(43) Bayaraa,Timothy (1193) - Sullivan,George T (914) [D07]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (1.43), 07.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.c4 e6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.a3 Bd6 7.Nc3 Bg4 8.Be2 Ne4 9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.Nd2 Bf5 11.0-0 h5 12.Bxh5 g6 13.Bg4 Bxh2+ 14.Kh1 Qh4 0-1

(44) Marcus,Joel (1847) - Pane,Gianluca (1927) [D02]

Wilkerson TNM: Rated Extra Game San Francisco (1.44), 07.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.Nf3 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 Qb6 6.dxc5 Qxb2 7.Rb1 Qc3 8.Bb5 e6 9.0-0 Qxc5 10.Nd4 Bd7 11.N2b3 Qb6 12.Qe2 Ne4 13.Bxc6 Bxc6 14.Qd3 Bd6 15.Nd2 Qc7 16.Nb5 Bxb5 17.Qxb5+ Ke7 18.Nxe4 Bxf4 19.exf4 dxe4 20.Qb4+ Kf6 21.Qxe4 b6 22.g4 h6 23.Rbd1 Rad8 24.f5 Qe5 25.Qf3 exf5 26.gxf5 Qxf5 27.Qc3+ Kg6 28.Kh1 Kh7 29.Rg1 f6 30.Rde1 Rhe8 31.Ref1 Rc8 32.Qg3 Re7 33.Re1 ..."after a long time scramble".... **0-1**

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We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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Newsletter #901

Jan 17, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM
- Tournament Director's Corner
- Brilliancy Prize Update
- Wednesday Night Blitz
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- Tony's Teaser
- Scholastic Chess in 2020
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- TNM Games
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM Round 2!

Top Players Hold Court in Round 2, "A" Player Nicholas Weng Making Moves In Championship Section of TNM

Round 2 of the TNM concluded, and the top players mostly held on to victory in the championship section to set up a very competitive round 3. FM Josiah Stearman defeated the always dangerous NM Aleksandr Ivanov and FM Kyron Griffith defeated NM Michael Walder. IM Elliott Winslow fought back to beat Ethan Boldi and NM Rui Yang Yan defeated Steve Gaffagan. The biggest surprise was 12 year old Nicholas Weng (1854), who last week defeated expert Jason Childress and this week got a big win against WFM Natalya Tsodikova.

In this game, Tsodikova (black) lost on time, and was clearly losing the game. However, right before her time expired, she arrived to this position with black to move:

White is threateing mate in 1 with Rg7#, and with seconds left, she missed a beautiful move that draws on the spot with Rh5+!! Black sacrifices the rook and white *must* capture it. In doing so, a stalemate is on the board, resulting in a draw. Too bad she missed this manueuver, which goes to show that even the best players miss tactical shots when the seconds are ticking on the clock.

The top 2 boards do battle: Stearman - Ivanov and Griffith - Walder

In the A/B section, only 3 players are at 2/2 and there are 28 players in the section! On top are Bruce Ricard, Robert Drane, and Gagik Babayan. However, there are still 5 rounds to go, and plenty of strong players sit at 1.5/2 including the always dangerous Erika Malykin, Rudolph Breedt, Renjish Abraham, Anthony Acosta, Adam Mercado, Nicholas Latourette, and Michael Baer.

Great pictures from Juan Cendejas from round 2 of the TNM

In the under 1600 section, 9 people are at the top with 2/2 in a 49-player section. Thos eplayers with perfect scores are Ivan Rothman, Jahaan Ansari, Ilia Gimelfarb, Albert Starr, Valerie Jade, Eitan Neugut, Jerry Simpkins, Charles James, and Julian Sachs-Weintraub.

Tune in next week for round 3 coverage. We will have very special guest commentator IM Kostya Kavutskiy in with FM Paul Whitehead. Kostya is a professional player, coach and streamer who also writes extensively for USChess and last year was the commentator for the stream at the US Open.

To watch the replay of round 2 coverage, please follow this link here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921193520/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-kvXCXMMvQ)

For a full list of standings and results from the round, click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921193520/https://www.milibrary.org/tuesday-night-marathon)

Tournament Director's Corner

Proper Castling

A player informed me after a game had ended that early on in the game, his opponent (white) had castled by first touching the rook, moving it to f1, then releasing the rook. Then the player picked up the king and moved it to g1 and completed the castling maneuver. The question I was asked was if this is an illegal move?

The USCF rule book states:

10I2. Rook touched first. If a player intending to castle touches the rook first, castling is not allowed and the player must move the rook as required by rule 10B.

The king must be moved first, then the rook. If the above scenario had happened, the player attempting to castle would have had to leave the rook on f1 and that would have been the completed move, thus losing the right to castle and leaving the king at e1. Additionally, the player making the claim would get an additional two minutes added to their time per the standard penalty:

1C2a. Standard penalty. Except where specifically noted in the rules, the standard penalty assessed by the director is to add two minutes to the remaining time of the opponent of the player not following the rules of chess.

A very important point to add here is that it is important for players to come see a TD whenever there is a question of a rule violation in a game. It has been my exprience that if a player inquires about a rule or calls a TD to enforce a rule, it is very rarely frowned upon by an opponent, and often times, ends up being a learning experience for all. As tournament directors, we can only intervene and help if something is brought to our attention, most things cannot be remedied after the game is over. So please be proactive and advocate for yourself and the rules of

chess, please see a TD whenever something questionable happens, and you may always pause the clock if you legitimately need an Arbiter.

Brilliancy Prize Update

We received many responses to the artile about brilliancy prizes, something that was a very common thing when I played competitive chess many years ago. We have thus decided to offer 2 monthly brilliancy prizes, and these can be games from any event in that month provided that it be a rated event and that there is a complete notation of the game. These prizes will come in the form of choice of book from our in office chess library and we will publish the games in our newsletter with annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

If you would like to submit a game for consideration, please turn in the scoresheet to us and mark "brilliancy" on top of the coresheet, that way we know it is submitted for consideration. Games from any rated tournament at Mechanics' in January will count for the January prize. We will also be making reminder announcements at upcoming events.

We hope this adds a fun element to playing games, and encourages bold and exciting action. Good luck!

Wednesday Night Blitz Report

Expert Jules Jelinek was on fire in the January 15th edition of the Wednesday Night Blitz, scoring a perfect 6 - 0.
2nd place went to Dexter Pacheco with 4.5 - 1.5, and 3rd was Neel Yerramilli with 4 - 2.
11 players battled it out under the watchful eye of director Jelinek.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Famous Chess Games You Should Know.

The “Miniature” - World Champion Examples, Part 2.

By FM Paul Whitehead

The first move is valuable! White wins all 5 of these games. As usual the common themes apply: rapid development and early mistakes.

Not to mention near-divine inspiration.

Petrosian is here twice, as winner and loser. Last week in this column we saw Lasker and Fischer crushed. Even the greats fall, though it will take exceptional play and an exceptional player to take the point from them. And maybe some luck and good fortune.

My favorite game here is the lesser-known: with all this chess, good and bad, Mikhail Tal’s cheeky win in a simultaneous exhibition is surely other-worldly!

Next week: Fischer to Carlsen.

(1) Mikhail Botvinnik - Lajos Portisch [A22]

Monte Carlo Monte Carlo MNC, 1968

Botvinnik became World Champion in 1948, losing the crown and winning it back in rematches against Smyslov and Tal until Petrosian removed it permanently in 1963. Not to mention a tied match with Bronstein in 1951. This brilliancy was played in the twilight years of Botvinnik's career, his last tournament game coming in 1970. **1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Be6**

An English opening. Or if you prefer, the Sicilian Dragon Reversed. **6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Nb6 8.d3 Be7 9.a3 a5 10.Be3 0-0**

A standard position from this opening, still played by top players today. **11.Na4 Nxa4** A serious alternative is 11...Nd5. **12.Qxa4 Bd5 13.Rfc1 Re8 14.Rc2 Bf8** 14...Bf6 seems more active. **15.Rac1**

White has some pressure on the c-file here, but black is OK with normal moves like 15...Qd7 or 15...h6. **15...Nb8?** Black wants to play ...c6 and figures he can trap the white rook. However... **16.Rxc7!** Anyway. **16...Bc6 17.R1xc6!** This sacrifice, in combination with the next, destroys black's defenses on the light-squares. **17...bxc6 18.Rxf7!!**

If now 18...Kxf7 19.Qc4+ Kg6 (If 19...Qd5 or 19...Re6 then 20.Ng5+. If 19...Ke7 or 19...Kf6 then 20.Bg5+.) 20.Qe4+ Kf7 21.Ng5+ and Black is mated or suffers catastrophic loss. **18...h6 19.Rb7** The rook roams the 7th rank. The knight on f3 and the bishop on g2 are ready to join in, and the end is near. **19...Qc8 20.Qc4+ Kh8**

21.Nh4! Another pretty sacrifice. Black might as well accept. **21...Qxb7 22.Ng6+ Kh7 23.Be4!**

Black is helpless. The threat is 24.Ne7+ g6 (or 24...Kh8) 25.Qg8 mate. **23...Bd6 24.Nxe5+ g6 25.Bxg6+ Kg7 26.Bxh6+!**

The final sacrificial blow. If 26...Kxh6 27.Qh4+ Kg7 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Qxb7. If 26...Kh8 27.Nf7+ Kg8 28.Nxd6+. And if 26...Kf6 27.Qf4+ Ke6 28.Bf7+ Qxf7 29.Qxf7+ Kxe5 30.Bg7 mate! **1-0**

(2) Vasily Smyslov - Cenek Kottnauer [B84]

Groningen Groningen NED, 1946

Over the course of three World Championship matches with Botvinnik, Smyslov won 18 games to Botvinnik's 17 (with 34 draws). Yet he only held the title for 1 year after winning the title in 1957. **1.e4** This is a game from Smyslov's youth. In later years he rarely opened with 1.e4. **1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2**

One would expect this "positional" move from Smyslov. **6...e6 7.0-0 b5?! 8.Bf3! Ra7** This artificial rook transfer to the c-file just wastes time better spent developing other pieces. **9.Qe2 Rc7 10.Rd1**

I like this move which puts the rook opposite the black queen and prepares to open lines. **10...Nbd7 11.a4! bxa4** Instead 11...b4 12.Na2 a5 13.Nb5 looks terrible for black as well. **12.Nxa4 Bb7 13.e5!**

A powerful and thematic line-opening sacrifice. **13...Nxe5?** A much better chance was offered by 13...dxe5 14.Bxb7 Rxb7 15.Nc6 Qc8! **14.Bxb7 Rxb7 15.Qxa6**

Now black is too far behind in development gets destroyed. **15...Qb8 16.Nc6 Nxc6 17.Qxc6+ Nd7**

White to move and win. **18.Nc5!!**

Simply elegant. If now 18...Rc7 19.Nxd7 Rxc6 (or 19...Rxd7 20.Ra8 wins the queen) 20.Nxb8 and White is a piece ahead. **18...dxc5 19.Bf4!**

The devastating follow up. Black has no defense. **19...Bd6 20.Bxd6 Rb6 21.Qxd7+!**

The final blow. Black is down a piece after 21...Kxd7 22.Bxb8+. **1-0**

(3) Mikhail Tal - Sviridov [B75]

Simul Stuttgart FRG, 1969

This charming game was played in a simultaneous exhibition. Tal could never resist a beautiful idea, move, or combination. And he created many. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6**

The Dragon Variation of the Sicilian Defense. **6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Bd7 9.0-0-0** White's major alternative is 9.Bc4. **9...Qa5**

Black tries to speed up his counter-play by not castling, but this is not a successful strategy here. **10.Kb1** White makes his king safe, then throws the kingside pawns forward. **10...Rc8 11.g4 h6 12.h4 a6 13.Be2 Ne5 14.g5 hxg5 15.hxg5**

Now black needs to play 15...Nh5, but when white gets in f4 at some point black will suffer. What happens now is totally unexpected. **15...Rxh1** What could go wrong? **16.gxf6!!**

16...Rxd1+ 17.Nxd1!!

Genius! Black's queen is hanging... **17...Qxd2 18.fxg7!!**

A new queen is about to appear. White's last 3 moves were simply stunning. **1-0**

(4) Tigran Petrosian - Ludek Pachman [A07]

Bled Bled YUG, 1961

Petrosian took the title from Botvinnik in 1963 and then warded off Spassky once before losing the title in 1969. Known as perhaps the greatest defensive player ever, Petrosian was also a feared blitz player and a master tactician. **1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.d3 e6 6.e4**

White is playing the King's Indian Reversed. **6...Nge7 7.Re1 0-0** Black could also have considered 7...d6 or 7...d5. **8.e5 d6 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.Nbd2**

The position is roughly equal, but there are hidden dangers for black, as we shall see. **10...Qc7 11.Nb3 Nd4?!** Neglecting development! 11...b6 is better. **12.Bf4 Qb6 13.Ne5!** This game is a nice combination of strategy and explosive tactics. **13...Nxb3 14.Nc4! Qb5 15.axb3**

White's pieces are in harmony. He threatens Ra5. **15...a5 16.Bd6! Bf6 17.Qf3 Kg7 18.Re4 Rd8**

Now comes an unexpected and stunning combination. **19.Qxf6+!! Kxf6 20.Be5+!** Driving the king into the center. **20...Kg5**

Or 20...Kf5 21.Rf4+ Kg5 22.Bf6+ Kh5 23.Rh4 mate. **21.Bg7!!**

This study-like move takes away the king's avenues of escape and forces mate in every variation. A spectacular yet quiet finish! **1-0**

(5) Boris Spassky - Tigran Petrosian [B94]

Petrosian - Spassky World Championship Moscow URS, 1969

An attacking masterpiece from the 1969 World Championship match. **1.e4 c5** Petrosian played the Sicilian more frequently than one would have thought, although the French and Caro-Kann better suited his style. **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5**

This is a more aggressive approach compared to Smyslov's 6.Be2 we saw earlier. **6...Nbd7 7.Bc4 Qa5 8.Qd2 h6 9.Bxf6** White wastes no time. His moves are fast, economical. **9...Nxf6 10.0-0-0**

White's lead in development is enormous, and black hastens to catch up. **10...e6 11.Rhe1 Be7 12.f4 0-0 13.Bb3 Re8 14.Kb1 Bf8 15.g4!**

This is how it's done! Material is thrown to the winds, lines are opened. **15...Nxg4 16.Qg2 Nf6 17.Rg1** Black has no attack of his own, and can only hold on and hope for the best. **17...Bd7 18.f5 Kh8 19.Rdf1!**

Spassky is patient, and brings in the last attacking piece. **19...Qd8 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.e5!**

The classic line-clearing sacrifice. **21...dxe5 22.Ne4!** The point. If 22...Nxe4 23.Rxf8+! and 24.Qxg7 mate. The threat is 23.Nxf6 gxf6 24.Qg8 mate. **22...Nh5** There is no defense. **23.Qg6! exd4 24.Ng5!**

Black resigns. If 24...hxg5 25.Qxh5+ Kg8 26.Qf7+ Kh8 27.Rf3. And all other tries lose as well, as you can find out for yourself. A single-minded attack! **1-0**

Tony's Teasers

Last week's problem:

Mate in 3, white to move. J. Moller 1911

Solution:

1. Qg7!! Be7 2. Qb2 e5 3. Qb8#

This week's problem:

White to move and mate in 4, K.A.L. Kubbel

Scholastic Chess in 2020

First Scholastic Swiss tournament of 2020 - Saturday, January 18 10AM

3 sections: 700+, 400-699, and under400
First round: 10AM and then rolling schedule
Prizes: Trophies to Top 5 trophies, medals to all others!
Ideal for new tournment players - notation and use of clock is not neccessary!
Register (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921193520/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-kids-swiss-jan-2020-1) - More information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921193520/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissJan20201)

Save the Date

2020 US Amateur Team West Nationals - Kids Championship
Saturday, February 15, 2020 @ Hyatt Regency Burlingame
Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921193520/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-us-amateur-team-west-kids-national-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921193520/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020USAmateurTeamWestKIDSNationalChampionship)

2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship
Saturday, March 28, 2020 @ Golden Gate Park
Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921193520/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-san-francisco-scholastic-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921193520/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020SanFranciscoScholasticChampionship) - Flyer (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921193520/https://www.milibrary.org/sites/default/files/SFScholastic_Mar28.pdf)

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Nick is currently on vacation and the column will resume upon his return!

2020 Wilkerson Memorial TNM Games Round 2

Annotations by IM Elliott Winslow

(1) Ivanov,Aleksandr (2174) - Stearman,Josiah P (2445) [E41]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.1), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 [4.Nf3 c5 5.e3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 d6 8.e4 e5 was the move order of Spassky-Fischer 9.d5 Ne7 10.Nh4 h6 11.f4 Ng6 12.Nxg6 fxg6 13.fxe5 dxe5 14.Be3 b6 15.0-0 0-0 16.a4 a5 17.Rb1 Bd7 18.Rb2 Rb8 19.Rbf2 Qe7 20.Bc2 g5 21.Bd2 Qe8 22.Be1 Qg6 23.Qd3 Nh5 24.Rxf8+ Rxf8 25.Rxf8+ Kxf8 26.Bd1 Nf4 27.Qc2 Bxa4 0-1 (27) Spassky,B-Fischer, R Reykjavik 1972] **4...0-0** [4...c5 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nf3 0-1 (33) Amos, B-Shamkovich,L Calgary 1975] **5.Bd3** [5.Nge2 (and 6.a3 so to take back with the knight) was Rubinstein's original idea almost one hundred years ago.] **5...c5** [5...b6; 5...d5] **6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0** [7.d5 Ne7 8.e4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 d6 10.Nh4 Ng6 11.Nxg6 fxg6 12.0-0 e5 was the curious move order of Amos, B-Shamkovich] **7...Bxc3 8.bxc3 d6** The Huebner Variation, already pretty popular when Fischer played it (without 0-0 and ...0-0 yet) to beat Spassky in his second Black in a row, Game 5 World Championship, Reykjavik 1972. **9.e4 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.Nh4 Ng6 12.Nxg6** [12.Nf5 Bxf5?! *(12...Re8!?; 12...h6!?)* 13.exf5 Ne7 14.g4 a6 *(14...b5!?)* 15.g5 Nd7 16.Qg4 b5 17.Qh3 bxc4 18.Be4 Rb8 19.Kh1 Nb6 20.Rg1 Nbxd5 21.f6 Ng6 22.fxg7 Kxg7 23.Bxd5 Qc8 24.Qh6+ Kh8 25.Be4 Rg8 26.Be3 Qe6 27.Rad1 Rbd8 28.Bd5 Qf5 29.Rd2 Rg7 30.Qh5 e4 31.Qg4 Qxg4 32.Rxg4 Ne5 33.Rxe4 h6 34.Bxc4 Rb8 35.Rxd6 Rb1+ 36.Kg2 Ng6 37.Re8+ Kh7 38.Bd3 1-0 (38) Navara,D (2725)-Chigaev,M (2531) Tallinn 2016] **12...hxg6** [12...fxg6!? 13.f4 exf4 *(13...Qe7!? 14.f5 gxf5 15.exf5 e4 16.Bc2 b6 17.g4 h6 18.Bf4 Ba6 19.Qe2 Rae8 20.Rad1 Qd7 21.h3 Rf7 22.Rf2 Rfe7 23.Kh2 e3 24.Rf3 Ne4 25.Re1 Nd2 26.Rg3 Bxc4 27.Bd3 Bxd5 28.g5 hxg5 29.Bxg5 Rf7 30.Qh5 Ne4 31.f6 Qf5 32.Rf1 Nxg3 33.Rxf5 Nxh5* 0-1 (33) Amos, B-Shamkovich,L Calgary 1975*)* 14.Bxf4] **13.f4N** [13.Bg5 Qc7 14.a4 Nh7 15.Bd2 g5 16.Qh5 f6 17.Be2 Qf7 18.Bg4 g6 19.Qh3 f5 20.Be2 f4 21.Qh6 Nf6 22.Bd3 Qg7 23.Qxg7+ Kxg7 24.a5 Kf7 25.Rfb1 Ke7 26.g3 Nh5 27.Rb2 Kd8 28.Rab1 Rb8 29.Be2 Nf6 30.Bd3 Kc7 31.h4 gxh4 32.gxf4 exf4 33.Bxf4 Nxe4 34.Bh2 Ng5 35.Bxg6 Rg8 36.Bd3 Nf3+ 37.Kh1 Bh3 38.Bf1 Bf5 39.Ra1 Be4 40.Bg2 h3 0-1 (40) Okamura,M (2059)-Rego,V (2254) Rio de Janeiro 2014] **13...exf4 14.Bxf4 Ng4 15.Be2 Ne5 16.Bxe5 dxe5 17.Bg4 f5 18.Bh3 Rf6 19.Qe2 Qa5 20.Rad1 f4 21.Rf3 Bxh3 22.Rxh3 Rd8 23.Rhd3 Qa4 24.R3d2 Rfd6 25.Rb1 b6 26.Rb5 Rf8 27.Rb1 g5 28.Rbd1 Rff6 29.h3 Rg6 30.Qg4 Qxc4 31.Qf5 Qxc3 32.Rd3 Qb2 33.R3d2 Qa3 34.Rd3 Qxa2 35.Qxe5 Qe2 36.Qe8+ Kh7 37.e5 c4 38.Rd4 c3 39.Qe7 c2 40.Rf1 Qxf1+ 41.Kxf1 c1Q+ 0-1**

(2) Griffith,Kyron (2434) - Walder,Michael (2124) [B90]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.2), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Qe2!? Just one of the "Odds & Ends" moves, which Kyron has shown some interest in. Vigorito (in his "Playing the Najdorf" 2020 book) notes that this move does have the highest scoring percentage! This game just made it worse. (Note: I prefer the Najdorf.) Essentially White can play (and has played) anything here: [6.Nb3 Kyron played this last year.; 6.Qf3; 6.Qd3; 6.a3; 6.Rg1; 6.Bd3; 6.-- But I think Black is still more likely to see one of these:; 6.Bg5; 6.Be2; 6.Be3; 6.Bc4; 6.f4; 6.a4; 6.h3; 6.-- Did I leave anyone out? I'm pretty sure I did. So the question is: is the Najdorf so good that White has to try something different all the time to look further and further afield for anything? Or is it so **bad** that White can play almost anything?] **6...e5 7.Nf5 d5! 8.Bg5 d4 9.0-0-0**

[9.Bxf6 Qxf6 (9...gxf6!N 10.0-0-0 Bd7!? 11.Nb1 *(11.Qh5 dxc3 12.Bc4 Qb6 13.Qxf7+ Kd8 14.Bb3 Kc8=/+)* 11...Be6-/+)] **9...Qa5?!** [9...Bd7!? 10.Nd5 Be6!?; 9...Nc6 10.f4 *(10.Qf3* is actually old stuff, games from 2011, 2012 and 2014 in the database!*)* 10...Qa5 11.fxe5 dxc3 12.exf6 g6 13.Rd5 Qxa2 14.bxc3 gxf5 15.exf5+ Be6 16.Rd3 Ba3+ 17.Kd2 Qa1 18.Qxe6+ fxe6 19.Be2 h6 20.Rxa1 hxg5 21.Rxa3 exf5 22.Rb3 Na5 23.Rb4 Kf7 24.Rd6 Kg6 25.g4 Rxh2 26.gxf5+ Kh6 27.Re4 Rf8 28.Kc1 Rf2 29.Re8 1-0 (29) Daggupati,B (2331)-Paragua,M (2501) Edmonton GM, 19 June 2019; 9...Be6!? 10.Nd5 Nbd7=/+ Vigorito] **10.Bxf6** [10.Nd5 Bxf5 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qf3 Be6 13.Qxf6 Nd7 14.Qxh8 0-0-0 15.Qxh7 Qxa2 16.Kd2 Bxd5 17.exd5 Bb4+ 18.Ke2 Qxd5 19.f3 Re8 20.Qf5 Qc6 21.Qe4 Qd6 22.g4 Kb8 23.Kf2 Nc5 24.Qf5 Qh6 25.Bd3 Qe3+ 26.Kg2 e4 27.fxe4 Nxd3 28.cxd3 Qe2+ 29.Qf2 Qxg4+ 30.Qg3+ Qxg3+ 31.Kxg3 Bd6+ 32.Kf3 b5 33.h4 a5 34.h5 Rh8 35.h6 Rh7 36.Rdg1 Kb7 37.Rg7 Rh8 38.h7 a4 39.Rg8 Be5 40.Rxh8 Bxh8 41.Ke2 1-0 (41) Peczely,S (2165)-Koczo,K (2265) Hungary 2013] **10...gxf6**

11.Qc4 [11.Qh5! Balaji Daggupati was inconceivably WATCHING this game while it was happening on the twitch.tv broadcast! Note the threat of Nxd4 (!) 11...Bxf5 *(11...dxc3 12.Bc4 cxb2+ 13.Kb1 Qc7 14.Bxf7+! Qxf7 15.Rd8+ Kxd8 16.Qxf7)* 12.Qxf5 Nd7 13.Rxd4 0-0-0 14.Be2 Qb6 15.Rxd7 Rxd7 16.Bg4 Qc6 17.Rd1 Bh6+ 18.Kb1 Rhd8 19.Qxh7 Bf8 20.Rxd7 Rxd7 21.Qxf7 Bc5 22.Nd5 1-0 (22) Daggupati,B (2226)-Kumar,N (1914) Irvine 2018] **11...Be6 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 Qc5 14.Qb3 b5 15.a4 Nd7 16.axb5 Rb8 17.Be2 axb5 18.Rhe1 Qb4 19.Qa2 Qa4 20.Qxa4 bxa4 21.d6 Rb6 22.Bh5 a3 23.Rxd4 axb2+ 24.Kb1 Rg8 25.g4 Rg5 26.Rd5 Rxf5 27.gxf5 Bxd6 28.Re4 Ke7 29.Rc4 Nb8 30.Ra5 Nc6 31.Ra2 Nd4 32.Rc3 Nxf5 33.Rxb2 Rxb2+ 34.Kxb2 e4 35.Rh3 Bc5 36.Bg4 Nd6 37.f4 Be3 38.f5 h6 39.Kc3 Bf4 40.Kd4 e3 41.Kd3 Kd7 42.Rf3 Bg5 43.h4 Bxh4 44.Kxe3 Nc4+ 45.Kf4 Ne5 46.Ra3 Bg5+ 47.Kg3 Nxg4 48.Kxg4 Kc6 49.Ra7 Kc5 50.Rxf7 Kd5 51.Kh5 Ke5 52.Kg6 h5 53.Re7+ Kf4 54.c4 h4 55.c5 Kg4 56.c6 Bf4 57.c7 1-0**

(3) Boldi,Ethan (2090) - Winslow,Elliott C (2223) [A05]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.3), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.Nf3 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 d6 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.e4 c5 7.Nbd2 Nc6 8.Re1 e5 9.Nf1 h6 10.Ne3 Be6 11.c4= Nd4 12.Nxd4 cxd4 13.Nd5 Nd7!? (trying to create some sort of play) **14.b3** [14.f4!?] **14...a5 15.Ba3 Ra6?!** I hadn't made up my mind where everything was going yet. **16.Rc1** [16.f4!] **16...Nc5 17.Qd2** [17.Bxc5!? concerned me (but not Stockfish)] **17...b6** Now I can take with the b-pawn. **18.Bxc5?! bxc5 19.a3 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Rb6 21.Rb1 Qa8** Black now gets tripled on the b-file... **22.Rb2 Rfb8 23.Reb1 Rb5!? 24.Qc2 R8b7 25.Qc4 Qb8** He has to worry about ...a4! now. Perhaps he worried too much. **26.Qa4 Qc8 27.Qc4 h5 28.h4 Bf6 29.Kh2** Perhaps Bf3-d1 shoring up b3. **29...Qb8 30.Qa4 Kg7 31.Bh3**

Judging from the "-0.38" on the five moves I show in the computer window, Stockfish 10 thinks that neither player can do anything at all. **31...g5!? 32.hxg5 Bxg5** Of course intending ...h4. But it's not clear whose rooks can zip across to the kingside more effectively. **33.f3?** Now White should collapse. **33...h4! 34.gxh4 Be3?** [34...Bf4+ 35.Kh1 Qh8 36.Rg2+ Kf6 37.Rg4 Qb8!-+ It's Black's queen that gets around the fastest.] **35.Bg4!?=** Says the computer, but White is setting that bishop up for "tall pawn" status. **35...Kf6 36.h5 Ke7 37.Kg2 Qh8 38.Qc4 Qh6** ...Bd2-c3 pulls that rook off defense. **39.Qc2 Rb8 40.Kh3 R5b7 41.Rd1 Rg8 42.Qc4??**

[42.Qg2!=/+] **42...Rb6??** Too "belt and suspenders" -- [42...Rxg4! 43.fxg4 Qf4; 42...Rg5! is somehow even better!; Or 42...Qf4!-+ and ...Rxg4 next on virtually anything.] **43.Qa4** [43.Qc2[] and defending with the queen on g2 is mandatory! But the scent of activity was too much.] **43...Rxg4!** The fog lifted long enough for me to find this. Note it was *he* who was in time-trouble, I think down to one minute now. **44.fxg4 Qf4 45.Qxa5 Qf3+ 46.Kh2 Bf4+ 47.Kg1 Qxg4+** [47...Qxd1+! 48.Kg2 Rxb3! 49.Qc7+ Kf6 50.g5+ Kg7 *(50...Kxg5? 51.Qe7+=; 50...Bxg5?? 51.Qd8++-)* 51.h6+ Kg6 52.Qxd6+ Kh5 and mate shortly.] **48.Rg2** [48.Kf1 Qxd1+ 49.Qe1 takes a while] **48...Qxd1+ 49.Kf2 Qxb3 50.Rg8 Qc2+ 51.Kf3 Qd1+ 52.Kf2 Rb2+ 53.Qd2 Rxd2# 0-1**

(4) Yan,Ruiyang (2221) - Gaffagan,Steven (2060) [B47]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.4), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 [3.g3 d6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Be7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 a6 9.Re1 Qc7 10.h3 0-1 (32) Mortensen,H (2003)-Laursen,N (2215) Copenhagen 2010] **3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 d6** Scheveningen style. [7...Nf6 8.0-0 Nxd4 *(8...Be7 9.Re1 d6 10.h3 0-0 11.Be3 Bd7 12.f4* 0-1 (58) Dudognon,T (2158)-Chalmeta Ugas,J (2249) Vaujany 2016*)* 9.Qxd4 Bc5; 7...h5!?; 7...Be7] **8.0-0 Bd7 9.Re1 Be7** Avoiding any Nd5 pseudosacrifices **10.Be3 Rc8 11.f4 Nf6 12.h3 0-0 13.Bf2** [13.Nb3; 13.a4 Na5 14.Nde2 Nc4 15.Bc1 b5 16.axb5 axb5 17.b3 Nb6 18.Be3 b4 19.Nb1 d5 20.e5 Ne4 21.Kh2 Ra8 22.Bxb6 Qxb6 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Qd4 Qb7 26.c4 bxc3 27.Nbxc3 Bc6 28.Qc4 Bd5 29.Nxd5 exd5 30.Qc2 Rc8 31.Qb2 h6 32.Nd4 Qb4 33.Re2 Rc3 34.Nf5 Bf8 35.Re3 Rxe3 36.Nxe3 d4 37.Nc4 d3 38.e6 Qc5 39.exf7+ Kxf7 40.Qd2 Kg8 41.Kg2 Qd4 42.Qe3 Qxe3 43.Nxe3 Bc5 44.Nd1 e3 45.Nb2 d2 46.Kf1 Bd4 47.Nd1 Kf7 48.Ke2 Ke6 49.Kf3 Kd5 50.g4 Kc5 51.h4 Kb4 52.h5 Kxb3 53.g5 Kc2 54.Ke2 Kc1 55.gxh6 gxh6 56.f5 Kc2 57.f6 Bxf6 58.Nxe3+ Kc1 0-1 (58) Dudognon,T (2158)-Chalmeta Ugas,J (2249) Vaujany 2016; 13.g4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bc6 15.g5 Nd7 16.Qd2 Rfe8 17.Be3 b5 18.Ne2 Qb7 19.Ng3 Bf8 20.c3 Nb6 21.Qc2 Nc4 22.Bf2 a5 23.a3 Rc7 24.Qe2 Nb6 25.Qd2 e5 26.f5 d5 27.Qe2 dxe4 28.Nxe4 Nd5 29.Bg3 Nf4 30.Bxf4 exf4 31.Nf6+ gxf6 32.Qxe8 Qa7+ 0-1 (32) Mortensen,H (2003)-Laursen,N (2215) Copenhagen 2010] **13...Nxd4 14.Qxd4 Bc6** [14...e5 followed by 15...b5 seems to get an initiative going] **15.Rad1** [15.a4] **15...Rfd8** [15...b5] **16.g4** [16.Qb6!?] **16...d5!?** Thematic, but perhaps not necessary. [16...h6!? could be all it takes to stall White's attack.] **17.e5 Nd7** [17...Ne4 appears to be no worse] **18.f5?! b5** [18...Bc5! 19.Qf4 Qb6 20.Bxc5 Nxc5! 21.Qe3 Qxb2!] **19.Qf4 b4?!** nudges the knight towards the square it wants (d4) **20.Ne2 Nc5 21.Nd4 Bd7** [21...Bb7!] **22.Be3 Kh8?! 23.Bc1** [23.Rd2] **23...Rg8 24.g5 exf5 25.Nxf5 Ne6 26.Qg3 Bc5+ 27.Kh1 d4 28.Nd6? Bxd6 29.exd6 Qxc2-/+ 30.Rd2 Qc5?!** [30...Qb1!-+] **31.Rf2 Rgf8 32.Bd2 a5** [32...Bc6!-/+] **33.Re4?!** [33.Kh2 Bc6 34.Bf1] **33...Bc6-+ 34.Rh4 Bxg2+ 35.Kxg2 Qd5+ 36.Kg1 Qxa2?** [36...Kg8!-+] **37.g6?** [37.Qd3! g6 38.d7 Rcd8 *(38...Rb8!?)* 39.Rxd4! is enough to draw: 39...Nxd4 40.Qxd4+ Kg8 41.Re2 somehow...] **37...Qb1+** [37...fxg6! 38.d7 Qb1+ 39.Kg2 Rcd8-+] **38.Rf1 Qxg6 39.Qxg6 fxg6=/+ 40.d7?! Rcd8 41.Re4 Rxf1+?** [41...Nc5! 42.Rxf8+ Rxf8 43.Re7 *(43.Re8 Nxd7)* 43...h6! 44.Be1 d3! White is done flailing.] **42.Kxf1 Nc7??** [42...Rf8+ 43.Ke2 Nc5=] **43.Rxd4?** [43.Bf4!+-] **43...Kg8?!** [43...h6! 44.Rd6 Kg8 45.Be3 a4 46.Bb6 a3 47.bxa3 b3 48.Bxc7 b2 Just! =] **44.Bg5 Rf8+ 45.Kg2** [45.Ke2] **45...Ne6 46.d8Q** [46.Rd6; 46.Rd2] **46...Nxd8?** [46...Rxd8! 47.Rxd8+ Nxd8 48.Bxd8 a4=] **47.Bxd8+/- Rf5 48.b3 Kf7 49.Rd3 g5 50.Rf3?** [50.Rd2] **50...g6??** [50...Rxf3 51.Kxf3 a4= eilminates the last queenside pawn with the classic wrong rook pawn and bishop pairing.] **51.Bxa5+- Ke6 52.Rxf5 gxf5 53.Bxb4 h5 54.Bd2 g4 55.h4 Kd5 56.Kg3 Ke4 57.b4 Kd3 58.Bf4 Kc4 59.Bd6 Kb5 60.Kf4 Kc6 61.Bc5 Kb5 62.Kxf5 g3 63.Kg5 g2 64.Kxh5 1-0**

(5) Weng,Nicholas (1864) - Tsodikova,Natalya (2204) [C96]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.5), 14.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.Re1 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Nd7 12.d5 Nb6 13.Nbd2 g6 14.a4 Bd7 15.b3 bxa4 16.bxa4 Rb8 17.Qe2 c4 18.Ba3 Nb3 19.Nxb3 cxb3 20.Bxb3 Nxa4 21.Bxa4 Bxa4 22.Qxa6 Bb5 23.Qa7 Ra8 24.Qe3 f5 25.Qc1 fxe4 26.Rxe4 Bd3 27.Rb4 Qd7 28.Qe3 Ba6 29.Rab1 Qf5 30.Rd1 Bc8 31.Bb2 Qh5 32.Rd3 Bd8 33.Nh2 Bg5 34.Qe1 Ra2 35.Nf1 Qh6 36.Ng3 Ba6 37.Rd1 Rf4 38.Rb8+ Rf8 39.Rb4 Bd8 40.Ra1 Rxa1 41.Qxa1 Bd3 42.Qe1 Ba5 43.Ra4 Bb6 44.Nh1 Qg5 45.Bc1 Qf5 46.Be3 Bxe3 47.Qxe3 Rb8 48.Ra1 e4 49.Qd4 Qf4 50.Ng3 h5 51.Rd1 Rf8 52.Ra1 h4 53.Nh1 Qf7 54.Ra7 Qf6 55.Qxf6 Rxf6 56.g3 Rf5 57.Ra5 Re5 58.gxh4 e3 59.fxe3 Rxe3 60.Ra8+ Kf7 61.Kf2 Re5 62.Ra5 Bc4 63.Ng3 Bxd5 64.Ne2 Rf5+ 65.Kg3 Rf3+ 66.Kg4 Rd3 67.Nf4 Bf3+ 68.Kg5 Rxc3 69.Ra7+ Ke8 70.Kxg6 Be4+ 71.Kf6 Rf3 72.Kg5 Rf1 73.h5 Rg1+ 74.Kh4 d5 75.h6 Kf8 76.h7 Bxh7 77.Rxh7 Rf1 78.Nxd5 Rd1 79.Nf4 Rd4 80.Kg4 Rd1 81.Ra7 Rg1+ 82.Kh5 Rf1 83.Ng6+ Kg8 84.h4 Rf5+ 85.Kh6 Rd5 1-0

(6) Snyder,Larry (2061) - Kuczek,Kevin W (1982) [C45]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.6), 14.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Ba6 9.b3 Nb6 10.g3 g6 11.Bb2 Bg7 12.Bg2 0-0 13.0-0 Rab8 14.Nd2 Na4 15.Bd4 c5 16.Be3 Nb6 17.f4 d5 18.exd6 cxd6 19.Rae1 Rfe8 20.Qf2 Qc7 21.f5 Nd7 22.fxg6 fxg6 23.Qf7+ Kh8 24.Bf4 Rf8 25.Qe7 Bd4+ 26.Kh1 Be5 27.Bxe5+ dxe5 28.Ne4 Bb7 29.Rxf8+ Rxf8 30.Ng5 Ra8 1-0

(7) Pane,Gianluca (1927) - Askin,David Benja (2027) [D36]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.7), 14.01.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Bd3 c6 8.Qc2 Nh5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Nge2 g6 11.0-0-0 Nb6 12.Kb1 Ng7 13.e4 dxe4 14.Nxe4 Nd5 15.Qc5 Qxc5 16.dxc5 0-0 17.a3 Ne6 18.Bc4 Nef4 19.Nxf4 Nxf4 20.Nd6 Be6 21.Bxe6 Nxe6 22.Nxb7 Rab8 23.Rd7 a5 24.Rc1 Ra8 25.Rc4 Ra7 26.Rc3 Nf4 27.Rb3 Nd5 28.a4 Kg7 29.Rd6 Re8 30.Nd8 Nb4 31.Re3 Rae7 32.Nxc6 Rxe3 33.fxe3 Nxc6 34.Rxc6 Rxe3 35.Rd6 Re5 36.c6 Rc5 37.c7 Rxc7 38.Rd5 Ra7 39.Kc2 h5 40.Kc3 f6 41.Kc4 g5 42.Kd4 Kg6 43.Ke4 f5+ 44.Rxf5 h4 45.h3 Ra8 46.Rc5 Ra6 47.b3 Ra8 48.Rc6+ Kh5 49.Kf5 Rf8+ 50.Ke5 Rb8 51.Rc3 Re8+ 52.Kf6 Rf8+ 53.Kg7 Rb8 54.Kf6 Rf8+ 55.Ke7 Rf2 56.Rc5 Rxg2 57.Rxa5 Rg3 58.Kf6 Rf3+ 59.Rf5 Rxb3 60.Rxg5+ Kh6 61.Rg4 Rxh3 62.a5 Rf3+ 63.Ke6 Kh5 64.Ra4 Rf8 65.a6 h3 66.a7 Ra8 67.Kf5 h2 68.Ra1 Kh4 69.Kf4 Kh3 70.Kf3 Rxa7 71.Rxa7 h1Q+ 72.Kf2 Qh2+ 73.Kf3 Qg2+ 74.Kf4 Qf2+ 75.Kg5 Qxa7 0-1

(8) Clemens,Kristian (2019) - Hakobyan,Sos (1818) [D40]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.8), 14.01.2020

1.Nf3 e6 2.d4 c5 3.e3 cxd4 4.exd4 d5 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Bd2 Nc6 8.a3 Be7 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 dxc4 11.Bxc4 g5 12.Bg3 g4 13.Ne5 Qxd4 14.Bb5 Qxd1+ 15.Rxd1 Bd7 16.Nxd7 Nxd7 17.Ne4 a6 18.Be2 0-0-0 19.Rc1 f5 20.Rxc6+ 1-0

(9) Lehman,Clarence E (1907) - Childress,Jason (2073) [B01]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.11), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Be2 Nxd5 4.d4 g6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.h3 c6 9.Nf3 N8d7 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Nd2 Bf5 12.g4 Be6 13.Kg2 Qd7 14.Rh1 Rfd8 15.Qf1 Ne8 16.Nb3 Qc8 17.Rd1 f5 18.f3 Nc7 19.Bg5 Re8 20.Kg3 Bf7 21.Bd2 e5 22.dxe5 Bxe5+ 23.f4 Bg7 24.Rh2 Re7 25.Rf2 Qe8 26.Re1 Rd8 27.a4 Nd7 28.g5 Nf8 29.Bd1

29...Rxd2 30.Rxe7 Rxf2 31.Qe1 Qd8 32.Kxf2 Nfe6 33.Rxf7 Kxf7 34.Na5 Nc5 35.Bc2 N7e6 36.Kg3 Qxa5 37.Qe3 Bxc3 38.bxc3 Qc7 39.h4 Qd6 40.h5 Nxg5 41.Kh4 Nge6 42.hxg6+ hxg6 43.Kg3 g5 0-1

(10) Busch,Jonah M (1944) - German,Felix (1895) [B01]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.12), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3!? [3.Nc3] **3...Nf6 4.d4 Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.h3 Bh5 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 Qd6** [Relevant: 8...Qd8 9.Qb3 Qc8 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Be3 Nbd7 12.Rfd1 h6 13.Rac1 a6 14.a3 Re8 15.Qc2 Bg6 16.Bd3 Bxd3 17.Rxd3 b6 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Nd7 20.Bf4 Nf8 21.Rg3 Kh8 22.Re1 Ng6 23.Bc1 Qb7 24.Rxg6 fxg6 25.Qxg6 Bf8 26.Ne4 c5 27.Bf4 Rad8 28.Nd6 Bxd6 29.exd6 Rf8 30.Be5 Kg8 31.Re4 Rf5 32.Qxe6+ Qf7 33.Qxf7+ Rxf7 34.f4 g5 35.g3 Kh7 36.Kf2 gxf4 37.gxf4 Kg6 38.Kf3 Anand,V (2764)-Duda,J (2729) Paris 2019 1-0] **9.Nc3 0-0 10.Nb5 Qd8 11.Bf4 Ne8N** [Predecessor: 11...Na6 12.Nc3 c6 13.Qb3 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Qxd4 15.Qxb7 Qxf4 16.Qxa6 Bd6 17.Rfd1 Be5 18.Rac1 Qh2+ 19.Kf1 Bxc3 20.Rxc3 e5 21.Bxc6 Rad8 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.Rd3 Rf8 24.Qa5 Qh1+ 25.Ke2 Qb1 26.Qd2 Qxa2 27.b3 Qa6 28.Rd6 h6 29.Bd5 Qc8 30.b4 Nh5 31.c5 Nf4+ 32.Kf1 Qf5 33.Ba2 e4 34.g4 Qe5 35.Qd4 Qg5 36.Qe3 Qe5 37.Rd4 Nxh3 38.Qxe4 Qf6 39.Qe3 g5 40.Bb1 Nf4 41.Qe4 Doluhanova,E (2225)-Sergienko,S (2429) Voronezh 2011 1-0] **12.g4 Bg6 13.Ne5 c6 14.Nc3 Bd6 15.Nxg6 fxg6!?** Good news: This is just as good as the other recapture. Or is it just as BAD? (computers at first make White close to winning on either, although they back off as they see Black's resiliency). [15...hxg6] **16.Bxd6** [16.Be3!? Bf4 17.Qd2 Black's biggest problem is finding good squares for all those knights.] **16...Qxd6 17.c5** Trade-off: d5 for d6. **17...Qe7 18.Bc4 Nc7 19.Qe2 Nd7 20.Rfe1 Rae8 21.Ne4 Nd5 22.Nd6 Nf4 23.Qe3**

23...Qh4! 24.Bf1 [24.Qg3! is computer madness: 24...Nxh3+ 25.Kh1! *(25.Kg2?? Rxf2+)* 25...Qxg3! *(25...Nxf2+ 26.Kg2+-)* 26.fxg3 Ng5! 27.Nxe8 Rxe8 28.Re2 White still has quite the better game, but there could still be some tricks with the knights.] **24...Re7** [24...Rb8!?] **25.Qg3 Qxg3+?!** [25...Qf6 keeps the better knight outpost at f4.] **26.fxg3 Nd5 27.Bc4?!** [27.Nxb7! Rb8 28.Na5 Rc8 *(28...Rxb2 29.Nxc6 Re8 30.Nxa7* mops up all of Black's pawns on the queenside*.)* 29.Bg2] **27...N7f6 28.g5! Ne8**

29.Bxd5! The other problem with "good" squares for a knight -- they can get traded off into bad pawn structures. **29...cxd5 30.Nxe8?** [30.Nc8! Rd7 31.Nxa7 should be "technique" -- it's as if White has two pawns more (and they're ready to march). Plus, the thought of ...e5 has dissipated.] **30...Rexe8 31.Re3** [31.Kg2; 31.h4] **31...Rf5** [31...e5! 32.Rae1! e4 33.Ra3 with initiative on the queenside, but it's not so certain it leads to a win.] **32.h4** [32.Rae1! Kf7 *(32...Rxg5?! 33.Kg2* threatens Black with g3-g4, when his rook is trapped*.)* 33.Kg2] **32...e5!?** Black busts out. **33.Rxe5?** [33.Rf1+/- Even here, White's "Panov-Botvinnik" queenside majority looms larger than anything Black can manage.; 33.Rae1+/-; 33.b4+/-; 33.Rc1+/-] **33...Rfxe5 34.dxe5 Rxe5** Now it's pretty even. **35.Kf2 Kf7 36.Rd1 Ke6 37.Rd3 Kd7** [37...d4] **38.Re3 Rf5+ 39.Ke2** [39.Rf3?? Rxf3+ 40.Kxf3 Kc6-+] **39...d4 40.Re4 d3+** [40...Rxc5 41.Rxd4+ Ke6=] **41.Kxd3 Rxc5 42.b4** [42.a4 **42...Rf5 43.Rf4 Ke6 44.Ke4 Re5+ 45.Kd4 Rd5+ 46.Ke4 Rd2 47.a4 Ra2 48.a5 Rb2 49.Ke3 Rb3+ 50.Kf2 Rc3**

51.Rf3?? One must resist, especially when in time trouble, trading off rooks without careful calculation. Rook endings aren't all drawn (as the old joke goes), but they do lean towards the middle -- while pawn endings lean toward the win/loss. **51...Rxf3+ 52.Kxf3 Kd5 53.g4 Kc4 54.h5 Kxb4 55.h6 gxh6 56.gxh6 Kxa5 57.Kf4 0-1**

(11) Argo,Guy (1939) - Melville,Cailen J (1884) [C02]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.13), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Be2 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nh6 8.Nc3 Nf5 9.Na4 Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Bb4 11.Bc3 Bd7 12.a3 Bxc3+ 13.Nxc3 0-0 14.b4 Qd8 15.Qd3N [>=15.0-0] **15...f6 16.g4?!**

16...fxe5! This is a new position, but this tactic has been seen quite a few times before. (Here it works pretty well, according to the computer.) **17.gxf5 Rxf5?** Black turns it into a real piece sacrifice. [17...e4! Gets the piece back first of all! 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Qxe4 Rxf5-/+ Yes Black has a weak e-pawn and a "bad" bishop. But everything else is in his favor. The f-file is going to be significant; White has more weak pawns; White's king won't be comfortable anywhere on the board (while Black still has solid pawn cover). 20.Qh4 Qf8! 21.Qg3 Nxb4! 22.axb4 Bc6! That bishop is *not* bad.] **18.dxe5** Good... [For some reason, 18.Nxe5! is better. Reducing material when a piece up perhaps? Eliminating a target on f3? 18...Nxe5 19.dxe5 Rxe5 20.f4 Rf5 21.0-0 is safe enough (for an extra piece!).] **18...Rc8?!** [18...Nxe5 19.Nxe5 Rxe5 is as above.; 18...Qc7 plays for a better major piece activity (Q/e5, Raf8).; 18...Qe7!? might even improve on that.] **19.0-0?!** [19.Qe3+- among others] **19...Nxe5** [19...Be8!? heading for g6 or h5] **20.Nxe5 Rxe5 21.f4??** [21.Bf3 wins -- White can "replace" his missing g-pawn with his extra piece.] **21...Qb6+** (too easy) **22.Rf2 Re3 23.Nxd5 exd5 24.Qxd5+ Be6 25.Qd2** [25.Qb5 Qc7 As before, White's weak pawns and more exposed king give a clear advantage to Black. *(*Not that much worse is *25...Qxb5 26.Bxb5 Kf7)*] **25...Rd8 26.Qb2?!** [26.Qc2] **26...Bd5 27.Rd1?** [27.Bf1 continues to struggle on.; Or 27.Qc2 so that ...Qg6 isn't death.] **27...Qg6+ 28.Kf1 Qe4 29.Rxd5? Qh1# 0-1**

(12) Reichwein,Axel (1892) - Lum,Michael K (1914) [B10]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.14), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Qc7!? Scores as well, well better, than anything else! [Way most common is 3...e5] **4.Ngf3** [4.Qe2 So much for the caveat about early queen moves! 4...dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bf5 6.g3 Nd7 7.Bg2 Bxe4 8.dxe4 e5 9.Nf3 Ngf6 10.0-0 Bc5 11.b3 0-0 12.Bb2 Rfe8 13.Bh3 Bf8 14.Rad1 Nc5 0-1 (65) Tiviakov,S (2649)-Postny,E (2627) Neustadt an der Weinstrasse 2008] **4...Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.g4** Entering tricky waters. **6...Bg6 7.Bg2 Nd7 8.Qe2 e6 9.b3 0-0-0 10.Bb2 f6 11.Rc1 dxe4 12.dxe4 e5 13.a3 Bf7 14.0-0 Ne7** White has completely neglected f4. And along with the precariously advanced pawns, it's enough to give Black a hub for a winning attack. **15.b4 Ng6 16.Rfd1 Nf4 17.Qf1 Be7 18.Nb1 g5 19.c4** If White thought that c4-c5 was going to help... **19...h5 20.Ne1 hxg4 21.hxg4 Be6 22.f3 Qb6+ 23.Qf2**

[23.c5 Nxc5!] **23...Rh1+! 24.Kxh1** [24.Bxh1 Nh3+] **24...Qxf2 25.Rc2 Rh8+ 0-1**

(13) Breedt,Rudolph Fr (1882) - Mercado,Adam (1789) [B08]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.9), 14.01.2020

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Qd2 c5 8.Bh6 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nc5 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.f3 h5 12.0-0-0 Be6 13.Qg5 Nh7 14.Qh4 Rc8 15.f4 Bd7 16.Qg3 Nf6 17.Bf3 Kh7 18.e5 Ne8 19.Rhe1 b5 20.f5 Ng7 21.fxg6+ fxg6 22.exd6 exd6 23.Qxd6 b4 24.Nd5 Qg5+ 25.Kb1 Kh6 26.g3 Nf5 27.Nxf5+ Bxf5 28.Ne7 Bxc2+ 29.Kxc2 Ne4+ 30.Nxc8 Rxc8+ 31.Kb1 Nxd6 32.Rxd6 Qf5+ 33.Be4 Rc1+ 34.Kxc1 Qc5+ 35.Kb1 Qxd6 36.Rc1 a5 37.Bc2 Qd2 38.h3 Qh2 39.g4 hxg4 40.hxg4 Kg5 41.Bd1 Qd6 42.b3 Kf4 43.Rc4+ Ke3 44.Bc2 Kd2 45.Re4 Qc6 46.Rd4+ Ke2 47.Re4+ Kf3 48.Rc4 Qd6 49.Be4+ Ke2 50.Bc2 Qb6 51.Kb2 Qf6+ 52.Kb1 Qf1+ 53.Kb2 Qf2 54.Kc1 Qf1+ 55.Kb2 Qf6+ 56.Kc1 Qf1+ 57.Kb2 Qf6+ 58.Kb1 Qf1+ 59.Kb2 Qf6+ 60.Kc1 Qf1+ 61.Kb2 Qf6+ 62.Kc1 Qf1+ 63.Kb2 1/2-1/2

(14) Babayan,Gagik (1784) - Royzen,Igor (1868) [B12]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.16), 14.01.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Nc3 e6 7.Bb5 Bxc5 8.0-0 a6 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.h3 Bh5 11.Na4 Ba7 12.b3 Ne7 13.Ba3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Bd4 15.Rae1 0-0 16.c3 Ba7 17.Nb2 Re8 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Nd3 Bc5 20.Qg4 g6 21.h4 h5 22.Qf4 Bb6 23.Re2 a5 24.g3 a4 25.b4 c5 26.bxc5 Bxc5 27.Rb1 Qa7 28.Nxc5 Qxc5 29.Rb7 Rf8 30.Re3 Ra7 31.Rxa7 Qxa7 32.Rf3 Qb7 33.Qxa4 d4 34.Rd3 1-0

(15) Abraham,Renjish (1861) - Acosta,Anthony (1762) [A88]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.17), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.c4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.d4 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 c6 8.Re1 h6 9.e4 e6 10.Qb3 Kh7 11.exf5 exf5 12.d5 c5 13.Bd2 a6 14.Na4?! b5 15.Nc3 b4 16.Ne2 a5 17.a4 Ne4 18.Rad1 Nxd2 19.Rxd2 Re8 20.Qd3 Ra7 21.b3 Rae7 22.Ra2 Nd7 23.Kf1 Ne5 24.Nxe5 Rxe5 25.h3 Qf6 26.Qf3 Qe7 27.Rc2 Bd7 28.Qd3-+ Qf6 [28...f4!; 28...h5!! 29.h4 f4 30.gxf4 Bf5 31.Qg3 Bxc2 32.fxe5 Qxe5-+] **29.Rd1 Qe7 30.Bf3 Bf6 31.Kg2 Kg7 32.Ng1 Bg5 33.Re2 f4 34.Rde1 fxg3 35.Rxe5 dxe5 36.fxg3+/- h5 37.Be4 Qd6 38.Nf3 Bd8 39.Qe3 Bf6 40.Nd2 Qe7 41.Qd3 Qf7 42.Rf1 Rf8 43.Nf3 Qe8 44.d6 Qe6 45.Ng1 Be8 46.Nf3 Bd7 47.Ng1 1/2-1/2**

(16) Mays,Jerry L (1700) - Ricard,Bruce (1849) [C96]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.18), 14.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Nd7 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.Qxd8 Rxd8 15.Nd2 Be6 16.Nf3 f6 17.Nh4 g6 18.b3 b4 19.c4 Nc6 20.Nf3 Kf7 21.Be3 Nd4 22.Bd1 Rd7 23.Nxd4 exd4 24.Bf4 h5 25.g4 g5 26.Bg3 h4 27.Bh2 Bd6 28.e5 fxe5 29.Bxe5 Bf8 30.f4 gxf4 31.Bxf4 Bg7 32.Be5 Bh6 33.Rf1+ Ke7 34.Bf6+ Kd6 35.Bxh4 Rh8 36.Bg3+ Ke7 37.Be5 Be3+ 38.Kg2 Rh6 39.Bf4 Rf6 40.Bxe3 dxe3 41.Rxf6 Kxf6 42.Kf3 Rd2 43.Kxe3 Rh2 44.Kf4 Rxh3 45.Bf3 Rh2 46.Kg3 Rb2 47.Kf4 Bc8 48.Ke3 Kg5 49.Bd1 Bxg4 50.Bxg4 Kxg4 51.Kd3 Kf4 52.Rf1+ Ke5 53.Re1+ Kd6 54.Re2 Rxe2 55.Kxe2 Ke6 56.Ke3 Ke5 57.Kd3 Kf4 58.Kc2 Ke3 59.Kb2 Kd2 60.a3 a5 61.axb4 axb4 62.Ka2 Kc2 63.Ka1 Kxb3 64.Kb1 Kxc4 0-1

(17) Drane,Robert Will (1812) - Madhavan,Srikrishnan (1720) [C16]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.19), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.Bd3 c5 6.a3 Ba5 7.b4 cxd4 8.Nb5 Bc7 9.Nf3 Nbc6 10.Bf4 0-0??

11.Bxh7+! Kh8 [11...Kxh7 12.Ng5+ Kg6 13.Nxc7 Qxc7 14.h4] **12.Ng5** [12.Nxc7 Qxc7 13.Bd3!] **12...g6 13.Nxc7** [13.h4!] **13...Qxc7 14.h4 f6 15.Bxg6 Nxg6 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qxg6+ Qg7 18.Qxg7+ Kxg7 19.exf6+ Rxf6 20.Bg3 e5?! 21.b5 Ne7 22.Bxe5 Kg6 23.Bxf6 Kxf6 24.Rd1 Bf5 25.Rxd4 Re8 26.Kd2 Rc8 27.c3 Bd7 28.a4 Bf5 29.g4 Bg6 30.Re1 Bf7 31.Rf4+ 1-0**

(18) Malykin,Erika (1675) - Hack,Richard (1567) [A86]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.20), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.Nf3 d6 7.Qc2 Qe8 8.Bd2 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nb5 Na6 11.0-0 c6 12.Nd6 Qe6 13.c5 Ne8 14.Ng5 Qe7 15.Qc4+ Kh8 16.Ndf7+ (Neither player cared to say which knight went to f7 first. ..) **16...Rxf7** [16...Kg8 17.Nh6+ Kh8 18.Qg8+ Rxg8 19.Ngf7+ Qxf7 20.Nxf7#] **17.Nxf7+ Kg8 18.Nh6+ Kh8 19.Qg8# 1-0**

(19) Latourette,Nichol (1623) - Maser,Thomas F (1900) [C45]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.21), 14.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bb4+ 5.Nc3 Qf6 6.Nde2 Nh6 7.f3 0-0 8.Be3 Re8 9.Qd2 d5 10.Bg5 Qd6 11.Qxd5 Qxd5 12.exd5 Nd4 13.0-0-0 Ndf5 14.Ng3 Nxg3 15.hxg3 Nf5 16.Bb5 Re5 17.Bf4 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Re7 19.Bd3 h6 20.g4 Ne3 21.Rhe1 Nxd5 22.Be4 Nf6 23.Bh7+ Kf8 24.Rd8+ Ne8 25.Be4 g5 26.Be3 Kg7 27.Bf5 1-0

(20) Allen,Alex (1671) - Baer,Michael A (1441) [B01]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.22), 14.01.2020

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6 6.Ne5 Nc6 7.Be3 Nxe5 8.dxe5 Qxe5 9.Qf3 c6 10.h3 Bf5 11.0-0-0 Be4 12.Qe2 e6 13.Bd4 Qg5+ 14.Be3 Qe5 15.f4 Qc7 16.Rd4 Bd5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.f5 e5 19.Bd2 0-0-0 20.Ra4 Re8 21.g4 Bd6 22.Qe4 Nf6 23.Qe3 Nd5 24.Qb3 e4 25.c4 Nf4 26.Qe3 g6 27.Ba5 Qb8 28.c5 Nd5 29.Qd4 Be5 30.Qc4 Bf4+ 31.Kb1 Re7 32.Be2 Rhe8 33.Rd1 Ne3 34.Qxe4 Nxd1 35.Qxc6+ bxc6 36.Bxa6+ Rb7 37.Rd4 Ne3 38.Rd7 Bc7 39.Bxc7 Qxc7 40.Rxc7+ Kxc7 41.fxg6 hxg6 42.a4 Ra7 43.Bd3 Rxa4 44.b3 Rd4 45.Bc2 Nxc2 46.Kxc2 Re3 0-1

(21) Boldi,Nicholas (1754) - Hansen,Mateo Step (1624) [B38]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.23), 14.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bg7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Bd7 9.Be3 Nc6 10.Qc2 Ng4 11.Nxc6 Nxe3 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.fxe3 Be5 14.Rf3 Bg4 15.Rf2 Bxe2 16.Nxe2 Rac8 17.Rc1 b5 18.b3 Rc5 19.Qd3 Rfc8 20.Rff1 Bb2 21.Rc2 bxc4 22.bxc4 Be5 23.Nd4 Qc7 24.Rfc1 Bxh2+ 25.Kxh2 d5+ 26.Kg1 dxc4 27.Qe2 Qg3 28.Qf3 Qh4 29.g3 Rg5 30.Rg2 Qh3 31.g4 Qh4 32.Qg3 Qh6 33.Rh2 Qf8 34.Qh4 Qc5 35.Qxh7+ Kf8 36.Qh6+ Ke7 37.Qh4 Kd6 38.Nf5+ Rxf5 39.Rd1+ Kc6 40.exf5 gxf5 41.Qf6+ Kb7 42.Qxf7+ Rc7 43.Qd5+ Qxd5 44.Rxd5 fxg4 45.Rc2 Kb6 46.Rg5 1-0

(22) Cortinas,Martin A (1662) - Lesquillier,Walter (1733) [E18]

Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated Game San Francisco (2.24), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 Be7 6.c4 0-0 7.Nc3 d6 8.Qc2 d5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Rd1 Nbd7 11.Bf4 c6 12.Rab1 b5 13.b4 Nb6 14.Ne5 Nc4 15.Nxc4 bxc4 16.e4 Ne8 17.b5 cxb5 18.Nxb5 Bc6 19.Re1 Bf6 20.exd5 Bxd5 21.Red1 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 a6 23.Nc3 Nd6 24.Nd5 Nb5 25.Nxf6+ Qxf6 26.Be5 Qe6 27.Rb4 Qd5+ 28.Kg1 Rac8 29.a4 f6 30.axb5 a5 31.Ra4 fxe5 32.dxe5 Qxe5 33.Rxc4 Rb8 34.Rc5 Qe6 35.Rc6 Qf7 36.Rc7 Qf6 37.Rdd7 Rxb5 38.Qc4+ Kh8 39.Rf7 Rb1+ 40.Kg2 Rxf7 41.Rxf7 Qd8 42.Qc5 Rb8 43.Qe5 Qg8 44.Rxg7 Qxg7 45.Qxb8+ Qg8 46.Qe5+ Qg7 47.Qxa5 Qb7+ 48.f3 Qb2+ 49.Kh3 Qe2 (White lost in time scramble) **0-1**

(23) Lin,Aung Tun (1657) - Rakonitz,David (1613) [A05]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.25), 14.01.2020

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.e3 e6 3.b3 b6 4.Bb2 Bb7 5.Bb5 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Ne5 d6 8.Ng4 a6 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.f4 c5 11.Nf2 b5 12.e4 Qc7 13.c4 bxc4 14.bxc4 Rab8 15.Bc3 Bc6 16.Na3 Rfd8 17.Rc1 d5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.e5 Ne8 20.Qg4 c4 21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qf5+ Kg8 23.Nh3 g6 24.Qg4 Bxa3 25.f5 Nf8 26.Rce1 Bc5+ 27.Kh1 d4 28.fxg6 Nxg6 29.Ng5 Bd5 30.e6 Bxe6 31.Nxe6 fxe6 32.Rxe6 Rb7 33.Rxg6+ Ng7 34.Qe6+ Qf7 35.Rxf7 Rxf7 36.Qxc4 dxc3 37.Rf6 Rdd7 38.Rxf7 Rxf7 39.dxc3 Be3 40.g3 Kf8 41.Qxa6 Rd7 42.Qc6 Rd1+ 43.Kg2 Rd3 44.a4 Rd2+ 45.Kf3 Bg1 46.h4 Rf2+ 47.Kg4 Kf7 48.h5 Nxh5 49.Kxh5 Rf6 50.Qd7+ Kg8 51.Kg5 Ra6 1-0

(24) Casares Jr,Nick (1600) - Carron,Joel (1645) [B77]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.26), 14.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.Be3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.f3 d6 9.Qd2 Na5 10.Bd3 Nd7 11.Nb3 Nxb3 12.axb3 Nc5 13.Bc4 Be6 14.0-0-0 Bxc4 15.bxc4 Qa5 16.Kb1 Qb4 17.Bd4 Qxc4 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.g4 Qb4 20.h4 f6 21.g5 b5 22.h5 Na4 23.Nxa4 Qxd2 24.Rxd2 bxa4 25.hxg6 hxg6 26.gxf6+ Rxf6 27.Rdh2 Rxf3 28.Rg1 Raf8 29.Rhh1 a3 30.b3 Rf2 31.Rd1 Re2 32.Rd4 Rf4 33.Ra4 Rfxe4 34.Rxa3 Re1+ 35.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 36.Kb2 g5 37.Rxa7 g4 38.Ra4 Rg1 39.Re4 Kf7 40.b4 g3 41.b5 Rh1 42.Rg4 Rh5 43.c4 Rc5 44.Kb3 d5 45.cxd5 Rxb5+ 46.Kc4 Rb7 47.Rxg3 Rc7+ 1/2-1/2

(25) Raza,Aezed (1643) - Morgan,Jerry (1467) [D19]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (2.27), 14.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 Bg6 10.Bd3 Bh5 11.Bd2 Nbd7 12.e4 e5 13.Be3 Qa5 14.Rfc1 Rfe8 15.h3 Re6 16.g4 Nxg4 17.hxg4 Bxg4 18.Qd1 exd4 19.Bxd4 Qh5 20.Be2 Rh6 21.Kf1 Qh1+ 22.Ng1 Bh3+ 23.Ke1 Qxg1+ 24.Kd2 Qxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Rd6 26.Ke3 c5 27.Bxg7 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 Kxg7 29.Rh1 Bxc3 30.bxc3 Be6 31.f4 b6 32.c4 Nf6 33.e5 Nd7 34.Bd3 Rh8 35.Rg1+ Kf8 36.f5 Bxf5 37.Bxf5 Nxe5 38.Bd3 Nxd3 39.Kxd3 h5 40.Rg3 h4 41.Rh3 Kg7 42.Ke4 Kf6 43.Kf4 Kg6 44.Kg4 f5+ 45.Kf4 Kf6 46.Kf3 Kg5 47.Rh1 h3 48.Rg1+ Kh4 49.Kf4 h2 50.Rh1 Kh3 51.Kf3 Rg8 52.Kf2 Rg2+ 53.Kf1 Rc2 0-1

(26) Harris,Clarence (1402) - Gimelfarb,Ilia (1599) [C68]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.10), 14.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Bd6 6.d4 Bg4 7.dxe5 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Bxe5 9.Rd1 Qh4 10.g3 Qh3 11.Qf5 Qxf5 12.exf5 Ne7 13.Nc3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nxf5 15.Re1+ Kd7 16.Bf4 Rae8 17.Red1+ Nd6 18.c4 c5 19.Rd5 b6 20.Rb1 Kc6 21.Bxd6 cxd6 22.Rbd1 Re6 23.Kf1 Rd8 24.f3 Re3 25.R1d3 Rxd3 26.cxd3 Re8 27.a4 Re5 28.Rxe5 dxe5 29.Ke2 b5 30.cxb5+ axb5 31.axb5+ Kxb5 32.Kd2 Kc6 33.Ke3 Kd5 34.h3 f5 35.f4 e4 0-1

(27) Starr,Albert Mart (1552) - Olson,David R (1400) [A05]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.28), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.b4 Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.0-0 e5 7.d3 Nc6 8.b5 Ne7 9.Nbd2 Be6 10.c4 c5 11.a4 Qd7 12.a5 a6 13.b6 Ng4 14.Ng5 f5 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.Bf3 Rab8 17.e4 Nh6 18.Re1 f4 19.Nf1 Nc6 20.Bc3 g5 21.Qc1 g4 22.Bd1 f3 23.g3 Qg6 24.Ne3 Qh5 25.Kh1 Rf6 26.Nd5 Rg6 27.Bd2 Nf7 28.Ba4 Nd4 29.Ne7+ Kh8 30.Nxg6+ hxg6 31.Bd1 Kh7 32.Re3 Ng5 33.h4 gxh3 34.Re1 h2 35.Bxg5 Qh3 36.Bxf3 Nxf3 37.Rf1 Rh8 38.Qe3 Ng1 39.Be7 Kg8 40.Bh4 Bh6 41.f4 exf4 42.Qf2 g5 43.Qxh2 gxh4 44.Rxg1 Qxh2+ 45.Kxh2 hxg3+ 46.Kg2 Bg7 47.Raf1 Rh2+ 48.Kf3 Bd4 49.Rg2 Rh4 Black lost on time **1-0**

(28) Johnson,Nathaniel - Simpkins,Jerry (1539) [A00]

Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated Game San Francisco (2.29), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.h4 e5 2.e4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.g3 d5 5.Bg2 d4 Both players were using a dialect of scorekeeping unknown to the game entry person. 0-1, **0-1**

(29) Jade,Valerie (1532) - Martin,Michael J (1387) [C70]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.30), 14.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Bc5 6.Re1 d6 7.h3 0-0 8.c3 Re8 9.d4 Ba7 10.Bc2 b5 11.a4 Bd7 12.Bg5 Bb6 13.Na3 Na5 14.axb5 axb5 15.Qd3 c6 16.Nh4 h6 17.Bd2 Nh5 18.Nf5 Qf6 19.Kh2 Bxf5 20.exf5 Kh7 21.Qf3 Nf4 22.Rg1 Nd5 23.g4 g5 24.h4 Nf4 25.hxg5 hxg5 26.Rg3 Kg7 27.dxe5 dxe5 28.c4 Rh8+ 29.Kg1 Nxc4 30.Bc3 Bc5 31.Re1 b4 32.Nxc4 bxc3 33.bxc3 Ra2 34.Rxe5 Bxf2+ 35.Qxf2 Ra1+ 36.Qf1 Ne2+ 37.Rxe2 Rxf1+ 38.Kxf1 Qxc3 39.Rxc3 1-0

(30) Rothman,Ivan (1487) - Roberts,Joseph (1358) [C28]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.31), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.a3 Be7 6.f4 exf4 7.Bxf4 d6 8.Nf3 Bg4 9.0-0 Nd4 10.Qd2 Nxf3+ 11.gxf3 Bh3 12.Rf2 g5 13.Be3 a6 14.Ne2 1-0, **1-0**

(31) Neugut,Eitan (1322) - Hilliard,Michael (1476) [D60]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.32), 14.01.2020

1.c4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Qb3 e6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.e3 0-0 8.Bd3 Re8 9.0-0 Ng4 10.Bf4 f5 11.h3 Ngf6 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Nb5 Ne4 14.Bc7 Ndc5 15.dxc5 Qd7 16.Bxe4 fxe4 17.Ne5 Bxc5 18.Nxd7 Bxd7 19.Be5 Rac8 20.Nd6 Bxd6 21.Bxd6 b6 22.Rfc1 Bc6 23.Be5 Rf8 24.Qc3 Rf7 25.Qxc6 Rxc6 26.Rxc6 1-0

(32) Ansari,Jahaan (1461) - Chambers,Don (1298) [D08]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.33), 14.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.cxd5 Qxd5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e4 6.Nfd2 Nf6 7.Nc3 Qf5 8.Qc2 Nb4 9.Qb1 Nd3+ 10.Bxd3 exd3 11.0-0 b6 12.e4 Qg6 13.Qxd3 Bb7 14.d5 Bb4 15.Qb5+ Nd7 16.Qxb4 0-0-0 17.Nf3 h5 18.Bf4 Nc5 19.Qc4 Ba6 20.Nb5 Kb8 21.Bxc7+ Ka8 22.Bxd8 Rxd8 23.Nc7+ Kb7 24.Nxa6 Nxa6 25.Rac1 Nc5 26.Rfe1 a6 27.b4 Rc8 28.bxc5 Rxc5 29.Qd4 Qd6 30.Rxc5 bxc5 31.Qxg7 Qc7 32.Ne5 Qa5 33.Qxf7+ Kb6 34.Nc4+ 1-0

(33) Wagner,Tyler (1050) - Sachs-Weintraub,J. (1429) [A48]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.34), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Bd3 0-0 5.0-0 Nc6 6.b3 d5 7.Ba3 a6 8.Nbd2 b5 9.c4 dxc4 10.bxc4 b4 11.Bb2 Bg4 12.Qa4 Qd7 13.Ng5 a5 14.Nge4 Nd8 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Qxd7 Bxd7 17.Ne4 Bh8 18.h3 Bf5 19.g4 Bxe4 20.Bxe4 Rb8 21.f4 c5 22.f5 a4 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.Rab1 a3 25.Bxa3 Rc8 26.Bb2 cxd4 27.exd4 Rxc4 28.Rbc1 Bxd4+ 29.Bxd4 Rxd4 30.Rfe1 f5 31.Bc2 e6 32.Bb3 fxg4 33.Kh2 gxh3 34.Re5 Rf7 35.Rc8 Kg7 36.Kxh3 Rf6 37.Rc4 Rxc4 38.Bxc4 Kf7 39.Kg4 Nc6 40.Re4 Ke7 41.Kg5 Na5 42.Bb3 Nxb3 43.axb3 Rf5+ 44.Kxg6 Rb5 45.Rh4 (only scoresheet says "45.Rf4," but next two moves are 46.Kg5 and 47.Kf4, so...) **45...Rb6 46.Kg5 Kd6 47.Kf4 e5+ 48.Ke3 Kd5 49.Rc4 Rb5 50.Re4 Ke6 51.Rc4 Kf5 52.Re4 Rb6 53.Rc4 Rb7 54.Re4 Ke6 55.Rc4 Kd6 56.Re4 Rb5 57.Rc4** Somehow Black got the king through to c3 and xb3... 0-1, 87 **0-1**

(34) Sullivan,George T (914) - James,Charles (1404) [B56]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.35), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Ndb5 [6.Bb5+!] **6...a6 7.Na3 b5 8.Nd5 Nxe4 9.Bd3 Nc5 10.Be2 Nc6 11.c3 Bb7 12.Bf3 e4 13.Be2 Ne5 14.0-0 Ncd3 15.Nb4 Nxb4 16.cxb4 d5 17.Nc2 Bd6 18.a3 0-0 19.Nd4 f5 20.Ne6 Qf6 21.Nxf8 Rxf8 22.Be3 f4 23.Bd4 f3 24.gxf3 Qg5+ 25.Kh1 Nxf3 26.Bxf3 Qf4 0-1**

(35) Ross,Max L (1549) - Byrd,Bill [A45]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.36), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 d6 3.Bd3 Nbd7 4.Nf3 e5 5.dxe5 dxe5 6.Nbd2 Nc5 7.Nxe5 Nxd3+ 8.cxd3 Qd5 9.Ndf3 Bd6 10.d4 0-0 11.0-0 Ne4 12.b3 Re8 13.Bb2 Re6 14.Qd3 b5 15.Rad1 Rh6 16.Nd2 Bf5 [16...Bxe5 17.dxe5! *(17.Qxe4 Bxh2+ 18.Kh1 Bf4+ 19.Kg1 Rh1+! 20.Kxh1 Qh5+ 21.Kg1 Qh2#)* 17...Qxd3 18.Nxe4 Rd6 19.Rxd3 Rxd3 20.Bd4 Bf5 21.Nc5 Rd2-/+] **17.Qe2 f6 18.Nxe4 Qxe4 19.f3 Qh4 20.g3 Qh3 21.Rf2?!** [21.e4! fxe5 22.exf5 exd4 23.f4 c5 24.b4 Qxf5 25.bxc5 Bxc5 26.Bxd4=] **21...fxe5 22.dxe5 Be7 23.Qxb5 Rf8** [23...c5] **24.Qc4+ Be6 25.Qxc7 Rxf3!? 26.Qxe7??**

[26.Rdd2=] **26...Rxf2??** [26...Rxg3+!! 27.Kh1 *(27.hxg3 Qh1#)* 27...Rg1+!! 28.Kxg1 *(28.Rxg1 Bd5+ 29.e4 Bxe4+ 30.Rgg2 Qxh2#)* 28...Qg4+ 29.Rg2 *(29.Kh1 Qxd1+ 30.Kg2 Rg6+ 31.Qg5 Rxg5#)* 29...Qxd1+ 30.Kf2 Qc2+ 31.Kf1 (31.Kf3 Bd5+ 32.e4 *(32.Kf4 Qe4+ 33.Kg5 Qh4+ 34.Kf5 Be4#)* 32...Rh3+ 33.Rg3 Qxe4+ 34.Kf2 Rxh2+) 31...Qb1+ 32.Kf2 Qxb2+ 33.Kf3 Bd5+ 34.Kf4 Rh4+ 35.Qxh4 Qxg2-+] **27.Rd8+ 1-0**

(36) Bryan,Robert R (373) - Chan,John (1506) [E20]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.37), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Rc1 d6 6.e4 h6 7.Bf4 Qa5 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Bd3 Nh5 10.0-0?? Nxf4 11.Bc2 Nd7 12.g3 Ng6 13.a4 Qc7 14.a5 Qxa5 15.Ra1 Qc7 16.h4 Nf6 17.h5 Nxh5 18.g4 Nhf4 19.Kh2 a6 20.Re1 e5 21.dxe5 dxe5 22.b4 Bxb4 23.Qd2 Bxg4 24.Re3 Qe7 25.Rg1 Bxf3 26.Rxf3 Qh4+ 0-1

(37) Neuberg,Bryan - Radaelli,Lucas (1411)

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.38), 14.01.2020

0-1

(38) Morgan,Jacob (1227) - Sai,Rohit [B00]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.39), 14.01.2020

[Mueller,Karsten]

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 f5?! 4.exf5! [4.d5 1-0 (27) Svidler,P (2713) -Chernyshov,K (2524) Voronezh 2003 CBM 096 [Mueller,Karsten]] **4...Bxg2 5.Qh5+ g6 6.fxg6 Bg7** [6...Nf6?? 7.gxh7+ Nxh8 8.Bg6#] **7.gxh7+ Kf8**

8.hxg8Q+?! [8.Nf3! is all but the refutation. 8...Nf6 9.Qg6 Bxh1 *(9...Bxf3 10.Rg1 Rxh7 11.Qg3 Be4 12.Bxe4 Nxe4 13.Qf3++-)* 10.Bh6 Rxh7 11.Ng5 Bxh6 12.Nxh7+ Nxh7 13.Qxh6+ Kf7 14.Qxh7+ Ke6 15.Qh6+ *(15.Qg6+!)* 15...Kd5 16.Nc3+ Kxd4 1-0 Roederer,K-Nefzer,W/Lauda 1986/GER (16); 8.Ne2!?] **8...Kxg8 9.Qg5** [9.Qg4 makes more sense] **9...Bxh1 10.Bc4+ d5** Perhaps he forgot about that bishop on h1! **11.Bd3 Nc6 12.Be3 e5!** Black takes over, with a won game. **13.Qg6 Qe8 14.Qxe8+ Rxe8 15.Bb5 Re6 16.Bxc6 Rxc6 17.c3 Rxh2 18.Ne2 Bf3 19.Ng3 Bg4 20.Nd2 exd4 21.cxd4 Re6 22.Ndf1 Rh7 23.Kd2 Bh3 24.Nh2 Bh6 25.Nf3 Bxe3+ 26.fxe3 Rg7 27.Ne2 Rg2 28.Ne5 Bg4 29.Nxg4 Rxg4 30.Nf4 Rd6 31.Rh1 c5 32.dxc5 bxc5 33.Rh5 Kg7** [33...d4! still in the -+ zone] **34.Rxd5?!** [34.Nxd5] **34...Rxd5+ 35.Nxd5 Kf7 36.a3 Ke6 37.Nc3 Ke5 38.b3 c4 39.bxc4 Rxc4 40.Kd3 Rc5 41.Kd2 Kf5 42.Kd3 Kg4 43.Kd4 Ra5 44.a4 Kf3 45.e4 Kf4 46.Nd5+ Kg5 47.Nc3 Kf6 48.Nd5+ Ke6 49.Nc3 a6 50.Kd3 Ke5 51.Kc4 Kd6 52.Kd4 Rc5 53.Kd3 Ke5 54.Nd5 Rc1 55.Nc3 Rh1 56.Kc4 Rh3 57.Nd1 Rg3 58.Nc3 Rf3 59.Nb1** [59.Nd5 Kxe4 60.Nc7 Rf6 61.Kc5 Black can't approach. *(61.Kb4?? Rc6)*] **59...Rf1 60.Nc3 Rf3 61.Nb1 Re3 62.Nc3 Rg3 63.Ne2 Rh3 64.Nc3 Re3 65.a5 Rh3 66.Nd1 Rf3 67.Nc3 Re3 68.Kb4 Kd4**

69.Nd5? [69.Nb5+! Kxe4 70.Nc7=] **69...Rxe4** Black is winning now! **70.Nc7 Re1 71.Nxa6 Rb1+ 72.Ka3 Kc3 73.Ka4 Kc4 74.Ka3 Kc3 75.Ka4 Kc4 76.Ka3 Ra1+! 77.Kb2 Rxa5 78.Nc7**

[78.Nb8 Rb5+] **78...Kd4??** Slipping up. [78...Re5! keeps the errant knight boxed in, to be picked off by the king. Worth remembering!] **79.Ne6+?** But not right away! [79.Kb3! draws. Just take the computer's word for it. Endgames are **not** easy!] **79...Ke5?** [79...Kc4!-+] **80.Ng5!= Kf5 81.Nf3 Rd5 82.Kc3 Ke4 83.Nd2+**

Here Black played 83...Rd3+ -- and White played 84.Kc2! (Black is in check already!) the game was agreed drawn on Black's 100th move! **1/2-1/2**

(39) Sterling,Isaac (1126) - Shannon,Rex [D53]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.40), 14.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 Bxh4 10.Nxc7+ Qxc7 11.Nxh4 Bb7 12.Rc1 Qe7 13.Nf3 0-0 14.Be2 Rac8 15.0-0 Nb4 16.Rxc8 Rxc8 17.a3 Nd5 18.Qd2 Qc7 19.Rd1 Qc2 20.Bd3 Qb3 21.Ne5 Nf6 22.f3 Nd5 23.Kf2 Ba6 24.Re1 f6 25.Rc1 Rxc1 26.Qxc1 Bxd3 27.Qc8+ Kh7 28.Nd7 Qxb2+ 29.Kg3 h5 30.Nf8+ Kh6 31.Nxe6 h4+ 32.Kxh4 Qf2+ 33.Kg4 Qxg2+ 34.Kh4 0-1

(40) Allen,Tom Carter (1426) - Gimelfarb,Natan (1134) [C44]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.41), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 dxc3 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.Nxc3 Bc5 7.0-0 d6 8.Re1 Bg4 9.Nd5 Nd4 10.Qa4+ c6 11.Nxf6+ Qxf6 12.Bg5 Nxf3+ 13.gxf3 Qxg5 14.fxg4 Qxg4+ 15.Kf1 b5 16.Bxf7+ Kxf7 17.Qb3+ Ke7 18.Rad1 Rhf8 19.Re2

19...Rxf2+ 20.Rxf2 Bxf2 21.Kxf2 Rf8+ 22.Ke1 Qg1+ 23.Kd2 Qd4+ 24.Kc1 Qxe4 25.Qg3 Qf4+ 0-1

(41) Lintz,Michael Har (1376) - Dubensky,Walter B (1120) [B13]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.42), 14.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Be7 5.Nbd2 c5 6.c3 cxd4 7.exd4 Nc6 8.Bd3 Nh5 9.Bg3 Nxg3 10.hxg3 a6 11.Qc2 g6 12.Ne5 Bf6 13.Ndf3 0-0 14.0-0-0 Bg5+ 15.Kb1 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Be7 17.Qd2 b5 18.Qh6 Bh4 19.Rxh4 Qxh4 20.Qxh4 h5 21.Rh1 Rd8 22.Qxd8+ 1-0

(42) Revi,Frank (1298) - Dunlap,Steven (1037) [D37]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.43), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 [3.cxd5] **3...e6 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 Ne4?? 7.Qc2?** [7.Nxe4 dxe4 8.Bxe4] **7...f5 8.a3 Nd7? 9.cxd5 Ng5 10.Qe2 e5 11.e4??** [11.Nxe5] **11...Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 exd4 13.Nb5 fxe4 14.Qg4 exd3 15.Nxd4 Nf6 16.Qf3 Re8+ 17.Kd2 Ng4 18.Ne6 Bxe6 19.dxe6 Qg5+ 20.Kd1 Qg6 21.Re1 Rxe6 22.Qd5 Rae8 23.Bd2 Kh8 24.Bc3 Nxf2+ 25.Kd2 1-0**

(43) Ahrens,Richard Wi (1256) - Nicol,George R (1015) [D37]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.45), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 [1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 1/2-1/2 (56) Carlsen,M (2872)-Xiong,J (2712) Wijk aan Zee NED 2020] **2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 b6?!** Probably too early, if White does something about those momentarily weakened light-squared diagonals. [4...Be7; 4...c6; 4...Bb4; 4...c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0 11.Bd3 Nc6 12.Bc2 Qe7 13.0-0 Rd8 14.Qe3 b6 15.Rfd1 Bb7 16.Rac1 Rac8 17.h4 Na5 18.Bd3 h6 19.g4 Nc6 20.Bb1 Qd7 21.Kh2 Qd6+ 22.Kg1 Na5 23.Bd3 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Nc6 25.Bb5 Nxd4 26.Qxd4 Qxd4 27.Nxd4 Rxd4 ½-½ (56) Carlsen,M (2872)-Xiong,J (2712) Tata Steel, Wijk aan Zee NED 13 Jan, 2020] **5.e3?!** White lets it lie. And now it's more a 4.e3 Queen's Indian. [5.Bg5; 5.cxd5! exd5 (5...Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.d5! *(8.Bc4; 8.Bd3)* 8...exd5 9.Bb5+! Bd7 10.Qxd5!? Bxb5 11.Qxa8 Computers get away with this stuff! But do we humans dare?) 6.Bg5 *(6.Bf4; 6.g3)*] **5...Nbd7 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bd3 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 c5 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.e4 Ne5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.exd5 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Qxd5 15.Bf4 Rd8 16.Bc2 Qxd1 17.Raxd1 Bg4 18.f3 Be6 19.Bb3 Bxb3 20.axb3 Nd5 21.Bd2 Rd6 22.c4**

22...Rad8?? [22...Nc7 sends the knight to the healthy square e6, with a fairly solid position.] **23.cxd5** Of course! But ... [23.Ba5! is a lot better! Black gets no counterplay at all.] **23...Rxd5 24.Re2 Rd3 25.Kf2 Rxb3 26.Bc3 Rbb8 27.Red2 Rxd2+ 28.Rxd2 g6 29.Rb2 Rxb2+ 30.Bxb2 a5 31.g4** [31.Ke3] **31...Kf8 32.Ke3 Ke7 33.Kd3 Kd6 34.f4 Kc6 35.Kc4 Kb6 36.Ba3 a4 37.Bxc5+ Ka5 38.Kd5 h5 39.g5 Kb5 40.Be7 Ka5 41.Ke5 Kb6 42.Kf6 Kc6 43.Kxf7 1-0**

(44) North,Jeff (867) - Frank,Robert H (1222) [C37]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.46), 14.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.h4 f6 6.hxg5 fxg5 7.e5 d5 8.Be2 Bf5 9.d4 Nb4 10.Na3 c5 11.c3 Nc6 12.Bd2 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Bg6 14.Bb5 Qb6 15.Qg4 Be7 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Qe6 cxb5 18.Qxd5 Rd8 19.Qxb5+ Rd7 20.Qa4 Qxb2 21.Rd1 Qxa3 0-1

(45) Hall,Diana - Bayaraa,Timothy (1193) [C45]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.47), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.d4 Nc6 [2...exd4] **3.Nf3 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qf6 5.c3 Bc5 6.Be3 Nge7 7.Bc4 a6 8.Nd2 b5** [8...Nxd4!-/+] **9.Bd5** [9.Be2!] **9...Nxd5 10.exd5 Nxd4 11.cxd4 Bd6** [11...Bxd4?? 12.Ne4] **12.Ne4 Bb4+ 13.Nc3 Bb7 14.0-0 0-0 15.a3 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Bxd5 17.f3 Qg6 18.a4 f5 19.axb5 f4 20.Bc1 Bc4 21.Re1 Rf5?** [21...axb5-/+] **22.Qa4** [22.bxa6; 22.Rxa6] **22...Bxb5 23.Qb3+ Kh8 24.c4** [24.Bxf4!] **24...Re8?** [24...Qf7!] **25.Bd2 Bc6 26.d5 Ba8 27.Qd3 Ref8 28.Bb4?? d6??** [28...Qb6+-+] **29.Rxa6 Bb7 30.Ra7 Rb8 31.Re7 h5 32.Rxc7 h4 33.h3 Bc8 34.Bc3** [34.Rxg7!] **34...Qg3 35.Bxg7+** [35.Rxg7! Qxg7 36.Rxg7 Rb3 37.Qe4 Rxc3 38.Qe7 and mate] **35...Kg8 36.Rxc8+?!** [36.Bc3 is mate in] **36...Rxc8**

37.Qxf5?? [37.Qe4!+-; 37.Bc3+-; 37.Bd4 Qe1+ 38.Kh2 Qg3+ 39.Kh1 Qe1+ 40.Bg1+-] **37...Qe1+ 38.Kh2 Qg3+ 39.Kh1 Qe1+ 40.Kh2 Qg3+ 41.Kh1 Qe1+ 42.Kh2 Qg3+ 43.Kh1 Qe1+ 44.Kh2 1/2-1/2**

(46) Chambers,Wolfe Na (1182) - Ballantyne,Andrew (877) [A25]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (2.48), 14.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bb4 5.a3 Bxc3 6.bxc3 d5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.c4 Nf6 9.Rb1 0-0 10.Bb2 Bf5 11.d3 Na5 12.Qa4 c6 13.Bxe5 Ng4 14.Bc3 Re8 15.Bxa5 Qxd3 16.Rd1 Qc2 17.Qxc2 Bxc2 18.Rd2 Bb3 19.h3 Nf6 20.c5 Ba4 21.e3 Rab8 22.Ne2 b6 23.cxb6 axb6 24.Bc3 c5 25.Rb2 Red8 26.0-0 Rd5? 27.Bxd5 [27.Bxf6] **27...Nxd5 28.e4 Nf6 29.Be5 Rb7 30.Rd2 Re7 31.f4 Nxe4 32.Rd3 Bb5 33.Rd5 h6 34.Re1 Ra7 35.Nc3 Bc4 36.Rd8+ Kh7 37.Rxe4 Be6 38.Nb5 Ra5 39.Nc7 Bf5 40.Re3 Bxh3 41.Kh2 Bf5 42.Nd5 b5 43.Rc3 b4 44.axb4 cxb4 45.Nxb4 Rb5 46.Nc6 Rb2+ 47.Kg1 Bh3 48.Ne7 Rg2+ 49.Kh1 f6 50.g4 Re2 51.Rcc8 Re1+ 52.Kh2 Re2+ 53.Kxh3 Re3+ 54.Kg2 Re2+ 55.Kf3 g6 56.Bxf6 Rxe7 57.Rh8# 1-0**

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We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921193520/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Chess Room Newsletter #902

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Newsletter #902

Jan 24, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM
- Botvinik/Falconer Award
- Brilliancy Prize Reminder
- Wednesday Night Blitz
- Tournamend Director's corner
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- Tony's Teaser
- Scholastic Chess in 2020
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- TNM Games
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM Round 3!

Clear Leaders in Championship and A/B Sections After 2 Rounds. 5 players Remain Perfect in Stacked u/1600 Section

The third round of the Max Wilkerson Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon has clear leaders in the first two sections. However, it may only be for the moment, as many strong contenders have four more rounds to make moves for a share of the prize. In the u/1600 section, five players are 3-0 after the night's action. Even with 47 players in that section, it looks like we may have a clear prize winner when it is all over.

In the Championship section, it was a battle of some of the best kids in the bay as UC Berkeley freshman Josiah Stearman (Go Bears!) had white against 12-year old phenom Rui Yang Yan, the 2019 World Cadet u/12 girls bronze medalist. After a game where Stearman put a lot of pressure but Rui seemed to stabilize, a blunder on move 42..Rxf3 led to her losing the game and Stearman alone in clear first at 3/3. On board 2, FM Kyron Griffith and IM Elliott Winslow played to a draw after Kyron was able to hold what was a lost rook and pawn endgame. As with endgames, one single move can mean the difference between a win and a draw, and such was the case here after Winslow played 53. Rg1+. This draw puts both players at 2.5/3 for the tournament.

NM Rui Yang Yan in her traditional pink hoodie

The other story we have been following in the Championship section is another 12-year old, Nicholas Weng. He had a terrific start to his TNM career with two big wins, but he finally got upended by veteran Mechanics' player David Askin in a very sharp game that included clever finishing technique. Askin also sits at 2.5/3 while Weng is at 2/3.

These games can be viewed at the end of this newsletter and can also be viewed online by following the Chess24 link here:

https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/wilkerson-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-2020/3/1/1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/wilkerson-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-2020/3/1/1)

In the A/B section, Bruce Ricard stands alone on top with 3/3 after his victory over Gagik Babayan. The position looked fairly harmless until Babayan blundered a pawn on move 20, then compounded the error the very next move by blundering the exchange. Four very tough players are close behind at 2.5/3 including Rudolph Breedt, Adam Mercado, Nicholas LaTourette, and Bob Drane.

View from the left side of the chess run during the TNM

In the u/1600 section, Ilia Gimelfarb used nice tactics to get a relatively quick win against Ivan Rothman and stary perfect with 3/3. Also winning and remaining perfect were Jahaan Ansari, Eitan Neugut, Charles James and Julian Sachs-Weintraub.

We also had a very special guest for our commentary helping out Paul, IM Kostya Kavutskiy! The pair made a great commentary duo, and I think it would bode well for the chess community to see these two again in the future bringing the games to life over the internet.

IM Kostya Kavutskiy and FM Paul Whitehead provided amazing commentary for the third round

It is never too late to join the marathon! To register, please email us: chessroom@milibrary.org

To watch the replay of round 3 coverage with commentary, please follow this link here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gs27LIObaCk)

For a full list of standings and results from the round, click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://www.milibrary.org/tuesday-night-marathon)

2019 FIDE Botvinik Award and 2019 Neil Falconer Award Presentation at Feb 4 Tuesday Night Marathon!

We will have a truly special evening of chess on Tuesday February 4th, 2020, as we will be honoring two important achievements, one for longevity and commitment to service in training and coaching, the other for the future of American chess in the beginning stages of great things to come.

We will present the 2019 FIDE Botvinik Award trophy to IM John Donaldson, legendary Chess Director of the Mechanics' Institute and Captain of the U.S. Olympiad team. After that, we will present the 2019 Neil Falconer award to this years recepient IM Christopher Yoo! The Falconer award is given to the highest USCF rated player under 18 years old, which Christopher earned this year (at 13 years old) with a rating of 2531. He will be given a check for $2531 on that Tuesday. We plan to start the award presentations at 6pm, right before the start of round 5 of the TNM.

IM John Donaldson

Christopher Yoo has also agreed to join the broadcast as guest commentator that evening along with FM Paul Whitehead and FM Jim Eade, who will also be in attendance. It will be a terrific evening, and surely an entertaining broadcast.

IM Christopher Yoo

Neil Falconer was a former Mechanics' Institute Trustee, Board President, and was influential in preserving the chess room as a part of the Mechanics' Institute. He was profoundly influential ir promoting and supporting chess at the Mechanics' Institute, and he started this award in 1999, benefitting many top players of the future, including Sam Shankland, Daniel Naroditsky and many others. To read a great article about Neil Falconer in Chess Life Online, please click on this link (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/http://www.uschess.org/content/view/12620/707)

To read an article on Donaldson's Botvinik award in US Chess Online, please follow this link (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://new.uschess.org/news/donaldson-wins-botvinnik-award/)

Join us that evening to celebrate their achievements, either live at the club or online through our broadcast here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

Brilliancy Prize Reminder

We received many responses to the artile about brilliancy prizes, something that was a very common thing when I played competitive chess many years ago. We have thus decided to offer 2 monthly brilliancy prizes, and these can be games from any event in that month provided that it be a rated event and that there is a complete notation of the game. These prizes will come in the form of choice of book from our in office chess library and we will publish the games in our newsletter with annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

If you would like to submit a game for consideration, please turn in the scoresheet to us and mark "brilliancy" on top of the coresheet, that way we know it is submitted for consideration. Games from any rated tournament at Mechanics' in January will count for the January prize. We will also be making reminder announcements at upcoming events.

We hope this adds a fun element to playing games, and encourages bold and exciting action. Good luck!

Wednesday Night Blitz Report

Dexter Pacheco and Andy Trattner tied for 1st and 2nd places in the January 22nd edition of the Wednesday Night Blitz with 5 - 1 scores. Tied for 3rd Place with 4 - 2 apiece were Felix German and Jeff Sinick. Director Jelinek was unable to add to his recent string of victories, finishing with 3 points. Ten players battled it out in this always fun and unrated event. We are taking a break until March 4th - join us then!

Chess Titles - What to do with them?
Tournament Director's Corner
by Dr. Judit Sztaray

Many players are proud of their achieved chess titles, whether it's norm based or not. As they should be!

As an organizer, it's an interesting topic and decision to make: what titles to display in the tournament standings, and what titles we should omit?
There are some obvious ones of course: GM, WGM, IM, WIM – these are hard earned, norm-based, international titles that absolutely should always be displayed! I think we are all on the same page on this one.

Then there are two groups: the international, FIDE titles and the national, USCF titles. Both categories are not norm-based, but rating based titles, meaning if a player achieves a certain rating the title automatically awarded him/her.

FIDE: Fide Master (FM) – min FIDE 2300, Candidate Master (CM) – min FIDE 2200, Women Fide Master (WFM), Women Candidate Master (WCM).

USCF: Senior Master (SM) – min USCF 2400, Life Master (OLM) – min USCF 2200, National Master/Master (NM) – min USCF 2200, Candidate Master (CM) – min USCF 2000.

The confusing title, as you can all probably see, is the CM title. If a player is listed as CM, it can mean two different things, as it's used both in the FIDE and in the USCF categories, with very different criteria.

The big question is: should an organizer display these titles? and if the tournament begin USCF only, or both USCF and FIDE rated should change the answer to the first question at all?
I've posted this question to my fellow organizers across the country: and the main consensus is mostly that only those titles should be displayed that a player receives a certificate. Which is, to the best of my knowledge, for USCF is LM, SM, NM and for FIDE is GM, WGM, IM, WGM, FM.
We could also go with the only norm based titles of course, which is the official stand for the FIDE rated tournaments across the US and around the world.
From a parent/coach/player's perspective however, every single title is an important achievement. So why leave it off? Does it hurt others if we display the titles?

What do you think? What shall we do here at Mechanics'? Any opinions or suggestions, email us to chessroom@milibrary.org!

More information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_title#FIDE_titles (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_title#FIDE_titles)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Chess_Federation#Titles (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Chess_Federation#Titles)

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Paul will resume his column next week after a well deserved break!

Tony's Teasers

Last week's problem:

Solution: 1. Qxh4!! Kxd6 2. Kb7 Kd7 3. Qb4 Kd8 4. Qd6#

This weeks problem:

White to move and mate in 3, B. Harley 1932

Scholastic Chess

Report on the First Scholastic Swiss of the Year - Jan 18, 2020

15 players came down on the MLK weekend's Saturday to play in the first Scholastic Swiss tournament. Congratulations to Section winners: Kian and Kevin to tie to win the 700+ section with 3.5 point. In the u700 section William Fitzgerald shined with also 3.5 point, taking home the first place trophy! The day was made extra with a special birthday celebraton of our amazing volunteer: Ken Fong! Thank you Ken, for all you do for Mechanics' and our Scholastic chess programs!!!

Second Scholastic Swiss tournament of 2020
Tomorrow, SUNDAY, January 26 - New start time: 11AM
& Special Team competition parallel to the normal Scholsatic Swiss - pick and choose which one you want!

3 sections: 700+, 400-699, and under400
First round: 11AM and then rolling schedule
Prizes: Trophies to Top 5 trophies, medals to all others!
Ideal for new tournment players - notation and use of clock is not neccessary!
Register (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-kids-swiss-jan-2020-1) - More information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissJan20201)

Save the Dates

- **2020 US Amateur Team West Nationals - Kids Championship**
  Saturday, February 15, 2020 @ Hyatt Regency Burlingame
  Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-us-amateur-team-west-kids-national-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020USAmateurTeamWestKIDSNationalChampionship)

- **2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship**
  Saturday, March 28, 2020 @ Golden Gate Park
  Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-san-francisco-scholastic-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020SanFranciscoScholasticChampionship) - Flyer (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924042137/https://www.milibrary.org/sites/default/files/SFScholastic_Mar28.pdf)

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Nick is currently on vacation and the column will resume upon his return!

2020 Wilkerson Memorial TNM Games Round 3

Annotations by IM Elliott Winslow

(1) Stearman,Josiah Paul (2445) - Yan,Ruiyang (2221) [B23]

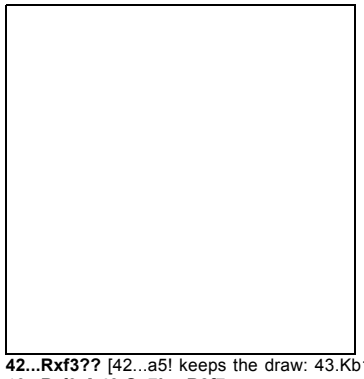
Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.1), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Bb5+ Pretty rare with the knight on c3 instead of 2.Nf3. .. **3...Bd7 4.Bxd7+** [4.a4!?] **4...Qxd7 5.d4** [5.f4 backs into some sort of Grand Prix attack.] **5...cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qd3 e6** [7...g6 was played a couple times, keeping the d-pawn more solidly defended.] **8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Bf4 Be7 10.0-0-0 Rd8 11.Qe2 0-0** [11...Qc8!? 12.Nb5 Qb8 when 13.e5 is maybe less disruptive: 13...dxe5 14.Nxe5 Nd5 15.Bg3 *(15.Rxd5? Rxd5 16.Ng6 Bg5!!-+)* 15...Qc8=] **12.e5 Ne8 13.h4** At least White went and traded off his light-squared bishop, or Black would be in serious trouble. **13...f6?!** An over-reaction. [13...Qc8 or; 13...a6] **14.Rhe1!? fxe5 15.Bxe5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Qc8 17.Nf3** Black's "little hanging pawns" will be an ongoing target. **17...Nc7 18.Rd3** [18.Ng5!? to induce further pawn weaknesses via 19.Qd3...] **18...Bf6?!** The new Stockfish 11 can't make up its mind which pawn move Black should do, but it's something. **19.g4?** [19.Ne4! Nd5 20.g3] **19...Qd7?!** [19...e5!?; 19...b5!?] **20.Ne4 Nd5 21.Qd2 Rc8 22.h5** Odd! **22...Qa4** [22...Be7 to send the knight into f4] **23.Ra3 Qb5? 24.Rb3** [24.Nxf6+ Rxf6 25.Nd4] **24...Qa6 25.Kb1+-**

Black's queen is unemployed on a6. **25...Be5?! 26.Nxe5! dxe5 27.h6! g6** Danger on g7 is going to be there all game. **28.Qg5** [28.Ng5!?] **28...Qc4 29.c3?!** [29.Qd2] **29...Qc7 30.Rb5 b6 31.a3 a6 32.Rb3 Rf7 33.Ka2** This has not been progress. **33...Rcf8?** [33...b5!=] **34.c4! Ne7** [34...Qxc4 35.Qxe5 Re7 36.Rd1] **35.Ree3 Nc6 36.c5 bxc5?!**

[36...b5 37.Nd6 Rxf2 38.Rxe5] **37.Nxc5?** [37.Rec3+- and take with the rook 37...Rf4 38.Rxc5! Rxe4 39.Rxc6! Qxc6 40.Qe7 and mate.] **37...Qd6!= 38.Ne4 Qd5 39.Nc3 Qc4 40.Ne4 Qd5 41.f3 Nd4** [41...a5 right away: 42.Kb1 Qd1+ 43.Ka2 Qd5] **42.Red3**



42...Rxf3?? [42...a5! keeps the draw: 43.Kb1[] a4 44.Rbc3 and now 44...Rxf3 45.Rxf3 Qxe4+ *(45...Rxf3 46.Rc8+ Kf7 47.Rc7+ Kg8)* 46.Ka1 *(46.Rfd3 Ne2 47.Ka2 Nxc3+ 48.Rxc3 Qd5+)* 46...Rxf3=] **43.Qe7!+- R8f7**

44.Rxf3! Qxb3+ [44...Rxe7 45.Nf6+ Kf8 46.Nxd5+ Nxf3 47.Nxe7] **45.Rxb3 Rxe7 46.Rb8+ Kf7 47.Rh8** It turns out the h-pawn itself is a threat. **47...Nc6 48.g5 1-0**

(2) Winslow,Elliott Charles (2223) - Griffith,Kyron Waykuan (2434) [B80]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.2), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.f3 h5!? Here? I knew this is the big thing in the 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 line, and 6.Be3 e5 7. Nb3 Be6 8.f3 h5 is a major line (when 9.Nd5 is the big thing in the big thing -- obviously not happening here!) **8.Qd2 Be7 9.0-0-0 b5 10.a3 Bb7 11.Kb1 Nbd7** Black's ounce of prevention is certainly looking worth it - White has trouble getting anything going. On the other hand, Black is now a bit loathe to castle. **12.Bd3 Rc8 13.h3 d5** [13...h4!?] **14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.g4?!** [16.Ne2! repositions to c3 or f4, with a rich game still in store.] **16...Ne5** [16...Nc5!?] **17.Be2** [17.Be4 is the computer move, but it's hard to believe.] **17...Qc7! 18.Rhf1?** [18.Rhe1] **18...Nc4** [18...hxg4 19.hxg4 Nc4] **19.Bxc4** [19.Qc1] **19...Qxc4 20.Nb3 a5** [Perhaps we both had underestimated 20...hxg4 21.hxg4 Rh3] **21.Nc1 Qa4?!** various other moves are stronger. **22.Bd4 Bf6?** [22...b4 23.axb4! *(*I had in mind *23.b3* but *23...Qc6 24.a4 Bxf3-+)* 23...Bxb4 (23...axb4 24.Bxg7! *(24.b3)* 24...Rh7 25.b3 Qc6 26.Bb2 hxg4 27.hxg4+/=) 24.Qf2 followed by that defensive formation, b3/Bb2.] **23.Bxf6 gxf6 24.Ne2! hxg4?!** [24...b4 25.Nf4 bxa3 26.b3 Qb5 27.Nxd5 could be similar] **25.Nc3! Qc4 26.Nxd5** [26.hxg4!] **26...Qxd5 27.Qxd5 exd5 28.hxg4** [28.fxg4! says Stockfish 28...Rxh3 29.Rxd5 b4 30.Rxa5 Rh2 31.Rc1 bxa3 32.Rxa3] **28...Rh2 29.Rxd5 b4 30.Re1+ Kf8 31.Rc1 bxa3 32.Rxa5** [32.bxa3] **32...axb2 33.Kxb2 Kg7 34.Rf5 Rf2 35.Kb3 Rb8+ 36.Kc4 Rd2 37.Kc3 Rd7 38.Rc5 Ra7 39.Kd4 Ra3 40.c3 Rb6 41.Rf5 Rd6+ 42.Rd5?!** [42.Kc5!] **42...Rc6?!** [42...Rxd5+ 43.Kxd5 f5 44.gxf5 Ra5+ 45.Kd6 Rxf5 46.c4] **43.f4?!** Great, the computer likes every rook move (f5, c5,

h5, b5) better. **43...Ra2! 44.c4 Rg2?!** [44...Rd2+ 45.Ke4 Re6+ 46.Kf3 *(46.Kf5 Ra2)* 46...Rh2 The only progress I'm making is on my clock towards 0:00:00. (I had 8 minutes to his 14).] **45.g5 Kg6 46.gxf6 Kxf6 47.c5 Re2 48.f5!?** It took a while for Stockfish to decide I was still doing quite well. [48.Rh5!?] **48...Rc8?!** [48...Kg5!?+/-] **49.c6!+- Rd2+?! 50.Kc5 Rxd5+? 51.Kxd5 Kxf5 52.c7 Kg4**

53.Rg1+?? With about a minute left I short out. [53.Rc4+ Kg5 *(53...Kf3 54.Ke5! Ke3 55.Kf6 Kd3 56.Rc1[])* 54.Kd6 f5 55.Kd7 Rxc7+ 56.Kxc7 *(56.Rxc7 f4 57.Kd6 f3 58.Ke5 Kg4 59.Ke4 f2 60.Rf7 Kg3 61.Ke3)* 56...f4 57.Kd6 f3 58.Ke5 f2 59.Rf4] **53...Kh4 54.Kd6 f5 55.Rf1 Kg4 56.Kd7 Ra8 57.Rc1 f4 58.c8Q Rxc8 59.Rxc8 f3 60.Rf8 Kg3 61.Ke6 f2 62.Ke5 Kg2 1/2-1/2**

(3) Askin,David Benjamin (2027) - Weng,Nicholas (1864) [D91]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.3), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bg5 Ne4 [5...dxc4 6.e4 c5 7.d5 b5 8.d6!? (8.e5 b4 9.exf6 exf6 10.Qe2+ Kf8 11.Be3 bxc3 12.Bxc5+ Kg8 13.bxc3 Nd7 14.Be7 Qe8 *(14...Qb6!?)*)] **6.cxd5 Nxg5 7.Nxg5 e6 8.Qd2 exd5 9.Qe3+ Kf8 10.Qf4 Bf6 11.h4 Kg7** [11...h6! 12.Nxd5?! Bxg5 13.Qe5 Rh7 14.hxg5 Nc6 15.Qe4 Bf5 16.Qf3 Nxd4 *(16...Qxg5)*] **12.0-0-0** [12.e3 c6 13.Bd3 h6 14.Nf3 Be6 15.0-0-0 Nd7 16.g4 Qb8 17.Rhg1 Be7 18.Qxb8 Raxb8 19.Ne2 Bd6 20.Nf4 Rbe8 21.Rg2 a6 22.Bc2 Nf6 23.Rdg1 Bc8 24.Nd3 Ne4 25.Nfe5 Bc7 26.b4 a5 27.a3 Nd6 28.Nc5 Nc4 29.Nxc4 dxc4 30.Kb2 b6 31.Ne4 axb4 32.axb4 Be6 33.Ra1 Ra8 34.Rgg1 Rxa1 35.Rxa1 Bxg4 36.Ra7 Rc8 37.Nd2 b5 38.Be4 Bd8 39.Nf3 Bf6 40.Ne5 Bxe5 41.dxe5 Rd8 Wojtaszek,R (2744)-Radjabov,T (2734) Beijing 2014 1/2-1/2 (66); 12.e4! dxe4 13.0-0-0 h6 14.Ngxe4 Be6 15.d5 Bf5 16.Nxf6 *(16.Ng3 Bc8 17.Bc4 Nd7 18.d6 Ne5 19.dxc7 Qxc7 20.Qxf6+ Kxf6 21.Nd5+ Kg7 22.Nxc7 Bg4 23.Nxa8 Bxd1 24.Kxd1 Nxc4 25.Nc7 Rd8+ 26.Kc1 a6 27.b3 Nb6 28.Kb1 Rd2 29.Rf1 Kf8 30.Ne4 Re2 31.Nc5 Re7 32.Rc1* 1-0 (32) Montero Martinez,C (2173)-Tapia Fuentes,J (2210) Santiago de Chile 2015*)* 16...Qxf6 17.g4 Bd7 18.Qg3 Re8 19.g5 Qe5 20.gxh6+ Kxh6 21.f4 Qe3+ 22.Qxe3 Rxe3 23.h5 Na6 24.hxg6+ Kxg6 25.Bd3+ Kf6 26.d6 Bc6 *(26...Nb4 27.Ne4+ Kf5 28.Rh5+ Kxf4 29.Rf1+ Rf3 30.Rh4+ Ke3 31.Re1+ Kd4 32.Nd2+ Kc5 33.Rc4+* 1-0 (33) Lputian,S (2495)-Roos,D (2415) Athens 1983*)* 27.Rh6+ Kg7 28.Rh7+ Kf6 29.Bc4 1-0 (29) Taimanov,M-Liberzon,V Sukhumi 1972] **12...Be6N** [Predecessor: 12...h6 13.Nf3 Be6 14.e3 c5 15.e4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Bxd4 17.Rxd4 Nc6 18.exd5 Nxd4 19.Qxd4+ f6 0-1 (42), Khotenashvili,B (2464)-Atalik,E (2447) Plovdiv 2010] **13.e4 c6 14.e5 Be7 15.g3 b5 16.Bh3 Bxg5 17.hxg5 Nd7 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Qg4 Qe7 20.f4 Nb6 21.Rh6 Nc4 22.Rdh1 a5 23.Qh3 Kg8 24.Rxg6+ Kf7 25.Rf6+ Kg8 26.Rxe6 Qb4 27.Rg6+ Kf8 28.Qf5+ Ke8 29.Qe6+ Kd8 30.Qf6+ Kc7 31.Rxh7+ Rxh7 32.Qxc6+ Kd8 33.Qxa8+ Ke7 34.Qb7+ Kf8 35.Qc8+ Ke7 36.Qc7+ Kf8 37.Qd8+ Kf7 38.Qg8+ Ke7 39.Qxh7+ 1-0**

(4) Tsodikova,Natalya (2204) - Snyder,Larry (2061) [C42]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.4), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nd5 Nxd5 5.exd5 e4 6.Nd4 Qg5 7.Nb5 Qe5 8.a3 Ba5 9.c4 a6 10.Nc3 Bxc3 11.dxc3

Not your typical pawn structure! **11...0-0?!** [11...d6] **12.Be3** [12.Qd4!+/=] **12...d6= 13.Qd2 Nd7 14.Be2 f5 15.Bf4 Qf6 16.h4 a5 17.h5 b6 18.0-0-0 Ne5 19.Rh3 Ba6 20.Bg5 Qf7 21.Qd4** [21.h6! See Board 1 for a similar situation...] **21...Rac8** [21...h6!=] **22.b3 c5 23.dxc6+/- Rxc6 24.a4 Bc8 25.Bf4 Re8 26.f3 exf3 27.Bxf3 Nxf3 28.gxf3 Qf6** From bad to worse. **29.Qxf6 gxf6 30.Rg3+ Kf7 31.Rdg1 Re2 32.Rg7+ 1-0**

(5) Lum,Michael K (1914) - Ivanov,Aleksandr Yu (2174) [E61]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.5), 21.01.2020

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.e3 c5 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.0-0 e5 9.Rb1 cxd4 10.exd4 Bf5 11.Ra1 Rc8 12.h3 h5 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Bg5 Qd3 15.Qa4 Nd4 16.Nxd4 exd4 17.Rad1 dxc3 18.Rxd3 Bxd3 19.bxc3 Rxc4 20.Qxa7 Bxf1 21.Bxf1 Rxc3 22.Qxb7 Rfc8 23.a4 R3c7 24.Qf3 Rc3 25.Qb7 R3c7 26.Qf3 Rc3 1/2-1/2

(6) German,Felix (1895) - Panuganti,Kireet Venkata (2170) [E11]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.6), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 d6 7.0-0 Bxd2

8.Nfxd2!? e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nc3 Qe7 11.Qc2 c6 12.Na4 Bg4 13.Ne4 Bf5 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Qd2 Rd8 16.Qe3 Qd6 17.Qb6 Bc8 18.Nc5 Na6 19.Nxb7 Bxb7 20.Qxb7+- Nb4 21.Qb6 Rdb8 22.Qe3 Nc2 23.Qc3 Nxa1 24.Rxa1 Rd8 25.e3 Qc5 26.a3 Rab8 27.Rb1 a4 28.b4 axb3 29.Rxb3 g6 30.h4 Rd1+ 31.Bf1 Rxb3 32.Qxb3 Ra1 33.Qb4 Qa7 34.Qd6 Qxa3 35.Qb8+ Qf8 36.Qxe5 Qa8 37.h5 Ra5 38.c5 Qf8 39.hxg6 hxg6 40.Bc4 Rxc5 41.Qe4 Qg7 42.g4 Kh7 43.Qh1+ Qh6 44.Qf3 Qg7 45.Bxf7 Rc1+ 46.Kg2 Qh6 47.Qf6 Qh1+ 48.Kg3 Rg1+ 49.Kf4 Qh2+ 50.Ke4 Rxg4+ 51.f4 Qc2+ 52.Ke5 Qc3+ 53.Ke6 Qxe3+ 54.Kd7 c5 55.Be6 Qd3+ 56.Ke7 Rg1 57.Qh4+ Kg7 58.Qf6+ Kh7 59.Qf7+ Kh6 60.Qf8+ Kh7 61.Bg8+ Kh8 62.Bc4+ Kh7 63.Bxd3 Re1+ 64.Kd6 c4 65.Qf7+ Kh8 66.Bxg6 1-0

(7) Walder,Michael (2124) - Melville,Cailen J (1884) [C10]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.7), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nxe4 6.Bxe4 Nd7 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Bd3 0-0 10.Qe2 Nd5 11.h4 f6 12.Bd2 Nb4

13.Bxh7+?? Mike has a deep fear of overlooking a brilliancy. [13.Bxb4 Bxb4+ 14.c3 Bd6 15.0-0-0+/-] **13...Kxh7 14.Ng5+? Kg8 15.Qh5 fxg5 16.hxg5 Qxd4?** [16...Qd5! and the king walks.] **17.0-0-0?** [17.g6! Qe4+ 18.Kf1 Rxf2+ 19.Kxf2 Qf5+ 20.Qxf5 exf5 21.Rae1 Bc5+ 22.Be3 Nxc2 23.Bxc5 Nxe1 24.Rxe1 (what a forced line!) 24...Bd7 25.Re7 Be8 26.Bd4 Kf8 27.Rxc7 Bxg6 28.Bxg7+ Kg8 29.a3+/- *(29.Bc3+/-; 29.Rxb7?! Bf7 30.Bd4 Bxa2+/=)*] **17...Qe4?**

[17...Qe5-+; 17...Qc5-+] **18.Bxb4!= Bxb4 19.g6 Qf4+ 20.Kb1 Qh6 21.Qg4 Rf4??**

[21...Qf4! 22.Qh5 Qh6=] **22.Rd8+** [22.Rxh6! Bd7 23.Rh8+ Kxh8 24.Qh3+ Kg8 25.Rxd7] **22...Bf8** [22...Rf8 23.Rxf8+ Kxf8 24.Qxb4+ Ke8 25.Rxh6 is mate soon enough] **23.Rxh6 1-0**

(8) Perlov,Alexander (1825) - Boldi,Ethan [Kazanjian] (2090) [E01]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.8), 21.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 c6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.0-0 Bd6 7.Nfd2 0-0 8.Nc3 Bc7 9.e4 dxc4 10.Nxc4 b5 11.Ne3 Ba6 12.d5 b4 13.Ne2 Nc5 14.Qc2 Nfxe4 15.dxe6 Bd3 16.e7 Qxe7 17.Qd1 Rad8 18.f3 Nf6 19.Re1 Rfe8 20.Bd2 Be5 21.Qc1 Bxe2 22.Rxe2 a5 23.Nc4 Bd4+ 24.Be3 Nd3 25.Qc2 Qc5 26.Qxd3 Bxe3+ 27.Qxe3 Qxc4 0-1

(9) Kuczek,Kevin W (1982) - Hakobyan,Sos (1818) [C01]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.12), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4 Bb4+ 5.Nc3 Ne7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.Nge2 Nbc6 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.bxc3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Bf5 11.Ng3 Bg6 12.Ba3 Re8 13.Re1 Nf5 14.Qf3 Nxg3 15.Qxg3 Qd7 16.Qg5 Qf5 17.Qd2 Qa5 18.Bb2 Red8 19.d5 Qc5 20.Bb3 Na5 21.c4 Nxb3 22.axb3 Qb6 23.Qc3 f6 24.Re7 c5 25.Rae1 Bf7 26.Qg3 Re8 27.h4 Kf8 28.Qe3 Qd6 29.Rxe8+ Rxe8 30.Qd2 Rxe1+ 31.Qxe1 b6 32.Ba3 Qe7 33.Kf1 Bg6 34.Qxe7+ Kxe7 35.Ke2 Bc2 36.b4 Kd6 37.bxc5+ bxc5 38.Kd2 Bf5 39.Kc3 h5 40.f4 Bg4 41.Bc1

41...f5?? 42.Kd2! Black has placed himself in Zugzwang! **42...g6 43.Ba3 a6 44.Ke1 a5 45.Kd2 a4 46.Ke1 g5 47.hxg5 h4 48.Kd2?** [48.g6 Bh5 49.g7 Bf7 50.Kd2+-] **48...Bh5 49.Ke3 Bf7 50.Kd3 Bg6 51.Ke3 Bf7 52.Kf2 Bh5** The remaining moves unrecorded: White won. **1-0**

(10) Lehman,Clarence E (1907) - Busch,Jonah M (1944) [B22]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.13), 21.01.2020

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5 Nd5 5.Nc3 e6 6.d4 d6 7.cxd6 cxd6 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Bc4 Nxc3 10.bxc3 dxe5 11.0-0 exd4 12.cxd4 Be7 13.Be3 0-0 14.Qb1 Bf6 15.Rd1 Qc7 16.Bd3 h6 17.Qc2 Qe7 18.Be4 Bd7 19.Rab1 b6 20.Qd2 Rfd8 21.Bxh6 gxh6 22.Qxh6 Bg7 23.Qh7+ Kf8 24.Ne5 Rac8 25.Ng4 Qg5 26.Rd3 Nxd4 27.f3 Rc1+ 28.Rd1 Rxb1 29.Bxb1 Nf5 30.Bxf5 exf5 31.Nf2 Qh6 0-1

(11) Reichwein,Axel (1892) - Argo,Guy (1939) [B07]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (3.14), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.f4 e5 5.Nf3 exd4 6.Qxd4 c6 7.h3?! d5! 8.exd5? Bc5 9.Qd3 0-0 10.Be2 Nxd5 [10...Qb6!] **11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.Qxd5 Qb6** [12...Qc7!?] **13.Qb3 Bf2+? 14.Kf1 Bg3 15.Qxb6** [15.Nd4! Qxd4 16.Qxg3] **15...Nxb6 16.Nd4** [16.Be3] **16...Be6 17.f5 Bd5 18.Bf3?! Rfe8** [18...Rad8 19.c3 Rfe8] **19.Bd2 Nc4 20.Be1 Bxe1 21.Rxe1 Bxf3** Here White must have had a bit of a hallucination -- and resigned! [He's hardly worse at all after 21...Bxf3 22.Nxf3 Rxe1+ 23.Kxe1 Nxb2 24.g4] **0-1**

(12) Ricard,Bruce (1849) - Babayan,Gagik (1784) [E91]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.9), 21.01.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 c5 7.d5 e6 8.dxe6 fxe6 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 Nc6 11.Qd2 Qc7 12.Bh6 e5 13.Be3 Bg4 14.Ng5 Bxe2 15.Qxe2 Qd7 16.Rad1 h6 17.Nf3 Nd4 18.Bxd4 cxd4 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.exd5 Qg4 21.Nxd4 Qf4 22.Ne6 Qf5 23.Nxf8 Rxf8 24.b4 Qc8 25.Rc1 b6 26.Qc2 Rf6 27.c5 dxc5 28.bxc5 bxc5 29.Qxc5 Qf5 30.d6 Rf8 31.Qd5+ Kh7 32.d7 Rd8 33.Rfd1 h5 34.Rc3 h4 35.Rf3 Qg4 36.h3 Qb4 37.Rf7 Qb2 38.Re7 g5 39.Re8 Qb8 40.Qg8+ 1-0

(13) Baer,Michael A (1441) - Breedt,Rudolph Frans (1882) [B08]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.15), 21.01.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.Qd2 Nc6 6.0-0-0 0-0 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.h4 h5 9.Qe3 Re8 10.Be2 e6 11.Bg5 Qd7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Qd2 Nce7 14.Bb5 c6 15.Bc4 Bxf3 16.gxf3 dxe5 17.dxe5 Bxe5 18.Ne4 Qc7 19.Kb1 Qb6 20.Bb3 a5 21.c3 f6 22.Be3 Qc7 23.Rhg1 a4 24.Bc2 a3 25.b3 f5 26.c4 Nxe3 27.Qxe3 fxe4 28.Bxe4 Bf4 29.Qc3 Kf7 30.Qc2 Nf5 31.Bxf5 exf5 32.Rd4 Re7 33.c5 Qe5 34.Qc4+ Kg7 35.Rgd1 Rd8 36.Kc2 Rxd4 37.Rxd4 Bh6 38.f4 Qe1 39.Rd2 Kh7 40.Qd4 Qe4+ 0-1

(14) Madhavan,Srikrishnan (1720) - Abraham,Renjish (1861) [D05]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.16), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nbd2 c5 7.c3 Nc6 8.Re1 a6 9.h3 b5 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 cxd4 12.Qc2 g6 13.Bh6 Re8 14.Rad1 Qb6 15.Nfg5 Bb7 16.Nxf7 Nxe4 17.Rxe4 Nb4 18.cxb4 Bxe4 19.Bxe4 Rac8 20.Qd2 Kxf7 21.Qf4+ Bf6 22.g4 Ke7 23.Re1 Rcd8 24.Qf3 Rd6 25.Bf4 e5 26.Bc2 Kd7 27.Bg3 Qc6 28.Qb3 Qc4 29.Qxc4 bxc4 30.Ba4+ Kd8 31.Bxe8 Kxe8 32.Bxe5 Bxe5 33.Rxe5+ Kd7 34.Kf1 Kc6 35.Ke1 Rd5 36.Rxd5 Kxd5

37.a4? [37.h4!; and 37.g5! are both winning. White sets up a faster queening situation on the kingside, even if it costs a pawn, should Black's king head off to the queenside -- but if it doesn't, of course there is a threat of a passed pawn over there as well.] **37...g5!=** Thus holding White back for a critical move. Now a pawn sacrifice for a passed pawn gives an advanced one to Black as well. And this is the only way to draw. **38.Kd2 h6 39.Kc2 Kc6 40.Kd2 Kb6** Standoff. [40...Kb6 41.f4?? gxf4 just hands a win to Black.] **1/2-1/2**

(15) Mercado,Adam (1789) - Malykin,Erika (1675) [B72]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.17), 21.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Be2 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.f3 Bd7 9.Qd2 b6 10.g4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 0-0 12.h4 h5 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.gxh5 d5 15.Nxd5 Bxh4+ 16.Rxh4 e6 17.Rh2 exd5 18.hxg6 Qf6 19.g7 Rfc8 20.Bd3 dxe4 21.Bxe4 Bc6 22.0-0-0 Rd8 23.Rg1 1-0

(16) Acosta,Anthony (1762) - Latourette,Nicholas James (1623) [C50]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.18), 21.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.a3 d6 6.d3 h6 7.Na4 Bb6 8.Nxb6 axb6 9.h3 0-0 10.0-0 Na7 11.Nh4 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Qh5 Nc6 14.Nf3 Nf4 15.Bxf4 exf4 16.Rfe1 Ra5 17.Ne5 Qf6 18.d4 Nxd4 19.Bxf7+ Rxf7 20.Qxf7+ Qxf7 21.Nxf7 Kxf7 22.Re4 Ne6 23.Rae1 Rd5 24.c3 b5 25.f3 g5 26.a4 bxa4 27.Rxa4 Bd7 28.Rae4 b5 29.c4 Rd2 30.b4 c6 31.cxb5 cxb5 32.Ra1 Kf6 33.Ra6 Kf7 34.Rb6 h5 35.Kf1 Rd5 36.Kf2 g4 37.hxg4 hxg4 38.Re2 g3+ 39.Ke1 Nd4 40.Rd2 Nxf3+ 0-1

(17) Yamamoto,Craig (1500) - Boldi,Nicholas Armen (1754) [C01]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.19), 21.01.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.h3 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Nc3 h6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.a3 Be6 11.b4 Bd6 12.Bb2 a6 13.Ne2 Nd7 14.Ned4 Nce5 15.Be2 Nxf3+ 16.Nxf3 Qc7 17.Bd3 Nb6 18.Bc1 Rad8 19.b5 axb5 20.Bxb5 Nc4 21.Qd3 Ne5 22.Nxe5 Bxe5 23.Rb1 Rc8 24.Bb2 Bxb2 25.Rxb2 Qe5 26.Rfb1 Rc3 27.Qe2 Qg5 28.Kh2 Rxa3 29.Bd3 Bc8 30.Qf3 Qe5+ 31.Kh1 Ra5 32.Rb5 Rxb5 33.Rxb5 Rd8 34.Qe2 Qxe2 35.Bxe2 d4 36.Bd3 Rd6 37.Be4 b6 38.Bd3 Kf8 39.Kh2 Ke7 40.Be4 g6 41.f3 Bd7 42.Rb4 Kf6 43.Bd3 Ke5 44.Kg3 Kd5 45.Be4+ Kc5 46.Rb3 b5 47.Bd3 b4 48.Rb1 Bb5 49.Kf2 Bxd3 50.cxd3 Re6 51.Rb2 Kb5 52.g3 Ka4 53.Rc2 b3 54.Rc4+ Ka3 55.Rxd4 b2 0-1

(18) Xu,Jayden (1712) - Cortinas,Martin A (1662) [D43]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.20), 21.01.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 dxc4 7.e3 b5 8.a4 c6 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.axb5 cxb5 11.b3 Bd5 12.bxc4 Bxc4 13.Bxc4 bxc4 14.Qa4+ 1-0

(19) Hack,Richard (1567) - Mays,Jerry L (1700) [A38]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.21), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.a3 Nf6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 a6 8.d3 Rb8 9.Be3 d6 10.h3 b5 11.cxb5 axb5 12.Ne1? [12.b4! cxb4 13.axb4 Nxb4 *(13...e5 14.Qd2)* 14.Nd4 keeps the balance.] **12...Bd7 13.Rb1 b4 14.Nd5?!** [14.axb4-/+] **14...Nxd5 15.Bxd5 bxa3 16.bxa3 Rxb1** [16...Qa5!-+] **17.Qxb1 Bxh3??** [17...Qc7 jumps on the b-file for a strong initiative and advantage.] **18.Bxc6 Bxf1 19.Kxf1 Qc7 20.Bb5 Rb8 21.a4+- Qa5 22.Bd2??** White was winning if he just stepped his queen off the b-file (so that ...Qxa4 wasn't on). **22...Qxd2 23.Qb3 Qc1 24.Qc2 Qxc2 25.Nxc2 Bc3 26.Ne3 e6 27.Nc4 d5 28.Nd6 Be5 29.Ne8 Kf8 30.f4 Rxb5 31.axb5 Kxe8 32.fxe5 Kd7 33.g4 h6 34.Kf2 Kc7 35.Kf3 Kb6 36.e4 d4 37.Ke2 Kxb5 38.Kd1 Kb4 39.Kc2 Ka3 40.Kc1 Kb3 41.Kd1 Kc3 42.Ke2 Kc2 0-1**

(20) Morgan,Jerry (1467) - Casares Jr,Nick (1600) [A03]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.23), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.b3 Nc6 5.Bb5 Bg4 6.0-0 Rc8 7.Bb2 e6 8.d3 Be7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Bxc6 Bxf3 11.Nxf3 Rxc6 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.Qe1 Nd7 14.Ng4 Bh4 15.Qe2 Bf6 16.Nxf6+ Nxf6 17.Be5 Nd7

18.Bxg7?? White could just back off with a better minor piece (no outposts). But he decided to play half of Lasker-Bauer... **18...Kxg7 19.Qg4+ Kh8 20.Qh5 Qf6 21.Rae1 Qg6 22.Qh4 Rg8 23.Re2 Nf6 24.Rf3 Nh5?! 25.Rh3 Nf6 26.Kf1 Qf5 27.Rg3 Rxg3 28.Qxg3 c4! 29.bxc4 dxc4 30.e4 Qg4** [30...Qb5!] **31.e5 Qxg3 32.hxg3 cxd3 33.cxd3 Ng4 34.Rd2 Rc1+ 35.Ke2 Rg1 36.Kf3 h5 37.d4 Re1 38.Re2 Rxe2 39.Kxe2 Kg7 40.Kd3 f5 41.Kc4 Ne3+ 42.Kc5 Kf7 43.Kd6 Nd5 44.a3 b5 45.Kc6 a6** [45...Nc3! 46.d5 exd5 47.Kd7 Ne4 48.e6+ Kg7 (well, any king moves still wins)] **46.Kd6 a5 47.Kc5 b4** [47...Nc3! is Zugzwang...] **48.axb4 axb4 49.Kc4 Ke7 50.Kb3 Kd7 51.g4 hxg4 52.g3** White resigned on move 57 or so. **0-1**

(21) Carron,Joel (1645) - Allen,Alex (1671) [B21]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.24), 21.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.d4 e6 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.c3 dxc3 5.Nxc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Qc7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nb5 Qb8 9.e5 Nxe5 10.Bf4 Nxf3+ 11.Qxf3 d6 12.Rfd1 e5 13.Qe2 Be7 14.Bg5 0-0 15.Rac1 Bg4 16.f3 Be6 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Nc7 Rc8 19.Nxa8 Qxa8 20.Rxc8+ Qxc8 21.Rc1 Qd7 22.Qc4 Kf7 23.Qc8 Qxc8 24.Rxc8 Kg6 25.Bxf6 Kxf6 26.Rc7 b5 27.Rxa7 d5 28.Rb7 b4 29.Kf1 h5 30.Ra7 Bc5 31.Ra5 Bd4 32.Rb5 Bxb2 33.Rxb4 Bc3 34.Rb3 d4 35.a4 e4 36.fxe4 Ke5 37.Ke2 Kxe4 38.Ra3 d3+ 39.Kd1 Bd4 40.a5 Ke3 41.a6 Ba7 42.Ra5 Kd4 43.Rb5 e5 44.Rb7 Bc5 45.a7 Bxa7 46.Rxa7 e4 47.Rxg7 Kc3 48.Re7 Kd4 49.Kd2 1-0

(22) Tamondong,Cesar Bercilla (1617) - Raza,Aezed (1643) [D35]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.25), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Bf4 Nf6 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 a6 8.a4 Nbd7 9.Nf3 Nb6 10.Bb3 Nfd5 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.Bg3 Bb4+ 13.Kf1 Bd6 14.Rc1 b5 15.h4 Bxg3 16.Bxd5 Qxd5 17.fxg3 Qd6 18.Qc2 bxa4 19.Qxc7 Qxc7 20.Rxc7 Rb8 21.Rc2 Bb7 22.Kf2 Be4 23.Rd2 Rfc8 24.Ra1 Rc4 25.Ng5 Bc2 26.d5 exd5 27.Rxd5 h6 28.Nh3 Rxb2 29.Rd2 Rbb4 30.Nf4 Be4 31.Ne2 Bc6 32.Nd4 Bb5 33.g4 Rc7 34.Nf5 Rxg4 35.Rd8+ Kh7 36.Kf3 Rg6 37.g4 Rf6 38.Kg3 Rc2 39.Ra3 Rb2 40.Rc3 Bc6 41.e4 Rb3 42.Rcd3 Rxd3+ 43.Rxd3 Bxe4 Here the remaining scoresheet reads "44.Nd4 Rb6 45.Kf4 Bd5" and on until move 78. **0-1**

(23) Hansen,Mateo Stephen (1624) - Rakonitz,David (1613) [C01]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (3.26), 21.01.2020

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 Bd6 5.Bd3 Ne7 6.Ng5 h6 7.Qh5 g6 8.Qh4 Bf5 9.Nf3 Bxd3 10.Qf6 Rh7 11.cxd3 Nd7 12.Qh4 Nf5 13.Qxd8+ Kxd8 14.0-0 c6 15.Bd2 Kc7 16.b4 a6 17.a4 Rhh8 18.Nc3 g5 19.h3 Rhe8 20.Rfc1 Nf6 21.g4 Ng7 22.h4 Kd7 23.hxg5 hxg5 24.Nxg5 Nxg4 25.Nxf7 Nf5 26.f3 Nxd4 27.Nxd6 Kxd6 28.Bf4+ Ne5 29.Re1 Ndxf3+ 30.Kh1 Kd7 31.Bxe5 Nxe5 32.Rad1 Rh8+ 33.Kg2 Rag8+ 34.Kf2 Rh2+ 35.Ke3 Rg4 36.b5 d4# 0-1

(24) Gimelfarb,Ilia (1599) - Rothman,Ivan (1487) [C96]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.10), 21.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Nd7 12.Nbd2 Re8 13.Nf1 Bh4 14.Nxh4 Qxh4 15.Ne3 Nf6 16.dxc5 dxc5 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 Qf6 19.Qh5 g6 20.Qh6 Nb7 21.Bg5 Qd6 22.Rad1 f6 23.Bxg6 Re7 24.Bxf6 Qxf6 25.Bxh7+ Rxh7 26.Qxf6 1-0

(25) Ansari,Jahaan (1461) - Starr,Albert Martin (1552) [A85]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.27), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 f5 2.c4 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.b4 d6 7.Be2 b6 8.0-0 c5 9.bxc5 bxc5 10.dxc5 dxc5 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.Rd1 Qa5 13.Rb1 a6 14.Bd2 Qc7 15.Ng5 Qa7 16.Ne6 Re8 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.cxd5 Bf6 19.Rbc1 Nb6 20.Nxc5 Nxd5 21.Qc4 e6 22.Bf3 Kg7 23.Bxd5 exd5 24.Qxd5 Rd8 25.Ne6+ Bxe6 26.Qxe6 Re8 27.Qd6 Be5 28.Bc3 Bxc3 29.Rxc3 Rac8 30.Rxc8 Rxc8 31.Qd4+ Kg8?? 32.Qxa7 1-0

(26) Sachs-Weintraub,Julian (1429) - Simpkins,Jerry (1539) [A40]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.28), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 Qe7 4.Nc3 Nxe5 5.Nxe5 Qxe5 6.g3 c6 7.Bg2 d5 8.Bf4 Qe6 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Bxd6 Qxd6 11.e4 d4 12.Ne2 c5 13.c3 d3 14.Nf4 c4 15.b3 Be6 16.e5 Qc7 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.bxc4 Qxc4 19.Bxb7 Rb8 20.Rb1 Ne7 21.Ba6 Rxb1 22.Bxc4 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Kf7 24.Rxd3 Rc8 25.Bb3 Rc7 26.c4 g5 27.Rf3+ Kg7 28.Kg2 Ng6 29.Re3 Rc5 30.Rd3 Nxe5 31.Rd6 Kf6 32.Ra6 g4?! [32...Rc7 33.c5 Nc6+/-] **33.Rxa7+- h5 34.h3 gxh3+ 35.Kxh3 Ng4 36.f4 e5 37.Ra6+ Kf5 38.fxe5 Rxe5 39.Bc2+ 1-0**

(27) James,Charles (1404) - Jade,Valerie (1532) [D38]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.29), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Bb4 6.e3 c5 7.Nf3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 0-0 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Rc1 Re8 12.0-0 h6 13.Bh4 Bc5 14.Na4 Bb6 15.Rxc6 Bd7 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Rc1 [17.Nxb6 Bxc6 18.Nxa8; 17.Rd6 Qe7 18.Rxd5] **17...Rxe3?!** A desperation combination in a bad position, but the it's the mule that gets hit by the kicker. **18.Nxb6** Good enough! [But 18.fxe3! calls the bluff: 18...Bxe3+ 19.Kh1 Bxc1 20.Qxc1 Bxa4 21.Qxh6 isn't just good -- it's mate in twelve good. 21...Qe8 22.Bh7+ Kh8 23.Bc2+ Kg8 24.Qh7+ Kf8 25.Qh8+ Ke7 26.Qxf6+ Kf8 *(26...Kd7 27.Bxa4+ Kc7 28.Rc1+ Kb7 29.Bc6+)* 27.Bxa4] **18...Rxd3 19.Qxd3 Qxb6 20.Qxd5 Rd8 21.Qf3 Qxb2 22.Rfd1 Re8 23.Rc7 Qb4 24.h3 Re1+ 25.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 26.Kh2 Qe5+ 27.Qg3+ Qxg3+ 28.Kxg3 Be6 29.Rxa7 Kg7 30.a4 Kg6 31.Kf4 Bd5 32.g4 h5 33.gxh5+ 1-0**

(28) Chan,John (1506) - Neugut,Eitan (1322) [D02]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.30), 21.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.h3 e6 4.Bg5 c5 5.Bxf6 Qxf6 6.e3 a6 7.Nbd2 Nc6 8.c3 Bd6 9.e4 Qg6 10.e5 Be7 11.g3 0-0 12.Bg2 cxd4 13.0-0 dxc3 14.bxc3 Qd3 15.Qc1 f6 16.Re1 fxe5 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Rxe5 Bc5 19.Nf3 Rxf3 20.Bxf3 Qxf3 21.Qf4 Bxf2+ 22.Kf1 Qh1+ 23.Kxf2 Qxa1 24.Qa4 b5 25.Qc2 Qh1 26.Qd3 Bd7 27.Ke2 Rf8 28.Kd2 Rf3 29.Qd4 Qf1 30.Re2 Qb1 31.a3 Qb2+ 32.Ke1 Qc1+ 33.Qd1 Rf1+ 0-1

(29) Shannon,Rex - Ross,Max L (1549) [C66]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.31), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.0-0 Nf6 5.Re1 g6 6.d3 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.Be3 Ne7 9.Bc4 c6 10.Bb3 Nh5 11.Nc3 a5 12.a4 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Qd2 Nf4 15.g3??

[15.Bxf4+/-] **15...Nxd3! 16.cxd3 Rxf3 17.Kg2 Rf7 18.h4 d5 19.Bg5 Qc7 20.h5 Raf8 21.Re2 Qb6 22.Rh1 Bf6 23.Nd1** [23.Bh6 Rd8 24.f3] **23...dxe4? 24.Bxf6** [24.Rxe4; 24.dxe4] **24...Rxf6** [24...exd3!?] **25.Rxe4 Qc7 26.Qh6?** [26.Qe2] **26...Nf5 27.Qg5 Qg7** [27...h6 28.Qc1 Qf7; 27...c5; 27...b6] **28.Rxe5 h6 29.Qg4 g5 30.Rhe1 Qd7 31.Qc4 Ng7 32.R1e2** One scoresheet just says "32.Re2" -- the other says "32.R(something)e2" and I have no idea what it is, let alone 5 or 1. Let us go with this one for its entertainment value on the next move. [On 32.R5e2 Rf5?? is just as bad: A certain new version of a certain free chess engine (Yes, Stockfish 11 just came out!) has White winning after 33.Ne3] **32...Rf5??** [32...Qf7 33.Rxa5 *(33.Qg4=)* 33...Qxh5 34.Rae5=] **33.Rxe6??** [33.Rxf5+- Rxf5 (33...Nxf5 34.Rxe6 *(34.Qxe6+)*) 34.Ne3 when 35.Ng4 is going to be too annoying for words.] **33...Nxe6 34.Rxe6 Qd5+** At least it gets the queens off, but perhaps it's an overreaction. [34...Kh7 35.Qe4 (with two threats) gets "0.00" from sf11.; 34...Kg7!-/+] **35.Qxd5 cxd5 36.Rxh6?!** [36.Rb6!? with myriad justifications] **36...R5f6!** White is going to miss that rook. **37.Rxf6 Rxf6 38.Ne3 d4?** [38...Rb6! 39.Nxd5 Rxb2 40.Nc3 (else ...b5) 40...Rb3 41.Ne4 Rxd3 42.Nxg5 Ra3 just wins.] **39.Nd5?** [39.Nc4 and it's going to be very hard for Black to do anything.] **39...Rd6 40.Ne7+ Kf7** [40...Kh7! The king is to watch the h-pawn.] **41.Nf5 Rd5?** [41...Rb6 42.Nxd4 Rxb2-+ back to Black's best plan: make an unstoppable passed pawn way over on the queenside.] **42.g4** The computer was all excited about an advantage for White, but after a bit it found defense for Black. **42...Kf6= 43.h6** [43.Kf3; 43.Ng3; 43.b3] **43...Rd7 44.Kg3 Rc7 45.f4 Kg6** One of the scoresheets actually has "??" written after this move, but Stockfish thinks it's best. **46.fxg5 Kxg5 47.Nxd4 Kxh6 48.Kh4?** [48.Kf4=] **48...Kg6** [48...Rd7! 49.Nf5+ Kg6 50.d4 b5!-/+] **49.Nf5?** [49.Nb3 b6 50.Nd2 Rh7+ 51.Kg3 Rd7 52.Kf3 Rxd3+ 53.Ke2 Black can continue to torture White, but after 53...Rd4! 54.b3 Rb4 55.Kd3 Kg5 56.Nf3+ Kxg4 57.Nd4 Kg5 and there is the telltale sign: all variations now evaluate as "-+ (-1.78)" -- which means, drawn by blockade.] **49...Rc2! 50.b3 Rh2+** [50...Rc3!] **51.Kg3 Rb2 52.d4?** Kind of giving up. Now Black is back to his primary winning plan, that passed pawn... [52.Nd4 Rd2 53.Kf4 Rxd3 54.Ke4 Rc3 and there are technical difficulties.] **52...Rxb3+ 53.Kf4 Rb4** Well all right, [but to the point is 53...b5! On top of everything else, it's a rook pawn. Knights hate rook pawns.] **54.Ke5 Rxa4 55.d5 Rxg4 56.d6 Rg5** Again, a "?" on the scoresheet, again Stockfish makes it best and already finds mate. **57.d7 Rxf5+ 58.Ke6 Rf6+** More question marks, more mate (in 14). **59.Ke7 Rf7+ 60.Ke6 Rxd7!** Party pooper. White resigned. **0-1**

(30) Radaelli,Lucas (1411) - Bayaraa,Timothy (1193) [C70]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.32), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.0-0 a6 5.Ba4 b5 6.Bb3 d6 7.c3 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.d4! exd4 10.cxd4? [10.g4! Bg6 11.cxd4+/- *(11.Bg5!?)*] **10...Nxd4-/+ 11.Bxf7+? Kxf7 12.Ng5+?**

12...Kf8? [12...Qxg5!! 13.Qxd4 Bxd4 14.Bxg5 Bxb2] **13.Qxh5+/= g6 14.Qg4?** [14.Qd1] **14...Nf6** [14...h6!] **15.Ne6+** [15.Qd1!] **15...Nxe6** [15...Ke8!?] **16.Qxe6 Kg7 17.Bg5 Rf8** [17...Re8=/+] **18.Nc3 h6** [18...Qe8!] **19.Bh4 g5 20.Bg3 h5??** [20...Qe8] **21.Rae1+/-** [21.e5!+- dxe5 22.Qxe5 Black's king will die of exposure.] **21...Nd7?**

[21...Qe8 last chance!] **22.e5! dxe5 23.Bxe5+ Nxe5 24.Qxe5+ Rf6 25.Qxg5+ Rg6 26.Qxc5 Kh6 27.Re7 Qc8 28.Qe3+ Rg5 29.h4 Qg8 30.hxg5+ Qxg5 31.Re6+ Kh7 32.Qxg5 Rh8 33.Rh6# 1-0**

(31) Frank,Robert H (1222) - Harris,Clarence (1402) [D07]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.33), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.a3 Be7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bd2 Re8 11.h3 Qc8 12.Ng5 Bd7 13.Qc2 g6 14.Ne2 Bd6 15.Nf4 Bxf4 16.exf4 Nxd4 17.Qc3 c5 18.Be3 Ne4 19.Qe1 [19.Bxe4 Ne2+] **19...Nxg5 20.fxg5 c4 21.Bxd4 Rxe1 22.Rfxe1 cxd3 23.Rac1 Bc6 24.Re5 d2 25.Rd1 Qd7 26.Rxd2 Re8 27.Rxe8+ Qxe8 28.Bxa7 Qe1+ 0-1**

(32) Cole,Tony (1400) - Morgan,Jacob (1227) [B11]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.34), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.Bc4 Bd6 7.d3 0-0 8.Be3 Bg4 9.h3 Be6 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.Qd2 Nd7 12.0-0-0 Ne5 13.Nd4 Qe7 14.g4 a6 15.f4 Nd7 16.h4 c5 17.Nf3 b5 18.h5 Nb6 19.h6 g6 20.Rdg1 Nd5 21.Kb1 f5 22.Nh4-/+ Qc7?? 23.gxf5 exf5

24.Nf3?! [24.Nxg6! hxg6 25.Rxg6+ Kh8 26.h7!+-] **24...Nxe3 25.Qxe3 Rfe8 26.Qf2 Bxf4 27.Nh4 Be3 28.Rxg6+ hxg6 29.Qg2 g5?** [29...Qf7! 30.h7+ *(30.Nxg6 Kh7)* 30...Kg7!] **30.Nxf5?** [30.Qd5+=] **30...Qe5** (Score says "30...Qf5") **31.Nxe3 Qxe3 32.Qd5+ Kh8 33.a3 Rad8 34.Qf7 Qe7 35.Qg6 Rd6 36.Qf5 Re6** The score left a move out: Black won after 60+ moves. **0-1**

(33) Martin,Michael J (1387) - Chambers,Wolfe Natan (1182) [B34]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.35), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 g6 4.c3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 e6?? [6...Nf6=/+] **7.Bc4?** [7.Nb5+/-] **7...Nge7 8.Nd2 Na5 9.Be2 d5 10.b4 Nac6 11.Qc2 a6 12.0-0 f5 13.exf5 exf5 14.N2f3 Ne5 15.Ng5 N7c6 16.Nde6 Bxe6 17.Nxe6 Qd7 18.Nxg7+ Qxg7 19.b5 axb5 20.Bxb5 Ra5?? 21.Bxc6+ bxc6 22.Bd4 c5 23.Bxe5 Qxe5 24.Rfe1 Qxe1+ 25.Rxe1+ Kf7 26.Qb3 c4 27.Qb7+ Kf8 28.Qb4+ 1-0**

(34) Gimelfarb,Natan (1134) - Lintz,Michael Harry (1376) [C50]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.36), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Be7 8.0-0 d6 9.h3 Na5 10.Bb3 Nxb3 11.axb3 Be6 12.d4 exd4 13.Qxd4 a6 14.e5 dxe5 15.Qxe5 Bd6 16.Bxf6 Bxe5 17.Bxd8 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Raxd8 19.Nd4 Bd7 20.b4 Rfe8 21.Rfb1 c6 22.c4 Re5 23.f4 Re4 24.c3 Rxf4 25.b5 c5 26.Ne2 Rxc4 27.bxa6 bxa6 28.Rxa6 Be6 29.Rc6 Rd2 30.Re1 Kh7 [30...Re4] **31.Rc7 Re4 32.Kf2 Bc4 33.Rxc5 Rexe2+ 34.Kf1 Re5+??** [34...Rf2+ 35.Kg1 Rxg2+ 36.Kh1 Rh2+ 37.Kg1 Rdg2#; 34...Rxg2+ 35.Re2 *(35.Rxc4 Rdf2#)*] **35.Rxc4 Rxe1+ 36.Kxe1 Rxg2 37.Rh4 Rg3 38.c4 g5 39.Rd4 Rxh3 40.Kd2 Ra3 41.c5 Ra8 42.c6 Rc8 43.Rc4 Kg6 44.Ke3 f5 45.Kf3 Kf6 46.Ke3 Ke6 47.Rc5 Rc7 48.Kf3 h5 49.Kg3 h4+ 50.Kh3 Kf6 51.Rc4 Kg6 52.Rc5 Kh5 53.Rc4 g4+ 54.Kg2 Kg5 55.Kf2 Kf6 56.Rc5 Ke6 57.Kg2 Kf6 1/2-1/2**

(35) Roberts,Joseph (1358) - Wagner,Tyler (1050) [B01]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.37), 21.01.2020

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 c6 5.Bd2 Qc7 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2 Nf6 8.h3 Bh5 9.0-0 e6 10.Ne5 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 Nbd7 12.Rad1 Bd6 13.f4 Qb6 14.Bc1 Nd5 15.Nxd7 Kxd7 16.Ne4 Be7 17.c4 Nf6 18.f5 Nxe4 19.fxe6+ fxe6 20.Qxe4 Bf6 21.c5 Qb4 22.a3 Qc4 23.Bf4 Qd5 24.Qxd5+ exd5 25.Bd6 Rhe8 26.Rde1 Bxd4+ 27.Kh1 Bxb2 28.Rf7+ Kd8 1-0

(36) Sai,Rohit - Chambers,Don (1298) [C50]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.38), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Na5? 4.Nxe5 Nxc4 5.Nxc4 Bc5 6.d4 d5 7.Ne3 Bb6 8.Nxd5 Nf6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.0-0 Bg4 11.f3 Bh5 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 g5 14.Bg3 0-0 15.Nc3 Qe7 16.Qd2 c5 17.Nb5 Rfc8 18.d5 c4 19.c3 Qc5+ 20.Nd4 Nd7 21.Qf2 Bg6 22.a4 h5 23.Nb5 h4 24.Qxc5 bxc5 25.Bf2 Ne5 26.Be3 f6 27.Rf2 Nd3 28.Rd2 Ra5 29.Nd6 Rca8 30.Nxc4 Rxa4 31.Rxa4 Rxa4 32.Rxd3 g4 33.Nb6 Ra2 34.Rd2 g3 35.hxg3 hxg3 36.Kf1 Ra1+ 37.Ke2 Rh1 38.d6 Rh2 39.Kd1 Bf7 40.c4 Be6 41.d7 Bxd7 42.Nxd7 Rh1+ 43.Kc2 Kf7 44.Nxc5 Re1 45.Kd3 Kg6 46.Bf4 1-0

(37) Johnson,Nathaniel - Rushton,Peter James (1294) [A00]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.40), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.h4?! e5 2.e4 Nf6 3.d3 Be7 4.g3 d5 5.Bg2 Be6 6.Nd2 0-0 7.Ne2 Ng4 8.Nb3 d4 9.a4 Nd7 10.f3 Ne3 11.Bxe3 dxe3 12.0-0 c5 13.c4 a6 14.Nc3 f5 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Qe2 Bd6 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.dxe4 Nf6 19.Qxe3 Nh5 20.Qe1 a5 21.Rd1 Rf6 22.Rd3 Qb6 23.Bh3 Rg6 24.Kh2 Rxg3 25.Rg1 Rxg1 26.Qxg1 Nf4 27.Re3 Qb4 28.Qf1 Qxa4 29.Qd1 Rd8 30.Qa1 Qxc4 31.Qxa5 Be7 32.Qc7 Kf8 33.Qxe5 Ng6 34.Qf5+ Ke8 35.Rc3 Bd6+ 36.Kg1 Qe2 37.Bf1 Qh2# 0-1

(38) Hall,Diana - Cendejas,Jon Rodolfo (1254) [C47]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.41), 21.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Nd5 d6 5.c4 Nxe4 6.d3 Nf6 7.Be2 Be6 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Qb3 b6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qb5 Na5 12.Qa4 Nxd5 13.b4 Nxb4 14.Qxb4 Bxg5 15.Nxg5 Qxg5 16.g3 Nc6 17.Qa4 Nd4 18.Rfe1 Qf5 19.Qd1 d5 20.cxd5 Bxd5 21.Rf1 Qh3 22.Qd2 Qg2# 0-1

(39) Pagan Griso,Simone - Sterling,Isaac (1126) [E11]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.42), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Be7 5.Nc3 0-0 6.e4 d6 7.Bd3 c5 8.0-0 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nc6 10.Nde2 Ne5 11.Qc2 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 a6 13.Qg3 Kh8 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.b3 b6 16.Kh1 Bb7 17.Qe3 Rfe8 18.Ng3

18...d5 19.e5 Ng4 20.Qd4 Nxe5 21.Bf4 f6 22.cxd5 Bc5 23.Qd2 Rad8 24.Qe2 exd5 25.Nf5 Qc6 26.Bxe5 fxe5 27.Qg4 Qf6 28.Na4 Bc8 29.Nxc5 Bxf5 30.Qe2 bxc5 0-1

(40) Dubensky,Walter Barnett (1120) - Neuberg,Bryan [D02]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.43), 21.01.2020

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 Nc6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nbd2 Bd6 6.Bxd6 Qxd6 7.c4 Ne4 8.a3 e5 9.cxd5 Qxd5 10.Bc4 Qd6 11.Nxe4 Qg6 12.Ng3 e4 13.Nd2 Bf5 14.0-0 h5 15.Bd5 h4 16.Nxf5 Qxf5 17.Bxe4 Qe6 18.d5 Qf6 19.dxc6 bxc6 20.Rc1 Kf8 21.Rxc6 Qxb2 22.Nc4 Qb5 23.Rxc7 Re8 24.Nd6 Qe5 25.Nxe8 Qxe4 26.Rc8 Qb7 27.Rd8 g6 28.Nd6+ Kg7 29.Qd4+ f6 30.Nxb7 Rxd8 31.Qxd8 Kh6 32.Qh8+ Kg5 33.Nd6 a5 34.Ne4+ Kg4 35.Qxf6 g5 36.Qxg5# 1-0

(41) Tabatabai,Ashkon (962) - Allen,Tom Carter (1426) [C47]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.44), 21.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nxe5 Nxe5 5.d4 Ng6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Bd3 d5 8.Bg5 Nxe5 9.dxe5 Qxe5+ 10.Be3 d4 11.0-0 dxc3 12.Re1 Be7 13.Qf3 0-0 14.Bf4 Qc5 15.Qg3 Nh5 16.Qf3 Nxf4 17.Qxf4 Bd6 18.Qe4 Qh5 19.Re3 g6 0-1

(42) Dunlap,Steven (1037) - Sullivan,George Thomas (914) [E16]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.45), 21.01.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Qb3 Rb8 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.d5 exd5 12.cxd5 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Nf6 14.Qc4 Re8 15.Ng5 Qd7 16.Qd3 h6 17.Bh3 Qe7 18.Ne6 Bxd5 19.Nf4 Bc6 20.f3 g5 21.Ng6 fxg6 22.Qc4+ Bd5 23.Qd3 Qe3+ 24.Qxe3 Rxe3 25.Rf2 Rxc3 26.e4 Bc6 27.Be6+ Kg7 28.Re1 Re8 29.e5 Rxe6 30.exf6+ Rxf6 31.Re7+ Rf7 32.Rfe2 Rcxf3 33.Rxf7+ Kxf7 34.Rc2 Bd7 35.Rxc7 Ke6 36.Rxa7 b5 37.Ra8 Ke7 38.Rh8 Bh3 0-1

(43) Nicol,George R (1015) - Ballantyne,Andrew (877) [C50]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (3.46), 21.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.0-0 d6 6.Ne2?? Nxe4-/+ 7.d4 exd4 8.Nfxd4 [8.Bd5!? Nf6 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.Nexd4 0-0] **8...Nxd4 9.Nxd4 d5 10.Bb3 Qf6 11.c3?** [11.Bxd5 Bxd4 12.Bxe4 0-0=] **11...c6 12.Bc2** [12.f3 Ng5 13.Re1+ Ne6] **12...0-0! 13.Qd3 Qg6** [13...Bd6; 13...Qh4] **14.f3 Bh3??** [14...Nd6!-/+; 14...Bf5!? 15.fxe4?! Bxe4 wins] **15.Qe2!+- Ng3!?**

A confusion inducement: **16.Bxg6??** [16.hxg3+-] **16...Nxe2+ 17.Kf2 Nxc1** [17...Nxd4! is best (although all those captures win); 17...fxg6; 17...Bxd4+; 17...hxg6; 17...Rfe8] **18.Raxc1 Bxd4+** [18...hxg6 19.gxh3 Rfe8] **19.cxd4 Bxg2 20.Bxh7+ Kxh7 21.Kxg2** Black is still winning, although it could take a lot of work. **21...Rfe8 22.Kg3 Re2 23.Rf2 Rae8 24.b4 R8e6 25.Rxe2 Rxe2 26.a4 Rb2 27.b5 cxb5 28.Rc5 bxa4 29.Rxd5** [29.Ra5] **29...b5 30.Rd7 a3 31.Rxa7 b4 32.d5 Rd2** [32...a2 33.d6 Rd2] **33.Ra4**

33...b3?? [33...a2! is the proper order to advance connected passed pawns here, and THEN ... b3, b2, QUEEN.] **34.Rxa3 b2 35.Ra2??** [35.Rb3=] **35...b1Q 36.Rxd2 Qe1+ 0-1**

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Next >> (/web/20200921192404/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/904)

Newsletter #903

Jan 31, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM
- Botvinik/Falconer Award
- Monday Night Rapid Report
- Chernev Memorial Report
- Sadhana Arivoli
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- Tony's Teaser
- Scholastic Chess in 2020
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- TNM Games
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM Round 4 Nullified, Will Replay Round Next Week After Electrical Fire Evacuates Institute

We often like to think that we are on fire with our live broadcast and the large turnout for our Tuesday Night Marathon games, but this week everything took a literal turn as the smell of something burning could be detected out in the hallways on the 4th floor. Though the smell had not reached inside the chess room, it was getting stronger each minute. Leaving nothing to chance, we decided to halt the games and evacuate the 4th floor while the fire department was on its way. At the time, 27 games had completed, and 20 were still in progress, including 9 of the 10 broadcast boards.

Once it was known that it was an electrical fire in the library on the 3rd floor (with damage only to the lighting), we thought it best to have players come back inside rather than wait on the street late at night. Five minutes later, the fire department recommended a full evacuation. We then called a halt to play for the evening.

We thought it would be interesting for readers to know how we proceeded from this, as there have been very few instances like this in tournament play, and we received MANY inquiries from players on what would happen and how it would be determined. Here goes:

We knew that the completed games would have to count for rating, as they were games that started and finished. But really that was the only thing that felt certain. We had our ideas of what we thought we should do, and we decided to reconcile those ideas with IA Carol Jarecki, who has organized and served as Arbiter in many world class events, Boyd Reed, Director of Events at U.S. Chess, and Christopher Bird, the newly hired FIDE Events Manager for U.S. Chess. They were very engaged over the first 24 hours and Carol responded to us after conferring with her colleagues, offering three different options we could do. Those were:

A. Adjudicate the remaining games (have a GM determine the outcome). You usually use two such players in the presence of an Arbiter, while keeping the names of the players anonymous.

B. Replay the game(s) that remained undecided at the time of the halt. Since we took pictures of the positions of the unfinished games and clock times and had most scoresheets, we would resume from the current position.

C. Rate the games that have completed as an extra rated game outside of the tournament, and void the unfinished games of the round.

We had discussed B and C, but thought Option A would be too controversial. We also thought it would be disruptive to the event as a whole to use one week to complete unfinished games while the other half of the field stayed at home or played extra games. In order to maintain uniformity, we elected to use option C) to void the unfinished games of the round, and rate the finished games in a separate section, essentially re-start Round 4, so everyone can come back and play together the following week. We also allowed players to offer draws to their opponents and we would facilitate the offer via email. Because of bye requests, the potential for some pairings to be different from the previous week remains, though there will more likely than not be similar pairings for the new round 4. Since we are re-starting the round on February 4th, we will have the 7th round played on Tuesday February 25th, which normally would have been an off week.

We sent an email to all the participants once we made our decision, and thankfully it was universally supported. We knew that some players were going to be on the short end, as they had built advantages in their games, but moving forward in this way brings about a conclusion to the round where everyone can reengage together, rather than continue separately. We are a club and community, very different from a major event like the National Open, made up of players from diverse backgrounds. We are one community together, and we felt that nullifying the round for unfinished games and doing the round over next week would be the best fit for our club. Given that next Tuesday is going to be a very special evening because of the award ceremony for John Donaldson and Christopher Yoo, it made this decision all the more viable.

I want to thank the best team in chess: Judit Sztaray who worked hard in helping evacuate the crowd, communicating with them outside and with the fire department and for helping take pictures of all unfinished games; Juan Cendejas for also taking pictures and for helping Judit in communication; and Paul Whitehead and Jim Eade for calling the fire department and offering support inside the building as we were escorting people out. Thank you also to Marc Lenahan, running the broadcast, who informed viewers in the chat what was happening as viewers at the end of the broadcast could see the evacuation of the room. They all rallied around to help bring about an orderly and peaceful evacuation, and maintained calm throughout. We are all truly lucky to have this team at Mechanics', and everyone showed poise and leadership amidst potential chaos.

I want to personally thank all our players also who have greatly voiced their support. The club does not have the same spirit without their participation and contributions, and we hope as staff we live up to the history and tradition that is the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, one of the world's great clubs.

The most important takeaway is we all come back to play another day, to enjoy the club together and with each other. See you all next week!

Abel Talamantez

Chess Director, Mechanics' Institute

It is never too late to join the marathon! To register, please email us: chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

To watch the replay of the round, including the final evacuation at the very end, please follow this link here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/https://www.twitch.tv/videos/543488620)

For a full list of standings and results from the round, click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/https://www.milibrary.org/tuesday-night-marathon)

2019 FIDE Botvinik Award and 2019 Neil Falconer Award Presentation Tuesday Feb 4th!!

We will have a truly special evening of chess this Tuesday February 4th, 2020, as we will be honoring two important achievements, one for longevity and commitment to service in training and coaching, the other for the future of American chess in the beginning stages of great things to come.

We will present the 2019 FIDE Botvinik Award trophy to IM John Donaldson, legendary Chess Director of the Mechanics' Institute and Captain of the U.S. Olympiad team. After that, we will present the 2019 Neil Falconer award to this years recepient IM Christopher Yoo! The Falconer award is given to the highest USCF rated player under 18 years old, which Christopher earned this year (at 13 years old) with a rating of 2531. He will be given a check for $2531 on that Tuesday. We plan to start the award presentations at 6pm, right before the start of round 5 of the TNM.

IM John Donaldson

Christopher Yoo has also agreed to join the broadcast as guest commentator that evening along with FM Paul Whitehead and FM Jim Eade, who will also be in attendance. It will be a terrific evening, and surely an entertaining broadcast.

IM Christopher Yoo

Neil Falconer was a former Mechanics' Institute Trustee, Board President, and was influential in preserving the chess room as a part of the Mechanics' Institute. He was profoundly influential ir promoting and supporting chess at the Mechanics' Institute, and he started this award in 1999, benefitting many top players of the future, including Sam Shankland, Daniel Naroditsky and many others. To read a great article about Neil Falconer in Chess Life Online, please click on this link (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/http://www.uschess.org/content/view/12620/707)

To read an article on Donaldson's Botvinik award in US Chess Online, please follow this link (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/https://new.uschess.org/news/donaldson-wins-botvinnik-award/)

Join us that evening to celebrate their achievements, either live at the club or online through our broadcast here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

January 2020 Monday Night Rapid Report

The first Monday night Rapid of 2020 got off to an amazing start, as 26 players competed for MI Rapid glory. Mechanics' regular FM Kyron Griffith took clear first with 3.5/4 in the top section, besting IM Teddy Coleman, Daniel Smith, and Carlos Davila, who tied for 2nd place with 3/4. In the under 1600 section, Daniel Dandurand captured 1st place with a perfect 4/4, while Cesar Tamondong and Brian fong tied for 2nd with 3/4.

The Monday Night Rapids (MNR) are the last Monday of the month, and are a 4-round G/15 +2 tournament that is FIDE rapid rated and USCF quick rated. Please join us for the next one on February 24th, info can be found here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/monday-night-rapid-feb-2020)

For a ful list of results for this event, please click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202001270502.0-12662799)

2020 Irving Chernev Memorial Report

The 1st Irving Chernev Memorial tournament concluded with 34 players, playing a smooth 3-round G/75 one day event. In the top section, South Bay expert Archit Dasika made his forst visit to MI a good one, takin clear 1st place with 3/3. Tied for 2nd place were FM Kyron Griffith and Siddharth Arutla, who turned in a great performance, with 2.5/3.

In the under 1800 section, Neil Bhaduri finished strong and took sole 1st place with a perfect 3/3 after his fonal round victory over AAdith Muthukumar. Tied for 2nd place in the section were Mateo Hanson and Alejandro Canales with 2.5/3.

Simona Nayburg ponders her next move

FM Kyron Griffith plays black on board 1 against Adam Mercado. He took a bye for the final round, opening the door for Archit Dasika, playing black on board 2.

Thanks to Michael Da Cruz for taking this unsolicited photo. I said I'd use it, so here it is

For a full list of the results from this event, please click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202001258632.0-14903402)

Thanks to all the players who participated!

Local Player Sadhana Arivoli Wins USCF 2019 Junior Grand Prix

Local Player Sadhana Arivoli Wins USCF 2019 Junior Grand Prix with 10,850 points. This is a great accomplishment, and was a competition for kids all over the nation. Gran prix points are earned by playing in USCF events of at least 4 rounds and points are earned by winning or drawing against higher rated players. She will recieve an award at the 2020 U.S. Open this year in Missouri. she recently played a tournament at the Mechanics' Institute and participated in one of our camps. She caught my attention at last year's U.S. Amateur Team West when she scored a draw against an expert 2000+ player while she was 1100! Congratulations to her for her hard work and for the strong family support she receives!

Sadhana Arivoli in knit cap playing the Donaldson Championship at Mechanics' in December

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FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Famous Chess Games You Should Know

The “Miniature” - World Champion Examples, Part 3.

By FM Paul Whitehead

Like their predecessors, our modern-day champions are also masters of the short-game:

Robert Byrne – **Robert Fischer**, U.S. Ch. 1963/64.

21…Qd7!! forced Byrne's resignation, and remains one of the most stunning deciding moves in chess.

Echoes of this can be heard in **Giri – Carlsen**, Croatia 2019, given below - in which it seems hardly a shot is fired! To win a game in under 25 moves against a peer (and their computer) nowadays is almost beyond belief, yet it still happens.

My personal favorite of the games below is Kasparov's crushing take-down of Ljubojevic in 1983. This game seems to say, in no uncertain terms:

"I am the World Champion - hear me roar!"

(1) Robert James Fischer - Jorge Alberto Rubinetti [B87]

Palma de Mallorca Interzonal Palma de Mallorca ESP, 1970

This game was played in the famous 20 game winning streak in the long run-up to the match with Spassky in 1972. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6**

The Scheveningen Variation, a rarity nowadays. **6.Bc4** The Sozin Attack, a favorite weapon of Fischer's. Another sharp move is 6.g4 - the Keres Attack. **6...a6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0-0 Bb7** Black develops the queenside, a risky strategy. 8...Be7 is the major alternative. **9.Re1 Nbd7 10.Bg5**

White's pieces leap out. **10...h6 11.Bh4 Nc5?!** This is too much. Black needs to get out of Dodge, and 11...g5 12.Bg3 Ne5 centralizing, has been tried as a way to improve. **12.Bd5!**

Now black's king gets caught in the center. **12...exd5** [12...b4 13.Bxb7 Nxb7 14.Nd5! is also bad.] **13.exd5+ Kd7 14.b4!** This sets up the following forced sequence. **14...Na4 15.Nxa4 bxa4 16.c4**

White has 2 pawns and a virulent attack for a piece. **16...Kc8** [16...Kc7 was actually tried as an improvement 36 years later but it failed abysmally: 17.Qxa4 g5 18.Bg3 Nh5 19.c5 Bxd5 20.Rac1 Nxg3 21.cxd6+ Kb7 22.Rc7+ 1-0 (22) Kogan,A (2564)-Popov,V (2591) Fuegen 2006] **17.Qxa4 Qd7 18.Qb3 g5 19.Bg3 Nh5 20.c5!**

Quickly opening lines before black can set his house in order. **20...dxc5 21.bxc5 Qxd5** 21...Bxd5 is a better try, but black is still busted after 22.Qb6, combining mating threats with pushing the pawn to c6. **22.Re8+ Kd7 23.Qa4+**

A pretty geometry of attacking white forces. **23...Bc6 24.Nxc6!**

Black is mated, loses his queen, or is busted in some way in every variation, as the reader can work out for themselves. **1-0**

(2) Anatoly Karpov - Vlastimil Hort [B17]

Bugojno Bugojno YUG, 1978

Hort was a strong grandmaster, but didn't always play the opening very well. Karpov is in top form, and in this sharp attacking game cashes the Czech straight off the board. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7**

White has tried every move under the sun here, including the tricky 5.Qe2, and if 5...Ngf6 in reply then 6.Nd6 mate! **5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Ne5 Bf5** This obvious looking move may not be that good, and black relies more on 7...Be6, intending ...g6 and ...Bg7 or even the paradoxical 7...Nd7!? **8.c3 e6 9.g4! Bg6 10.h4!**

Now black's last try to avoid disaster is the sharp 10...Bd6!? **10...h5?** Positional suicide. **11.g5 Nd5 12.Nxg6 fxg6 13.Qc2 Kf7 14.Rh3 Ne7 15.Bc4**

Black stands no chance in these kind of positions. White has the 2 bishops and the weak pawn at e6 to target. Karpov makes short work of it. **15...Nf5 16.Rf3 Qd7 17.Rxf5+!**

This thematic exchange sacrifice should be in every chessplayers playbook. **17...gxf5 18.Qxf5+ Ke7 19.Qe4** The white pieces dominate the board. **19...Re8 20.Bf4** The reserves are called up. **20...Kd8 21.Qe5**

The black king has no safe haven. **21...Rg8 22.0-0-0 g6 23.Re1 Bg7 24.Qb8+ Ke7 25.Rxe6+!**

There is a pretty "epaulette mate" after 25...Qxe6 26.Qc7+ Qd7 27.Bd6, so black resigned. **1-0**

(3) Ljubomir Ljubojevic - Garry Kasparov [A07]

Niksic Niksic YUG, 1983

Ljubomir Ljubojevic was the 3rd ranked player in the world when this game was played, behind Karpov and Kasparov. This game highlights the gulf that separated the 2 K's from the rest. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3** White opts out of Open Sicilians with 3.d4, choosing the King's Indian Reversed set-up. **3...Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.Nbd2 g6**

Kasparov chooses a flexible development. **6.Bg2 Bg7 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Re1 b6 9.h4?!**

Not necessarily bad in itself, but white is playing without a plan as we shall see. 9.exd5 is the move here. If then 9...exd5 then 10.d4! works out well for white, and if 9...Nxd5 10.Nc4. **9...h6 10.c3 a5 11.a4 Ra7!**

A nice move, bringing the rook into action. **12.Nb3?** This is quite bad- the knight has no prospects. 12.Nf1 or 12.e5 are more to the point here. **12...d4 13.cxd4 cxd4 14.Bd2 e5 15.Nc1?!** The knight searches for a home, but there's nowhere to go. **15...Be6**

Black builds up his position move-by-move. **16.Re2? 0-0 17.Be1? f5 18.Nd2** White scurries around as though hypnotized, waiting for the axe to fall. **18...f4**

Black wants to continue with ...g6 ...g5 and ...g4. White tries to break things up, but finds no relief. **19.f3 fxg3 20.Bxg3 g5!** Opens up g6 for the black knight on e7... **21.hxg5 Ng6 22.gxh6** White plays with suicidal intent, developing black's forces. Now the bishop at g7 and the rook at a7 jump in... **22...Bxh6 23.Nf1 Rg7**

The axe is falling. **24.Rf2 Be3! 25.b3 Nf4**

White has been totally overwhelmed. A game that perfectly illustrates the advantages of using an attacking style of play. **0-1**

(4) Vladimir Kramnik (2770) - Garry Kasparov (2849) [E53]

Kasparov - Kramnik Classical World Cham London ENG, 2000

Vladimir Kramnik took the title from Kasparov in this match. This short gem may have been partly cooked at home, but white's precise play stands out. To beat Kasparov in a mere 25 moves was quite something! **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3**

White chooses one of many possible set-ups against the Nimzo-Indian. **5...d5 6.Nf3 c5 7.0-0 cxd4 8.exd4 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b6 10.Bg5 Bb7**

A classic "isolated queen's-pawn" position. **11.Re1 Nbd7 12.Rc1 Rc8 13.Qb3**

Now 13...Bxf3 14.Qxb4 with a small edge, or 13...Bxc3! 14.Rxc3 Bd5. Kasparov's move loses time. **13...Be7?! 14.Bxf6! Nxf6** Possible was 14...Bxf6. Kasparov probably didn't like 15.Nb5, hitting the pawn at a7 and planning to parachute into d6. **15.Bxe6!**

15...fxe6 Black has tried to resusitate this position with 15...Rc7 without success. **16.Qxe6+ Kh8 17.Qxe7 Bxf3**

Black gets to ruin white's pawn structure, but will remain a pawn down. **18.gxf3 Qxd4 19.Nb5!**

This is black's real problem: the weak back-rank. **19...Qxb2 20.Rxc8 Rxc8 21.Nd6 Rb8 22.Nf7+ Kg8 23.Qe6!**

White threatens to carry out "Philidor's Legacy": 24.Nh6+ Kh8 25.Qg8+!! Rxg8 26.Nf7 mate. **23...Rf8 24.Nd8+ Kh8 25.Qe7**

Finally closing the net. Black must play 25...Rxd8. After 26.Qxd8+ Ng8 27.Qd5 white is clearly winning. **1-0**

(5) Viswanathan Anand - Joel Lautier [B01]

Biel Credit Suisse Biel SUI, 1997

"Vishy" is a great attacking player, and I enjoy seeing the Center Counter Defense destroyed. **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6**

Black has tried just about everything here, including 5...a6!? **6.Bc4 Bf5 7.Ne5 e6**

White's next two forceful moves set the tone. **8.g4 Bg6 9.h4 Nbd7 10.Nxd7 Nxd7**

The position is already critical - for black. He lags in development, the usual culprit. **11.h5 Be4 12.Rh3 Bg2 13.Re3 Nb6 14.Bd3!**

White plans on trapping the bishop at g2. **14...Nd5 15.f3 Bb4 16.Kf2!**

Even if black plays ...Nxe3 at some point around here the question of freeing the bishop at g2 will remain. **16...Bxc3** Black decides to win 2 pawns instead. **17.bxc3 Qxc3 18.Rb1 Qxd4 19.Rxb7**

The position is a nightmare for black. Open diagonals, an insecure queen... **19...Rd8 20.h6!** Opening more lines to black's king. **20...gxh6** [20...Nxe3 21.Bxe3 Qe5 22.hxg7 Rg8 23.Qg1 Bxf3 24.Kxf3+/-

is given by Anand as black's only hope for survival.] **21.Bg6!!**

21...Ne7 Lautier goes down without a fight. [If instead 21...Qxd1 22.Rxe6+! Kf8 23.Bxh6+ Kg8 24.Bxf7#

] **22.Qxd4 Rxd4 23.Rd3!** An elegant simplification. **23...Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Kxd8 25.Bd3**

How about that bishop on g2, folks? **1-0**

(6) Anish Giri - Magnus Carlsen [B30]

GCT Croatia Zagreb CRO, 2019

An understated masterpiece from the current World Champion. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.d3**

These positions run to taste. White has space and an easy, flexible development. Black has the 2 bishops and certain dynamic possibilities. **5...Ne7 6.h4** This wouldn't be the top move on my list, although it's been around for 20+ years. Any other developing move is OK as well, of course. **6...h5 7.e5** White is trying to make black feel uneasy about making the normal ...f6 break by

throwing in the h4 / h5 exchange. **7...d6** Black accepts a positional liability (doubled and isolated pawns) for dynamic play. **8.exd6 Ng6 9.Nfd2?**

How can I tell my students not to move the same piece twice in the opening when one of the top players makes a move like this? I still prefer white after the obvious 9.Nc3 or 9.Nbd2. **9...Bxd6 10.Nc4 Be7 11.Nc3 Ba6!**

I think this is far from obvious, yet there's an iron-clad logic too: black trades his worst piece. **12.Qf3 Bxc4!** Carlsen has seen far into the position, if not the future: black may not be better, but danger lurks for white. **13.Qxc6+ Kf8 14.dxc4 Nxh4 15.0-0 Nf5**

Now 16.Bf4! Development! **16.Ne2? Rc8 17.Qa4 Rc7 18.Bf4** Finally. However, black is starting to gain ground... **18...Rd7 19.c3 g5!**

Expansion. **20.Rad1 Rxd1 21.Rxd1 Qa8** The black queen can now take part in a long range attack on white's king. **22.Bc7 h4 23.f3 h3!**

White is surprisingly helpless in the final position, and I urge the reader to work out some lines on their own. **0-1**

Tony's Teasers

Last week's problem:

White to move and mate in 3, B. Harley 1932

Solution: 1. Bg7!! c4 2. Qa3+ Kxa3 3. Bf8#

This week's problem:

White to move and mate in 3. H. D'O Bernard, 1930

Scholastic Chess

Fun Saturday Scholastic tournament day with an exciting TEAM Twist :)

Save the Dates

- **2020 US Amateur Team West Nationals - Kids Championship**
  Saturday, February 15, 2020 @ Hyatt Regency Burlingame
  Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-us-amateur-team-west-kids-national-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020USAmateurTeamWestKIDSNationalChampionship)

- **2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship**
  Saturday, March 28, 2020 @ Golden Gate Park
  Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-san-francisco-scholastic-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020SanFranciscoScholasticChampionship) - Flyer (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921192404/https://www.milibrary.org/sites/default/files/SFScholastic_Mar28.pdf)

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Practical Openings 2: The 2. c3 Sicilian

Of all the complicated openings with long variations, there is nothing worse than the Sicilian Defense. Bobby Fischer and Garry Kasparov would analyze to 30 moves deep in variations of labyrinth complexity. Hundreds of grandmasters have followed their lead and become experts on these razor sharp, intricate variations. The fear of falling into your opponents opening preparation and losing without them ever making an original move is a very real nightmare in the Sicilian. Therefor a lot of tournament players started to play the practical move, 2. c3 to avoid this problem. The move is very logical as it attempts to take full control of the center with 3. d4. While this may seem rather direct and crude (as the Ponziani Opening), there is enough bite to the strategy to pose the second player with problems.

Some opponents will think – what a silly, wimpy opening. So, let them think that! They may be purists that prefer a different combative style of the old champions, yet they have to deal with your move, your opening plan. That they get frustrated is just a practical advantage for you. Play your practical opening and let them complain!

(1) White - Black [B22]

2. c3 Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Diagram

The 2. c3 Sicilian is a remedy for all the complexities that can arise from the terribly complex Najdorf, Dragon, Shevishnikiov and a dozen other variations of the open Sicilian. Your opponent probably has studied his/her favorite vartiation in depth, so you side step all that with this second move. **2...d5** Diagram

The main line and one of two extremely logical moves. Black seeks to immediately battle in the center and makes use of the point that White cannot place a knight on c3 right now. **3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4** Staking out the center. White is quite willing to take on an isolated pawn if he/she gets quick development. If Black captures now on d4, White will recapture with the pawn and have c3 open for the knight. **4...Nf6 5.Nf3** [5.dxc5 Qxd1+ 6.Kxd1 puts White's king in the center and allows Black the initiative at the cost of a pawn.] **5...e6** [5...Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.h3 Bh5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Be3 cxd4 10.cxd4 is a very reasonalble altenative, investgated in our illustrated game Deep Blue - Kasparov (game #4).] **6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0** Diagram

7...Be7 [7...cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4 9.a3 Ba5 a la Kasparov, though the simple 9... Be7 is also reasonalbe. In both cases Black has a reasonable position, though White is a tad better.] **8.c4!?** White could also continue with 8. Be3 in straightforward fashion. The text move has merit thought. **8...Qd6 9.dxc5 Qxd1 10.Rxd1 Bxc5 11.Nc3 0-0 12.a3** Diagram

White has the more comfortable position. Black has no bif worries yet has a bit of work to do to get full eqaulity. *

(2) White - Black [B22]

2. c3 Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 Diagram

This is the second most popular reply to the 2. c3 Sicilian. Both 2...d5 and 2...Nf6 attack the center and limit White's replies. 2...Nf6 usually leads to a positon like an Alekhine Defense, but slightly improved hances for Black as the advance of both sides c-pawns leave more squares for the black knight. **3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4** The most straightforward reply. [White could alsc try 5.Qxd4 e6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Qe4 d6 8.Nbd2 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.Qxe5 Qd6 as played by Fischer (as Black), with an equal game,; Or 5.Nf3 d6! 6.cxd4 transposing into the main line.] **5...d6 6.Nf3 Nc6** Diagram

7.Bc4 [It is not good to enter the endgame that arises after the developing move 7.Nc3 dxe5 8.dxe5 Nxc3 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.bxc3 Bd7] **7...e6** [Some players choose 7...Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.0-0 e6 13.Qg4 This alternative play leaves White the isolated d-pawn but Black has yet to castle.] **8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 dxe5 12.dxe5** Diagram

White has worse pawn structure yet has attacking chances because of the advanced e pawn and good development. **12...Bd7** [12...b6?! 13.Qe4 Bb7 14.Bd3 is very active for White] **13.Qe4 Na5 14.Bd3 g6 15.Bh6 Bc6** This complicated position has chances for both sides. *

(3) White - Black [B22]

30.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 [2...g6 Diagram

is an alternative yet it leaves White with the stronger center after 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be3] **3.d4 d5 4.exd5** [4.e5 would transpose into the Advance Variation of the French Defense. That could be an accomplishment for a player against a Sicilian expert.] **4...exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd6** Diagram

7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 Nge7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Nb3 Bb6 Black could maintain an equal game with the active move 11...Nf5, yet White has an easier game to play. **11.Re1** Diagram

*

(4) Deep Blue - Kasparov,Garry [B22]

1996

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.h3 Bh5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Be3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Diagram

10...Bb4 11.a3 Ba5 12.Nc3 Qd6 13.Nb5 Qe7 14.Ne5 Bxe2 15.Qxe2 0-0 16.Rac1 Rac8 [16...a6 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Nc3 h6 Is fairly equal, but still a little more comfortable for White after say 19. Na4] **17.Bg5 Bb6?!** [17...Rfd8 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Nc4 a6 20.Nxa5 Nxa5 21.Nc3 Kh8 22.d5 Nc4 23.Rfd1 Ne5 is only slightly better for White.] **18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Nc4! Rfd8 20.Nxb6 axb6 21.Rfd1 f5 22.Qe3 Qf6** Diagram

23.d5! This aggressive move leads to a change of pawn structure in White's favor. **23...Rxd5 24.Rxd5 exd5 25.b3 Kh8** [Not 25...d4? 26.Nxd4] **26.Qxb6 Rg8 27.Qc5 d4?** Black's position looks very active, but he has weakenesses. 27...f4 would keep more chances for Black. **28.Nd6! f4** Kasparov is attacking, but now comes a brave (and greedy) move that only a cold blooded humar or a computer would make. Black is massing his pieces on the kingside yet there is a loose pawn on the queenside. **29.Nxb7!** Diagram

29...Ne5 30.Qd5 f3 Looks very threatening. **31.g3 Nd3?!** All the activity is calmly countered by Deep Blue. Good advice is hard to find, but 31... d3 is objectively better. Most humans would be terrified by the Black onslaught, but Deep Blue has no emotions. **32.Rc7 Re8? 33.Nd6! Re1+ 34.Kh2 Nxf2** Diagram

It seems Black has unstoppable check mate even if Black gives up the queen. There is a solution however. **35.Nxf7+ Kg7** [35...Qxf7 36.Qd8+ Kg7 37.Rxf7+ Kxf7 38.Qd5+ Ke7 39.Qxf3 would settle matters, as 39...Rh1+ 40.Kg2 is over.] Black threatens mate, but White gets through first. **36.Ng5+ Kh6 37.Rxh7+** Diagram

White gets there first. Kasparov resigned. This was his only defeat in the 1996b match. **1-0**

(5) Stripunsky,Alexander (2570) - Robson,Ray (2620) [B22]

USA-ch Saint Louis, 2013

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 d5 Diagram

7.exd6 c4 8.Bc2 e5 9.d4 cxd3 10.Qxd3 Qxd6 11.0-0 Bg4 [Safer would be 11...Qxd3 12.Bxd3 with few troubles for Black. Robson chooses a more complicated game.] **12.Qe2 Be7 13.Nbd2 0-0 14.h3 Bh5 15.Ne4 Qc7 16.Ng3 Bg6 17.Bxg6 hxg6** The postion is equal, with chances for both sides. Players who simply want to get a game without opening problems would be happy with both Black and White's position. **18.Re1 Rad8 19.Bg5 Rfe8 20.Rad1 f5 21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.h4 e4 23.h5! Be7?** Diagram

White has a surprising rejoiner to take the advantage. **24.hxg6! Qd7** [Not 24...exf3? 25.Qe6+ Kh8 26.Qxf5 Qd7 27.Qe4 with a quick decision] **25.Nxe4! Bxg5 26.Nfxg5 fxe4 27.Qh5 Qd5 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Qh8+ Qg8 30.Qh4** [30.Rxe4! Qxh8 31.Nh7+! would have been a quick win] **30...Re7 31.Rd1 Ke8 32.Nxe4 Nc8 33.Qh3 Rc7 34.Qh7 N6e7 35.Ng5** Nonetheless Black has too much to deal with. **35...Rc6 36.Nf7 Rxg6 37.Rd8+ Kxf7 38.Rxg8 Nxg8 39.Qh5 Nd6 40.c4 Nf6 41.Qc5 Nd7 42.Qxa7 Nxc4 43.Qxb7 Rd6 44.Qf3+ Nf6 45.a4** Diagram

The queen and pawns are too much for the rook and two knights. The finish takes a while, but is not in doubt. **45...Re6 46.Qc3 Ne5 47.a5 Rc6 48.Qd2 Ke6 49.b4 Ne4 50.Qe3 Kd5 51.f3 Ng3 52.Qb3+ Kd4 53.Qb2+ Kd5 54.b5 Rc1+ 55.Kh2 Nf1+ 56.Kh3 Rc4 57.b6 g5 58.Qb5+ Kd6 59.g3 Nxf3 60.Kg2 g4 61.Kxf1 Rc1+ 62.Kf2 Rc2+ 63.Ke3 Rc3+ 64.Kf4 Rc8 65.Qd3+ Ke7 66.Qe4+ Kd6 67.Qg6+ Ke7 68.Qg7+ 1-0**

2020 Wilkerson Memorial TNM Games Round 4

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

Due to the interruption of the round and subsequent voiding of the unfinished games of TNM round 4 on January 28th, we will publish the new 4th round games next week when round 4 re-starts on February 4th. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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Newsletter #904

Feb 7, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM
- Botvinik/Falconer Award
- Gross Memorial Report
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- TD Corner
- Tony's Teaser
- Scholastic Chess
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- TNM Games
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM Round 4

Round 4 Restart Brings The Action, Exciting Games and Dramatic Finishes Highlight Great Evening of Chess

Round 4 of the Tuesday Night Marathon was played this week on an evening that saw an awards ceremony prior to the start that honored IM John Donaldson and IM Christopher Yoo. More is written about this in the next article, but it set up an exciting evening of chess that was brought to life by this week's commentary team of FM Paul Whitehead, FM Jim Eade and IM Christopher Yoo, who stayed after the awards ceremony to help with commentary.

NM Ruiyang Yan and Kristian Clemens

In the championship section, it was a battle of the best as FM Kyron Griffith played FM Josiah Stearman in a duel of the top two seeds. In a game that brought positional excitement and small advantage swings both ways, the players ultimately played to a draw in a game where both looked to find a win.

Battle of the top 2 boards

IM Elliott Winslow was able to come back from certain defeat to swindle a win away from David Askin. Crucial errors in the endgame gave the opening Elliott needed to take advantage, and he now sits on top of the leaderboard with Stearman at 3.5/4. The "kids" also came through with big wins this week. Ruiyang Yan, Ethan Boldi and Nicholas Weng all won their games and sit at 3/4 along with Griffith.

In the A/B section, Bruce Ricard continues to play quality chess, as he sits alone on top with a perfect 4/4 after defeating Rudolph Breedt. Mechanics' regulars Adam Mercado and Bob Drane are close behind at 3.5/4 and will put forth some resistance in the coming weeks.

Club regulars deep in thought during round 4

Despite 49 players in the under 1600 section, 4 weeks of play has narrowed the perfect scores to just 2 players, Ilia Gimelfarb and Jahaan Ansari. They will likely meet next week in an epic showdown. Also surprising is that there is only one player at 3.5, Max Ross, with many formidable players at 3/4. With 3 full weeks to go, things are far from over.

On a broadcast note, Christopher was a hit with the audience, as we had 364 unique viewers tune in to the TNM broadcast, which is our highest viewership since the Mechanics' - Marshall match. Thank you to all our loyal followers!

FM Jim Eade, IM Christopher Yoo and FM Paul Whitehead

It is never too late to join the marathon! To register, please email us: chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

To watch the replay of the round: https://www.twitch.tv/videos/547035101 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.twitch.tv/videos/547035101)

For a full list of standings and results from the round, click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.milibrary.org/tuesday-night-marathon)
Check out some photos from this round: https://www.facebook.com/mechanicschess/posts/520509015236513
(https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.facebook.com/mechanicschess/posts/520509015236513)

2019 FIDE Botvinik Award and 2019 Neil Falconer Award Presented!

It was a special evening at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club Tuesday evening, as we honored a legend and the future of American chess. Former Chess Director John Donaldson won the 2019 FIDE Botvinik Award, given to coaches and trainers and Christopher Yoo won the 2019 Neil Falconer Award, a yearly award given by the Mechanics' Institute for the highest rated played from Northern California under 18 years of age. At 13 years of age, it seems Christopher will be in the hunt for this award for many years to come!

FM Mark Pinto speaks before handing the FIDE Botvinik Award

John was gracious in accepting the award, and was given a beautiful introduction by Mechanics' Trustee FM Mark Pinto. John gave a short history of how the Captain of the U.S. Olympiad team came to be and how he was given his first opportunity. John was the Captain of the 2016 gold medal team and the 2018 silver. Congratulations to him for this lifetime achievement, and for all his contributions in advancing American chess.

Christopher Yoo is rated 2531, and that was the prize he was given in dollars. He is an IM chasing GM norms, and he mentioned he is taking a very serious approach in his studies and development in trying to earn those norms. What stands out for me is Christopher's history of generosity. Several years ago in San Jose, there was a school that had a thriving chess program, and was a low income 80% Latino community. Christopher came to the school and did a simultaneous exhibition for free, and inspired and entertained these students, and showed that chess does provide a pathway for a feeling of achievement, giving back to the community, and inspiring others to do great things. I cannot think of a finer young man to win this award and we congratulate him and his family for their sacrifice and dedication to his success, and we look forward to following his progress for many years to come.

IM Christopher Yoo accepting the 2019 Neil Falconer Award

Watch the two videos taken during the award ceremony:
IM Yoo receiving his check: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=841645769597113 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=841645769597113)
FM Pinto's introduction to Botnivik Award winner, IM John Donaldson and John's acceptance speech: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=845625349219821
(https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=845625349219821)

2020 Gross Memorial

The 20th annual Gross memorial championship attracted some of the usual folks but we also had some new folks showing up on that beautiful Saturday morning. In total there were 30 enthusiastic players in two separate sections competing for a total of $540 prize fund.

In the 1800+ section, players were ranging from 1664 to 2444 USCF. The clear winner of the section with 3.5/4 is FideMaster Thijs Laarhoven, from the Netherlands, earning a whopping $180. Tie for second place were FM Kyron Griffith, WIM Rochelle Wu and NM Abhishek Mallela with 3.0/4. Both Rochelle and Abhishek managed to pull a victory against higher rated opponents.

Last round games on the top two boards between FM Laarhoven vs Wu and Wu vs Griffith.

Notable performance was from Brian Fong, who despite playing up and being the lowest rated in this section, achieved a 2/4 and tied for 5th place with 7 other players, beating a 2100+ and drawing a 2200+, placing his performance rating well above his February supplemental rating. Watch out for him at the upcoming US Amateur Team West Championship, he'll make a killer Board 4 player!

Brian Fong showing a very strong performance during the Gross memorial.

In the under1800 section, Alejandro Canales was the clear winner with 3.5/4 taking home the first place prize. The two way tie for second place was shared between Arjun Shankar and our regular, Mateo Hansen.

Thank you for all the players attending our 1-day weekend tournament. Detailed results are here:https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-gross-memorial-tournament-g50
(https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-gross-memorial-tournament-g50)

and the tournament rating on USCF website is here: http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlTnmtHst.php?14542170
(https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlTnmtHst.php?14542170)

Check out the pictures Abel took during the tournament: https://www.facebook.com/pg/mechanicschess/photos/?tab=album&album_id=518463835441031
(https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.facebook.com/pg/mechanicschess/photos/?tab=album&album_id=518463835441031)

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Famous Chess Games You Should Know – Attack!

By FM Paul Whitehead

I am resuming where I left off in newsletter #898, discussing those essential chess games we all should familiarize ourselves with. The 3 games given below are famous attacking masterpieces with I believe one thing in common: inspiration, in the form of completely unexpected moves.

Adams with his brilliant and repeated offer of the queen, starting with 18.Qg4!

Botvinnik, and the stunning 30.Ba3!!

Finally, Nezhmetdinov with 24…Rxf4! and 26…Bg7!!

The best players seem free of restraint: unconcerned at times with the practical result, they let their imaginations and creativity take over, leaving us games that will live forever.

We move through our games like zombies sometimes, unaware of the hidden possibilities. What seems impossible… might work if we delve deeper.

The lesson here for us is not to be dogmatic, and to try and use the unexpected resources available on the chessboard.

Open your minds and give it a whirl!

(1) Edwin Ziegler Adams - Carlos Torre Repetto [C41]

New Orleans New Orleans, LA USA, 1920

This famous old game features a series of beautiful "deflection" sacrifices used against the "overloaded" black queen. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Qxd4**

Morphy's move, and a refreshing alternative to 4.Nxd4. White emphasizes rapid development. **4...Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7**

Now developing with 9.Re1 or 9.Bg5 are possible, but white puts the sword in... **9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 0-0 11.Bg5 c6 12.c4 cxd5 13.cxd5 Re8 14.Rfe1 a5?!**

A pointless move. 14...Qd7 unites the rooks, and black should be fine. **15.Re2 Rc8 16.Rae1 Qd7** Too late! **17.Bxf6! Bxf6?** Black's last chance was to hold with the miserable 17...gxf6. Now white wins with a sparkling series of moves. **18.Qg4!**

If now 18...Qg4 then 19.Rxe8+. Black's queen needs to stay in touch with the rook at e8, so he plays... **18...Qb5 19.Qc4!!**

19...Qd7 20.Qc7!!

White's last 2 moves are really something! Again the black queen scurries away, but after... **20...Qb5 21.a4! Qxa4 22.Re4!**

... the black queen is running out of hiding places. She must return to b5, but after... **22...Qb5 23.Qxb7!**

...she's finally run out of moves! A brilliant game. **1-0**

(2) Mikhail Botvinnik - Jose Raul Capablanca [E40]

AVRO The Netherlands, 1938

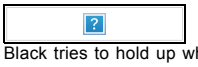
This tournament, won by Keres and Fine ahead of Botvinnik (3rd place) was Capablanca's worst. He lost 4 games and was in poor health. Yet that cannot take away from this powerful victory by the future World Champion over the former. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 d5 5.a3**

This is known, appropriately enough, as the Botvinnik Variation. **5...Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Ne2 b6 10.0-0 Ba6**

A principled move: black trades the "good" white bishop. **11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Bb2 Qd7 13.a4 Rfe8 14.Qd3 c4**

This is a turning point. Black says he's going to win on the queenside. Keeping the tension in the center with 14...Nc7 is a serious alternative. **15.Qc2 Nb8** Black reroutes the knight and prepares to push the queenside pawns. **16.Rae1 Nc6 17.Ng3 Na5 18.f3 Nb3 19.e4**

White achieves the e4 advance, and black wins the a-pawn. We are witnessing the clash of chess ideas! **19...Qxa4 20.e5 Nd7 21.Qf2 g6** Stops Nf5 but now f4 and f5 are coming. **22.f4 f5**



Black tries to hold up white's attack. **23.exf6** White continues to open lines for attack. **23...Nxf6 24.f5 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Re8**



Black seeks relief with exchanges. **26.Re6 Rxe6 27.fxe6 Kg7 28.Qf4** White brings the queen up for attack. **28...Qe8** Black brings his queen back for defense. **29.Qe5 Qe7**



How is white to make progress? Black plans the simple push of his queenside pawns. **30.Ba3!!**



This deflecting sacrifice, combined with white's next move, break black's defenses. **30...Qxa3 31.Nh5+! gxh5 32.Qg5+**



White wins the black knight. The white queen and e-pawn combine with mating threats - and the threat of promotion! **32...Kf8 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34.e7**



One question remains: can black engineer a perpetual check? **34...Qc1+ 35.Kf2 Qc2+ 36.Kg3 Qd3+ 37.Kh4** The white king must march up the board. **37...Qe4+ 38.Kxh5**



38...Qe2+ 39.Kh4 Qe4+ 40.g4 Qe1+ 41.Kh5



Black has run out of checks, and Qf8+ is coming up. An historic win by Botvinnik. **1-0**

(3) Lev Polugaevsky - Rashid Nezhmetdinov [A54]

18th RSFSR-ch Sochi URS, 1958

Nezhmetdinov was an imaginative attacking player, with a plus score against Tal amongst his accomplishments. Polugaevsky used to beat him like a drum, but there's this one game... **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 e5 4.e4 exd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6**



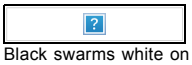
The game has started a bit unusually, but pretty soon we get a fairly standard looking Kings Indian type of structure. **6.Qd2 g6 7.b3 Bg7 8.Bb2 0-0 9.Bd3 Ng4**



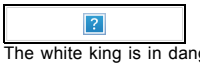
A nice active move, and combined with black's next, highlights Nezhmetdinov's creative and aggressive chess. **10.Nge2 Qh4 11.Ng3 Nge5 12.0-0 f5 13.f3** [13.f4 Ng4 14.h3 Bd4+ 15.Kh1 Qxg3 16.hxg4 Qh4#



is a variation given by Nezhmetdinov.] **13...Bh6!**



Black swarms white on the dark squares. **14.Qd1 f4 15.Nge2 g5 16.Nd5 g4** Threatens 17...g3 and if 18.h3 Bxh3 crashing through. **17.g3** Taking the bull by the horns. **17...fxg3 18.hxg3 Qh3**



The white king is in danger... **19.f4 Be6!** [19...Nf3+ 20.Kf2 Qh2+ 21.Ke3



And white would be close to winning!] **20.Bc2** If instead 20.fxe5 Bxd5! threatens 21...Be3+. **20...Rf7!** A calm move! Defends c7 and prepares to bring the a8 rook into action. **21.Kf2**



The king goes for a walk. **21...Qh2+ 22.Ke3 Bxd5 23.cxd5 Nb4 24.Rh1**



24...Rxf4!! 25.Rxh2 [If 25.Nxf4 Nxc2+ and white must give up his queen.; 25.Bxe5 Rf3+ 26.Kd4 Qf2+ 27.Kc4 Qc5# is another possibility.] **25...Rf3+ 26.Kd4 Bg7!!**



Black is a full queen down - and white is helpless. The main threat is 27...c5+ 28.dxc5 bxc5 and then 29...c5 mate! **27.a4 c5+ 28.dxc6 bxc6 29.Bd3**



The only move. White tries to disrupt the coordination of black's pieces. **29...Nexd3+ 30.Kc4 d5+ 31.exd5 cxd5+ 32.Kb5 Rb8+ 33.Ka5 Nc6+**



White resigns. After 34.Ka6 black mates with 34...Rb6 34...Nc5 or Ndb4. A glorious finish! **0-1**

Tournament Directors' Corner

Due Color – information on the pairing sheet

Dr. Judit Sztaray, Senior TD, Fide Arbiter

Assigning colors to players can be both a straightforward and an extremely complicated process. The tournament software that TDs use nowadays can be conveniently set to display some of the information regarding the due color of each player. I often enjoy using these specifically to use opportunity to teach players how to understand pairings and color allocations.
Since turning on this function for the TNM pairing sheets, I'm getting more and more questions about: what are those letters after the players' names, next to their rating? That is the player's due color!

w or b – due white/black because of alternating or equalizing colors (but possible to get black/white)
W or B – due white/black because of alternating and equalizing colors (But still possible to get black/white if other player has WW/BB.)
WW or BB – Strongly recommended that player get white/black, since player played black/white two times in a row, and no player can play the same color three times (**29E5f.**)

So let's review what are those above mentioned reasons one is due white or black.
Determination of the due color is guided heavily by US Chess Federation's Rules of Chess. So first, let's review some of the basic guiding principles:
29E. Color allocation.
"The objective in a tournament with an even number of rounds is to give white and black the same number of times to as many players as possible." – this is quite straightforward and gives you a good idea what you can and should expect.
"in an event with an odd number of rounds, each player should receive no more than one extra white or black above an even allocation. " – this is actually relevant for our current Wilkerson TNM, since we are having a total of 7 round!

First round is usually pretty simple: coin toss for the first board and alternating the white-black in the consecutive boards.
After the first round, the TDs have the following rules to follow:
27A4. Equalizing colors. Giving as many players as possible their due (*correct* or expected) color, round by round. Players receive each color the same number of times, whenever practical, and are not assigned the same color more than twice in a row. In odd-numbered rounds, the objective is to limit the excess of one color over the other to one.
27A5. Alternating colors. Players receive alternating colors whenever practical.

So What is DUE COLOR exactly?
* A player who has had an unequal number of whites and blacks is due the color that tends to equalize the number of whites and blacks.
* A player who has had an equal number of whites and blacks is due the opposite color to that he received in the most recent round.
Important: Colors assigned in games won or lost by forfeit do not count in deciding due color. A player who has played no games is due neither white nor black.

What to do if both players who are paired to play each other are due the same color? How to assign colors in a pairing?
Equalization of colors takes priority over alternation of colors.
First, as many players as possible are given the color that tends to equalize the number of times they have played white and black.
After that is accomplished, as many players as possible should be given the color opposite to that which they played in the previous round.

This means:
1. If one player has had an unequal number of whites and blacks, while the other has had equal colors, the player who has had unequal colors gets due color. Example: WBW gets black over BxW, where x denotes any unplayed game—full-point bye, half-point bye, forfeit win, forfeit loss, etc.
2. If both players have had an unequal number of whites and blacks, the player with the greater total color imbalance gets due color. Example: WWBW gets black over xWBW.

Then it gets a bit trickier and we have to dig a bit deeper in the players' color allocation in previous rounds:
3. If both players have had an equal number of whites and blacks, or both are equally out of balance, and if they had opposite colors in the previous round, the players should be given colors opposite to that which they played in the previous round. Example: WWB gets white over WBW.
4. If both players have had an equal number of whites and blacks, or both are equally out of balance, and if they had different colors in one or more prior rounds, priority for assigning color should be based on the latest round in which their colors differed. One or both players should be assigned the color opposite to that which they played in that round. Example 1: WBWB gets white over BWWB, because the first player had black in round two, the latest round in which colors differed. Example 2: BWxBW gets white over BWBxW, because the first player had black and the second had no color in round 4, the latest round in which colors differed.
5. If both players have had the same color sequence, the higher-ranked player gets due color. The higher-ranked player is the player with the higher score. If the players have the same score, the higher-ranked player is the higher-rated (*rank* is defined in 29A). ***Note:*** Rule 5 takes effect only if rules 1-4 do not decide the issue. Unless the players have had identical color sequences, rules 1-4 should be used.

Hope this article will help players understand the process how the color allocations are determined and next Tuesday it'll help YOU read the information on the pairing sheet about your due color!
Interested in reading more? Dig into the US Chess Federation - Rules of Chess online (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/chessrules/US_Chess_Rule_Book-Online_Only_Edition_v7.1-1.2.11-7.19.19.pdf), or get your copy of the book today (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.amazon.com/US-Chess-Federations-Official-Rules/dp/1797716905/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=us+chess+rules+of+chess&qid=1581032699&sr=8-1)!

Any questions, or feedback, my inbox is always open: jsztaray@milibrary.org (mailto:jsztaray@milibrary.org)

Tony's Teasers

Last week's problem:

White to move and mate in 3. H. D'O Bernard, 1930

Solution: 1. Kg2!! Qd8 2. Bc5 Qd4 3.Na5#

This week's problem:
V. Schirdewan 1932 Mate in 3

Scholastic Chess

This weekend
Kids Swiss tournament - Saturday, February 8 @ 10AM

3 sections: 700+, 400-699, and under400
First round: 10AM and then rolling schedule
Prizes: Trophies to Top 5 trophies, medals to all others!

Ideal for new tournament players - notation and use of clock is not necessary!
More information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-kids-swiss-feb-2020) - Register (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissFeb2020)

NEXT WEEKEND:
2020 US Amateur Team West Nationals - Kids Championship
Saturday, February 15, 2020 @ Hyatt Regency Burlingame

Fun Saturday to play together with many other kids, enjoy chess and learn how to form teams, and play in a team tournament!
No prior tournament experience necessary, and register as an individual, and we'll help form teams!
Trophies to selected Top finishers and medals to everyone else!
BE A PART OF A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND!
Any questions? Email to chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org) and we'll get back to you very soon!

Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-us-amateur-team-west-kids-national-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020USAmateurTeamWestKIDSNationalChampionship)

Save the Date - FREE EVENT - Register online for $0 to secure your spot!
2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship
Saturday, March 28, 2020 @ Golden Gate Park
Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-san-francisco-scholastic-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020SanFranciscoScholasticChampionship) - Flyer (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924040644/https://www.milibrary.org/sites/default/files/SFScholastic_Mar28.pdf)

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Practical Openings 3:

The Vienna Game – 1. e4 e5 2. Nc3

We call an opening “practical” when it is easy to learn and gives you good chances, or at least reasonable chances entering the middle game. There is also often the surprise value o a lesser played opening. You will know the important variations, but your opponent may not as he/she usually concentrate on the most popular variations. The Vienna Game has the “quiet” second move 2. Nc3 which doesn’t threaten the black e pawn, so leaves Black with more choice. That can also be a practical advantage since it is easy for your opponent to play if their move is forced.

White’s 2. Nc3 has options over 2. Nf3 in that there is still the pawn break f2-f4 (a la King’s Gambit) or the white queen can come out to f3 or h5 with early threats. Black has defenses if played correctly, yet even then White may be very comfortable with the opening position. The Vienna Game was a weapon for older champions Alekhine, Chigorin and others, but also used by Anand in modern times and in quick games by several of the world’s top players.

(1) White - Black [C25]

Vienna Game

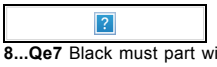
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Diagram



The defining move of the Vienna Game. It is a logical developing move and so can't be bad. There could well be a resurgence to popularity as some point if someone like Magnus would take on this opening. **2...Nf6** This is Black's most popular reply. Other moves will be considered in our 3rd example. **3.Bc4** This is the main line, which can lead to complications. I suggest one learn this one involved variation if you wish to play the Vienna. Those who wish to avoid any study could play [3.g3 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bd6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 with activity for White, though objectively a level position.] **3...Nxe4** Diagram



This is the main line, playing for the fork trick. The calmer 3...Nc6 is considered in the next example. **4.Qh5** [4.Nxe4?! d5 wins the piece back with a slight edge.] **4...Nd6** Defending mate on f7 and threating the c4 bishop. The downside is that the black d-pawn is blocked slowing development. Thus White gets good compensation for the pawn sacrificed. **5.Bb3** [5.Qxe5+ Qe7 is just equal] **5...Nc6 6.Nb5** Attacking the knight on d6 which defends the mate on f7. **6...g6 7.Qf3 f5 8.Qd5** Diagram



8...Qe7 Black must part with material to stop mate on f7. In return he/she gets more development and the pawn center. **9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6 11.Qf3 Bb7** Diagram



White must deal with ...Nd4 coming, but can do that with Qh3. Black has some initiative he is down a whole exchange. **12.d3 Nd4 13.Qh3 Bxa8** Now with 14. c3 or 14. Ne2 White has materia and Black must justify it. If this defensive position with extra material is not to your taste, then choose the simpler line with 3. g3. *

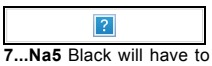
(2) White - Black [C30]

Vienna Game

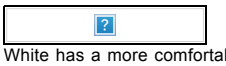
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 Diagram



This position could also arise by 2...Nf6 and 3...Nc6 (the choice of players who don't like the complications of example 1). **4.d3 Bb4** [4...Na5 5.Nge2 Nxc4 6.dxc4 Bc5 7.0-0 c6 8.Qd3 d6 9.b3 Leaves White with a firmer grip on the central squares.; 4...Bc5 5.Bg5 is reasonable] **5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.Nge2** Diagram



7...Na5 Black will have to deal with Nd5 coming soon (after 0-0), so tries to cover that outpost with the c-pawn. **8.0-0 c6 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Nxc3 Nxc4 11.dxc4 d6 12.Qd3** Diagram

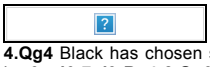


White has a more comfortable game with pressure on the d file. The advantage is not so great, but pleasant. *

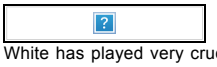
(3) White - Black [C25]

Vienna Game

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 Diagram



4.Qg4 Black has chosen symmetrical play, yet cannot copy anymore. **4...g6 5.Qf3 Nf6 6.Nge2** It is important to cover the d4 square. It could be disaster if the black knight were able to jump in. **6...d6 7.d3 Bg4 8.Qg3** Diagram



White has played very crude, direct moves yet has the advantage. e.g. **8...h6 9.f4 Bxe2 10.Nxe2** With the more potent possiblities. *

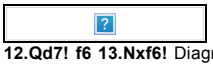
(4) Jacques Mieses - Mikhail Chigorin [C25]

Ostend Ostend BEL (3), 07.06.1906

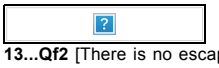
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Qg4! Qf6?! Diagram



Better to play 4...g6 as in example 3. **5.Nd5! Qxf2+ 6.Kd1 Kf8 7.Nh3 Qd4 8.d3** Threatening to trap the black queen with 8. c3. **8...d6 9.Qh4 Bxh3 10.Qxh3** White has great play for the pawn with the rook coming to f1 to target f7, and the precarious position of the black queen. **10...Na5 11.Rf1 Nxc4** Diagram



12.Qd7! f6 13.Nxf6! Diagram

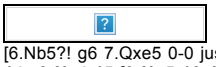


13...Qf2 [There is no escape now. Black gets mated after 13...gxf6 14.Rxf6+ Nxf6 15.Bh6+ Kg8 16.Qg7#; 13...Nxb2+ 14.Ke2 doesn't help] **14.Rxf2 Bxf2 15.Nh5 1-0**

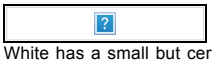
(5) Alexander Alekhine - Max Euwe [C27]

Alekhine - Euwe World Championship Matc Various Locations NED (27), 06.12.1935

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 The Vienna Game was respected in the previous century and used even in the most important games. It could well be due for a revival. **2...Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Be7 6.Nf3** Diagram



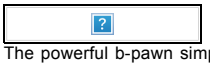
[6.Nb5?! g6 7.Qxe5 0-0 just leaves Black with better development] **6...Nc6 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.Qxe5 0-0 9.Nd5 Re8 10.0-0 Bf8?!** 10...Bg5 is a little more active. **11.Qf4 c6 12.Ne3 Qa5 13.d4 Qh5 14.c3 Ne4 15.f3 Ng5 16.d5** Diagram



White has a small but certain advantage out of the opening. More space and better piece placement. **16...cxd5 17.Nxd5 Ne6 18.Qg4 Qg6** [18...Qxg4 19.fxg4 is a more pleasant ending for White.] **19.Be3 b6 20.Rad1 Bb7 21.Qxg6 hxg6 22.Rfe1 Rac8 23.Kf2** Diagram



This is a World Championship game where the defence is very high quality. Alekhine squeezes the position just as Karpov and Carlsen today does. Black is under pressure with the isolated d-pawn and the white pieces all on good squares. **23...Bc5 24.Bxc5! Bxd5!?** [24...bxc5 25.Ba4 Bc6 26.Bxc6 Rxc6 27.Ne3 is very nice for White, but perhaps better than the game continuation.] **25.Bxd5 Nxc5 26.Rxe8+ Rxe8 27.b4 Ne6 28.Bxe6!?** liquidating into a better rook ending. 28. Bb7 was also reasonable. **28...dxe6 29.Rd7 Rc8 30.Rxa7 Rxc3 31.Ra8+ Kh7 32.a4 Rb3 33.b5 g5 34.Ke2 e5?** [34...Rb2+ 35.Kd3 Rxg2 36.Ra6 Ra2 37.Rxb6 Rxa4 38.Ra6 Rb4 39.b6 Kg6 40.Kc3 Rb1 41.Kc4 and the dangerous b-pawn may win the rook, yet at least Black will have counterchances with kingside play. The game move goes to a quiet death.] **35.Kd2 f6 36.Kc2 Rb4 37.Kc3 Rd4 38.Ra6 Kg6 39.Rxb6 Rxa4 40.Ra6 Rd4 41.b6** Diagram

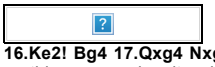


The powerful b-pawn simply wins the black rook and any counterplay is too slow. Euwe resigned. **1-0**

(6) Garry Kasparov (2812) - Fabiano Caruana (2795) [C28]

Ultimate Blitz Challenge St. Louis, MO USA (9.1), 28.04.2016

This was only a blitz game, but worth seeing as it is between two of the world's greatest players. **1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 exf4 7.Bxf4 0-0 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 Be6 10.Bb3 Nd4 11.Rf1 Nxf3+?!** [11...Bg4 12.Qd2? Nxe4! 13.Bxd8 Nxd2] **12.Qxf3 Bd4 13.Ne2! Bxb2 14.Rb1 Ba3 15.Nf4 Bb4+** Diagram



16.Ke2! Bg4 17.Qxg4 Nxg4 18.Bxd8 Raxd8?! [18...Rfxd8] **19.Ng6** winning the exchange **19...Bc5 20.Nxf8 Rxf8 21.h3 Nf6 22.c3 Bb6 23.Rf5 Re8 24.Rbf1 c6 25.Kd2 Re7 26.g4 d5?** giving up this pawn makes it a definite endgame win **27.exd5 cxd5 28.Bxd5 Be3+ 29.Kd1 Bg5 30.Bb3 b6 31.Re1 Rc7 32.Kc2 g6 33.Rfe5 Kf8 34.Rf1 Kg7 35.d4 Bh4 36.Kd3 Bg3 37.Re3 Bh4 38.a4 Nh7 39.a5 Ng5 40.axb6 axb6 41.Bc4 Ra7 42.Rb1 Rb7 43.Rb5 Bf2 44.Re8 Nxh3 45.Ke2 Bh4 46.Kf3 Ng5+ 47.Kg2 Rc7 48.Rb4 Nh7 49.Kf3 Bf6 50.Ke2 Be7 51.Ra4 Nf6 52.Rb8 Nxg4 53.Rxb6 h5 54.Rba6 h4 55.Ra7 Rxa7 56.Rxa7 Kf6 57.Bd5 Nh6 58.c4 Nf5 59.Kd3 g5 60.c5 g4 61.c6 Bd6 62.Rxf7+ Kg5 63.c7 Bxc7 64.Rxc7 h3 65.Rh7 Nh4 66.Be6 Ng6 67.Rg7 h2 68.Bd5 Kf6 69.Rxg6+ 1-0**

2020 Wilkerson Memorial TNM Games Round 4

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Griffith,Kyron Waykuan (2434) - Stearman,Josiah Paul (2445) [B33]

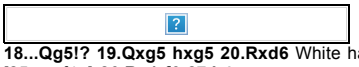
Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.1), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 Josiah has taken on some serious openings lately. **11.g3** Rare these days, but it has been difficult to meet in the past. **11...Bg7 12.Bg2 f4!? 13.c3 0-0 14.Qh5** [14.Nc2 a5 15.Qh5 *(15.0-0; 15.a3)* 15...b4 *(15...Ne7* 0-1 (36) Okara,A (2380)-Parginos,V (2196) Chalkida 2009 CBM 131 Extra [Grivas,E]*)* 16.0-0 bxc3 17.bxc3 Ne7 18.gxf4 Nxd5 19.exd5 exf4 20.Nd4 h6 21.Nf5 Bxf5 22.Qxf5 Qg5 0-1 (43) with some similar motifs to the game. 0-1 43, Potapov,P (2479)-Kovalev,V (2636) Sochi 2017.] **14...Ne7 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.Nc2**



16...h6N [Of course more to the point is 16...a5 17.0-0 Be6 (17...Bb7 18.Rad1?! *(18.Rfd1 Rfd8 19.gxf4 exf4 20.Nd4+/= .)* 18...Kh8 *(18...Qe6! 19.b3 a4~~)* 19.Qe2 f5?! *(19...Rab8~~)* 20.Rd3?! 0-1 (36) Okara,A (2380)-Parginos,V (2196) Chalkida 2009 CBM 131 Extra [Grivas,E] *(20.exf5! e4 21.Nd4 b4 22.Rfe1 d5 23.c4 Qf7! 24.f3!+/= .)*) 18.gxf4 exf4 19.Nd4 Rac8 20.Nf5 Bxf5 21.Qxf5 Be5 22.Rad1 Kh8 23.Kh1 b4 24.cxb4 axb4 25.Rd3 Rc5 26.Rg1 Rg8 27.Bh3 Rg6 28.Qh5 Bd4 29.Qf3 Qe5 30.Rgd1 Bxb2 31.Bf5 Rh6 32.Rd5 1-0 (42) Sochacki,C (2414) -Sanchez,J (2533) Haguenau 2013] **17.Rd1** [17.0-0-0!] **17...Be6 18.Nb4**



18...Qg5!? 19.Qxg5 hxg5 20.Rxd6 White has won a pawn, but Black retains the two bishops and pressure. **20...Rfd8 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Nxa6 Bxa2 23.Bf1 Bb3 24.Be2 Bf8 25.gxf4 exf4** [25...gxf4=] **26.Rg1 f6 27.h4**



[27.f3+/=] **27...f3! 28.Bxf3** Nothing else **28...Ra8 29.hxg5?!** [29.Bd1 Bxd1 30.Kxd1 Rxa6 31.Kc2 when it's going to be hard to keep any pawns on the board. (But who wants to defend R+B v R??)] **29...Rxa6 30.gxf6+ Kh7! 31.Kf1 Bc4+ 32.Kg2 Rxf6 33.Bg4 Ra6 34.Kf3 Bg7 35.Bf5+ Kg8 36.Ke3 Kf7 37.Rb1 Rd6 38.b3 Be6 39.Bxe6+ Kxe6 40.Rc1 Ra6 41.b4 Rc6 42.Kd3 Bh6 43.Rh1 Bg7 44.Rc1 Ke5 45.c4 Rd6+ 46.Ke2 Bh6 47.Rc2 Rd4 48.cxb5 Rxb4 49.Kf3 Rxb5 50.Rc4 Bd2 51.Kg4 Rb8 52.Kf3 Bb4 53.Ke3 Bd6 54.f4+ Ke6 55.e5 Be7 56.Ke4 Rb1 57.f5+ Kf7 58.Rc7 Re1+ 59.Kd5 Rd1+ 60.Ke4 1/2-1/2**

(2) Askin,David Benjamin (2027) - Winslow,Elliott C (2223) [E94]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.2), 04.02.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 [7.d5 Nbd7 0-1 (65) Gligoric,S-Fischer,R Siegen 1970] **7...Nbd7 8.d5 Nc5 9.Qc2 a5 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3** [11.Bh4] **11...Ne8** [11...Ng4 12.Bxc5 dxc5 13.h3 Nf6 14.Nxe5 Nxd5 15.cxd5 Bxe5 16.f4 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 Qh4 18.Qd3 0-1 (65) Gligoric, S-Fischer,R Siegen 1970; 11...b6!] **12.Nd2 f5 13.f3 f4 14.Bf2 Bd7 15.b3 Bf6 16.a3 Na6 17.Rab1 Bh4 18.b4 Bxf2+ 19.Rxf2 axb4 20.axb4 g5** [20...Qe7!?] **21.c5 dxc5 22.Bxa6 bxa6 23.bxc5** White's attack is way ahead of Black's. **23...h5 24.Na2 g4 25.Nb4 g3 26.Re2 Qh4 27.h3** The old saw is that Black needs his light-squared bishop to break through in this sort of blocked pawn situation on the kingside -- but that doesn't mean he can when he does have it. I didn't see any way forward. **27...Nf6 28.Nd3 Rfe8 29.Qc3 Bb5 30.Nc4 Rab8 31.Ree1 Nd7 32.c6 Nb6 33.Nxb6 Rxb6 34.Nc5 Rbb8** [Played against 34...Qe7 35.Nd7] But I overlooked that **35.Ne6!** is a double attack. I felt compelled to give up the exchange to keep some sort of play. He shows that it's a mirage. **35...Rxe6 36.dxe6 Qf6 37.Qb3 Re8 38.Red1 Qxe6 39.Qxe6+ Rxe6 40.Rd8+ Kf7 41.Rd7+ Re7 42.Rc1! Ke8 43.Rc5 Rxd7 44.cxd7+ Kxd7 45.Rxe5 Kd6 46.Rd5+ Kc6 47.Rxh5 a5 48.Rd5 a4 49.Rd1 Bc4 50.h4 Bf7** Letting his king into the game **51.Kf1 Kb5 52.Ke1** [52.h5!] **52...a3 53.Kd2 Kb4 54.Kc1** [54.Rb1+ Kc4 55.Kc2] **54...c5 55.Rd7 Bh5 56.Rb7+ Kc3**



57.e5?? "Passed pawns must be pushed." (Mednis) [57.Ra7 Kd3 58.Rxa3+ Ke2 59.Ra2+ Kf1 60.Rd2] **57...Bxf3** Quite suddenly Black is winning. **58.gxf3 a2 59.Ra7 g2 60.Ra3+ Kb4 61.Kb2 g1Q 62.Rxa2 Qf2+ 63.Kb1 Qe1+ 64.Kb2 Qxe5+ 65.Kb1 Qe1+ 66.Kb2 Qd2+ 67.Kb1 Qd1+ 68.Kb2 c4 0-1**

(3) Yan,Ruiyang (2221) - Clemens,Kristian (2019) [C42]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.3), 04.02.2020

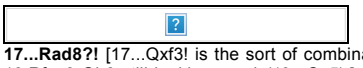
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.d4 Be7 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 Bh5 10.Bf4 Nbd7 11.Re1 c6 12.Be2 Re8 13.d5 c5 14.Nd2 Bxe2 15.Qxe2 Bf8 16.Qd3 a6 17.a4 b6 18.Nc4 Rxe1+ 19.Rxe1 Ne8 20.Ne4 b5 21.axb5 axb5 22.Ncxd6 Nxd6 23.Nxd6 Nf6 24.Nxb5 Qxd5 25.Qxd5 Nxd5 26.Bd6 Nb4 27.Re2 g6 28.Re5 Nxc2 29.Rxc5 Nb4 30.Rc4 Nd3 31.b4 Bxd6 32.Nxd6 Rd8 33.Ne4 Rb8 34.Nf6+ Kg7 35.Nd5 Rd8 36.Nc3 Nb2 37.Rc7 Rd4 38.b5 Rb4 39.g3 Nc4 40.Kg2 h5 41.h4 Nd6 42.Rd7 Nc4 43.Rd4 Kf6 44.Nd5+ Ke5 45.Nxb4 Kxd4 46.Nc6+ Kc5 47.Kf3 Nd6 48.Kf4 Nxb5 49.Nd8 Nd6 50.Ke5 f5 51.Ne6+ Kc6 52.Nf8 Ne4 53.Nxg6 Nxf2 54.Kxf5 Kd7 55.Nf4 Ke7 56.Nxh5 Kf7 57.Nf4 Kg7 58.g4 Nd1 59.Nd5 Nf2 60.g5 Nd3 61.h5 Nc5 62.h6+ Kh7 63.Nf6+ Kh8 64.g6 Ne6 65.Ne8 Nd8 66.g7+ 1-0

(4) Weng,Nicholas (1864) - Walder,Michael (2124) [B87]

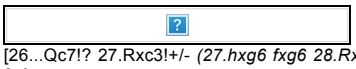
Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.4), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 [7.Bb3 b5 *(*This move order sets up queenside castling and other excitement, but it does allow 7...*Nbd7!? 8.Bxe6?* now? No thanks.*)* 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Qf3 Qc7 10.e5 Bb7 11.exd6 Bxd6 12.Qe3 Bc5 13.0-0-0 Nc6 14.Qxe6+ Did Karjakin actually fall out of his chair when Ivanchuk came up with this move? 14...fxe6 15.Nxe6 Qe5 16.Nxg7+ Kf8 17.Ne6+ Kf7 18.Rhe1 1-0 (49) Ivanchuk,V (2751)-Karjakin,S (2732) Melody Amber (rapid), Nice 2008] **7...b5** [7...Nbd7 supposedly encourages 8.Bxe6 fxe6 9.Nxe6 but it's hardly certain what's happening here either.; 7...Be7 8.Bb3 0-0 9.f4 1/2-1/2 (23) De Firmian,N (2575) -Ivanchuk,V (2730) Amsterdam 1996] **8.Bb3 Be7 9.f4** People still sometimes venture the classic attacks with e5, but for quite a while the main lines have been in the Qf3 lines. [9.Qf3 Qc7 *(9...Qb6 10.Be3 Qb7)* 10.Qg3 probably thanks to a lot of games by and against Kasparov and Gelfand and even Kasparov vs. Gelfand!)] **9...0-0 10.e5** [10.f5 b4!] **10...dxe5 11.fxe5 Nfd7 12.Qh5** [12.Be3!? Nxe5 13.Qh5 Nc4 14.Bxc4 bxc4 15.Rad1 Qc7 16.Rf3 g6 17.Qh6 f6 18.Rdf1 e5 19.Rg3 Bd8 20.Nf3 Nc6 21.Bc5 Be7 22.Rxg6+ hxg6 23.Qxg6+ Kh8 1/2-1/2 (23) De Firmian,N (2575)-Ivanchuk,V (2730) Amsterdam 1996] **12...Nc6** Everything has been tried here for Black, but this is one of the more stable moves. **13.Nxc6 Qb6+ 14.Be3!? Qxc6 15.Rad1?!N** [15.Rf3 is the most common move; A recent game: 15.Kh1 Bb7 16.Rf3 Nc5 17.Rg1 g6 18.Qh6 Qxf3 19.gxf3 Bxf3+ 20.Rg2 Rad8 21.Qf4 Bb7 22.Kg1 Nxb3 23.axb3 Bxg2 24.Kxg2 Rc8 25.Qf2 Rfd8 26.Ne4 Rd5 27.Bd4 Kg7 28.c3 Rcd8 29.Nf6 Bxf6 30.Qxf6+ Kg8 31.Be3 Rd2+ 32.Kf1 Rxb2 33.Qxd8+ 1-0 (33) Burrows,M (2156)-Bliumberg,V (2253) Caleta 2019] **15...Bb7** Stopping White's shots on d5; Black is just better. **16.Rd2?! Bc5 17.Rf3**



17...Rad8?! [17...Qxf3! is the sort of combinative defense that so characterizes many Najdorf lines. 18.gxf3 Bxe3+ 19.Rf2 g6 and then ...Nxe5.] **18.Re2 g6?!** [18...a5; 18...b4; 18...Bxe3+ 19.Rfxe3 Qb6 still looking good *(19...Qc5)*] **19.Qg5 Bxe3+ 20.Rfxe3 Nc5 21.h4!? h5?!** [21...a5; 21...Rd4! 22.h5 h6! 23.Qxh6 Rg4 Black gets there first. 24.hxg6 Rxg2+ 25.Kf1 fxg6+ is check 26.Ke1 b4] **22.a3 a5 23.Rg3** [23.Kh2] **23...b4** [23...Kh7!?] **24.Qxh5** At this point everything is a draw (well...) **24...Rd7? 25.Qh6! bxc3 26.h5 cxb2?**



[26...Qc7!? 27.Rxc3!+/- *(27.hxg6 fxg6 28.Rxg6+ Rg7 29.Rxg7+ Qxg7 30.Bxe6+ Nxe6 31.Qxe6+ Kh7 32.Qh3+ Qh6 33.Qxc3* is at least a draw for Black*)*] **27.hxg6 b1Q+ 28.Kh2 Rfd8 29.gxf7+ 0-1**

(5) Childress,Jason (2073) - German,Felix (1895) [B01]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.5), 04.02.2020

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6 6.h3 Bf5 7.Bc4 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.Nh4 b5 11.Nxf5 exf5 12.Bd3 g6 13.Qf3 Nc6 14.Bf4 Qd7 15.d5 Nd4 16.Qg3 Nh5 17.Qh2 Nxf4 18.Qxf4 Bf6 19.a3 a5 20.Nd1 g5 21.Qg3 Rae8 22.Nc3 Rxe1+ 23.Rxe1 Re8 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Qe3 Qd7 26.Qg3 b4 27.axb4 axb4 28.Nd1 h5 29.f4 Qd6 30.c3 bxc3 31.bxc3 Nb3 32.Bc2 Nc5 33.c4 Ne4 34.Qf3 Bd4+ 35.Kh2 g4 36.Qf1 g3+ 37.Kh1 Nf2+ 38.Nxf2 gxf2 39.g3 Qa3 40.Bd3 Qc3 41.Kg2 Qd2 42.Bxf5 h4 43.Bd3 hxg3 44.Kxg3 Qe3+ 45.Kg4 Kg7 46.Qe2 Qc1 47.Qf1 Qe3 48.Qe2 f5+ 49.Kxf5 Qxh3+ 50.Qg4+ Qxg4+ 51.Kxg4 Kf6 52.Kf3 Bc5 53.Ke4 Bb6 54.Bf1 Bc5 55.Bh3 Bb6 56.Kd3 Bc5 57.Ke4 Bb6 58.Kf3 Bd4 59.Kg4 Bc5 60.Bf1 Bd4 61.Kh5 Kf5 62.Kh4 Kxf4 63.Kh3 Ke3 64.Kg2 1/2-1/2

(6) Boldi,Ethan [Kazanjian] (2090) - Kuczek,Kevin W (1982) [A85]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.6), 04.02.2020

1.Nf3 f5 2.c4 e6 3.d4 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e3 b6 6.d5 e5 7.Qc2 Be7 8.e4 0-0 9.exf5 e4 10.Nd4 Ng4 11.Qxe4 Nf6 12.Qc2 Na6 13.a3 Ng4 14.Be2 Ne5 15.0-0 Bf6 16.Ne6 Bxe6 17.fxe6 c6 18.f4 Ng6 19.Bd3 Bd4+ 20.Kh1 Qh4 21.Bxg6 hxg6 22.Ne4 cxd5 23.cxd5 Nc5 24.Nxc5 bxc5 25.Qxg6 Rf6 26.Qd3 Rh6 27.h3 Rb8 28.Rb1 Qf6 29.b3 Rh5 30.f5 Rf8 31.g4 Rh4 32.Bf4 Be5 33.Bxe5 Qxe5 34.Rbe1 Qb2 35.e7 Re8 36.f6 Kf7 37.g5 g6 38.Qe3 Qe5 39.Qxe5 dxe5 40.Kg2 e4 41.d6 Reh8 42.d7 1-0

(7) Snyder,Larry (2061) - Lum,Michael K (1914) [D34]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.7), 04.02.2020

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 Nc6 5.d4 e6 6.c4 Be7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Be3 c4 10.b3 Bb4 11.Qc2 Qa5 12.Bd2 Qb6 13.Na4 Qb5 14.Bxb4 Nxb4 15.Qb2 Nc6 16.Nc3 Qb6 17.e3 Bf5 18.Nd2 Ne7 19.Qa3 Rfe8 20.Rfc1 cxb3 21.Nxb3 Ne4 22.Nxe4 Bxe4 23.Bxe4 dxe4 24.Nc5 Nd5 25.Rab1 Qh6 26.Rxb7 Qh3 27.Qb3 Rad8 28.Nxe4 Kf8 1-0

(8) Ivanov,Aleksandr Yu (2174) - Heidari,Ako (1940) [C89]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.8), 04.02.2020

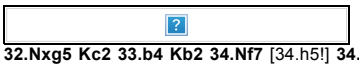
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.Re1 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.d4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 c6 13.Bxd5 cxd5 14.Be3 Be6 15.Nd2 Bf6 16.Qf4 Qb8 17.Qxb8 Rfxb8 18.a3 a5 19.Nf3 Bf5 20.Bd4 Ra6 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Nd4 Be6 23.f4 f5 24.Kf2 Rab6 25.b4 Ra8 26.Ke3 Kg7 27.h3 Kf6 28.Kf3 h5 29.g3 Bd7 30.Rab1 axb4 31.axb4 Ra3 32.Rb3 Rba6 33.Rxa3 Rxa3 34.Re3 Ra1 35.h4 Rc1 36.Ke2 Ra1 37.Kd3 Ra2 38.Re2 Ra1 39.Rd2 Ke7 40.Re2+ Kf6 41.Nc2 Rd1+ 42.Rd2 Rg1 43.Ne3 Rxg3 44.Kd4 Ke6 45.Ra2 Rh3 46.Ra6+ Ke7 47.Nxd5+ Kf8 48.Ke5 Kg7 49.Rb6 Rxh4 50.Nf6 Be6 51.Rxb5 Rh1 52.Ne8+ Kg6 53.Nc7 h4 54.Rb8 h3 55.Rg8+ Kh5 56.Kf6 Kh4 57.Nb5 Bc4 58.Nd4 Bd3 59.Nf3+ Kh5 60.Ne5 Be4 61.Rh8# 1-0

(9) Chin,Alex Paul (1814) - Persidsky,Andre (1856) [B73]

Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated San Francisco (4.11), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 Nc6 [6...e6; 6...e5] **7.Be3 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.f4 0-0 10.Kh1 Qb6?! 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Bf3** [12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 (and next Nd5) tries to take advantage of the early queen development.] **12...Qc4?!** [12...Qc7] **13.Qd3 Qxd3 14.cxd3 Bg4?? 15.e5 dxe5 16.fxe5 Bxf3 17.exf6 Bxg2+ 18.Kxg2 exf6 19.Bd4 Rfd8 20.Bxf6 Rxd3 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Rad1 Rad8 23.Rxd3 Rxd3 24.Rd1 Rxd1 25.Nxd1 Kf6 26.Kf3 Ke5 27.Nf2 f5 28.h4 h6 29.Nh3 Kd4 30.Nf4 g5 31.Ne6+ Kd3**



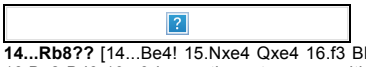
32.Nxg5 Kc2 33.b4 Kb2 34.Nf7 [34.h5!] **34...h5 35.Nd6 b5 36.Nb7 Kxa2 37.Nc5 Ka3 38.Nxa6 1-0**

(10) Melville,Cailen J (1884) - Pane,Gianluca (1927) [D17]

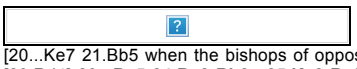
Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.12), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Qc7 8.g3 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bf4 Rd8? [10...Nfd7 is the main move: 11.Bg2 g5!? *(11...f6)* 12.Ne3!? *(12.Bxe5 Nxe5 13.Qd4!?)* 12...gxf4 13.Nxf5 0-0-0] **11.Qb3** [11.Qc1!+/-] **11...Nfd7** [11...Be6! 12.Bxe5 Qxe5 13.Qxb7 *(13.Nxe5?! Bxb3=/+)* 13...Qc5 14.Ne3 *(14.Nd2 Bd5!?)* 14...Bc8 15.Qb3 Be6 16.Qb7=] **12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Bxe5?** [13.Bg2+/=] **13...Qxe5 14.Qxb7?**



14...Rb8?? [14...Be4! 15.Nxe4 Qxe4 16.f3 Bb4+ 17.Kf2 Qc4-/+ Black's queen and king and the rest of the gang are quite disjointed.] **15.Qxc6+ Bd7 16.Qd5 Qxd5 17.Nxd5 Bc6** [17...Rxb2 18.Bg2 Bd6 19.e3 keeps the extra pawn with a clear advantage.] **18.Bg2 Bxd5 19.Bxd5 Rxb2 20.Bc6+! Kd8??**



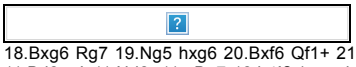
[20...Ke7 21.Bb5 when the bishops of opposite color might actually matter, although White still has good chances to make something of the pawn.] **21.0-0-0+ Kc7 22.Kxb2 Kxc6 23.Rc1+** [23.Rd4] **23...Bc5 24.Rc2 Rb8+ 25.Ka2 Rc8?? 26.Rd1??** [26.Rxc5+ might have saved forty moves of suffering] **26...Rc7 27.e3** [27.Rxc5+ Kxc5 28.Rc1+ Kd6 29.Rxc7 Kxc7 30.Kb3 probably wins, but might as well hold off to be certain] **27...g6 28.Rd8 a6 29.Rc4 h5 30.h4 Kb6 31.Kb3 Kc6 32.Kc2 Kb6 33.Kd3 a5 34.Rb8+ Ka6 35.Rb5 Rd7+ 36.Ke2 Bb4 37.Rc6+** [37.Rbxb4 axb4 38.Rxb4 is another liquidation into a winning ending, but one or two technique slips could let Black draw.] **37...Ka7 38.Rf6 Rd2+ 39.Kf3 Rd7 40.Kf4 Re7 41.Rd5 Kb7 42.e4 Kc7 43.e5 Be1 44.Ke4 Kb7 45.Rb5+ Kc7 46.Kf3 Rd7 47.Rc5+** [47.e6! fxe6 48.Re5 busts Black up] **47...Kd8 48.Ke4 Ke7 49.Rc1 Bb4 50.f3 Kf8?! 51.Rfc6?!** [51.e6!] **51...Rd2 52.R6c2 Rd7 53.f4 Rd8 54.Rc8 Rxc8 55.Rxc8+ Ke7 56.Rc7+ Ke6 57.Rc6+ Ke7 58.f5 gxf5+ 59.Kxf5 Be1 60.Kf4** [60.Rh6] **60...Bd2+ 61.Kf3 Be1 62.Rh6 Bc3 63.Rxh5 Ke6 64.Ke4 Be1 65.g4 Bg3 66.Rh6+ 1-0**

(11) Jensen,Christian (1850) - Perlov,Alexander (1825) [A58]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.13), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 [5...e6 6.Nc3 exd5 7.Nxd5 Be7!? 8.e3 *(8.g3!?)* 8...0-0 9.Ne2 Nxd5 10.Qxd5 Rxa6 11.Nc3 Rd6 12.Qf3 Nc6 13.Be2 Bb7 14.0-0 Qa8 15.e4 Nd4 16.Qh5 Bxe4 17.Nxe4 Qxe4 18.Bd1 Rg6 19.Qh3 Ne2+ 20.Bxe2 Qxe2 21.a4 Bf6 22.Be3 c4 23.Qf5 Bxb2 24.Rad1 c3 25.Rxd7 Qc4 26.Qb5 Rxg2+ 27.Kxg2 1/2-1/2 (27) Nakamura,H (2787)-Dubov,D (2701) Moscow RUS 2018] **6.a7!?** The danger of a little knowledge. [6.Nc3 Bg7 *(6...Bxa6 7.e4 Bxf1 8.Kxf1 d6 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.g3 0-0 11.Kg2 Nbd7 12.a4!)* 7.e4 *(7.a7!? Rxa7 8.e4 0-0 9.Nf3 Qa5 10.Bd2)* 7...0-0 (7...Qa5 8.a7! *(8.Bd2 Bxa6 9.Bxa6 Qxa6 10.e5 Ng8)* 8...Nxe4?? 9.axb8Q Rxb8 10.Nge2 Nxc3 11.Qd2! 1-0, Grigorian,S - Berg,K, Bundesliga Germany 2016. IMs know to resign.) 8.a7! (8.Nf3 Qa5 9.Bd3? *(9.Bd2* 0-1 (57) Kirszenberg,M (2132) -Vaisser,A (2505) Le Port Marly 2016*; 9.Nd2 Bxa6)* "allows the elegant" (Avrukh) 9...Nxd5! 10.exd5 Bxc3+ 11.Kf1?! Typical Winslow Neanderthal response. **a)** 11.bxc3? Qxc3+ 12.Qd2 Qxa1 13.0-0 Bxa6-+ **a1)** 13...Qf6?? 14.Bb2+- Qb6 15.Ba1?? *(15.Bc3+-; 15.Re1+-)* 15...f6= 0.00x 16.Qh6 Rf7 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.Qxg6+ Kf8 19.Ng5 Rg7 20.Nh7+ Kg8 21.Qe8+ Kxh7 22.Qh5+ Kg8 1/2-1/2 (22) Kelecevic,N (2224)-Fuchs,J (2348) Flims 2016; **a2)** 13...Qg7-/+; 14.Bb2 (14.Ba3 Qg7 15.Bxc5 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 d6 17.Bd4 Qh6 18.Re1 Re8 19.Qb5 Na6 20.h3 Nc5 21.Bxc5 dxc5 22.d6 Reb8 23.Qxc5 exd6 24.Qxd6 Qf8 25.Qd5 Qd8 26.Qc4 Rb2? *(26...Rb7 27.g4 Rba7)* 27.Ne5-/+ Qe7 28.Re3 Rbxa2?= 29.Nxg6 Qf6 30.Nf4 Ra1+ 31.Kh2 R1a4 32.Qxa4 Rxa4 33.Re8+ Kg7 34.Nh5+ Kg6 35.Nxf6 Kxf6 36.g4 h5 37.Kg3 hxg4 38.hxg4 Ra3+ 39.f3 Kg7 1/2-1/2 (39) Halldorsson,B (2110)-Webb,L (2271) Reykjavik 2017) 14...Qxa2[] 15.Bb1!? *(15.Qc3 f6 16.Ra1 Qxa1+ 17.Bxa1 Bxd3; 15.Ra1 Qb3-+ 16.Be4 d6 17.Rb1 f6 18.Bxf6 Qc4 19.Bb2 Qxe4 20.Re1 Qd3 21.Qxd3 Bxd3 22.Rxe7 Rxf3 23.gxf3 Na6* 0-1 (23) Gelfand,B (2761)-Carlsen,M (2872) Zuerich 2014*)* 15...Qc4?? (15...Qb3 16.Re1 d6 17.Rxe7? Nd7!-+ 18.Rxd7 Rab8 *(18...Qb5?? 19.h3+- Qxd7? 20.Bf6!)*) 16.Re1 f6 17.Qh6 Rf7



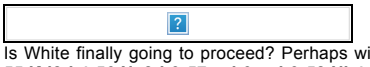
18.Bxg6 Rg7 19.Ng5 hxg6 20.Bxf6 Qf1+ 21.Rxf1 exf6 22.Re1 fxg5 23.Re8+ Kf7 24.Qh8 Kf6 25.Rf8+ Ke5 26.Qxg7+ Kxd5 27.Qg8+ 1-0 (27) Rudd,J (2213)-Webb,L (2286) Cardiff 2016; **b)** 11.Bd2; **c)** 11.Nd2; 11...Bg7 12.h4!?-/+ and somehow Winslow won: 1-0 (89) Winslow,E (2323)-Lope,G (2101) Berkeley 2018 *(12.Bd2 Qb6 13.Bc3 Bxa6 14.g3 Bxd3+ 15.Qxd3 Qa6* 0-1 (52) Wei,N (1783)-Melkumyan,H (2632) London 2015*)*)] **6...Qa5+ 7.Nc3 Rxa7 8.Bd2 Bg7 9.e4 Qb6 10.e5+- Ng8 11.Nb5 Ra8 12.d6 Na6 13.Bc3?!** [13.Qb3! Rb8 14.dxe7 Bxe5 15.Nf3 Bg7 16.Bf4] **13...Nh6 14.dxe7! Nf5 15.Nf3 Kxe7 16.Nd6 Nxd6 17.exd6+ Kf8 18.Ne5** [18.Bc4!] **18...Bxe5 19.Bxe5 Qb4+?!** [19...Rg8] **20.Bc3 Qe4+ 21.Be2! Rg8 22.0-0 Rb8 23.Bf3 Qh4 24.g3 Qg5 25.Re1 Nb4 26.h4 Qd8 27.Re7 Bb7 28.Bxb7 Rxb7** Black resigned without waiting for 29.Qf3. **1-0**

(12) Hakobyan,Sos (1818) - Lehman,Clarence E (1907) [C57]

Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (4.14), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5!? Known in Europe as the Traxler Counterattack, while in the US it's the Wilkes-Barre Variation. Its status remains cloudy. **5.Bxf7+!** [5.Nxf7!? Bxf2+!! is quite exclting but probably has been worked out to a draw.] **5...Ke7 6.Bb3!?** [6.Bd5 is the "theoretical" followup, but this move seems more natural.] **6...Rf8 7.d3 d6 8.h3** [8.Be3! gets the interest in the articles.; 8.0-0? Bg4 9.Nf3 Nd4 10.Be3 Qe8 1/2-1/2 (22) Paoli,E-Wagman,S Reggio Emilia 1965] **8...h6 9.Nf3 Qe8** A standard maneuver in this line **10.Be3N Bxe3 11.fxe3 Qg6 12.Qe2 Nh5 13.Rg1 Qg3+ 14.Qf2 Bxh3?! 15.Qxg3 Nxg3 16.Kf2+- Nxe4+ 17.dxe4 Bg4 18.Nc3 Kd7 19.Kg3! h5 20.Raf1 Rae8 21.Nh2 Be6 22.Rxf8 Rxf8 23.Bxe6+ Kxe6 24.a3 Ne7 25.Rf1 Rh8 26.Nb5 c6 27.Nc3 g5 28.Nf3 Rg8 29.Kh2 b5 30.b4 Rg7 31.g3 Ng8 32.Kg2 Nh6 33.Nh2 Rf7 34.Nf3 Rg7 35.Nh2 Rf7 36.Rxf7 Kxf7 37.Nf3 Kf6 38.Kf2 Ng8 39.Nd2 Ne7 40.Nb3 Ke6 41.Na5 Kd7 42.Nb3 Ke6 43.Nd2 Ng8 44.a4 a6 45.Nf3 Kf6 46.a5 Kg6 47.Ne2 Nf6 48.Nc3 Ne8 49.Ke2 Nc7 50.Kd3 Kf6 51.Ne2**



Is White finally going to proceed? Perhaps with c2-c4 and Nc3, and capture on b5...? In any case, Black decides to strike first. Fatally for him. **51...c5?! 52.bxc5 dxc5 53.Nc3 g4 54.Nh4 c4+ 55.Kd2 b4 56.Na2 b3 57.cxb3 cxb3 58.Nb4 Nb5 59.Nxa6 Na3 60.Kc3 b2 61.Kxb2 Nc4+ 62.Kc3 Nxa5 63.Nb4** [63.Kb4; 63.Nc5] **63...Nb7 64.Nd3 Nd6 65.Nc5 Nf7 66.Kc4 Ng5 67.Kd5 Nf3 68.Ng2 Kg5 69.Nd7 h4 70.gxh4+ Nxh4 71.Nxh4 Kxh4 72.Nxe5 g3 73.Nf3+ Kg4 74.Ne1 Kh3 75.e5 Kh2 76.e6 Kg1 77.Nf3+ Kf2 78.Ke4 1-0**

(13) Breedt,Rudolph Frans (1882) - Ricard,Bruce (1849) [B01]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.9), 04.02.2020

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Be2 Nc6 5.0-0 0-0-0 6.c4 Qf5 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.d4 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Nxd4 10.Bd5 e5 11.Qa4 Nxd5 12.cxd5 Bc5 13.Qc4 Bd6 14.Be3 Qg4 15.f4 Nc2 16.Bc5 Bxc5+ 17.Qxc5 Nxa1 18.Nb5 Qd7 19.d6 b6 20.Nxa7+ Kb7 21.Qxc7+ Qxc7 22.dxc7 Kxc7 23.Rxa1 Rd5 24.a4 Ra8 25.Rc1+ Kd7 26.Nb5 Rc8 27.Nc3 Rd2 28.fxe5 Rxb2 29.Rd1+ Ke6 30.Ne4 Rcc2 31.Ng5+ Kf5 32.Nf3 Rxg2+ 33.Kh1 Rgf2 0-1

(14) Davila,Carlos (2066) - Drane,Robert William (1812)

Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated San Francisco (4.15), 04.02.2020

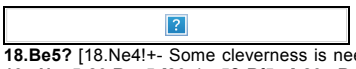
1-0

(15) Abraham,Renjish (1861) - Mercado,Adam (1789) [A11]

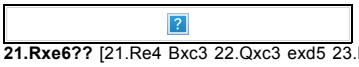
Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.16), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.cxd5 exd5 4.Bg2 c6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.d3 0-0 8.Nc3 Bg4 9.Qb3 Qc8 10.e4 Be6 11.Nd4! [11.e5 d4] **11...Bc5 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Bh3+/- b6?! 14.Bg5+- Qe8 15.Rae1** [15.Bxf6! Rxf6 16.exd5 cxd5 17.Nxd5!] **15...Kh8 16.exd5?!** [16.Bxf6] **16...Qh5 17.Bxf6 Qxh3**



18.Be5? [18.Ne4!+- Some cleverness is needed to show a win here: 18...gxf6 19.Nxc5 bxc5 20.Qb7 slips into a won major piece ending.] **18...Nd7!=** [18...Rf5!=] **19.d4?!** [19.dxe6; 19.dxc6] **19...Nxe5 20.Rxe5** [20.dxe5? Rf5-+] **20...Bxd4=/+**



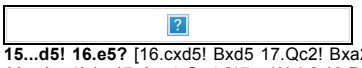
21.Rxe6?? [21.Re4 Bxc3 22.Qxc3 exd5 23.Re7 Qh6=/+] **21...Rf5! 22.Ne2 Rh5** Nice turnaround Adam! **0-1**

(16) Babayan,Gagik (1784) - Xu,Jayden (1712) [A22]

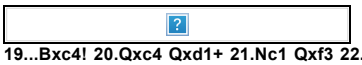
Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.17), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.e4 a6 5.a3 Bc5 6.d3 d6 7.h3 Be6 8.Nf3 h6 9.Bg2 Qd7 10.Qe2 g5 11.g4 0-0-0 12.Be3 Nd4 13.Bxd4 exd4 14.Na2 Rde8 15.0-0-0



15...d5! 16.e5? [16.cxd5! Bxd5 17.Qc2! Bxa2 18.Qxc5! Rd8! 19.Kd2! *(19.Qa7 Qa4!* White has to be careful*; 19.Kc2 Qa4+ 20.Kd2 b6)* 19...Kb8 20.Ra1 Bb3 21.Rhc1 Rhe8 22.Qb4 Qb5] **16...dxc4!-/+ 17.dxc4 Qa4** [17...d3!-/+] **18.Bf1?** [18.b4! Qxa3+ 19.Qb2 Qxb2+ 20.Kxb2 Ne4 21.Rhe1!+/=] **18...Qb3 19.Kb1??**



19...Bxc4! 20.Qxc4 Qxd1+ 21.Nc1 Qxf3 22.Qxc5 Nd7 23.Qxd4 Qxh1 24.Bc4 Rxe5 25.Bxf7 Qe4+ 26.Qxe4 Rxe4 Jayden kept a clear head in the complications! **0-1**

(17) Boldi,Nicholas Armen (1754) - Kaplan,Glenn (1676) [B08]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.18), 04.02.2020

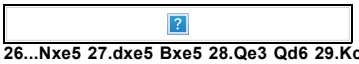
1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 Bg7 5.h3 0-0 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.Bf4 c5 8.dxc5 Nxc5 9.0-0 Bd7 10.Re1 Bc6 11.Qd2 a6 12.Nd4 Nh5 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Be3 Ne6 15.Rab1 Nf6 16.Na4 Nd7 17.b4 Nc7 18.Red1 Nb5 19.Be2 Na3 20.Rb3 Nb5 21.c4 Nc7 22.Qc2 Qe8 23.c5 d5 24.Nb6 Rb8 25.exd5 Nxb6 26.cxb6 Nxd5 27.Bc5 Nxb6 28.Bxa6 Nd7 29.Be3 Nf6 30.Bc4 Rd8 31.Rxd8 Qxd8 32.a4 Nd5 33.Bc5 Qc7 34.a5 Qe5 35.a6 Qa1+ 36.Qb1 Qa4 37.Bxd5 cxd5 38.b5 Qc4 39.Bxe7 Re8 40.Bg5 Bd4 41.Be3 Bxe3 42.Rxe3 Ra8 43.Qd3 Qc1+ 44.Kh2 Qc5 45.Re2 Rb8 46.Rb2 h5 47.Qb3 h4 48.b6 Qd6+ 49.g3 hxg3+ 50.Qxg3 Rxb6 51.Qxd6 Rxd6 52.a7 Ra6 53.Rb8+ Kg7 54.a8Q Rxa8 55.Rxa8 Kf6 56.Kg3 Ke5 1-0

(18) Mays,Jerry L (1700) - Acosta,Anthony (1762) [B01]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.19), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.e5 Bf5 3.d4 e6 4.Nf3 h6 5.Bd3 Ne7 6.c3 c6 7.Qe2 Nd7 8.Nbd2 g5 9.h3 Bg7 10.g4 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Ng6 12.Nb3 a5 13.Be3 a4 14.Nbd2 b5 15.Nf1 Nb6 16.Ng3 Nc4 17.Nh5 Rg8 18.0-0-0 a3 19.b4 Nb2 20.Qd2 Nxd1 21.Rxd1 Qe7 22.Nxg5 hxg5 23.Bxg5 Qf8 24.f4 Kd7 25.f5 exf5 26.gxf5



26...Nxe5 27.dxe5 Bxe5 28.Qe3 Qd6 29.Kc2 f6 30.Bh4 Rg2+ 31.Rd2 Rag8 32.Qa7+ Qc7 33.Qxc7+ Kxc7 34.Bxf6 Rxd2+ 35.Kxd2 Bxf6 36.Nxf6 Rf8 37.Ng4 Rxf5 38.Kc2 Rf3 39.Kb3 Rxh3 40.Nf2 Black won shortly **0-1**

(19) Casares Jr,Nick (1600) - Madhavan,Srikrishnan (1720) [C02]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.20), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

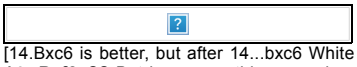
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 a5 7.Be2 Nh6 8.0-0 Nf5 9.Bd3 Be7 10.a4 0-0 11.Na3 cxd4 12.Nb5 dxc3 13.bxc3 Qd8 14.Ba3 b6 15.Bxe7 Ncxe7 16.g4 Nh6 17.h3 Ng6 18.Qd2 f6 19.Bxg6 hxg6 20.Nbd4 Nf7 21.Qe3 Re8 22.Rab1 Bd7 23.Ra1 Qc7 24.Rfe1 Rac8 25.Rec1 fxe5 26.Ne2 Bc6 27.Nh4 Kh7 28.Ng3 Ra8 29.c4 Qe7 30.Qd3? Qxh4 0-1

(20) Malykin,Erika (1675) - Poling,Scott E (1828) [A46]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.21), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 Be7 4.Nbd2 h6 5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.e4 d5 7.e5 [7.c3 keeps the tension and options a bit longer.] **7...Be7 8.c3 c5 9.Bb5+?!** White should have higher hopes for this bishop than just trading it off. [9.Bd3] **9...Nc6 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nb3 Bb6 12.Nbd4 Bd7 13.Qa4 a6!-/+** Black can just laugh off the threats along that diagonal. **14.Nxc6?**



[14.Bxc6 is better, but after 14...bxc6 White is just going to have the unenviable situation of two knights with no outposts (...c5 will be coming) versus two bishop with working diagonals.] **14...Bxf2+??** But here something goes horribly wrong in Black's calculations. [14...bxc6? 15.Bxc6+/= would be White's plan working.; 14...axb5! 15.Nxd8 bxa4 16.Nxb7 might look at first like everything is great for White: extra pawn, super outpost on d6. But after 16...f6-+ the outpost is undermined, the knight is still in big trouble, and Black's rooks and bishops will decide. According to the computer, Black is in fact just winning! *(*or even *16...Ke7!?)* 17.c4 **a)** 17.0-0-0 Ke7; **b)** 17.0-0 Rb8 18.Nd6+ Ke7 19.c4 *(19.Rad1 fxe5 20.Nxe5 Kxd6 21.Nf7+ Ke7 22.Nxh8 Rxh8* is a broken material equality: the two bishops completely outrun the extra rook and extra (but not passed or productive) pawn*.)* 19...fxe5 20.Nb5 *(20.Nf7 Kxf7 21.Nxe5+ Ke8)* 20...Bxb5 *(*or *20...e4 21.Ne5 Be8)* 21.cxb5 Kf6 is also Black holding all the trumps.; 17...Ke7! 18.c5 Ba7 and now the b-file is a problem] **15.Kxf2 Qb6+ 16.Qd4** So White took a piece, I then sacrificed a piece, but I'm getting one back, which leaves me ... uh-oh. [16.Ncd4! Bxb5 17.Qb4] **16...Qxb5 17.Nb4 Rc8 18.Qe3 a5 19.Nd4 Qc4 20.Nd3 0-0 21.Rhf1 b5 22.Kg1 Rb8 23.Nf4!** Heading for h5 where an extra piece spells mate. **23...Rfc8** Abandoning the king is not a good idea. **24.Nh5 Be8**



25.Nf6+ [25.Rf6! is the way to go. The knight works too well with the queen to checkmate!] **25...Kf8** [25...gxf6?! 26.Qg3+ *(*or *26.exf6)* ; 25...Kh8 26.Rf3 (threatening Rh3xh6+) 26...Qc5 (to defend with ...Qf8) 27.Qd3 g6 28.Rh3 Kg7 *(28...Qf8 29.Qe3 h5 30.Qg5* and Rxh5*+)* 29.Qe3 Kf8 30.Rxh6 Ke7 31.Rh8 and Qg5 does not evade mate for long: 31...Bd7 *(31...Bc6 32.Nf5+)* 32.Nxd5+] **26.Nxe6+** [The annoying computer prefers 26.Nh5!] **26...fxe6 27.Nd7+ Ke7 28.Nxb8** [Black resigned, perhaps seeing 28.Nxb8 Rxb8 29.Qa7+] **1-0**

(21) Gurovich,Roman (1714) - Carron,Joel (1645) [D37]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.22), 04.02.2020

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.a3 a5 7.Rb1 b6 8.b4 axb4 9.axb4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Bb7 11.b5 Nbd7 12.0-0 Ne4 13.Qb3 Ndf6 14.Ne5 Nxc3 15.Qxc3 Ne4 16.Qc2 Qe8 17.Bd3 Nf6 18.Qxc7 Rb8 19.Nc6 Nd5 20.Qxb8 Qxb8 21.Nxb8 Rxb8 22.Bd2 Nf6 23.f3 g6 24.e4 Rd8 25.Be3 Nh5 26.Rfc1 Bd6 27.Bf1 Ra8 28.e5 Bb8 29.Ra1 Rxa1 30.Rxa1 Ng7 31.Bd3 Nf5 32.Bxf5 gxf5 33.Bh6 Kh8 34.Bg5 Kg7 35.Be7 Kg6 36.Bd6 Bxd6 37.exd6 Bc8 38.Ra7 1-0

(22) Cortinas,Martin A (1662) - Baer,Michael A (1441) [E04]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.23), 04.02.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 c5 4.c4 cxd4 5.Bg2 dxc4 6.Qa4+ Nc6 7.0-0 e6 8.Ne5 Nd5 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Qxc6+ Bd7 11.Qxc4 Rc8 12.Qxd4 Nf6 13.Bg5 Bc5 14.Qd2 h6 15.Be3 0-0 16.Nc3 Ng4 17.Bxc5 Rxc5 18.Qd4 Rg5 19.Ne4 Rd5 20.Qxa7 Ra5 21.Qd4 Rd5 22.Qc3 Ra5 23.Rfd1 Ra7 24.Qd4 Qb8 25.Rd3 e5 26.Qc3 Bb5 27.Rd2 f5 28.Nd6 Qb6 29.e3 Rc7 30.Qb3+ Rff7 31.Nxf7 1-0

(23) Cendejas,Jon (1274) - Hack,Richard (1567) [C55]

Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated San Francisco (4.24), 04.02.2020

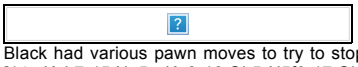
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.0-0 0-0 6.Re1 d6 7.h3 Be6 8.b3 h6 9.d3 Qd7 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.Na4 Bb6 12.Nxb6 axb6 13.c4 Rae8 14.Bb2 Qf7 15.Bc3 Nh5 16.Rf1 Nf4 17.d4 Nxh3+ 18.gxh3 Qxf3 19.Qxf3 Rxf3 0-1

(24) Rakonitz,David (1613) - Morgan,Jerry (1467) [D16]

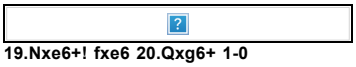
Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.25), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

David makes it look easy in this game! **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 e6** [5...Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4] **6.e3 Bb4** [6...c5!? transposes into the Queen's Gambit Accepted with a "free" a2-a4 for White. This could be a weakness (of b4), but it allows White some later possibilities as well.] **7.Bxc4 0-0 8.0-0 Nd5 9.Bd2 Bxc3 10.bxc3 Nd7 11.e4 N5f6 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bd3 c5?!**



Black had various pawn moves to try to stop this, but it's already gone too far. **14.Bxh7+!** [14.c4! first would really clinch it. 14...Nc7 15.Bxh7+!] **14...Kh8?!** Sometimes this works! But not here. [14...Kxh7 15.Ng5+ Kg8 16.Qh5 N5f6 17.Qh4 White just gets the piece back with a better, no, winning, game. exf6, Bf4-e5, h7 might still crumble.] **15.Bc2** [15.Ng5 g6 16.Qg4 N7f6 17.exf6 Qxf6 18.Qh4 Kg7 19.Nxe6+ fxe6 20.Bg5] **15...cxd4 16.cxd4 b6 17.Ng5 g6 18.Qg4** [18.Ra3! would be the proof that 5.a4 wasn't so bad after all!] **18...Kg7**



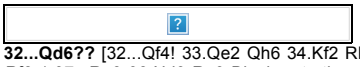
19.Nxe6+! fxe6 20.Qxg6+ 1-0

(25) Allen,Alex (1671) - Yamamoto,Craig (1500) [C02]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.26), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.e5 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Qb6 7.Bd3 Bd7 8.0-0 0-0-0!?N A new move! [There are thousands of games where Black challenged White to prove enough for the center pawn with 8...Nxd4] **9.Nbd2 g6 10.Nb3 h6 11.Bd2 g5 12.Qc2 Kb8 13.Be3 Nb4 14.Qd2 Nxd3 15.Qxd3 Bb5** Black wins the exchange for a won game. **16.Qd1 Bxf1 17.Qxf1 Ne7 18.Bd2 Nc6 19.Qd1 Be7** [19...g4!?] **20.h3 f6 21.exf6 Bxf6 22.Bc3 h5 23.Nc5 g4 24.hxg4 hxg4 25.Nh2 g3! 26.fxg3 e5! 27.Na4** [27.Ng4 exd4! many other moves win 28.Na4 Qc7 29.Bd2 Qxg3 White's king will not survive.] **27...Qc7 28.dxe5 Bxe5 29.Nf3 Bxc3 30.bxc3 Rdg8 31.Rb1 Rxg3** Black has had many alternatives along the way, including here [31...Qxg3! 32.Qe2 Ka8 *(32...Rh6)*] **32.Nc5**



32...Qd6?? [32...Qf4! 33.Qe2 Qh6 34.Kf2 Rhg8 35.Rg1 Black is just winning, but the extra push is 35...Rxf3+! 36.Qxf3 *(36.Kxf3 Rf8+; 36.gxf3 Qh2+ 37.Ke3 Qxg1+)* 36...Qd2+ 37.Kf1 *(37.Qe2 Rf8+)* 37...Re8 38.Nd3 Re3 Black gets there.; 32...Ka8!] **33.Nxb7??** [33.Ne4! pulls the plug on Black's attack AND material: 33...Qg6 34.Nxg3 Qxg3 35.Qxd5 Black will draw, but the win and any advantage is completely gone.] **33...Qg6** [33...Qh6! is even better, if that is possible] **34.Rb2 Kc8??** [34...Qh5-+ (and others) are back in the saddle again.] **35.Qxd5** Craig didn't see a defense and resigned. [Only a computer or a desperate defender would find 35.Qxd5 Rxg2+!? *(35...Rh6* was a try, but *36.Nd4 Re3 37.Nf5 Re6* is quite a crazed cover of d6*)* 36.Rxg2 Qb1+ 37.Kf2 Qxb7 38.Rg8+ Rxg8 39.Qxg8+ Kc7 Black could dream of holding in this ending.] **1-0**

(26) Tamondong,Cesar Bercilla (1617) - Hansen,Mateo Stephen (1624) [D74]

Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (4.27), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 c6 [5...d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Nc3 Nb6 8.0-0 Nc6 9.e3 Re8 is still interesting and topical. *(9...e5 10.d5)*] **6.0-0 d5 7.cxd5 Nxd5** [7...cxd5] **8.Nc3 Bg4 9.h3 Be6 10.e4 Nb4 11.b3 c5 12.Be3 N8c6 13.Ne2 Qc8??** [13...cxd4 14.Nfxd4 Qd7=] **14.Kh2??** [14.d5+- Bxh3 *(14...Rd8 15.Nf4)* 15.Bxh3 Qxh3 16.dxc6] **14...cxd4-/+ 15.Nexd4 Rd8 16.Nxc6 Nxc6** [16...Qxc6! 17.Bd2 Qxe4 18.Re1 Qf5] **17.Qe2 Bxa1 18.Rxa1 f6!** quick compensation for the missing bishop **19.Rc1 Qd7 20.Qb2 Nb4! 21.Qa3** else ...Rac8 **21...Nd3?!** [21...a5 change of plans -- now ...Rdc8 will be great] **22.Rd1 Qd6 23.Qxd6?!** [23.Qa4 continues the knight annoyance. 23...Qa6 24.Qxa6 bxa6 25.Nd4 Nb4! annoys back, as in the game, with some advantage still.] **23...Rxd6 24.Nd4 Nb4 25.Bf4?!** On a lateral rook move by White, Black either saves the bishop with 25...Bf7 or forces its exchange with 25...Rad8. **25...Rd7 26.a3** Now White falls apart **26...Nc2 27.Be3 Rad8** [27...Bf7] **28.Nxe6 Rxd1 29.Nxd8 Nxe3 30.Nxb7 Nxg2 31.Kxg2** As so often, the computer thinks Black has let half of his advantage slip away, while most humans would think: "liquidating into an easy ending win." **31...Kf7 32.Nc5 Rc1 33.b4 Rc3 34.a4 Rc4 35.Kf3 Rxb4 36.Ke3 Rc4** Other than the blunder trade-off on moves 13-14, Black showed a mature Gruenfeld handling. **0-1**

(27) James,Charles (1404) - Gimelfarb,Ilia (1599) [D35]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.10), 04.02.2020

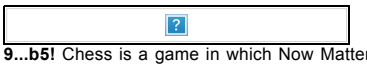
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 e6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bf5 7.Nh4 Bg4 8.f3 Bh5 9.g4 Nxg4 10.Ng2 Nh6 11.Bxh6 gxh6 12.Qc2 Nd7 13.0-0-0 Bd6 14.Rd3 Qg5+ 15.Re3+ Kd8 16.h4 Qf6 17.Rd3 Re8 18.e4 Bf4+ 19.Kb1 Bg6 20.h5 dxe4 21.fxe4 Bxe4 22.Nxe4 Rxe4 23.Qf2 Bg5 24.Rf3 Qxd4 25.Bd3 Qxf2 26.Rxf2 Re7 27.Rhf1 f6 28.Bf5 Kc7 29.Ne1 Bh4 30.Rd2 Bxe1 31.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 32.Kc2 Rd8 33.Rg2 Re5 0-1

(28) Neugut,Eitan (1322) - Ansari,Jahaan (1461) [A03]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.28), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.f4 e6 [It is worth noting that in the extremely famous game Emanuel Lasker vs. Johann Bauer, Amsterdam 1889, the soon to be world champion played 1...d5 2.e3] **2.Nf3 d5 3.b3 c5 4.Bb2** [4.e3!?] **4...d4** This might seem suspect at first, but it ends up working very well! **5.g3 Nf6 6.c3 Nc6 7.cxd4 cxd4 8.Qc2? Nb4 9.Qc4**



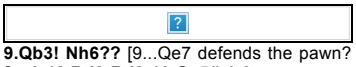
9...b5! Chess is a game in which Now Matters. **10.Qc1 Bb7 11.Na3 Rc8** [11...d3; even 11...Nd3+!? 12.exd3 Bxf3 13.Rg1 Rc8 14.Qb1 *(14.Nc2 h5! 15.h4 e5! 16.fxe5 Ng4* makes a horrible mess of White's game*)* 14...Qd5] **12.Qb1 Be4 13.d3 Nxd3+! 14.exd3 Bxf3 15.Rg1 Ng4!** Not allowing the king to slip away via f2 **16.Nc2 Qa5+!** It's checkmate in a few. **0-1**

(29) Ross,Max L (1549) - Sachs-Weintraub,Julian (1429) [D00]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.29), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.e3 g6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Nbd2 Bg7 5.c4 dxc4 6.Bxc4 [6.Nxc4!?] **6...e5?** Not ready! **7.dxe5** [7.Qb3!; 7.Nxe5!] **7...Nxe5?** [7...Nh6!? but it's still quite bad.] **8.Nxe5 Bxe5**



9.Qb3! Nh6?? [9...Qe7 defends the pawn? 10.Bxf7+! anyway! 10...Qxf7 11.Qb5+] **10.Qb5+ c6 11.Qxe5+ Kd7 12.Ne4 Qe7 13.Nc5+ Kd8 14.Qxh8+ Kc7 15.Nd3 Be6 16.Qe5+ Kb6 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Bd2 Rd8 19.Qa5# 1-0**

(30) Starr,Albert Martin (1552) - Radaelli,Lucas (1411) [A00]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.30), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

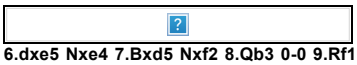
1.b4 c5 2.b5 d5 3.e3 Bf5 4.c4 e6 5.Bb2 a6 6.a4 axb5 7.axb5 Rxa1 8.Bxa1 Nf6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.Be2 Ne4 [10...Qa5 11.Bc3 Qa2=/+] **11.0-0 0-0 12.d3 Nd6 13.Nbd2 Bf6 14.Ne5 Nd7 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Nf3 Rd8 18.Qb3 dxc4 19.dxc4 Qc7 20.Nh4 Ne4 21.Rd1 Bg6 22.Rxd8+ Qxd8 23.g3 Qd2 24.Qd1 Qxd1+ 25.Bxd1 Nd6 26.Be2 Bc2 27.Nf3 Ne4 28.Kf1 Nc3 29.Ne1 Be4 30.Bd3 Kg7 31.f3 Bg6 32.e4 e5 33.g4 h5 34.h3 Kh6 35.Ng2 Kg5 36.h4+ Kh6 37.Ne3 hxg4 38.Nxg4+ Kg7 39.Kf2 Na4 40.Kg3 Nb2 41.Be2 f5 42.Nxe5 fxe4 43.Nxg6 exf3 44.Kxf3 fxg6 45.Kf4 Kf6 46.Ke4 Ke6 47.Kf4 Kf6 1/2-1/2**

(31) Simpkins,Jerry (1539) - Roberts,Joseph (1358) [C54]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.31), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 d5



6.dxe5 Nxe4 7.Bxd5 Nxf2 8.Qb3 0-0 9.Rf1 Nd3+ 10.Ke2 Nxc1+ 11.Rxc1 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Qe7 13.Bxf7+ Kh8 14.Qd5 Bg4+ 15.Ke1 Rad8 16.Qe4 Qh4+ 17.g3 Qxh2



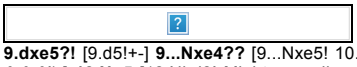
18.Nxg4 Qxg3+ 19.Ke2 Rxf7 20.Rh1 g6 21.Qe5+ Qxe5+ 22.Nxe5 Re8 23.Na3 Rxe5+ 24.Kd3 Bxa3 25.bxa3 c5 26.Rag1 Kg7 27.Rh2 b5 28.Rgh1 Rf3+ 29.Kc2 h5 30.Rb1 c4 31.a4 a6 32.axb5 Rxb5 33.Rd1 Kh6 34.Rd6 a5 35.Rc6 Rf4 36.Rg2 Rg5 37.Rxg5 Kxg5 38.Rc5+ Kg4 39.Rxa5 g5 40.Ra6 h4 41.a4 h3 42.Rh6 Kg3 43.a5 h2 44.a6 Rf6 [44...Rh4!] **45.Rxf6 h1Q 46.a7 Qa8 47.Rf7** and Black went on to win. **0-1**

(32) Jade,Valerie (1532) - Rushton,Peter James (1294) [C52]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.32), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4!? Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 Qe7?! 7.0-0 Nf6?! 8.Ba3 d6



9.dxe5?! [9.d5!+-] **9...Nxe4??** [9...Nxe5! 10.Qa4+ Kf8 hangs together for Black -- only he has any advantage.] **10.Re1 Bf5 11.exd6 Qd7** [11...cxd6 12.Qd5! *(12.Nbd2!; 12.Bxd6?! Qd7 13.Nbd2 0-0-0!)*] **12.Ng5** [12.Nbd2! Might as well get another piece into the fray.] **12...0-0-0 13.Nxe4 Ne5 14.Bb3 Qb5 15.Ba4 Qb6 16.Nbd2 Bxe4 17.Nxe4 c6 18.Rb1 Qa6 19.Nc5 Qc4 20.Rxe5 Bb6 21.d7+ Kc7 22.Ne6+ fxe6 23.Qd6# 1-0**

(33) Rothman,Ivan (1487) - Sai,Rohit

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.33), 04.02.2020

1/2-1/2

(34) Bryan,Robert R (373) - Martin,Michael J (1387) [D37]

Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated San Francisco (4.34), 04.02.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 b6 8.a4 Nb4 9.Bc2 a6 10.Bb3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Bb7 12.e4 Nxe4 13.d5 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Nxd5 15.Bd2 Bf6 16.Ng5 Bxg5 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.Ba2 Nxc3 19.Qd2 Qxg2# 0-1

(35) Harris,Clarence (1402) - Ahrens,Richard William (1256) [C01]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.35), 04.02.2020

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 e6 4.Nf3 Bb4+ 5.c3 Ba5 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 d6 8.Nbd2 Nd7 9.Nc4 c5 10.Nxd6 f6 11.Re1 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nxe5 13.Nxc8 Qxc8 14.Bc2 Re8 15.Re4 Nc6 16.Rh4 g6 17.Qg4 f5 18.Qg5 Bd8 19.Qh6 Bxh4 20.Qxh4 Nxd4 21.Qxd4 b5 22.Bh6 Qd7 23.a4 e5 24.Qd2 Nf6 25.Bb3+ Kh8 26.Qg5 Qe7 27.axb5 Ng4 28.Qxe7 Rxe7 29.Bg5 Ree8 30.h3 Nxf2 31.Kxf2 Kg7 32.Ra6 e4 33.Ke3 h6 34.Bf6+ Kh7 35.Bd5 1-0

(36) Bayaraa,Timothy (1193) - Chan,John (1506) [C46]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.36), 04.02.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Ne5 6.Bf4 Ng6 7.Qf3 d6 8.Bc4 Nf6 9.0-0-0 Bg4 10.Qe3 Bxd1 11.Rxd1 Be7 12.e5 Nh5 13.Bg3 Nxg3 14.hxg3 0-0 15.Nf3 Qc8 16.e6 f6 17.Nd5 Qe8 18.Rh1 Ne5 19.Nxe5 fxe5 20.Qe4 g6 21.f4 c6 22.Nxe7+ Qxe7 23.fxe5 d5 24.Qg4 dxc4 25.Rh6 Rad8 26.Qxc4 Qg5+ 0-1

(37) Olson,David R (1400) - Gimelfarb,Natan (1134) [A28]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.37), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Nc6 2.c4 e5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Qc2 Bc5 5.d3 d6 6.Bg5 Bg4 7.Nd5 Bxf3 8.gxf3 Nb4 9.Qa4+ Qd7 10.Qxd7+ Kxd7 11.Bh3+ Kc6 12.Ne7+ Kb6 13.Kd2 Bxf2 14.a3 h6 15.Bxf6 Be3+ 16.Kc3 gxf6 17.axb4 Bd4+ 18.Kb3 Rae8 19.Nd5+ Kc6 20.Nxf6 Re7 21.Bg2 e4 22.fxe4 Bxf6 23.e5+ Kd7 24.exf6 Rxe2 25.Bxb7 c6 26.Rhg1 Rb8 27.Rxa7 Rxh2 28.Rg7 Rf8 29.Ba6+ Ke6 30.Rc7 Kxf6 31.Rg3 Ra8 32.Rxc6 Ke6 "32.Ba6" -- White won around move 50. **1-0**

(38) Lintz,Michael Harry (1376) - Shannon,Rex [D00]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.38), 04.02.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nd2 Bf5 5.c3 e6 6.Be2 Bd6 7.Bg3 e5 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Ngf3 Nd3+ 10.Bxd3 Bxd3 11.Nb3 Bc4 12.Ne5 Bxe5 13.Bxe5 Ne4 14.Qg4 Qe7 15.Qxg7 Rf8 16.Bg3 0-0-0 17.Qxh7 Rh8 18.Qf5+ Kb8 19.0-0-0 Nxc3 20.bxc3 Qa3+ 21.Kb1 Bxb3 22.axb3 Qxb3+ 23.Kc1 Rh6 24.Qc2 Qa3+ 25.Qb2 Qa5 26.Rd4 Ka8 27.Kd2 Ra6 28.Rb4 c5 29.Rxb7 Qa2 30.Rb1 d4 31.Qxa2 Rxa2+ 32.R1b2 Rxb2+ 33.Rxb2 d3 34.c4 a6 35.Rb3 Ka7 36.Rxd3 Ra8 37.Rd7+ Kb6 38.Rxf7 Ka5 39.Rb7 Ka4 40.Kc3 Rd8 41.Rb1 Ka5 42.Bc7+ 1-0

(39) Allen,Tom Carter (1426) - Sterling,Isaac (1126) [B21]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.40), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

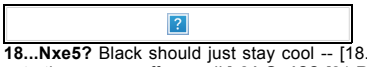
1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 Nf6?! [6...e6; 6...a6] **7.0-0** [7.e5!? dxe5 8.Qxd8+ Nxd8 9.Nxe5 a6 10.0-0 b5 11.Bb3 Bb7 12.Rd1 h6 13.Rxd8+ Rxd8 14.Bxf7# 1-0 (14 Allen,T (1507)-Habeeb,K (1524) Winter TNM, San Francisco 2011] **7...e6 8.Qe2 a6 9.Rd1 Qc7 10.Bf4 e5?!** [10...Bd7; 10...Ne5] **11.Bg3?!** [11.Bg5; 11.Nd5! Nxd5 12.exd5] **11...Be7 12.Rac1 0-0 13.Bb3 Nh5 14.Nd5 Nxg3 15.fxg3** [15.hxg3] **15...Qd8 16.a3 Bg4 17.Qd3 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Nd4 19.Rc7 Bg5 20.f4 Bh6 21.Rdc1 Ne6 22.Ne7+ Kh8 23.Nf5?? 0-1**

(40) Sullivan,George Thomas (914) - Cole,Tony (1400) [C16]

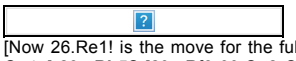
Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.41), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Ba5 6.Nf3 h6 7.b4 Bb6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Na4 f6 10.Nh4 fxe5 11.Nxb6 axb6 12.dxe5 Nf5 13.g3 Nxh4 14.gxh4 Qxh4 15.Qe2 Qd4 16.Rb1 [16.Ra2 made for a different analysis until I noticed White's 29th move!] **16...Nc6 17.Bb2 Qh4 18.c3**



18...Nxe5? Black should just stay cool -- [18...Bd7; or even 18...Qg5 (stopping 0-0 and threatening e5)] **19.Qxe5 Qxf2+ 20.Kd1 Qg2?!** [20...Bd7 21.c4! Qg2 22.Qg3!?+/- gets activated, and gets the queens off as well.] **21.Qe1??** [21.Re1!+/-] **21...Rf3?** [21...Rf2-+] **22.Be2= Re3 23.Kd2 Qe4?** [23...Qg5 24.h4 Qf4 25.Rf1 Rf3+ 26.Kc2 Qe4+ 27.Kd2 Qf4+=] **24.Qf1?** [24.Qf2! is now a win. The best Black can do is 24...Rxe2+ *(24...Rh3 25.Rbg1* when White is lining up on g7*)* 25.Qxe2 Qxe2+ 26.Kxe2 but it's a rook for three pawns, not a bishop, and that makes quite a difference.] **24...Bd7** [24...e5!?] **25.Bd3?** [25.Rg1+/-] **25...Qe5** [Here 25...Rxd3+! 26.Qxd3 Qg2+ 27.Qe2 Qg5+ 28.Qe3 Qg2+ is a perpetual] **26.Qf2??**



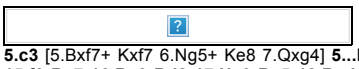
[Now 26.Re1! is the move for the full point.] **26...Rxd3+! 27.Kxd3 Qe4+?** [27...Bb5+!?; 27...Rf8! 28.Qe3 Qh5 is looking quite good for Black.] **28.Kd2 Ba4 29.Rbc1** [29.Rhg1 Qc2+ 30.Ke3 Qe4+] **29...Bb5?** [29...Rf8 30.Qe2 Qf4+ 31.Qe3 Qf2+ 32.Qe2=] **30.Qe3??** White's king needs an escape (on c1): [30.Rce1; 30.Rcg1; Even 30.Rcf1] **30...Qg2+ 0-1**

(41) Chambers,Don (1298) - Wagner,Tyler (1050) [B50]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.42), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.0-0 Bg4



5.c3 [5.Bxf7+ Kxf7 6.Ng5+ Ke8 7.Qxg4] **5...Ne5 6.Bb5+** [6.Nxe5 Bxd1 7.Bxf7#] **6...Nc6 7.d4 a6 8.Bc4 cxd4 9.cxd4 e5 10.Bxf7+ Kxf7 11.Ng5+ Qxg5 12.Bxg5 Bxd1 13.Rxd1 Nxd4 14.Rd2 Nf6 15.f3 Be7 16.Be3 Bd8 17.Nc3 Ba5 18.Bxd4 exd4 19.Rxd4 Bb6 20.Rad1 Bxd4+ 21.Rxd4 Rad8 22.g4 h6 23.h3 g5 24.Kf2 Ke6 25.Ne2 Rhe8 26.f4 gxf4 27.Nxf4+ Ke5 28.Ke3 d5 29.Ng6+ Ke6 30.e5 Kf7 31.Rf4 Kxg6 32.Rxf6+ Kg7 33.Kf4 Rf8 34.g5 hxg5+ 35.Kxg5 Rxf6 36.exf6+ Kf7 0-1**

(42) Ballantyne,Andrew (877) - Frank,Robert H (1222) [C47]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.43), 04.02.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Bd2 Nxc3 9.Bxc3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Bd3 Qg5 12.0-0 Qxe5 13.Qd2 d5 14.Rfe1 Qd6 15.Re2 Bg4 16.Re3 c5 17.Rg3 f5 18.Qg5 h6 19.Qg6 Qxg6 20.c4 d4 21.Rb1 Rab8 22.Rb5 Qd6 23.h3 Bh5 24.Bf1 f4 25.Rgb3 c6 26.Ra5 Rxb3 27.cxb3 Qc7 28.Rxc5 Bg6 29.b4 Rf5 30.Rxf5 Bxf5 31.a4 a5 32.b5 cxb5 33.cxb5 Qc1 34.b6 Bd3 35.b7 Qxf1+ 36.Kh2 Qb1 37.b8Q+ Qxb8 38.h4 f3+ 39.g3 Qb1 40.Kh3 Bf5+ 41.g4 Qf1+ 42.Kg3 Qg1+ 43.Kf4 Qxg4+ 44.Ke5 Qe4+ 45.Kd6 Kf7 46.Kc5 d3 47.h5 Qb4+ 48.Kd5 Kf6 49.Kc6 Be4+ 50.Kd7 Qxa4+ 51.Kc7 Ke6 52.Kb6 Qb4+ 53.Ka7 Qb7# 0-1

(43) Dubensky,Walter Barnett (1120) - Johnson,Nathaniel [D30]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.45), 04.02.2020

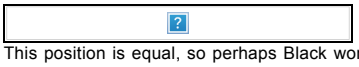
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 Nc6 4.e3 Nf6 5.c4 h6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Nc3 a6 8.Be2 Bb4 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bxc3 b5 11.a3 0-0 12.a4 b4 13.c4 a5 14.cxd5 Nxd5 15.Qc1 Nc3 16.Bb5 Na7 17.Qc2 c6 18.Bd3 f5 19.Ne5 Qe8 20.f3 Be6 21.g4 g5 22.gxf5 Bf7 23.Bg3 Nd5 24.Rae1 Rb8 25.Bc4 Rc8 26.e4 Nf4 27.Ng6 Kg7 28.Bxf4 Bxg6 29.Be5+ Kh7 30.fxg6+ Qxg6 31.Bg3 h5 32.Bd3 Kh6 33.Kh1 h4 34.e5 Qg7 35.Bf2 Rxf3 36.Rg1 Rxf2 37.Qxf2 Rf8 38.Qd2 Nc8 39.Qc2 Ne7 40.Be4 Rf4 41.Bxc6 Nxc6 42.Qxc6+ Kh5 43.Qe8+ Kh6 44.d5 b3 45.e6 Qd4 46.e7 Qxd5+ 47.Rg2 h3 48.Qh8+ Kg6 49.e8Q+ Rf7 50.Qe6+ Qxe6 51.Rxe6+ Kf5 52.Rge2 Kg4 53.R6e4+ Rf4 54.Qc8+ Kf3 55.R4e3# 1-0

(44) North,Jeff James (867) - Pagan Griso,Simone [B18]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.46), 04.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 h6 7.Be2 [7.Ne5] **7...Nd7 8.0-0 Ngf6 9.Be3 e6 10.c3 Bd6 11.b4 0-0 12.Qb3 Rc8 13.Rad1 Bb8 14.c4 Qc7 15.d5 cxd5 16.cxd5 Bc2 17.d6 Qd8 18.Qb2 Bxd1 19.Rxd1 b6 20.Rd4 Rc6 21.Rh4 Ne8 22.Bxh6 Qf6 23.Qd2 Bxd6 24.Ne4 Qg6 25.Nd4 Ndf6 26.Nxf6+ Nxf6 27.Nxc6 Qb1+ 28.Bf1 Ne4 29.Qxd6 Nxd6 30.Ne7+ Kh8 31.Bf4+ Qh7 32.Rxh7+ Kxh7 33.Bxd6 Rd8 34.Bf4 Rd4 35.g3 Rxb4 36.Nc6 Ra4 37.Bc4 Rxc4 38.Nxa7 Ra4 39.Nb5 Rxa2 40.Bc7 Rb2 41.Nd6 b5 42.Nxf7 Kg6 43.Ne5+ Kf5 44.Kg2 Ke4 45.Nf3 b4 46.Ng5+ Kf5 47.Nf3 b3 48.Nd4+ Ke4 49.Bb6 e5 50.Nxb3 Rxb3 51.Be3 g6 52.Kh3 Rxe3 53.fxe3 Kxe3 54.Kg2 Ke2 55.g4 e4 56.h4 e3 57.h5 gxh5 58.gxh5 Kd1**



This position is equal, so perhaps Black won on time **0-1**

(45) Neuberg,Bryan - Hall,Diana [C21]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.47), 04.02.2020

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Bc4 g6 5.Nf3 Qf6 6.Qb3 Nh6 7.e5 Qf5 8.Nxc3 Nc6 9.Nd5 Kd8 10.0-0 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Qxe5 12.Bf4 Qe4 13.Bxc7+ Ke8 14.Rfe1 Qe6 15.Nf6+ Ke7 16.Bxe6 dxe6 17.Nd5+ 1-0

(46) Tabatabai,Ashkon (962) - Dunlap,Steven (1037) [B44]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.48), 04.02.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.g3 Nge7 6.Bg2 g6 7.e5 Bg7 8.Nxc6 Nxc6 9.Bxc6 Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Qxe5+ 11.Be3 bxc6 12.Nc3 a5 13.0-0 Ba6 14.Re1 Qc7 15.Bd4 Bxd4 16.Qxd4 0-0-0 17.b4 d6 18.bxa5 c5 19.Qe4 d5 20.Qe5 Qxe5 21.Rxe5 Kd7 22.Rb1 Kd6 23.f4 Rb8 24.Rxb8 Rxb8 25.g4 d4 26.Ne4+ Ke7 27.Nxc5 Rb1+ 28.Kg2 Bc4 29.a6 Ra1 30.f5 Rxa2 31.h4 Rxc2+ 32.Kg3 d3 33.Ne4 d2 34.Nxd2 Rxd2 35.Ra5 Rd3+ 36.Kf2 Rd2+ 37.Ke3 Rd5 38.Ra4 Bb5 39.Ra3 Bc6 40.Rc3 Re5+ 41.Kf4 Re4+ 42.Kg3 Ba8 43.Rc8 Re3+ 44.Kf2 Rf3+ 45.Ke1 Be4 46.a7 Ra3 47.Rc7+ Kf6 48.Kd1 Bf3+ 49.Kc2 Bxg4 50.Kb2 Ra5 51.Kc3 Bxf5 52.Kb4 Ra1 53.Kc5 Rc1+ 54.Kb6 Rb1+ 55.Kc5 Rc1+ 56.Kb5 Bd3+ 57.Kb6 Rb1+ 58.Kc5 Rc1+ 59.Kb6 Rb1+ 1/2-1/2

(47) Nicol,George R (1015) - Uzakbaev,Nursultan (1415) [E10]

Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (4.49), 04.02.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Nc3 e6 5.a3 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 Ne8 8.0-0 Nd6 9.e4 dxc4 10.Bc2 f6 11.Re1 Qd7 12.e5 Nf7 13.d5 Ncxe5 14.dxe6 Qxe6 15.Nd4 Qd7 16.Ba4 c6 17.Bc2 c5 18.Bf5 Qxd4 19.Bxc8 Raxc8 20.Nb5 Qh4 21.h3 Rfd8 22.Qa4 Ng5 23.Qxa7 Nef3+ 0-1

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We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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Newsletter #905

Feb 14, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM
- Inaugural Championship Quads
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- TD Corner
- Tony's Teaser
- Scholastic Chess
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- TNM Games
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM Round 5

TNM Round 5: Fast Paced Action and Frantic Finishes on Tuesday Night Entertainment

The 5th round of the Wilkerson Memorial TNM felt a bit unusual from the start. After two hours, many games had already finished, and what normally has been a full room at 8:30pm looked a bit barren on the 2nd side of the main chess club. Even in the championship section, there was one game that ended very quickly, and served as a reminder to young players about the perils of letting your opponent dictate the pace. The top 2 seeds finished off with wins, carrying them another round closer to finising at the top of the leaderboard. The last two rounds look like it will be about the top players holding off challenges from game veterans aiming to crack into the top spots. We expect the action to be lively and intense over the last two weeks.

One of the players at the top of the leaderboard in the championship section is young Nicholas Weng, who received a full point this week after his opponent could not make it. He is tied for 2nd at 4/5, and was paired with an extra rated game against club veteran NM Carlos Davila. The game finished quickly with Davila finishing Weng after 33 moves and 20 minutes of time for the whole game. One thing at all skill levels are young players being carried to the pace of their opponent, sometimes to the detriment of their own play. Maybe this was an opportunity for Weng, to have experienced this game as an extra rated game, so that he can learn this lesson all younger players need to realize. He has shown tremendous talent with wins over Tsodikova, Walder and Childress, and he will be playing a big game in round 6. He will certainly be a player to follow over the next several years.

Headed to round 6, FM Josiah Stearman remains in sole first place with 4.5/5 after a win against IM Elliott Winslow. Tied for 2nd are FM Kyron Griffith and Nicholas Weng at 4/5. Dangerous veterans lurk at 3.5 including Winslow, Natalya Tsodikova, Jason Childress, and David Askin. The latter two players have been playing superb chess of late, so they will certainly pose a challenge to the top of the leaderboard.

CM Ethan Boldi (white) against FM Kyron Griffith on board 2 during round 5 of the 2020 Wilkerson TNM. Both players will also be playing the 2020 US Amateur Team West Championship this coming weekend.

In the A/B section, Bruce Ricard continues to dominate and remains perfect at 5/5 after a win against Bob Drane. Ricard took control early and took advantage of better piece placement to gain the win. A couple of young and hungry players sit at 4/5, Jayden Xu and Nicholas Boldi, so we will see if youth can conquer experience in next weeks round.

In the under 1600 section, Ilia Gimelfarb continues perfection after a dominating win against Jahaan Ansari. He is in sole first at 5/5 with Max Ross in clear 2nd with 4.5/5 after winning a drawish looking game against a very tough Valerie Jade. It looks like this will set up a big match where Ilia can either gain dominating separation from the field or allow Ross to take over sole lead. In a very large section, these two players look to run away from the crowd.

It is never too late to join the marathon! To register, please email us: chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

To watch the replay of the round: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yl4cizO826U&t=1569s (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924050656/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yl4cizO826U&t=1569s)

For a full list of standings and results from the round, click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924050656/https://www.milibrary.org/tuesday-night-marathon)

Check out some photos from this round: https://www.facebook.com/mechanicschess/posts/520509015236513 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924050656/https://www.facebook.com/mechanicschess/posts/520509015236513)

Inaugural Mechanics' Championship Quads

On Saturday, February 8th the oldest chess club in the United States had a new, fun tournament: the first Mechanics' Institute Championship Quads. We did not know what to expect when we first entertained the idea of holding this tournament. Credit goes to Maxim Elisam, who took time on a Friday afternoon in early January to stop by and explain why he thinks this format would work. After a quick brainstorming session, we came up with the basic, "pilot" formula (time control, entry fee, prize fund) and soon after approved the new tournament.

Why Quads? Because given enough players in the tournament, players get to play with others very close to their rating, which is always very useful for any player!

Why G/30? Because in three hours, one can play three games that will be affecting the regular rating (as well as the quick rating, hence it's called dual rated.)

Why 3PM? As simple as it may sound: it's after lunch, but have time to finish before dinner!

We called it a pilot, so that it is clear for everyone that we are testing out this format and gathering experience so that we can adjust the format as needed. Maxim said he'll be the first one to register. Then came the biggest surprise - within the last few days of the tournament, we had more than 20-25 players sign up online! Together with the onsite registrations, we had 30 players show up, which made six quads and 6-player mini-Swiss. After grouping the players into quads, the pairings were generated for all three rounds, except of course the mini-Swiss, which was paired every round. The beauty of the quads is that the pairings are known for all three rounds at the beginning of the tournament, and once all four players finished their round in any given quad, they can automatically start the next round. This makes for a very player-friendly schedule.

The success and the strength of the event can be demonstrated by a few data points alone: the average rating of the top quad was 2107. MI club player, Albert Starr, was assigned to play in the bottom "mini-Swiss" group with his 1500 rating. Of the six quads, five of them had a clear winner, taking home the $60 prize alone. The top quad had a 2-way tie for first between the poker-expert and action-loving Daniel Smith, and the young and fierce Austin Mei.

Top Quad with an average rating of 2107!

What was even more reassuring besides the amazing turnout and the fun we had running this event, was the fact that many of our regular players who couldn't make it took the time to write to us voicing their support and approval:

> "I like the idea of the MI hosting quads. I don't know if I will be able to participate on Feb. 8 but will try to make it in the future."
> "Love this format! Bummed I can't make it."
> "I like this idea, unfortunately, not able to play but would otherwise definitely be a participant."

Many thanks for all who took the time to send their feedback:

> "Thanks for a wonderful tournament last Saturday and congratulations for the big success of the first Quads championship!"
> "I really enjoyed the inaugural g30 quads as a format and hope to see more of it."

More information with final standing and prize distribution: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924050656/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads-pilot)

Stay tuned for the next one, which is on Sunday, March 1st, at 3PM.
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads-2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924050656/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads-2)
Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/MechanicsChampionshipQuads2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924050656/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/MechanicsChampionshipQuads2)

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Famous Chess Games You Should Know- More Random Brilliancies.

By FM Paul Whitehead

These games are masterpieces that are very well-known and have been extensively annotated elsewhere. Nevertheless, when I was developing as a player, I annotated my more interesting games. This brings me back to that time, and I encourage you, the reader, to consider this practice as well.

What's your greatest game? Have you played a brilliancy? Send it in to the newsletter – maybe we'll print it with your notes!In the meantime, enjoy some flashy chess from some of the greatest chess players of all time.

(1) Wilhelm Steinitz - Curt von Bardeleben [C54]

Hastings Hastings ENG, 1895

This game is from the famous Hastings tournament of 1895/96, won by Pillsbury ahead of Lasker, Steinitz, Chigorin, Tarrasch and others. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4**

We are in the main line of the Giuoco Piano. **6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 d5?!** Nowadays 7...Nxe4 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.d5 (the Moller attack) is the main line. **8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bg5** Rapid development! **10...Be7**

Now white initiates a series of exchanges designed to keep black's king in the center. **11.Bxd5 Bxd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Re1 f6 15.Qe2 Qd7 16.Rac1**

Now black should play 16...Kf7 uniting the rooks. **16...c6?!** Designed to discourage white from playing d5. However... **17.d5!** Anyway! White opens the d4 square for the knight. **17...cxd5 18.Nd4 Kf7 19.Ne6**

The white knight takes up a strong position in black's camp. **19...Rhc8 20.Qg4 g6 21.Ng5+ Ke8**

Now comes one of the most celebrated chess moves of all time: **22.Rxe7+!!**

22...Kf8! Inspired defense! Also losing is [22...Kxe7 23.Re1+ Kd6 *(23...Kd8 24.Ne6+ Ke7 25.Nc5+)* 24.Qb4+ Rc5 *(24...Kc6 25.Rc1#)* 25.Re6+ wins everything.] **23.Rf7+! Kg8** [23...Qxf7 24.Rxc8+ Rxc8 25.Qxc8+ Qe8 26.Nxh7+ wins.] **24.Rg7+!**

The rook is on a rampage on the 7th rank! **24...Kh8** [Of course if 24...Kxg7 25.Qxd7+] **25.Rxh7+**

[At this point Bardeleben left the tournament hall! Steinitz announced mate in 10 moves (or black loses tons of material): 25.Rxh7+ Kg8 26.Rg7+ Kh8 27.Qh4+ Kxg7 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Qh8+ Ke7 30.Qg7+ Ke8 31.Qg8+ Ke7 32.Qf7+ Kd8 33.Qf8+ Qe8 34.Nf7+ Kd7 35.Qd6#

] **1-0**

(2) David Bronstein - Ljubomir Ljubojevic [B03]

Petropolis Interzonal Petropolis BRA, 1973

David Bronstein drew a match for the World Championship vs Botvinnik in 1951 - a match he probably should have won. Author of one of the greatest chess books, on the Interzonal Tournament of Zurich 1953, 20 years later he produced this amazing game in another Interzonal, Petropolis 1973. **1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4**


The 4-Pawns Attack vs Alekhine's Defense, perfectly suited to Bronstein's aggressive style. **5...dxe5 6.fxe5 c5!?** Luring white's pawns forward, Ljubojevic is true to his adventurous style. 6...Bf5 is standard. **7.d5 e6 8.Nc3 exd5 9.cxd5 c4 10.Nf3 Bg4**


A very sharp position! **11.Qd4 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Bb4 13.Bxc4 0-0 14.Rg1**


White trains his pieces towards black's king. **14...g6 15.Bg5!?** Not wanting to waste time, white begins a fantastic sacrificial continuation. **15...Qc7** Attacking the bishop at c4... **16.Bb3 Bc5**


This picks up the rook at g1, which has served it's purpose by provoking ...g6. **17.Qf4! Bxg1 18.d6** White attacks on the dark squares! **18...Qc8** 18...Qc5 was later thought to be a better defense. **19.Ke2 Bc5 20.Ne4!**


A rook down, white builds up the attack move by move. **20...N8d7 21.Rc1 Qc6 22.Rxc5!**


Another rook sacrifice, to deflect the black knight. **22...Nxc5 23.Nf6+ Kh8 24.Qh4**


Threatens mate. Black must take desperate measures... **24...Qb5+ 25.Ke3!** Extensive analysis showed that 25.Kf2 would have allowed black to hold with 25...Nd3+. White's bold king move is simply stunning. **25...h5 26.Nxh5 Qxb3+** Black scrambles to defend. This move allows a knight to land at e6 to defend the g7 square, but the material balance now tips in white's favor! **27.axb3 Nd5+ 28.Kd4!**


The white king moves forward, and takes one of the black knights! **28...Ne6+ 29.Kxd5 Nxg5 30.Nf6+ Kg7 31.Qxg5**


It's all over. Ljubojevic kept playing until the time control on move 40, as Bronstein had only seconds left on the clock. **31...Rfd8 32.e6 fxe6+ 33.Kxe6 Rf8 34.d7 a5 35.Ng4 Ra6+ 36.Ke5 Rf5+**


Wins the queen, but another appears soon enough. **37.Qxf5 gxf5 38.d8Q fxg4 39.Qd7+ Kh6 40.Qxb7 Rg6 41.f4**


This game won the brilliancy prize for the tournament. **1-0**

(3) Anatoly Karpov - Garry Kasparov [E86]

Linares Linares ESP, 1993

This nice little game was number 162 between Karpov and Kasparov! **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3**


This, the aggressive Saemisch Variation vs the Kings Indian, doesn't seem to really suit Karpov's positional style. **5...0-0 6.Be3 e5** Kasparov chooses a classical response, rather than the Byrne set up with ...c6 and ...a6, or Panno's ...Nc6. **7.Nge2 c6 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.Rd1?!** Closing the center with 9.d5, or queenside castling right away is better. Karpov is not familiar with these positions. **9...a6**


Preparing ...b5. **10.dxe5?! Nxe5!** Kasparov prefers active play to the stodgy 10...dxe5 11.c5 which would suit Karpov perfectly. **11.b3 b5 12.cxb5** [12.c5 d5 13.exd5 b4!-/+ according to Kasparov.] **12...axb5 13.Qxd6 Nfd7!**

Black has sacrificed a pawn, but white's king remains in the center and he is woefully undeveloped. **14.f4 b4!** The position becomes more and more complex. Now apparently 15.Qxb4 is met by 15...c5! **15.Nb1?!** But this is miserable! **15...Ng4 16.Bd4 Bxd4 17.Qxd4 Rxa2**


Black regains the pawn with a raging initiative. **18.h3 c5 19.Qg1** [19.Qd3 Ba6 20.Qxd7 Qh4+ 21.g3 Rxe2+ 22.Bxe2 Qxg3+ winning, is another pretty variation given by Kasparov.] **19...Ngf6 20.e5 Ne4**

White is under tremendous pressure. **21.h4 c4!** Clearing c5 for the black knights, and opening a path for the b-pawn! **22.Nc1 c3!**

A temporary rook sacrifice. See all of Karpov's pieces sitting on the 1st rank! **23.Nxa2 c2 24.Qd4** A better defense was 24.Rc1, but black crashes through after 24...Nxe5! 25.Rxc2 Bg4! according to analysis by Kasparov and others. **24...cxd1Q+ 25.Kxd1 Ndc5!**


Now white must trade queens. However... **26.Qxd8 Rxd8+ 27.Kc2 Nf2!**


Here Karpov lost on time. He loses a rook or is mated: if 28.Rg1 Bf5+ 29.Kb2 Nd1+ 30.Ka1 Nxb3 mate is an amusing finish. **0-1**

Tournament Director's Corner

Notation Rules with Special Consideration on Time Pressure

by Dr. Judit Sztaray, FIDE NA, USCF Senior TD

You have probably heard the pre-round announcements at the Tuesday Night Marathon:
Time control is G/120 with a 5-second delay. Players must notate throughout their game, and they can stop notating if their time is under 5 minutes.

The basis of this announcement is in FIDE's Laws of Chess:

> *"8.1.1 In the course of play each player is required to record his own moves and those of his opponent in the correct manner, move after move, as clearly and legibly as possible, in the algebraic notation (Appendix C), on the scoresheet prescribed for the competition."*

And:

> *"8.4 If a player has less than five minutes left on his clock at some stage in a period and does not have additional time of 30 seconds or more added with each move, then for the remainder of the period he is not obliged to meet the requirements of Article 8.1.1."*

This means that **any player can only stop notating if their OWN CLOCK shows under 5 minutes.** If their *opponent* is under 5 minutes—but they have more than 5 minutes—then they are obligated to keep score and meet the requirements of Article 8.1.1.
This is different from the USCF rules, which state that if *either* player has less than 5 minutes, they can both stop notating, even if one player has plenty of time.

> *"15B. Scorekeeping in time pressure, non-sudden death time control. If either player has less than five minutes remaining in a non-sudden death time control and does not have additional time (increment) of 30 seconds or more added with each move, both players are excused from the obligation to keep score until the end of the time control period."*

But of course, we are playing by FIDE rules: so during our Tuesday Night Marathon, this USCF rule is overruled by FIDE's 8.1.1. and 8.4.

Let's take a look at a few more rules from the FIDE rulebook:

> *8.1.2 It is forbidden to write the moves in advance, unless the player is claiming a draw according to Article 9.2, or 9.3 or adjourning a game according to Guidelines I.1.1.*

This is often hard to obey due to the old "Russian" chess customs, where they teach you to write down your moves before making a move.

> *8.1.3 A player may reply to his opponent's move before recording it, if he so wishes. He must record his previous move before making another.*

> *8.1.4 The scoresheet shall be used only for recording the moves, the times of the clocks, offers of a draw, matters relating to a claim and other relevant data.*

We all remember the famous incident with Wesley So (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924050656/https://www.uschesschamps.com/2015-us-championship-2015-us-womens-championship-news/so-shocked-wesley-forfeited-us-championship). Don't make that mistake!

> *8.1.5 Both players must record the offer of a draw on the scoresheet with a symbol (=).*

I haven't seen anyone doing this. Does any player out there know about this rule? This would be quite useful for an arbiter in a case where a player is claiming annoying behavior by repeated draw offers.

> *8.2 The scoresheet shall be visible to the arbiter throughout the game.*

This is important not only for transparency purposes, but also, as arbiters, we walk around the hall and check the progress of each game. Visually checking the scoresheet helps us to know the move count in any particular game, and to verify that the players are abiding by the rules.

> *8.3 The scoresheets are the property of the organizer of the competition.*

This is why all players must use the scoresheet provided by the organizer whenever possible.

References:
FIDE Laws of Chess: http://arbiters.fide.com/images/stories/downloads/2019/Arbiters-Manual-2019-v1.pdf
(https://web.archive.org/web/20200924050656/http://arbiters.fide.com/images/stories/downloads/2019/Arbiters-Manual-2019-v1.pdf)
US Chess rules: http://www.uschess.org/content/view/7752/369/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924050656/http://www.uschess.org/content/view/7752/369/)

Tony's Teasers

Last week's problem:

V. Schirdewan 1932 Mate in 3

Solution: 1. Ba8!! e5 2. Nf3 Rxa8 3. Bxd2#

This week's problem:

White to move and mate in 3, J. Balik, 1924

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GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Practical Openings 4: **Petrov's Defense– 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6**

This week we recommend a practical defense to 1. e4 that won't take you long to learn - as there are limited variations - and yet is a first rate defense. Black simply copies White's firs two moves, not defending but just counter attacking. Indeed, the logic of that usually leads to both sides capturing the enemy e-pawn, when a rather symmetrical position arises. The one down side to the Petrov is that is can be drawish, and for this reason it has never had great popularity at the club level where many players feel the need to charge into daring complications right out of the start gate. Yet if you are looking for success the Petrov could be for you. Black simply counters in the center, develops the pieces and castles to safety. White faces a difficult task to gain even a small advantage.

The opening is named after the nineteenth-century Russian master who first practiced it regularly. It gained popularity in the grandmaster circuit during the 1980's when Karpov started employing it. He would be very practical and often agree to a quick draw with the black pieces against strong grandmasters, yet he would play the opening to win against lower-rated opponents. Winning with the Petrov often takes endgame skill, of which Karpov had plenty. We should note that the world's number 2 player, Fabiano Caruana, is a devoted user of Petrov's Defense. Such an endorsement should give one confidence in this opening.

(1) White - Black [C42]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 Diagram

This straightforward counter attack on the e-pawn gives no ground to the player of the White pieces. Black refuses to acknowlege a disavantage by defending. **3.Nxe5** This is by far the most common response from White. There was a threat to the undefended e-pawn that Black ignored, so you take it. The less usual alternatives will be dealt with in example 3. **3...d6** [Black would invite trouble by the immediate recapture - 3...Nxe4?! 4.Qe2! Nf6?? *(4...Qe7! 5.Qxe4 d6 6.d4* is just a pawn sacrifice, though not full compensation.*)* 5.Nc6+ wins the queen.] **4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4**

[White gains nothing by 5.Qe2 Qe7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 Be7 9.Nc3 c6! with no problems at all.] **5...d5 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 Nc6** Diagram

Black's best moves are simple straightforward development. It is White who needs to show any weakness in the Black setup. **8.c4** White tries to attack the center. Easy for Black is [8.Re1 Bg4 9.Bxe4 dxe4 10.Rxe4 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nxd4] **8...Nb4! 9.Be2 0-0 10.Nc3 Be6** Diagram

Again, one should note the quick development Black follows to maintain the central squares. **11.Be3** [11.a3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Nc6 is equal. Often the black knight will find a5 to be a good square as it hits c4 and b3.] **11...Bf5!** Moving the bishop once again, but now planning to exchange knights and make a knight fork on the c2 square. **12.Rc1 dxc4 13.Bxc4 c6** Diagram

with a fully equal game. Black has developed, controlled the center and has no weakenesses. *

(2) White - Black [C42]

Petrov's Defense

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Diagram

In recent years this has become a popular line for White against Petrov's Defense. One main reason is that the alternatives didn't trouble Black much. With 5. Nc3 White accepts doubled pawns, but tries for quick development and aggressive queenside castling. **5...Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0** Diagram

This opposite side castling position is White's modern strategy to put Black in danger. White will often follow up with h2-h4 and other advances on the kingside to gain an attack. Yet Black need only follow the usual strategy of developing and taking enough control of the center, and so will obtain even chances. See the last example of this article, Carlsen vs Caruana for move on this variation. **9...Be6 10.Kb1 Ne5** Diagram

The game is roughly equal. White can try **11.h4** not fearing the doubled pawns that would open kingside files, or [11.Nd4] *

(3) White - Black [C43]

Petrov's Defense

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Diagram

The aggressive advance tries to confuse the second player. Other sidelines are [3.Nc3 when 3...Nc6 is the solid Four Knight's game, though Black could also choose 3...Bb4.; 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Nc3 Nxc3 5.dxc3 f6! makes White's pawn sacrifice dubious.] **3...Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Nd7** This follows the basic theme of the defense - develop logically and contest the central squares. **6.Nxd7 Bxd7 7.0-0** Diagram

7...Qh4 [7...Bd6 8.c4 c6 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Qh5 0-0 11.Qxd5 Bc6 is an alternative where Black has play for the pawn.] **8.c4 0-0-0 9.c5 g5** Diagram

This is a double edged game with attacking chances for both sides. It shows the Petrov need not be a solid dull game if the players are looking for aggressive lines. *

(4) Milos,Gilberto (2614) - Karpov,Anatoly (2692) [C42]

Najdorf Memorial 12th Buenos Aires (1), 04.09.2001

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 Nf6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Re1 Be6 Diagram

This is simply an equal position. White has slightly more active play to compensate for his isolated d-pawn. **12.a3 Bf6 13.Be4 Rb8 14.Qd3 h6 15.Bh7+ Kh8 16.Bf5 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Bd5 18.Bf4 Ne7 19.Bg4 Ng6 20.Bg3 b5** One should note that the position is no more drawish than most openings. There follows logical maneuvers by both sides. White aims for the kingside and Black gets queenside play. **21.Qf5 a5 22.Re3 Rb7 23.Qh5 b4 24.axb4 axb4 25.Rae1 c6 26.cxb4 Rxb4 27.Ne5 Rxd4** Diagram

28.Nxg6+? [28.Nd7 Rg8 29.Bc7! Qxc7 30.Nxf6 Rf8 would be complicated but even chances. White's natural move lands in trouble.] **28...fxg6 29.Qxg6 Bf7 30.Qf5 g6!** The white queen gets chased around and in the end cannot guard the bishop on g4. **31.Qf3 Bd5 32.Qe2 Bc4 33.Qf3 Bd5 34.Qe2 Bc4 35.Qf3 Bg7!** winning a piece for a pawn **36.Qxc6 Rxg4 37.Bd6?! Qa8!** Diagram

forcing the queen trade due to the mate on g2. The rest takes a while, but is simple technique for Karpov. **38.Qxa8 Rxa8 39.Be5 Bd5 40.Bxg7+ Kxg7 41.f3 Rd4 42.R1e2 h5 43.Kf2 Kf6 44.Rb2 Ra6 45.Re8 Be6 46.Rf8+ Kg5 47.Rb5+ Bf5 48.Rb2 Rad6 49.Ke3 Rc4 50.Rfb8 Rd3+ 51.Kf2 h4 52.Rh8 Rdc3 53.Rh7 Rc2+ 54.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 55.Kg1 h3! 56.g4 Bd3 57.Rxh3 Kf4 58.Rh8 Kxf3 59.Rh3+ Ke2 0-1**

(5) Magnus Carlsen (2842) - Fabiano Caruana (2822) [C42]

Sinquefield Cup St Louis, MO USA, 25.08.2018

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 Black against the World Champion, one of the greatest players of all time. What opening to defend with? Of course the solid Petrov's! **3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Bc4** Magnus varies slightly from the usual 0-0-0. **8...0-0 9.Qd2 Bf5 10.0-0-0 Qd7** Diagram

11.Kb1 Rfe8 12.h4 Bf8 13.h5 h6 14.Be2 Bg4 15.Nh2 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 Ne5 17.Bc1 Qc6 Diagram

The game is equal. The opening has done it's job. **18.f4 Nc4 19.Qd3 Qe4 20.g4 Ne3 21.Rde1 Qxd3 22.cxd3 Nd5 23.Reg1 Re6?!** Fabiano has played well and had evened the game against the World Champ. Here he errs by not being aggressive. [23...Re2 24.g5 Kh7 25.Ng4 Rae8 26.gxh6 f5! would be more active. Black now gets in a little trouble.] **24.g5 Ne7 25.gxh6 Rxh6 26.f5 Rh7 27.Ng4 Kh8 28.f6 Ng8** Diagram

29.fxg7+ Rxg7 30.Be3 c5 31.Bf4 Re8 32.Ne3 Rxg1+ 33.Rxg1 Re6 Fabiano has been under pressure since his mistake on move 23. He defends carefully, and even the great Magnus cannot break through. **34.Nd5 Nf6 35.Nc7 Re2 36.Nb5 Re6 37.Rf1** [37.Nxa7 Kh7 38.Rg5 Re1+ 39.Kc2 Rf1 40.Rf5 Ne8! 41.Rxf7+ Kg8 would force the exchange sacrifice 42.Rxf8+ *(42.Rf5 Bh6)*] **37...Kg8 38.Nc7 Re2 39.Nb5 Re6 40.Nc7 Re2 41.Nb5 Re6** Diagram

White has no advantage anymore and has nothing better than to repeat moves. **1/2-1/2**

2020 Wilkerson Memorial TNM Games Round 5

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Stearman,Josiah Paul (2445) - Winslow,Elliott Charles (2223) [B23]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.1), 11.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 [2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qd3 Rc8] **2...d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7** [3...Nd7!?] **4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4** This is a very new system -- if you look in MegaDatabase 2019 there are not a lot of games (like -- five?), but if you look at, say, The Week In Chess, there are a couple dozen, almost all in 2019. Giri led the pack. **6...Nc6 7.Qd3 g6** [7...Rc8; 7...e6 was played by Josiah two rounds earlier: 1-0 (48) Stearman,J (2445)-Yan,R (2221) San Francisco (3.1) 2020 [Winslow,Elliott]] **8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0** [9.Bg5 Nf6 10.Rd1 Qe6 *(10...0-0)* 11.0-0 0-0 12.a3 Rac8 13.Rfe1 Nd7 14.Qd2 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Nde5 16.Nd4 Qd7 17.Qe2 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Nc4 19.Rd3 f6 20.Bh6 Rfe8 21.h4 d5 22.h5 dxe4 23.Qxe4 Nd6 24.Qd5+ e6 25.Qf3 Nf5 26.Be3 Rxc2 27.g4 Nxe3 28.Rdxe3 Qxd4 29.hxg6 hxg6 30.Rxe6 Rxe6 31.Rxe6 Rc3 32.Qe2 Rg3+ 33.Kh2 Rxg4 34.Re8+ Kg7 35.Qe7+ Kh6 36.Qf8+ Kg5 37.Re3 Qf4+ 38.Kh1 Qxf2 39.Re5+ f5 40.Qd8+ Kf4 0-1 (40) Safarli,E (2601)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2780) Moscow RUS 2019] **9...Rc8N** [9...Nf6 10.Nd5 **a)** 10.Bg5 0-0 11.Rad1 h6 12.Bc1 Ng4 *(12...Qd8 13.Nd5 Nd7 14.Qa3 Rc8 15.Rfe1 Re8 16.Bd2 Bf8 17.Ne3 e6 18.b4 a5 19.b5 d5 20.Qb3 Nc5 21.Qb1 Nxe4 22.bxc6 bxc6 23.Qc1 h5 24.Nf1 Bg7 25.Bh6 Nc3 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 27.Rd3 Qf6 28.Ng5 Rc7 29.Qd2 Nb5 30.Rf3 Qd4 31.Rd3 Qb4 32.c3 Qc5 33.Ng3 h4 34.Nf1 e5 35.Rh3 f6 36.Rxh4 fxg5 37.Qxg5 Qd6 38.Ng3 Rf7 39.Rh6 Re6 40.f4 Qc5+ 41.Kh1 e4 42.f5 Qxc3 43.Rf1 Qe5 44.Rh7+* 1-0 (44) Mamedov,R (2701)-Idani,P (2604) Astana KAZ 2019*; 12...Rfd8 13.Nd5 Ne8 14.Rfe1 Rac8 15.Qa3 e6 16.Ne3 Qe7 17.b4 b5 18.c4 bxc4 19.Nxc4 Nd4 20.Nxd4 Rxc4 21.Nb3 Rdc8 22.b5 Qd7 23.e5 d5 24.Nd4 Bf8 25.Qb3 a6 26.a3 axb5 27.Nxb5 Qb7 28.Bd2 Nc7 29.a4 Nxb5 30.axb5 Bb4 31.Rf1 Bxd2 32.Rxd2 Rc3 33.Qb4 R8c4 34.Qb1 Qb6 35.h3 Rc5 36.Rb2 d4 37.Qe4 Rxb5 38.Rxb5 Qxb5 39.Qxd4 Qd3 40.Qf4 Qf5 41.Qxh6 Qxe5 42.Rd1 Rc8 43.Qh4 Kg7* 1/2-1/2 (43) Asadli,V (2502)-Baglan,E (2336) Paracin SRB 2019*)* 13.h3 Nge5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Qg3 Rac8 16.f4 Nc4 17.f5 Ne5 18.Bxh6 Bxh6 19.Qxe5 Bg7 20.Qg3 Qe8 21.fxg6 fxg6 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23.Nd5 Be5 24.Qg4 Rxc2 25.Rf1+ Kg7 26.Qe6 Qb5 27.Qxe7+ Kh6 28.Qf8+ Kg5 29.Ne3 Qc5 30.h4+ Kh5 31.Qf3+ Kh6 32.Kh1 Rc1 33.Ng4+ Kh7 34.Nxe5 dxe5 35.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 36.Kh2 Qxb2 37.Qf7+ Kh6 38.Qf8+ Kh7 39.Qf7+ Kh6 40.Qg8 Kh5 41.Kh3 Qc3+ 42.g3 1-0 (42) Safarli,E (2601)-Andriasian,Z (2611) Moscow RUS 2019; **b)** 10.h3+/= sf11 10...0-0=; 10...0-0 *(10...Ng4 11.c3* 1/2-1/2 (30) Quesada Perez,Y (2538)-Ortiz Suarez,I (2519) Santa Clara CUB 2019*)* 11.Bg5 (11.c3 Ng4 12.Bg5 *(12.Rd1 Nge5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Qe2 e6 15.Nb4 Qc7 16.Bf4 Rfd8 17.Nd3 Qc4 18.Kf1 Nc6 19.Ne1 d5 20.Qxc4 dxc4 21.a4 Be5 22.Bxe5 Nxe5 23.Ke2 g5 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.a5 b5 26.axb6 axb6 27.Ra7 Kg7 28.Rb7 Rd6 29.Nf3 Nxf3 30.Kxf3 Kf6 31.Ke3 h5 32.Rc7 b5 33.Rc5 Rb6 34.h4 gxh4 35.Rxh5 b4 36.e5+ Kg6 37.Rxh4 bxc3 38.bxc3 Rb5 39.Re4 Rd5 40.Ke2 Kf5 41.Rxc4 Rxe5+ 42.Kf3 Re1 43.Rf4+ Kg6 44.Re4 Rc1 45.Re3 Rc2 46.g3 f6 47.Rd3 e5 48.Ke3 Kg5 49.f4+ exf4+ 50.gxf4+ Kg4 51.Kd4 Kxf4 52.c4 Ra2 53.c5 Ra8 54.c6 Rc8 55.Kc5 f5 56.Rd7 Ke3 57.Re7+ Kd3 58.Rf7 Ke4 59.Kb6 f4 60.Kb7 Rh8 61.Re7+ Kd3 62.c7 f3 63.Rf7 Ke2 64.c8Q Rxc8 65.Kxc8 f2 66.Rxf2+ Kxf2* 1/2-1/2 (66) Hovhannisyan,R (2630) -Brunello,S (2534) Reykjavik ISL 2019*)* 12...e6 13.Ne3 Nge5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Qc2 f5 16.f4 Nf7 17.Bh4 Qc6 18.exf5 gxf5 19.Rf3 Nh8 20.Raf1 Ng6 21.Be1 Rf7 22.h4 Kh8 23.h5 Ne7 24.Bh4 Rg8 25.Qd2 Nc8 26.c4 Qe4 27.Kh1 Qd4 28.R1f2 Qxd2 29.Rxd2 Bf6 30.Bxf6+ 1/2-1/2 (30) Quesada Perez,Y (2538)-Ortiz Suarez,I (2519) Santa Clara CUB 2019)] **10.Nd5 Nf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Bg5 Nxd5** [12...Ng4; 12...Ne8= 13.Rad1 h6 *(13...e6)* 14.Bf4 e6 15.Ne3 f5 16.exf5+/-] **13.exd5 Ne5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Rad1**

15...h6N [15...Rfd8 16.c4 h6 17.Be3 Qa4 18.b3 Qxa2 19.Qc3 (19.c5+/= Qa6 *(19...a6)* 20.Qxa6 bxa6 21.f4 a5= (0.00)) 19...Qa3 20.Ra1 Qd6 21.Rxa7 b5 22.Rd1 e4 23.Qc2 Qb4 24.Rc1 bxc4 25.Qxe4 Qxb3 26.Qxe7 Rf8 27.Rc7 1/2-1/2 (27) Willmann,B (2120) -Huerga,A (2262) LSS email 2013] **16.Be3 b6?** [16...b5 is so much better. Black contains White's majority and gives himself c4 for his rook.] **17.c4 Qa4 18.b3 Qa3** [18...Qxa2!? maybe wasn't so bad. 19.Ra1 e4! *(19...Qb2? 20.Rfb1 e4 21.Qxe4)* 20.Rxa2 *(20.Qxe4?? Qxb3<=>)* 20...exd3 21.Rd1 but White is doing well.] **19.Qd2 Kh7 20.f4** I underestimated White's attack is all. **20...Qd6** [20...exf4!?] **21.f5 gxf5 22.Rxf5 e6** [22...Qg6!? 23.Rdf1 e6 24.dxe6 fxe6 might look ugly, but the rooks come off, the queens stay on, and there is no knight to go to e4, my pawns might stay on the board for a while.] **23.dxe6 Qxe6 24.Qc2 e4** I was happy here! I thought I was mobilizing my center pawns. Alas they only went one square further... **25.Rfd5 f5 26.Rd6 Qe8 27.Qc1** I saw this! [(and actually 27.Qf2 was much better)] **27...Qh5 28.R1d5** but I didn't see this... **28...Rc7 29.Qd2 Re7 30.Qf2** It's a bind. **30...Ref7 31.Re6!** Threatening e4, and there's not a lot I can do about it. **31...Kg8 32.h3 Rf6 33.Rxe4 Qg6 34.Rf4 Re6 35.Bd4 Rfe8 36.Rdxf5 Re1+ 37.Kh2 R8e2 38.Qf3 Rd2 39.Bxg7 h5 40.Bc3 1-0**

(2) Boldi,Ethan [Kazanjian] (2090) - Griffith,Kyron Waykuan (2434) [A05]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.2), 11.01.2020

1.Nf3 d6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.d3 0-0 6.Nbd2 c5 7.e4 Nc6 8.Re1 e5 9.c4 Bh6 10.Nf1 Bxc1 11.Rxc1 Bg4 12.Ne3 Qd7 13.Nxg4 Qxg4 14.Qd2 Kg7 15.h3 Qd7 16.Rf1 Ng8 17.Nh4 Nd4 18.Kh2 Ne7 19.f4 f6 20.Bf3 Nec6 21.Rce1 Rab8 22.Ng2 b5 23.b3 bxc4 24.dxc4 a5 25.Bd1 a4 26.bxa4 Rb4 27.a3 Rb7 28.Ne3 Rfb8 29.Rf2 exf4 30.gxf4 Qd8 31.Rg1 Rb1 32.Nd5 Na5 33.Qc3 Nac6 34.Qd2 Qa5 35.Qe3 R8b2 36.h4 Qa6 37.f5 Ne5 38.fxg6 hxg6 39.Qf4 f5 40.Rxb2 Rxb2+ 41.Kh1 Qxc4 42.Ne3 Qf7 43.Rf1 fxe4 44.Qxe4 Rf2 45.Rg1 Rf4 46.Qd5 Rxh4+ 47.Kg2 Qf4 48.Nf1 Qg5+ 49.Ng3 Qd2+ 50.Be2 Rh2+ 51.Kxh2 Ndf3+ 52.Kg2 Qxd5 53.Rd1 Qc6 54.Kf2 Nd4 55.Rb1 Nxe2 56.Nxe2 Qxa4 57.Rb7+ Kf6 58.Ng3 Qf4+ 59.Ke2 Qf3+ 60.Ke1 Qxg3+ 61.Kd2 Qg2+ 62.Kc3 Qxb7 63.a4 Qb4+ 64.Kc2 c4 65.a5 Qb3+ 66.Kd2 Qd3+ 67.Kc1 Qe2 68.a6 c3 69.a7 Qd2+ 70.Kb1 Qb2# 0-1

(3) Weng,Nicholas (1864) - Davila,Carlos (2223) [B19]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated Game San Francisco (5.3), 11.01.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Ngf6 11.Bd2 e6 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.Ne4 0-0 14.Kb1 c5 15.c3 cxd4 16.cxd4 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 Nf6 18.Qd3 Qd5 19.Bf4 a5 20.Ne5 Qe4 21.Qxe4 Nxe4 22.Be3 a4 23.d5 exd5 24.Rxd5 a3 25.f3 Nf6 26.Rb5 axb2 27.Nc4 Rfd8 28.Kxb2 Nd5 29.Bb6 Bf6+ 30.Kb3 Nxb6 31.Rxb6 Rd3+ 32.Kb4 Be7+ 0-1

(4) German,Felix (1895) - Tsodikova,Natalya (2204) [E73]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.4), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.h4 h5 7.Bg5 c5 8.d5 Nbd7 9.Qd2 b5 10.cxb5 a6 11.b6 Qxb6 12.g4 Rb8 13.gxh5 Qxb2 14.Qxb2 Rxb2 15.0-0-0 Rb4 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.Nh3 Ne5 18.f3 Kf7 19.Rdg1 Nc4 20.Nf2 Nh7 21.Nfd1 Nxg5 22.hxg5 Kg8 23.Nb1 Ne5 24.Rf1 Bd7 25.a3 Rb3 26.f4 Nd3+ 27.Kc2 c4 28.Bxd3 Rxd3 29.Nb2 Re3 30.Re1 Rf3 31.Nd2 Rxa3 32.Nbxc4 Rc3+ 33.Kb1 Rb8+ 34.Ka2 Rc2+ 35.Ka3 Bc3 36.Rb1 Rxb1 37.Nxb1 Bd4 38.Kb3 Rf2 39.e5 Rf3+ 40.Ka2 Rxf4 41.exd6 exd6 42.Nbd2 Rf2 43.Kb3 Rf5 44.Nxd6 Rxd5 45.N6c4 Rxg5 46.Rd1 Rb5+ 47.Kc2 Bf5+ 48.Kc1 Bc3 49.Ne3 Rc5 [49...Bb2#!] **50.Nxf5 Bxd2+ 51.Kxd2 Rd5+ 0-1**

(5) Ivanov,Aleksandr Yu (2174) - Childress,Jason (2073) [B01]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.5), 11.01.2020

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nf3 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.d4 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.Bb5+ c6 8.Bc4 e6 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Re1 0-0 11.g4 Bg6 12.Ne5 Rd8 13.Bf4 Bb4 14.Re3 c5 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Rd3 Bxc3 17.bxc3 b5 18.dxc5 Na6 19.Bxb5 Nxc5 20.c4 Nxd3 21.cxd3 Qc3 22.Rc1 Rxd3 23.Rxc3 Rxd1+ 24.Kg2 Ne4 25.Ra3 Nd6 26.Bc6 Rc8 27.Bf3 Rd4 28.Kg3 Ne4+ 29.Kg2 Rdxc4 30.Rxa7 Nc3 31.Be3 Ra4 32.Rxa4 Nxa4 33.Bd1 Nc3 34.Bb3 Ra8 35.Kf3 Nxa2 36.Ke4 Nc3+ 37.Kd4 Nd5 38.Bxd5 Rd8 39.Ke4 Rxd5 40.Kf3 Kf8 41.Kg3 e5 42.g5 f5 43.Kf3 Kf7 44.Kg2 Ke6 45.f4 Rd3 46.Bc5 exf4 47.Bf2 Kd5 48.h4 Ke4 49.Be1 Re3 50.Bf2 Re2 51.Kf1 Kf3 52.Be1 Rxe1+ 53.Kxe1 0-1

(6) Walder,Michael (2124) - Askin,David Benjamin (2027) [B19]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.6), 11.01.2020

[Winslow,Elliott & Walder,Michael]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 [10...Qc7 11.Bd2 Ngf6 12.0-0-0 0-0-0 13.Ne4 1-0 (95) Hartston,W-Barcza,G Hastings 1973] **11.Bd2 Qc7 12.0-0-0 0-0-0 13.Ne4 Ngf6 14.g3 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Bd6 16.c4** [16.Kb1 is the subtle move. The main point is that Black really only wants to play ...c6-c5 in response to c2-c4. 16...Rhe8 (on 16...c5 White has some better options, given that c4 is available for queen or rook(!) 17.dxc5 Nxc5 18.Qc4 *(18.Qe2 Rhe8 19.Rh4 Kb8 20.Rc4 Qe7 21.Bb4 f6 22.Rcd4* 1-0 (42) Muzychuk,M (2503)-Fuchs,J (2315) Caleta 2014 CBM 159 [Muzychuk,M]*)* 18...Rd7 19.Bc3 e5 20.Rd5 f6 21.Rhd1 Rhd8 22.Nh4 Bf8 23.b3 Qc6 24.Rxd7 Rxd7 25.Rxd7 Nxd7 26.Qxc6+ bxc6 27.Nf5 1-0 (61) Karjakin,S (2635)-Asrian,K (2611) Warszawa 2005 Inf 94 [Karjakin, Sergey]) 17.Qe2! *(17.c4 c5 18.Bc3 Be7!;* Kramnik drew a few imitators to *17.Qh7?!* ; he drew against Leko; others weren't so fortunate. *17...Rg8* 1/2-1/2 (34) Kramnik,V (2770)-Leko,P (2741) Brissago 2004 CBM 103 [Prie,E]*)* 17...f5 **a)** 17...e5 18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Nh4 Qd7 20.Ba5! b6 21.Bc3 *(21.Bb4 Nd3!)* ; **b)** 17...a6; **c)** 17...b5;] **16...c5 17.Kb1** [17.d5; 17.Bc3] **17...a6?!** [17...Rhe8] **18.Bc3** [18.d5!? Nf6 19.Qc2 exd5 20.cxd5 Rhe8 21.Bc3 Ng4 22.Rhe1 Rxe1 23.Rxe1 Qd7 24.Nh4 Bf8 25.f3 Nf6 26.Bxf6 gxf6 27.Rd1 Re8 28.d6 Re5 29.g4 Qb5 30.Nf5 Kd7 31.a3 Qe2 32.Qb3 Rxf5 1-0 Matanovic,A-Marovic,D Yugoslavia 1967 EXT 2010 [Petronijevic,Z]] **18...cxd4N** [18...Rhe8 19.d5 exd5 20.Qxd5 Ne5 21.Rhe1 Nxf3 22.Qxf3 f6 23.Qf5+ Kb8 24.f4+/= 1-0 (95) Hartston,W-Barcza,G Hastings 1973] **19.Bxd4** (probably best of the four(!) captures **19...Nf6**

20.Bxf6? "Ruining Black's pawn structure" was White's comment -- but the remaining bishop complements the pawns on e6/f7/f5 nicely. [20.Qe2 keeps a grip on e5 and chances for an advantage.] **20...gxf6 21.c5** Best, thinking of some attack some day. **21...Be7** Stockfish 11 alternates between "0.00" and some sort of miniscule Black advantage, reminding of the Tal quip "Equal means Black plus." **22.Rc1 Rd5 23.Nd4?!** [23.Rc2 Rhd8 24.Rhc1 Qc6 25.Qh7 R5d7! 26.Ne1 Bf8 and White's play stalls.] **23...Kb8** [23...f5! 24.Qe3 Qe5! 25.Qxe5 Rxe5 26.Nb3 *(26.c6 b6 27.c7 Rc5 28.Nc6 Bd6* is as far as White goes.*)* 26...Rd8-/+] **24.b4 Rhd8** [24...f5!] **25.Nb3 f5 26.Qe2** [26.Qf4 Bg5 27.Qxc7+ Kxc7 28.Rc3 is not a very convincing defense.] **26...Bf6** [26...Qc6!] **27.c6?!** [27.Rhd1 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 29.Qxd1 Qe5 30.Qd2 Qc3 31.Qxc3 Bxc3 White has weak pawns on both sides.] **27...Rd3** [27...R8d6 28.cxb7 Qxb7 when it's White's king exposed.] **28.Rc2 b6 29.Rhc1 Ka7 30.Rd2 Rxd2 31.Nxd2 Rd6 32.a3 Rxc6 33.Rxc6 Qxc6 34.Qc4 Kb7 35.Kc2 Qa4+ 36.Qb3 Qxb3+ 37.Kxb3 Kc6 38.Nc4 Bd4 39.f3 f6 40.g4 fxg4 41.fxg4 b5 42.Nd2 Kd5 43.Kc2 Be3 44.Nb3 Ke4 45.Kd1 Kf4 46.Ke2 Bb6 47.Kd3 Kxg4 48.Nc5 e5 49.Nd7 Bd8 50.Nc5 Kxh5 51.Nxa6 Kg4 52.Nc5 h5 53.Nb7 Be7 54.Ke4 h4 55.Nc5 Bxc5 56.bxc5 h3 57.c6 h2 0-1**

(7) Busch,Jonah M (1944) - Persidsky,Andre (1856) [A14]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.7), 11.01.2020

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 Nbd7 7.Bb2 b6 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nbd2 c5 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Nd7 12.Bb2 Bf6 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.Qc2 Qd7 15.e4 dxe4 16.dxe4 e5 17.Rad1 Qe7 18.Nb1 Rad8 19.Nc3 Rd4 20.Nd5 Qd6 21.f4 Bxd5 22.exd5 Rxd1 23.Qxd1 exf4 24.Rxf4 Re8 25.Rf2 Qe5 26.Bf3 Qe1+ 27.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 28.Rf1 Rxf1+ 29.Kxf1 Kf8 30.Ke2 Ke7 31.Kd3 Kd6 32.Kc3 Nd7 33.b4 Ne5 34.Be2 g5 35.g4 h6 36.b5 Ng6 37.Kd2 Ke5 38.Ke3 Nf4 39.Bf3 f5 40.gxf5 Kxf5 41.Be2 Ke5 42.Bf1 Ng6 43.Kf3 h5 44.Bd3 Nf4 45.Bh7 Nh3 46.Bg6 Nf4 47.Be8 g4+ 48.Kg3 Nd3 49.Kh4 Nb2 50.d6 Kxd6 51.Bf7 Nd3 52.Bxh5 Ne5 53.Bxg4 Nxc4 54.Kg5 Ne5 55.Bd1 Ke7 56.Kf5 Nf7 57.h4 Nd6+ 58.Kg6 Nxb5 59.Kg7 Nd6 60.h5 Nf7 61.Bb3 Ne5 62.h6 c4 63.Bxc4 Nxc4 64.h7 Nd6 65.h8Q Nf5+ 66.Kg6 Nd6 67.Qg7+ Kd8 68.Qxa7 1-0

(8) Argo,Guy (1939) - Lesquillier,Walter (1733) [B23]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.8), 11.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 e6 6.0-0 Nge7 7.d3 0-0 8.a3 b6 9.Qe1 d5 10.Ba2 Bb7 11.Bd2 dxe4 12.dxe4 Ba6 13.Rf2 Nd4 14.Be3 Nxf3+ 15.Rxf3 Nc6 16.Rd1 Bd4 17.Bxd4 Nxd4 18.Rf2 Qe7 19.e5 Bb7 20.Bc4 Rad8 21.Rd3 a6 22.Rh3 Qd7 23.Bd3 Kg7 24.g4 b5 25.Be4 b4 26.axb4 cxb4 27.Nb1 Bxe4 28.Qxe4 Qd5 29.Nd2 Rc8 30.c3 bxc3 31.bxc3 Nb5 32.f5 Rxc3 33.f6+ Kh8 34.Rh6 Qd4 35.Qxd4 Nxd4 36.Ne4 a5 37.Ng5 a4 38.Rxh7+ Kg8 39.Rg7+ Kh8 40.Nxf7+ Rxf7 41.Rxf7 Nf3+ 42.Kg2 Nxe5 43.Rf8+ Kh7 44.f7 Rc7 45.Rh8+ Kxh8 46.f8Q+ Kh7 47.g5 1-0

(9) Hakobyan,Sos (1818) - Lum,Michael K (1914) [B18]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.11), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Bd3 e6 8.0-0 Qc7 9.c4 Ngf6 10.Re1 Bb4 11.Bxg6 hxg6 12.Bd2 Bxd2 13.Qxd2 0-0 14.Rac1 Rfd8 15.Qg5 Qb6 16.b3 c5 17.Rcd1 cxd4 18.Rxd4 Rac8 19.Red1 Nb8 20.Qe3 Nc6 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Rxd8+ Qxd8 23.Qd2 Qb6 24.h3 a5 25.Ne2 Ne4

26.Qe3? This drops a pawn. [26.Qe1 Stockfish 11 gives White absolutely nothing here.] **26...Qxe3 27.fxe3 Nb4 28.Ne1?!** [28.Nc1 Nc2 Black does indeed pick off the e-pawn, but there will still be work before the point can be scored.] **28...Nxa2 29.Nc2 Kf8 30.g3 Ke7 31.Kg2 Kd6 32.h4 Nd2 33.Kh3 Nxb3 34.Kg4 Kc5 35.Kg5 Kxc4 36.Nf4 Nc5 37.Nxg6** So this was White's plan. But Black effectively ignores it. **37...Kd3 38.Ne1+ Kc3 39.Ne5 b5 40.Nxf7 b4 41.Nd6 b3 42.Nb5+ Kd2 43.Nf3+ Kxe3 44.Nfd4 b2 45.Nc2+ Kf3 46.Nca3 Kxg3 47.h5 Ne4+ 48.Kg6 Kg4 49.Nd4 Ng3 50.Nxe6 Nxh5 51.Nb1 Nf4+ 52.Nxf4 Kxf4 53.Kxg7 Ke3 54.Kf6 Kd4 55.Kf5 Nc3 56.Na3 b1Q+ 57.Nxb1 Nxb1 0-1**

(10) Kuczek,Kevin W (1982) - Pane,Gianluca (1927) [B23]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.12), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb5 Nge7 6.0-0 a6 7.Bxc6+ Nxc6 8.d3 Be7 9.Qe1 b5 10.Qg3 g6 11.Ne2 Nb4 12.Bd2 [12.f5!? exf5 13.Bh6 Nxc2 14.Rac1 Nb4 doesn't really seem to work.] **12...Nxc2** [12...0-0!?] **13.Rac1 dxe4** [13...Nb4 14.Bxb4 cxb4 keeps options better.] **14.dxe4 Qd3?** [14...Nb4 15.Rcd1 Qc7] **15.Bc3** [15.Qf2!+/-] **15...0-0** [15...f6!] **16.Qf2 Nb4** [16...b4!?] **17.Ng3** [17.Bxb4 cxb4 18.Ned4 Qxe4 19.Nc6 Bd6=] **17...Rd8?** Immediately drawing fire at f7! [17...Qd6; 17...Qd8] **18.Ne5!** [or 18.f5! right away] **18...Qd6**

19.f5! [19.Nxf7!? Kxf7 20.f5 favors White, but there is no need (and the game move is much stronger).] **19...f6?!** Maybe White won't notice... **20.fxg6!** ...this. Black crumbles. **20...hxg6 21.Nxg6 Nd3 22.Nxe7+** [22.Qe3! Nxc1 23.Qh6 Nd3 24.Nh5 Kf7 25.Nxe7] **22...Qxe7 23.Bxf6?!** Black's king is so unsafe that keeping White's queen around for attack is a priority: [23.Qf3; 23.Qe3] **23...Nxf2 24.Bxe7 Rd7 25.Rxf2 Rxe7 26.Rxc5** Yet another case of the computer thinking White has let the game slip into a merely totally won ending. **26...Bb7 27.Rg5+ Kh7 28.Rc2 Rf7 29.Rgc5 Raf8 30.Rc7 Kg6 31.Rxf7 Rxf7 32.h4 Rf4 33.h5+ Kg7 34.Rc7+ Rf7 35.Rxf7+ Kxf7 36.Kf2 1-0**

(11) Perlov,Alexander (1825) - Reichwein,Axel (1892) [E81]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.13), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Be3 Na6 7.Nge2 c5 8.Qd2 cxd4 9.Bxd4 Be6 10.Nf4 b6 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Be2 e5 13.Be3 Nh5 14.g3 Kh8 15.0-0-0 Nc7 16.Rhf1 Qe8 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.cxd5 Qa4 19.Kb1 b5 20.Rc1 Rfc8 21.Rc6 Rxc6 22.dxc6 Rc8 23.Rc1 Rc7 24.Qd5 Bf6 25.Qf7 h6 26.Qxg6 Ng7 27.Bxh6 Qa6 28.Bxg7+ Bxg7 29.Qe8+ Kh7 30.h4 Bh6 31.Rc2 Qb6 32.a3 b4 33.axb4 Qxb4 34.Bc4 Qe1+ 35.Ka2 Qa5+ 36.Kb3 d5 37.Bxd5 Qb5+ 38.Kc3 Qc5+ 39.Kd3 Qe3+ 40.Kc4 Qd4+ 41.Kb3 Qb6+ 42.Ka2 Qa5+ 43.Kb1 Qe1+ 44.Ka2 Qa5+ 45.Kb3 Qb6+ 46.Ka2 Qa5+ 47.Kb1 Qe1+

[47...Qe1+ 48.Rc1!! Qxc1+ 49.Ka2+-] **1/2-1/2**

(12) Heidari,Ako (1940) - Lehman,Clarence E (1907) [C77]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (5.14), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 b5 6.Bb3 Nxd4 7.Nxd4 exd4 8.e5 Qe7 9.0-0 Qxe5 10.Re1 Ne4

11.Bxf7+? [11.f3+-; 11.f4! Qf5 12.g4!+-] **11...Kd8?** [11...Kxf7 12.Qf3+ Kg8!-/+] **12.Qe2?** [12.Qf3 Bb7 13.Bf4+-; 12.Nd2 d5 13.c4!!+-] **12...d5?** [12...Bb7! 13.Nd2 Bd6!-/+] **13.f3?!** [13.Nd2!? Bd6 14.Nf3! (14.g3 Bb7 15.Nb3 Qf6 *(15...Rf8 16.Na5!)* 16.Bh5) 14...Qf5 15.Bxd5!=] **13...Bc5 14.Kh1?!**

14...d3?? [14...Bd6! 15.g3 Nxg3+ 16.hxg3 Qxg3-+] **15.cxd3+/- Ng3+?!** [15...Rf8 16.dxe4 Rxf7 17.Nc3+/-] **16.hxg3 Qxg3 17.Be3!+- Bd6 18.f4** [18.Kg1!] **18...Qh4+ 19.Kg1 Bg4 20.Qf2** It's been an extremely difficult attack and defense, but White finally seems to stabilize his material advantage. **20...Qxf2+ 21.Bxf2 c6 22.Be6 Bxe6 23.Rxe6 Kd7 24.Re2 Bxf4 25.Nd2 Rae8 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Nb3 Re2 28.Nc5+ Kd6 29.b4 Be3 30.Bxe3 Rxe3 31.Kf2 Re7 32.Rh1 h6 33.Rh3** [33.Re1!] **33...a5 34.a3 axb4 35.axb4 Ra7 36.Rg3 g5 37.Rf3 Ke5 38.Re3+ Kd4** Black is getting some real counterplay **39.Re6 Ra2+ 40.Kg3 h5 41.Rxc6 h4+ 42.Kh2 Rb2 43.Na6 g4 44.Rg6 g3+ 45.Kh3 Kxd3 46.Rg4 d4 47.Rxh4 Ke3 48.Nc7 d3 49.Nd5+ Kd2 50.Rd4 Rb3 51.Kxg3 Kc1 52.Kf4 d2 53.Ne3 Rc3 54.g4 Rc8 55.Kf3 Rh8 56.g5 Rh3+ 57.Kf2 Rh2+ 58.Kg3 Rh1 59.Rd5 Rg1+ 60.Kf2 Re1 61.g6 Rh1 62.g7 Rh2+ 63.Ng2 Rh5 64.g8Q Rxd5 65.Qxd5 d1Q 66.Qxd1+ Kxd1 67.Ke3 Kc2 68.Kd4** What a battle! **1-0**

(13) Ricard,Bruce (1849) - Drane,Robert William (1812) [A80]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.9), 11.01.2020

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 a6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Be2 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Ne5 Ne4 9.Nxe4 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 dxe4 11.Bh5+ Ke7 12.f3 exf3 13.Qxf3 Rg8 14.Qf2 g6 15.Bf3 Kf7 16.Rad1 cxd4 17.Rxd4 Qa5 18.Qg3 Bg7 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Rfd1 Re8 21.b4 Qb6 22.Qe5+ Kf7 23.a4 Ra7 24.Kh1 a5 25.b5 Ra8 26.c4 Re7 27.Qh8 Re8 28.Rd7+ Bxd7 29.Rxd7+ Re7 30.Qxh7+ Kf6 31.Qxe7+ Ke5 32.Rd5# 1-0

(14) Mercado,Adam (1789) - Boldi,Nicholas Armen (1754) [C06]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.15), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.c3 c5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Ngf3 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.0-0 fxe5 10.dxe5 Qc7 11.Qa4 Nc5 12.Qc2 Nb4 13.Bb5+ Bd7 14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15.Qc3 Nbd3 16.b4 Nxc1 17.Raxc1 Na6 18.a3 Be7 19.Nd4 0-0 20.Qh3 Nc7 21.f4 [21.N2b3!+/-] **21...Rae8?!** [21...a5] **22.Qg4 Bd8 23.N2f3?** [23.N2b3] **23...Nb5= 24.Nb3? Bb6+ 25.Kh1** [25.Nc5 Nxa3-/+] **25...Be3** [25...Nxa3] **26.Nc5 Qe7 27.Ng5 Bxc5?** [27...Bxc1-+] **28.Rxc5=/+ Nxa3**

29.Nxh7! Kxh7 30.Qh3+?! [30.Rc3! Nc4 31.Rh3+ Kg8 32.Qg6=] **30...Kg8 31.Qxa3 b6** [31...Rc8!] **32.Rc6 Qd7?** [32...Rc8=/+] **33.b5+/- d4 34.Qb3** [34.Qd3!] **34...Qd5 35.Qd3?** [35.Qxd5 exd5 36.Kg1!+/-] **35...Rc8= 36.Rd6 Qc4?!** [36...Rc3= 37.Qxd4 Qxb5] **37.Rxd4?!** [37.Qxd4?? Qxf1+; 37.Qxc4 Rxc4 38.g3+/=] **37...Qxd3 38.Rxd3 Rxf4=/+ 39.Re1?! Rc5 40.g3 Rf5 41.Rd8+ Kh7 42.Re8 Rfxe5 43.Rxe6 Rxe1+ 44.Rxe1 Rxb5 45.Re7 a5 46.Ra7 Rb2 47.Ra6 Rb4 48.Kg2 a4 49.Kh3 b5 50.g4 Rb3+ 51.Kh4 a3 52.g5 b4** [52...Rb4+ 53.Kh5 *(53.Kg3 Ra4)* 53...g6+! 54.Rxg6 Rh4+ 55.Kxh4 Kxg6] **53.Kg4 Rb2 54.h4 a2 55.Kh5 Rg2 56.g6+ Rxg6 57.Rxa2 b3 58.Rb2 Rg3 59.Re2 g6# 0-1**

(15) Xu,Jayden (1712) - Malykin,Erika (1675) [A52]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.16), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Qe7 7.a3 Ngxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.e3 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 d6 11.Be2 h5 12.c5 dxc5 13.Rc1 Ng6 14.Bb5+ c6 15.Bd6 Qg5 16.f4 Qg4 17.Bd3 Nh4 18.0-0 c4 19.Rxc4 Rh6

[]

20.f5 Qxg2+ 21.Qxg2 Nxg2 22.Re4+ Kd7 23.Bb4 c5 24.Bb5+ Kc7 25.Bxc5 a6 26.Bd3 Bd7 27.Rc1 Bc6 28.Re7+ Kd8 29.Be4 Nxe3 30.Bxc6 Rxc6 31.Rxe3 b6 32.Rd1+ Kc8 33.Re8+ 1-0

(16) Madhavan,Srikrishnan (1720) - Breedt,Rudolph Frans (1882) [E61]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.17), 11.01.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.Bg5 d6 6.e3 c5 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.a3 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.exd4 Qb6 11.Bc2 Bd7 12.Rb1 Rac8 13.0-0 Rxc4 14.Qe2 Rcc8 15.Rfd1 e6 16.d5 e5 17.Qf3 Bg4 18.Qd3 Bxd1 19.Bxd1 e4 20.Qg3 Nh5 21.Bxh5 Rxc3 22.Be3 Rxe3 23.fxe3 gxh5 24.b4 Kh8 25.Rf1 Be5 26.Qh3 a5 27.Rf5 Qc7 28.Rxh5 f6 29.Rf5 Rg8 30.Qh6 Qg7 0-1

(17) Acosta,Anthony (1762) - Gurovich,Roman (1714) [B23]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.18), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d6 2.f4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 c5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2 Nc6 7.a3 e6 8.f5 Nd4 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Nd1 Ne7 13.0-0 Rf8 14.Rxf8+ Kxf8 15.c4 Nc6 16.d3 a5 17.Nf2 Kg8 18.Bd2 a4 19.Ng4 h5 20.Nf2 d5 21.cxd5 exd5 22.Rf1 Re8 23.Re1 dxe4 24.Nxe4 Re5 25.Qd1 Na5 26.Qe2 Nc6 27.Rc1 Rb5

[]

28.Bh6 Qe6 29.Bxg7 Kxg7 30.Rc4 Qg4 31.Qd2 h4 32.h3 Qd7 33.Qc2 Rf5 34.Qxa4 Qf7 35.Rc1 Ne5 36.Qxd4 Qb3 37.Rc7+ Kh6 38.Qe3+ g5 39.Qe2 Nxd3 40.Rc3 Qf7 Scoresheet goes unreadable; at least to move 42... **1-0**

(18) Kaplan,Glenn (1676) - Abraham,Renjish (1861) [A17]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.19), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d3 c6 8.a3 d5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Bf4 Nc6 11.Ne5 h6 12.Qa4 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Nd7 14.Bf4 Nc5 15.Qd1 d4 16.Na2 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Qd5+ 18.Kg1 e5 19.Nb4 Qe6 20.Bd2 a5 21.Nc2 Nb3 22.Rb1 Rac8 23.Ne1 Rc5 24.e3 Nxd2 25.Qxd2 dxe3 26.fxe3 Rd8 27.b4 axb4 28.axb4 Rb5 29.Nc2 Rbd5 30.d4 Qg6 31.Qe2 exd4 32.exd4 Bf6 33.Rbd1 Bxd4+ 34.Rxd4 Rxd4 35.Nxd4 Rxd4 36.Qe8+ Kh7 37.Qxf7 Qxf7 38.Rxf7 Rxb4 39.Kg2 Kg6 40.Rf8 Rb2+ 41.Kh3 h5 42.Rf4 b5 43.Rd4 b4 44.Rc4 b3 45.Rb4 Rb1 46.g4 hxg4+ 47.Rxg4+ Kf5 48.Rxg7 b2 49.Rg2 Ke4 50.Kg3 Kd3 51.Kg4 Kc3 52.Rg3+ Kc2 53.Rg2+ Kb3 54.Rg3+ Ka2 55.Rg2 Rc1 56.h4 Kb3 57.Rxb2+ Kxb2 58.h5 Kc3 59.Kf5 Kd4 60.h6 Last scoresheet ends. Position on board is quite drawn. Time? **0-1**

(19) Hack,Richard (1567) - Babayan,Gagik (1784) [B12]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.20), 11.01.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 h6 6.Be3 Qb6 7.Qc1 c5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Bxc5 Qxc5 10.c3 Bxb1 11.Rxb1 Nc6 12.0-0 a5 13.Qf4 Nge7 14.Rbd1 0-0 15.Bd3 f5 16.h4 Qb6 17.Rd2 Qc7 18.h5 Qd7 19.Bb5 Qe8 20.Qh4 Qf7 21.Re2 g5 22.hxg6 Qxg6 23.Qf4 Rf7 24.g3 Kh7 25.Kg2 Qg4 26.Qxg4 fxg4 27.Bd3+ Kg7 28.Nh4 Nf5 29.Nxf5+ exf5 30.e6 Rf6 31.Rfe1 Ne7 32.Bb5 h5 33.f4 Rh6 34.Rh1 Rah8 35.b4 axb4 36.cxb4 Rc8 37.a3 Rhh8 38.Bd7 Rc3 39.Ra2 Kf6 40.b5 Ng6 41.Re1 h4 42.Rae2 Rxg3+ 43.Kh2 Ne7 44.Re3 Rxe3 45.Rxe3 Ng6 46.a4 Ke7 47.a5 Nxf4 48.Rc3 g3+ 49.Kh1 Ra8 50.Rc7 Rxa5 51.Bc6+ Kxe6 52.Bxd5+ Kxd5 53.Rc1 Ra2 0-1

(20) Mays,Jerry L (1700) - Cortinas,Martin A (1662) [B33]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.21), 11.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nf5 d5 7.f3 d4 8.Nb5 a6 9.Na3 Nxe4 10.fxe4 Bxf5 11.h4 Bxe4 12.Qg4 Bd5 13.Bd3 Be6 14.Qf3 Bb4+ 15.c3 dxc3 16.0-0 cxb2 17.Bxb2 Bc5+ 18.Rf2 Bxf2+ 19.Qxf2 Qxd3 20.Rf1 Rd8 21.Qb6 Rd7 22.Nb1 Nd4 23.Qc5 Qe3+ 24.Rf2 Ne2+ 25.Kh2 Qxc5 0-1

(21) Baer,Michael A (1441) - Casares Jr,Nick (1600) [D00]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.24), 11.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bf4 a6 4.e3 Bd7 5.Bd3 e6 6.Nf3 Bd6 7.Ne5 0-0 8.0-0 c6 9.h3 h6 10.Qf3 Be8 11.Bxh6 gxh6 12.Qg3+ Kh8 13.Qh4 Kg7 14.Qg3+ Kh8 15.Qh4 Kg7 1/2-1/2

(22) Yamamoto,Craig (1500) - Hansen,Mateo Stephen (1624) [B21]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.26), 11.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.f4 e5 3.d3 exf4 4.Bxf4 Qf6 5.Qf3 Qxb2 6.Qd1 Qxa1 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.g3 Nf6 9.Bg2 Qxa2 10.0-0 Qe6 11.Re1 h6 12.c4 g5 13.Be3 Ng4 14.Bd2 Nf6 15.Be3 d6 16.Nc3 Ng4 17.Nd5 Nxe3 18.Nc7+ Kd7 19.Nxe6 Nxd1 20.Nxf8+ Rxf8 21.Rxd1 a5 22.Ra1 a4 23.Bh3+ Kc7 24.Bg2 a3 25.Nd2 a2 26.Nb3 Nb4 27.Nc1 Bg4 28.Kf2 Bd1 29.Ke3 Nc2+ 30.Kd2 Nxa1 31.Kxd1 Ra3 0-1

(23) Morgan,Jerry (1467) - Tamondong,Cesar Bercilla (1617) [B20]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (5.27), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.f4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 Bg7 4.d3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.g3 c5 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.0-0 Rb8 9.Na3 a6 10.Bd2 b5 11.Nc2 Bb7 12.Rb1 Qc7 13.Re1 e5 14.b4 cxb4 15.Nxb4 Nxb4 16.cxb4 Ng4 17.Qe2 Qb6+ 18.Kf1 f5 19.h3 fxe4 20.hxg4 exf3 21.Bxf3 exf4 22.gxf4 Bxf3 23.Qxf3 Qd4 24.Qe4 Qf6 25.Qe6+ Kh8 26.Kg2 Qd4 27.Qe4 Qf6 28.Qd5 Qh4 29.Qf3 Be5 30.Rh1 Qe7 31.Qe4 Bf6 32.Rbe1 Qxe4+ 33.dxe4 Rbc8 34.Rc1 Bb2 35.Rxc8 Rxc8 36.Kf3 Rc4 37.f5 gxf5 38.gxf5 Be5 39.Rc1 Rxc1 40.Bxc1 h5 41.Bf4 Kg7 42.Bxe5+ dxe5 43.Kg3

1-0

(24) Gimelfarb,Ilia (1599) - Ansari,Jahaan (1461) [C01]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.10), 11.01.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Nge2 0-0 7.0-0 Be6 8.Nf4 Bg4 9.f3 Be6 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.a3 Ba5 12.Bg5 Bb6 13.Ne2 e5 14.c3 exd4 15.cxd4 c6 16.Qc2 h6 17.Bh4 Nbd7 18.Kh1 Rc8 19.Bh7+ Kh8 20.Nf4 Rf7 21.Bg6 Re7 22.Qf5 Bxd4 23.Ne6 Rxe6 24.Qxe6 Nf8 25.Qf5 Nxg6 26.Qxg6 Bxb2 27.Rab1 Bxa3 28.Rxb7 Rc7 29.Rxc7 Qxc7 30.Bxf6 gxf6 31.Qxh6+ Kg8 32.Qxf6 Bf8 33.g4 a5 34.Rc1 c5 35.Qe6+ Qf7 36.Qxf7+ Kxf7 37.Ra1 c4 38.Rxa5 c3 39.Ra7+ Ke6 40.Rc7 d4 41.Kg2 Kd5 42.Kf2 Bd6 43.Rc8 Bxh2 44.Ke2 Bf4 45.Kd3 Be3 46.Rd8+ Ke5 47.Rf8 Bd2 48.Rf5+ Ke6 49.f4 Be3 50.Re5+ Kf6 51.g5+ Kg6 52.Re6+ Kf7 53.Rf6+ Kg7 54.f5 Bd2 55.Re6 Bxg5 56.Rg6+ Kf7 57.Rxg5 Kf6 58.Rg4 Kxf5 59.Rxd4 1-0

(25) Jade,Valerie (1532) - Ross,Max L (1549) [C51]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.28), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Be7 6.d4 d6 7.d5 Nb8 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qb3 Nf6 10.Qxb7 Na6 11.Qxa6 Nxe4 12.Bb5 Nc5 13.Bxd7+ Qxd7 14.Qc6 Qxc6 15.dxc6 Nd3+ 16.Ke2 e4 17.Nd4 a6 18.f3 Nxc1+ 19.Rxc1 d5 20.fxe4 dxe4 21.Ke3?? Bg5+ 22.Kxe4 Bxc1 23.a4 0-0 24.Na3 Bb2 25.Ra2 Bxc3 26.Nc4 Bxd4 27.Kxd4 f6 28.Rb2 Rab8 29.Rb7 Rbc8 30.Kc5 Kf7?? 31.Nd6+ Ke6 32.Nxc8 Rxc8 33.Ra7 g5 34.Rxa6 Rd8 35.Ra7 Rd5+ 36.Kc4 Kd6

37.Rxc7 Rc5+ 38.Kb4

38...Rxc6?+- [38...Rc2! is, insists the computer, a draw. 39.Rf7 (39.Rxh7 Rxg2! *(39...Kxc6? 40.g3)*) 39...Kxc6] **39.Rb7?=** [39.Rxc6+ Kxc6 40.g4+- (in fact, mate in 20 moves)] **39...h5=** [39...Rc2=] **40.Kb5?! Rc5+?!** [40...Rc2!?=/+] **41.Ka6?** [41.Kb4=] **41...Rc2-+ 42.a5 Rxg2 43.Rb6+ Ke7** [43...Ke5!] **44.Kb7 Rxh2! 45.a6 Ra2 46.Kc6 h4 47.Rb7+ Ke6 48.a7 h3 49.Kb5 h2 50.Rb6+ Kf5 51.Ra6 Rxa6 52.Kxa6 h1Q 0-1**

(26) Sachs-Weintraub,Julian (1429) - Martin,Michael J (1387) [A17]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.29), 11.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.cxd5 exd5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.g3 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Bf4 Bf5 8.Qb3 Bc8 9.Nxd5 Nxd5 10.Qxd5 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 Bxd2+ 12.Kxd2 c6 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.e3 Bf5 15.Ne2 Na6 16.h3 Re8 17.g4 Be6 18.a3 Rad8 19.f4 Bd5 20.Bxd5 Rxd5 21.Nc3 Rdd8 22.Ke2 Rxd4 23.Kf3 Rd3 24.Rhe1 Rd7 25.b4 Nc7 26.Red1 Red8 27.Rxd7 Rxd7 28.Ne4 Rd5 29.h4 Ne8 30.g5 Nd6 31.Rc1 Nxe4 32.Kxe4 g6 33.Rc5 Rxc5 34.bxc5 Kf8 35.Ke5 Ke7 36.a4 b6 37.Kd4 b5 38.axb5 cxb5 39.e4 a5 40.e5 Kd7 41.Kd5 Kc7 42.c6 b4 43.Kc4 Kxc6 44.Kb3 Kb5 45.Kb2 Kc4 46.Kc2 a4 47.Kb2 a3+ 48.Ka2 Kc3 49.Kb1 b3 50.h5 a2+ 51.Ka1 b2+ 52.Kxa2 Kc2 53.hxg6 b1Q+ 54.Ka3 Qb3# 0-1

(27) Radaelli,Lucas (1411) - Neugut,Eitan (1322) [B34]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.30), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Be3 Bg7 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.f3 0-0 9.Qd2 d5 10.0-0-0 Bb7 11.e5 Nd7

12.h4!? Nxe5 13.h5 f6 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.Bh6 Rf7 16.Bxg7 Rxg7 17.Qh6 Kf7 18.Be2 Bc8 19.Rd4 Qb6 20.Rdh4 Rb8 21.b3 Qc5 [21...g5! Stockfish makes Black winning by quite a lot (-4.5) -- with moves like ...Bf5, ...Nf7 (after a king move), ...Qe3+, some rook contesting the h-file...] **22.Kb2 Nc4+?** That knight is often a key defensive piece (from f7 mostly), here it trades for a bishop that wasn't participating. **23.Bxc4 dxc4 24.Qh8?** [24.Qf4 combines defensive threats (Qxc4+) with further rook action on the h-file; White is better.] **24...cxb3 25.axb3**

25...f5?? [25...Rg8 26.Rh7+?? *(26.Qh7+ Rg7 27.Qh6 Bf5 28.g4 g5 29.gxf5 gxh4 30.Qh5+ Kf8 31.Rxh4 Rb4* the best White can get is a perpetual.*)* 26...Kf8] **26.Rh7!** [26.Rd1! threatening Rd8 also works] **26...Qe5** [26...Rxh7 27.Qxh7+ *(27.Rxh7+ Ke6 28.Qe8)* 27...Kf8 *(27...Ke6 28.Rd1; 27...Ke8 28.Rd1)* 28.Qh8+ Kf7 29.Rd1] **27.Rxg7+ Qxg7 28.Rh7 1-0**

(28) Roberts,Joseph (1358) - Harris,Clarence (1402) [C55]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.31), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.d4 d6 6.d5 Na5 7.Bd3 c5 8.b3 Bg4 9.a3 0-0 10.b4 cxb4 11.axb4 Rc8 12.Ne2 Nc4 13.Ng3 Qb6 14.c3 Nh5 15.Nxh5 Bxh5 16.Qb3 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Bh4 18.0-0 Qc7 19.Rxa7 Nb6 20.Bb2 Bg5 21.Kh1 Bf4 22.c4 Qe7 23.Bc1 Bxc1 24.Rxc1 Qg5 25.Qd1 Rc7 26.c5+- Nc8 27.Ra8 Rd8 28.Bb5 f5 29.Qg1 [29.c6!] **29...Qf4 30.Rc3 fxe4 31.Qg3 Qxg3?!** [31...Qd2 32.fxe4 Qe1+ 33.Kg2 Qxe4+ 34.Rf3 dxc5 35.Bd3 Qxd5] **32.hxg3 exf3 33.c6! b6 34.Rxf3 Rf8 35.Rxf8+ Kxf8 36.Ba6 Ra7 37.Rxc8+ Ke7 38.Bb7 g5 39.Ra8** [39.Rc7+ Kf6 40.Rd7] **39...Rxa8 40.Bxa8 Kd8 41.Kg2 h5 42.Kf3 Kc7 43.Ke4 h4 44.gxh4 gxh4 45.Kf3 1-0**

(29) Uzakbaev,Nursultan (1415) - James,Charles (1404) [B20]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.32), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Bc4 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.a4 Nc6 5.Nf3 g6 6.d3 Bg7 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Bg5 0-0 9.Qd2 f6 10.Bh6 d5 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.Ba2 d4 13.Ne2 e5 14.h3 b5 15.Nh2 Qd6 16.Ng4 Be6 17.axb5 axb5 18.Bxe6 Qxe6 19.f4 f5

20.Nf2 c4 21.Rae1 Ra4? [21...fxe4 22.Nxe4 *(22.dxe4 Ng8)* 22...Nd5] **22.fxe5** [22.dxc4!] **22...Qxe5 23.exf5 Nxf5 24.c3** [24.Ng4!] **24...Qe3 25.Qc2** [25.Qd1] **25...cxd3** [25...Qg5! 26.Ne4 Qxg2+!-/+] **26.Qxd3 Qxd3 27.Nxd3 Ne3?** [27...Kg8; 27...Rfa8; 27...dxc3] **28.Rxf8 Kxf8 29.cxd4** [29.Nxd4! Nxd4 30.Rxe3+-] **29...Nc2 30.Rf1+ Ke7 31.d5! Ne3?!** [31...N6b4 32.Nc5] **32.Re1** [32.dxc6 Nxf1 33.c7 Rc4 34.Kxf1 Rxc7 35.Nc3 Rb7 36.b4+-] **32...Nc2 33.Rd1 N6d4 34.Rd2** [34.Nc3!] **34...Kd6 35.Nc3 Ra1+ 36.Kf2 b4?!** [36...Ra8] **37.Nxb4 Nxb4 38.Rxd4 Nc2 39.Rh4 Re1 40.Rxh7 1-0**

(30) Cendejas,Jon Rodolfo (1254) - Starr,Albert Martin (1552) [C42]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.33), 11.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nxe5 Qe7 5.Nf3 Nxe4 6.Qe2 Nxc3 7.Qxe7+ Bxe7 8.dxc3 d6 9.Bd3 Bg4 10.Nd4 Nd7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bf4 c6 13.Rfe1 Rfe8 14.h3 Bh5 15.Nf5 Bf8 16.Nxd6 Rxe1+ 17.Rxe1 Nc5 18.Bc4 b5 19.Bf1 Bg6 20.Re2 Ne6 21.Bg3 Rd8 22.Rd2 Nc5 23.Rd4 Bxc2 24.Nxb5 Rxd4 25.Nxd4 Be4 26.f3 Bd3 27.b4 Bxf1 28.Kxf1 Na4 29.Be1 c5 30.Nc6 cxb4 31.cxb4 Bd6 32.Nxa7 Kf8 33.b5 Ke8 34.Ba5 Bc5 35.Nc6 f6 36.Ke2 Kd7 37.Kd3 Kd6 38.Ke4 g6 39.g4 h6 40.Bd8 Nc3+ 41.Kd3 Nxb5 42.Na5 Kd5 43.Bxf6 Na3 44.Nb3 Bf8 45.Nd2 Ke6 46.Ne4 Nb5 47.a4 Nc7 48.Bb2 Bb4 49.Bc1 h5 50.gxh5 gxh5 51.h4 Be1 52.Bg5 Nd5 53.Kc4 Nb6+ 54.Kb5 Nd7 55.Nc5+ Nxc5 56.Kxc5 Kd7 57.Kb5 Bf2 58.a5 Kc7 59.a6 Kb8 60.f4 Ka7 61.f5 Bd4 62.f6 Be5 63.f7 Bd6 64.Bh6 Ka8 65.f8Q+ Bb8 66.Qf3+ Ka7 67.Qb7# 1-0

(31) Chan,John (1506) - Lintz,Michael Harry (1376) [D02]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.34), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.h3 c5 4.e3 e6 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.0-0 Qc7 10.Re1 c4 11.b4 a5 12.bxa5 Rxa5 13.a4 b5 14.Ne5 Bxe5?! [14...Rxa4-+] **15.dxe5 Qxe5 16.Nf3 Qc7 17.Ba3 bxa4 18.Bb4 Ra8 19.Nd4 Ne4 20.Qg4 g6 21.Qh4 Nd6?** [21...h5-+] **22.Qf6?**

[22.Qf4!+/- Kd7 23.Bxd6 Qxd6 24.Qxf7+ Kc8 25.e4!+-] **22...0-0!= 23.Qe5?** [23.Bxd6 Qxd6 24.Nf5! gxf5 25.Qg5+ Kh8 26.Qf6+=] **23...Rfd8-/+ 24.Reb1 Be8 25.Qg3 Nb5?! 26.Qg5 Nxd4** [26...Nd6!] **27.exd4 Bc6 28.Be7 Rdb8 29.Bf6 Rxb1+ 30.Rxb1**

30...Rb8??+- [30...Qd6 keeping a bead on f8 31.Be5 Qd8 32.Bf6 h6! 33.Qf4 Qf8] **31.Re1** [31.Rxb8+ Qxb8 32.Be5] **31...Qc8 32.Be5 Rb3 33.Qf6 Kf8 34.Qh8+ 1-0**

(32) Sterling,Isaac (1126) - Rothman,Ivan (1487) [E94]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.35), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.Be3 exd4 9.Nxd4 c5? 10.Ndb5 Qb6 11.Qxd6 Qxd6 12.Nxd6 b6 13.f4 Ne8 14.Rad1 Nxd6 15.Rxd6 Nf6 16.Rfd1 Bg4 17.Bxg4 [17.e5!] **17...Nxg4 18.Bc1** [18.Bf2] **18...Bd4+ 19.R1xd4 cxd4 20.Rxd4 Rad8 21.Nd5 Kg7 22.Bd2 Nf6 23.Bc3 Nxd5 24.cxd5 f6 25.Kf2 a5 26.Ke3 Rd6 27.e5 Re8 28.Kf3 fxe5 29.fxe5 Rf8+ 30.Ke4 Re8 31.Rd1 Rdd8 32.e6+ Kg8 33.Ke5 Rc8 34.Bd4 b5 35.d6 Rf8 36.d7 Rc2 37.Kd6 Ra8 38.Ke7 Rc7 39.Be5 Rb7 40.Rf1 b4 41.Rf7 Raa7 42.Rf8# 1-0**

(33) Frank,Robert H (1222) - Simpkins,Jerry (1539) [A80]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.37), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 f5 3.c3 Nf6 4.Nbd2 e6 5.Nb3 Bd6 6.Bg5 0-0 7.e3 Qe8 8.c4 c6 9.c5 Bc7 10.Be2 Ne4 11.Nbd2 Qg6 12.0-0?? [12.h4] **12...Nxg5 13.Nh4 Qf6 14.f4 Nh3+ 15.gxh3 Qxh4 16.Rf3 Nd7 17.Qf1 Nf6 18.Rg3 Ne4 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Qg2 g6 21.Qf2 Qe7 22.h4 Bd8 23.h5 Qf7 24.Qg2-+ Bf6?? 25.hxg6+- hxg6 26.h4??** [26.Rxg6+ Kh7 27.Rg3+-; 26.Bh5 Qh7 27.Bxg6 Qh6 28.Rh3 Bh4 29.Bh5+ Kh7 30.Rxh4 Rg8 31.Qxg8+ Kxg8 32.Bf7+ Kg7 33.Rxh6 Kxh6 34.Be8! *(34.Kf2 Bd7 35.Rg1 Rf8 36.Bg8 Re8=)* 34...e5! 35.Bf7!+/-] **26...Kh7-+ 27.Rh3 Rg8 28.Kh2 Bd7 29.Rg1 Rg7 30.Qf2 Rh8 31.h5 g5 32.h6 Rgg8 33.Bh5 Qe7 34.Be2 g4 35.Rh5 Be8** [35...Qf7] **36.Rg5 Bxg5 37.fxg5 Qxg5 38.Qf4 Qh4+** [38...Qxf4+] **39.Kg2 Qh3+ 40.Kf2 g3+ 41.Rxg3 Rxg3** [41...Qh2+] **42.Qxg3 Qxg3+ 43.Kxg3 Rg8+ 44.Kf2 Kxh6 45.Ke1 Bh5 46.Bc4 Re8 47.b4 e5 48.d5 cxd5 49.Bxd5 Re7 50.a4 Bf3 51.a5 f4 52.Kf2 fxe3+ 53.Kxe3 Rd7 54.Bxe4 Bxe4 55.Kxe4 Rd4+ 56.Kxe5 Rxb4 57.Kd6 Rb5 58.a6 bxa6 59.Kd7 Rxc5 0-1**

(34) Rushton,Peter James (1294) - Bryan,Robert R (373) [B50]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.40), 11.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 e5 5.Nxf7 Qd7 6.Nxh8 Nc6 7.Bf7+ Kd8 8.d3 b5 9.Bd2 a5 10.Na3 b4 11.Nc4 Rb8 12.Bg5 Be7 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Bd5 g5 15.Nf7+ Kc7 16.a4 Ba6 17.g4 Ne7 18.Nfxd6 h6 19.Qf3 Rf8 20.Qe3 Bg7 21.Qxc5+ Kb8 22.Qb6+ 1-0

(35) Ahrens,Richard William (1256) - Wagner,Tyler (1050) [E20]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated Game San Francisco (5.41), 11.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 Nf6 5.a3 Bxc3 6.Bxc3 0-0 7.e3 b6 8.Nf3 Nbd7 9.b4 c5 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.Ne5 Ne4 12.Bb2 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 f6 14.Bb2 cxb4 15.axb4 a6 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Bd3 Qb6 18.0-0 Qxb4 19.Ba3 Qc3 20.Bxf8 Kxf8 21.Bxe4 dxe4 22.Qd6+ Ke8 23.Rfc1 Qe5 24.Qc6+ Bd7 25.Qxa8+ Ke7 26.Qxa6 Kf7 27.Qc4+ Kg6 28.Qd4 Qb5 29.Qxe4+ Bf5 30.Qf4 1-0

(36) Johnson,Nathaniel - Allen,Tom Carter (1426) [A00]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.44), 11.01.2020

1.h4 e5 2.e4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Be2 Nc6 5.c3 d6 6.g3 Be6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Nf3 0-0-0 10.b4 Bb6 11.a4 g5 12.a5 Bxf2+ 13.Kxf2 g4 14.Nbd2 gxf3 15.Nxf3 d5 16.Qc2 a6 17.Rab1 Bg4 18.b5 Nb8 19.bxa6 Nxa6 20.Qb2 Nc5 21.Qb5 Nxd3+ 22.Qxd3 dxe4 23.Qxe4 Bxf3 24.Qxf3 Qxf3+ 25.Kxf3 Rd6 26.Rbd1 Rf6+ 27.Kg2 e4 28.Rdf1 Rc6 29.Rxf7 Rxc3 30.Kh3 Ra3 31.Re7 e3 32.Re5 Rf8 33.Bg4+ Kb8 34.Re1 Rf2 35.R1xe3 Raa2 36.Be6 Rh2+ 37.Kg4 Ra4+ 38.R3e4 Ra3 39.Re3 Ra4+ 40.Kh5 1-0

(37) Chambers,Don (1298) - Sullivan,George Thomas (914) [B50]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.45), 11.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Bc4 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d3 Nc6 5.Nf3 g6 6.Ng5 e6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.h3 0-0 9.Nf3 d5 10.exd5 exd5 11.Bb5 Bd7 12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.Bg5 Qc7 14.Nbd2 b6 15.g3 Nd7 16.Bf4 Qb7 17.d4 Rfe8 18.Re1 Rxe1+ 19.Qxe1 Nf6 20.Ne5 Re8 21.Ndf3 Nd7 22.Ng5 Nxe5 23.dxe5 d4 24.e6 Bh1 25.exf7+ 1-0

(38) Ballantyne,Andrew (877) - Gimelfarb,Natan (1134) [C55]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated Game San Francisco (5.46), 11.01.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.0-0 d6 6.d4 Bg4 7.Qd3 Nb4 8.Qb3 Bxf3 9.Bxf7+ Kd7 10.Qxf3 Nxc2 11.Qf5+ Kc6 12.Be3 Nxa1 13.Rc1+ Kb6 14.dxe5+ c5 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.Bxc5+ Kb5 17.Bxd6+ Ka4 18.b3+ Nxb3 19.axb3# 1-0

(39) Dunlap,Steven (1037) - North,Jeff James (867) [D91]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (5.47), 11.01.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.Nxd5 Nxg5 7.Nxg5 0-0 [7...e6] **8.e4 e6 9.Nxh7 Kxh7 10.Nf4 Bxd4 11.Nh3 e5 12.Qf3 Nc6 13.Be2 Kg7 14.0-0 Rh8 15.Qa3 Bxh3 16.gxh3 Qe7 17.Rab1 Rad8 18.b4 Nxb4 19.Kh1 Rd6 20.f3 Nc2 21.f4 exf4 22.Qf3 Ne3 23.Rg1 Ra6 24.Bd3 Rxa2 25.e5 Qe6 26.Qe4**

26...Rxh2+ 0-1

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Newsletter #906

Feb 21, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM
- USATW
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- TD Corner
- Tony's Teaser
- Scholastic Chess
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- TNM Games
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM Round 6 Recap

TNM Heads Into Final Week

The Max Wilkerson TNM, the first of the 2020 season, will enter its final week this coming Tuesday, with decisive matches in two sections, and a couple of games to see if perfection remains over seven weeks. In the championship section, Josiah Stearman won his game against Natalya Tsodikova, giving him a full point lead over Nicholas Weng headed into final week. The match was tough, and Tsodikova's position looked solid, but an error late opened the door for Stearman to take advantage and he never let go. It looks like the final round will have Stearman face ofl against A player Nicholas Weng, who recently moved here and has had a great inagural TNM showing.

In the A/B section, Bruce Ricard continues on a roll, defeating Nicholas Boldi and staying a perfect 6/6. He is 1.5 point ahead of the field, and will win the A/B section with a round to spare. The question now is will he remain perfect, it is a marathon after all, and even strong players would find it difficult to with seven straight. We will follow to see if he can close the show.

In the U/1600 section, Ilia Gimelfarb also has a perfect 6/6 after a win against Max Ross. This sets up a likely final round battle against Joseph Roberts (5/6). Can Roberts pull off the upset and claim a share of 1st? Tune in on Tuesday night, as we elevate the top 2 boards in each section to boards 1-6 to capture the final round drama!

For a full list of standings and results from the round, click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924035021/https://www.milibrary.org/tuesday-night-marathon)

2020 US Amateur Team West Championship

The Mechanics' Institute was the organizer for the 2020 U.S. Amateur Team Championship, which was held February 15-17 at the Hyatt Regency SFO in Burlingame. The event had 64 teams and 266 players, all vying to be the champion team from the West, who will then go on to the national semi-final with the champions of the tournaments from the North, South, and East.

The winning team was a local team from Berkeley Chess School called BCS (Best Chess School). The team consisted of IM elect Gabriel Bick, IM Ladia Jirasek, FM Rayan Taghizadeh, and Ben Lemkin. In 2nd place was BCS Can We Wu It? and 3rd place was Kolty Chess Club.

Special shout out goes to Junior Mechanics' team of NM Ruiyang Yan, Ethan Boldi, Daniel Lin, and Nicholas Boldi, which finished top in the under 2000 category, including a draw in the final round against the overall top seed of the tournament Elem to GM led by GM Steven Zierk. Congrats to these amaing kids!

This event had 20 boards broadcast online on Chess24, and we had live commentary starting at round 3. Parents were engaged, observing the games online and cheering for their teams. Our goal was to organize a great national event in a way that unites communities through chess, both live and online.

Full results can be found by following this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/usatw (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924035021/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/usatw)

To watch and re-live the live broadcast, please follow this link and choose the day: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess/videos (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924035021/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess/videos)

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to support this great event, including Mechanics' Institute chess committee member Jim Eade, who attended and joined the commentary along side GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead. Our commentators did an amazing job. Thank you to our great TD staff, including Chief TD John McCumiskey, Assistant Chief TD Reka Sztaray, and TD Richard Koepcke. Very special thanks to Judit Sztaray, who was co-organizer and driving force in making the event an overall success. Thank you to all the players and parents who helped us make create this experience for everyone and helped enhance the player and spectator experiences.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

This column will return next newsletter.

Article by WIM Alexey Root about Mechanics' Institute

https://www.sparkchess.com/heart-in-san-francisco.html (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924035021/https://www.sparkchess.com/heart-in-san-francisco.html)

Tournament Director's Corner

What's so special about the Team Tournaments?

by Dr. Judit Sztaray, FIDE NA, USCF Senior TD

Over the past weekend we had one of the most exciting and fun events of the year, the Amateur Team West Championship. Many were familiar with the special rules of the team tournaments, but even this Senior Tournament Director had to look up a rule or two to make sure that we were adhering to the USCF rules.

I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the interesting rules that we had to enforce this weekend, and perhaps shed some light to our decisions:

1. The first important concept to keep in mind is that Team tournaments are unique in the sense that teams are paired against teams. No individual pairings are posted.
   Wait, What? No pairings for the individual players? How will I know who I'm playing?
   We always hear this question at the beginning of any team tournament from players who are not used to this format.
   The answer lies in the lineup of the other team:
   It's up to the team to decide who sits down and play in any round. This of course does not make too much of a difference when a team consists of four players. Then you know that those four players should (most likely) always be at the table in every round.

   If a team has five or six players, however, then it is up to the team to decide who is sitting down to play in any given round, and there is no way to know until the games have started. Captains and teams can make changes until the last minute, given that they adhere to a very important rule that I'll discuss in the second point.
   So my answer always: take a look at your opponents team, if there are four players, most likely you'll be playing with the player on the same place in the lineup as you. If more than four players is listed, then go to your board and wait and see.

2. The second rule to keep in mind is that players in any team must sit down in rating order.
   31B. Player rankings. Players on a team are ranked according to rating; the higher-rated players play on lower board numbers. Alternates must be lower-rated than regular team members. Unrated players, unless assigned ratings (28D), must play on higher-numbered boards than rated players.

   It's ultimately the captain's responsibility to make sure that all players are in order. If a team has alternates, that alternate must sit in line where s/he falls.
   This especially crucial and important to pay attention when a team recruits a player during the tournament. This happened a few times this past weekend, due to sickness and unforeseen circumstances, which prevented players from coming back to play.

3. The third rule is that boards must be filled from lowest to highest board numbers by the team members. If any player is missing, players from higher board number must move up to the lower board number.

   31B. If a player is missing from the lineup, lower-rated teammates must move up to preserve the order by rating, so that if a team forfeits games, they are always on the last (highest-numbered, lowest-rated) boards. Board assignments must always be made as described in the preceding paragraph.

   When a player does not show up at the start of the round, the team has two choices: all boards higher than the missing board can opt not to start the game until making sure that the player gets here, or they can also opt to move up. If any team has less than 4 players, it's always the top boards that need to be filled, and the bottom board(s) will be forfeited.
   This also means that if any board is not filled, i.e. there is a gap between team players, then that board and all higher boards are forfeit their games. Even if they played the game, and it will – of course – be USCF rated, however, for tournament score purposes, it will count as a forfeit. Unfortunately, no special circumstances or emergencies can give an exception to this rule. The forfeit is also applicable in the individual standing, since the individual player did not sit at the correct board at the round in question. So unfortunately, while the player won the game that s/he started, if that player did not sit at the correct board, even the individual player standing will have to show as a forfeit loss.

4. Captain's responsibilities are not only to fill out the result sheet, make sure players are sitting in rating order, but also they can advise any team members on draw offers. This of course have to follow the announced rules: whether or not TD have to be present, and captain and player must never discuss the game itself, or analyze the position. They can only discuss game scores, and if a draw would be advisable for a team.

References:
US Chess rules: http://www.uschess.org/content/view/7752/369/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924035021/http://www.uschess.org/content/view/7752/369/)

Tony's Teasers

Last week's problem:
White to move and mate in 3, J. Balik, 1924

Solution: 1. Rg7!! Kxc6 2. Bc4 f5 3. Rc7#

This week's problem

White to move and mate in 3. K.S. Howard 1936

Scholastic Chess

Report on the 2020 US Amateur Team West National Championship's Scholastic Side Event

The scholastic side event of the exciting 2020 US Amateur Team West Championship took place on Saturday, February 15th. A total of 68 players competed on 17 teams. While the main event had a restriction that teams had to be under 2200 average rating, the scholastic side event had the maximum of the average rating at 1200. The team entries were impressive, with the top team, the Sacramento Scholastic All-Stars team, right at 1199.8 average rating.

The time control, as usual, was kid friendly with G/30;d5 with games lasting no more than an hour. At the end of the day, after five rounds, the Sacramento team emerged as the clear winner with a perfect score of 5/5. We also awarded Top Girls team, Top School team and Top Club team, which went to Berkeley Chess School Queens, The Fallon Colts,and the Mechanics' team, respectively.

For this scholastic side event, we actually help the players and do things a bit differently than the main event. We do post individual pairings rather than team pairings, because it's so much easier for the kids to read where they have to sit down, and we make sure that the scholastic teams are all 4-player teams. We also do not assign captains responsibilities as this would confuse most teams, so every child can play their game regardless how the other boards are doing. Nevertheless, they get a sense of the team comradery, see how their overall score from the four boards affect how they are paired, and understand how the team stands in the tournament.

Overall, this tournament was a lot of fun, and we thank all the participants and appreciate their willingness to try something that was likely new to them. Congratulations to all the winners and all the players who came out and played!

Complete standing: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournament-archive?y=2020&t=77&e=289848 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924035021/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournament-archive?y=2020&t=77&e=289848)

Our next big event is the signature scholastic event of
the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club

2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship

FREE EVENT - Register online to secure your spot!

Saturday, March 28, 2020 @ Golden Gate Park

Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924035021/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-san-francisco-scholastic-championship) - Registration (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924035021/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020SanFranciscoScholasticChampionship) - Flyer (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924035021/https://www.milibrary.org/sites/default/files/SFScholastic_Mar28.pdf)

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Practical Openings 5:

Center Counter (or Scandinavian) Defense with 2…Nf6 – 1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6

This simple, yet imbalanced defense to 1.e4 is easy to learn as Black forces the action with his/her first move. The compelling attack on the white e-pawn with 1…d5 immediately contests the center and almost always results in the pawn exchange to keep the center open (for both Black and White). The variation recommended here is to not recapture the d-pawn with the queen (2…Qxd5) but delay a move with 2…Nf6 so that there is no loss of time moving the queen around (as it gets attacked on the central squares).

After 1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 White has three reasonable responses. The Modern Variation is to play the straightforward 3.d4, giving back the pawn to concentrating on space and development. 3…Nxd5 is the usual response when both sides attend to development. White may play 4. c4 to attack the central knight that should retreat to b6.

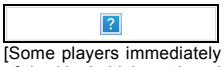
The second option for White after 2…Nf6 is to play 3. Bb5+, interfering with Black's recapture of the d-pawn. That allows Black to block with a developing move, usually 3…Bd7 (though 3…Nbd7 is also ok)..

The attempt by White to hold on to the extra pawn with 3. c4 c6 4. dxc6?! Nxc6 rewards Black with quick development and leaves White with a hole on d4 (this is examined in example 3).

(1) White - Black [B01]

Center Counter 2...Nf6

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.Nf3 Diagram



[Some players immediately attack the knight with 4.c4 This has little independent significance as the knight simply retreats to b6.] **4...Bg4** [An alternate is 4...g6 which is an active deployment of the king's bishop, though White gains an edge after 5.c4 Nb6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.c5 N6d7 *(7...Nd5 8.Bc4 c6)* 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0] **5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Be7 7.c4 Nb6 8.Nc3 Nc6** Diagram



This move attacks the center immediately and is preferable to castling. **9.Be3** [9.d5 exd5 10.cxd5 Nb4 11.Qd4 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 0-0 may be a little edge to White, yet there is play for both sides.; 9.c5 Nd5 10.h3 Bf5 11.Qb3 a6 12.Qxb7? Na5 traps the queen] **9...Bxf3! 10.Bxf3 Nxc4 11.Qa4 Nb6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qxc6+ Qd7** is equal *

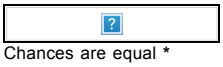
(2) Black - White [B01]

Center Counter 2...Nf6

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Bb5+ Diagram



This check seeks to cause disruption in the Black camp. Black could interpose with the queen's knight, but simplest is the bishop. **3...Bd7 4.Be2** [4.Bc4 b5! 5.Bb3 a5 6.a3 Bg4 7.f3 Bc8 8.Nc3 Ba6 gives Black plenty of play for the pawn.] **4...Nxd5 5.d4 Bf5!** White has moved the bishop twice, so it pays for Black to do the same and place the bishop outside the pawn chain before playing ...e6. **6.Nf3 e6 7.0-0** [7.a3 Be7 8.c4 Nb6 9.Be3 0-0 10.Nc3 Bf6 11.h3 Nc6 gives active chances to both sides.] **7...Be7 8.c4 Nb4!** This active move, troubling White on the c2 square, gives Black a good game. **9.Na3 0-0 10.Bf4 c6** Diagram

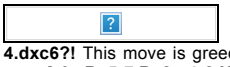


Chances are equal *

(3) White - Black [B01]

Center Counter 2...Nf6

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 [There is little to recommend the advance 2.e5 as Black will play for the center with 2...c5 and keep the option of develping the light squared bishop before playing ...e6; 2.Nc3 dxe4 3.Nxe4 Nd7 4.Nf3 Ngf6 is easy for Black] **2...Nf6 3.c4 c6!** Diagram

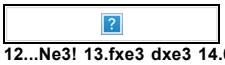


4.dxc6?! This move is greedy. Safer is to transpose into the Panov-Botvinnik Attack with [4.d4 cxd5 5.Nc3 e6 *(or 5...Nc6)*] **4...Nxc6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nf3** [For 6.d3 Bc5 see our 2nd illustrated game] **6...Bc5 7.Be2 e4 8.Ng5 Qd4 9.0-0 h6 10.Nh3 Bxh3 11.gxh3 0-0-0** Black has the better attacking chances with White's backward development *

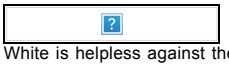
(4) Emanuel Lasker - Max Victor Behnisch [B01]

Berlin Exhibition, 1912

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.dxc6?! Nxc6 5.Nc3 e5 6.d3 Bc5 7.Be3 World Champion Lasker is on the defensive after 7 moves. He plays to counter the pressure on the a7-g1 diagonal. **7...Nd4 8.Nf3 Ng4 9.Bxd4 exd4 10.Ne4 Bb4+ 11.Nfd2 0-0 12.Be2** Diagram



12...Ne3! 13.fxe3 dxe3 14.0-0 exd2 15.Nxd2 Qd4+ 16.Kh1 Qxb2 Black has regained the pawn with the bishop pair and dark square control **17.Ne4 Qd4 18.Rb1 a5 19.Rf4?** Looking for activity White starts complications which end up favoring Black. **19...f5 20.Qb3 Be6 21.Ng5 Qxf4 22.Nxe6 Qe5 23.Nxf8 Qxe2 24.Nd7 Be1 25.c5+ Kh8** Diagram

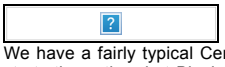


White is helpless against the queen and bishop attack **26.h3 Qf1+ 27.Kh2 f4 28.Rxe1 Qxe1 29.d4 Qg3+ 30.Qxg3 fxg3+ 31.Kxg3 Rd8** The black rook mops up the white pawns. **0-1**

(5) Llaneza Vega,Marcos (2504) - Muzychuk,Anna (2533) [B01]

Bundesliga 0910 Germany (3.8), 14.11.2009

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Be7 7.a3 0-0 8.c4 Nb6 9.Be3 Bf6 10.Nc3 Nc6 Diagram



We have a fairly typical Center Counter position. White has a bit more space, but all the Black pieces are developed to useful squares. Chances are roughly even. **11.Rc1 Qd7 12.d5** White starts the action, but Black is ready. **12...Ne5 13.Bxb6!? axb6 14.Nd4 c5!?** Aggressive, but a little risky as well. [14...Rfe8 is equal] **15.Nxf5 exf5 16.Qb3 f4 17.Ne4** [17.Qxb6 f3! 18.gxf3 Ng6 with serious attacking chances] **17...Bd8 18.Rfe1 f5 19.Nd2 Qd6 20.Nf3 Bf6 21.Nxe5 Bxe5** This interesting bishops of opposite color position is sharp. White has a protected passed d-pawn, but Black has a mobile kingside majority which can spearhead the attack. **22.Bf3 Rfe8 23.Re2 Re7 24.h4 g6 25.Rce1 Kg7 26.Qb5 Ra5 27.Qb3 Ra8 28.Qb5 Kf6** Not repeating moves, Anna plays to win. The slow but powerful plan is to advance pawns on the kingside. **29.Kf1 h6 30.g3?!** A bit of panic in a tense position. White is worse after this weakening. **30...fxg3 31.fxg3 Rae8 32.h5?!** [32.Kg2 Bxg3 33.Qxe8 Rxe8 34.Re6+ Rxe6 35.Rxe6+ Qxe6 36.dxe6 Bxh4 is also bad. Better was; 32.Qb3 Bxg3 33.Rxe7 Rxe7 34.Rxe7 with drawing chances] **32...g5 33.b4?! g4 34.bxc5 Qxc5 35.Bg2 Qxb5 36.cxb5 Bxg3 37.Rxe7 Rxe7 38.Rxe7 Kxe7** White has reached a pawn down bishops of opposite color ending, but this one is hopeless due to the passed black f and g pawns. **39.d6+ Bxd6 40.Bxb7 Bxa3** Diagram



0-1

2020 Wilkerson Memorial TNM Games Round 6

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Tsodikova,Natalya (2204) - Stearman,Josiah Paul (2445) [B31]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (6.1), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 [4...bxc6 has also been seen in dozens of games at the top and down.] **5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Nd7 8.Be3 e5 9.Qd2 h6 10.0-0 Qe7 11.Nh2 Nf8 12.f4 exf4 13.Bxf4 Ne6 14.Bg3 Qg5** A well played opening by both sides reaches an even position. **15.Qe1 Nd4 16.Nf3 Qe7 17.Qf2 0-0 18.Rae1**



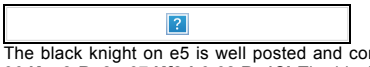
18...f5!?N [18...Be6 has been played a few times: 19.e5 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3 Rae8 21.Ne4 Bd5 22.Nf6+ Bxf6 23.Qxf6 Qxf6 24.exf6 c4 25.Bd6 Rxe1 26.Rxe1 Rd8 27.Be7 Rd7 28.d4 g5 29.Bc5 Be6 30.Bxa7 Kh7 31.c3 Kg6 32.Rf1 Rd5 33.Bb8 Rf5 34.Be5 Rxf1+ 35.Kxf1 b5 36.Ke2 h5 37.Ke3 Kf5 ½-½ Efimenko,Z (2632)-Wang,Y (2626) Paks 2006] **19.exf5 Qd8 20.Qd2** [20.fxg6?! Nxf3+ 21.gxf3 Bxh3] **20...Bxf5 21.Nxd4 cxd4 22.Ne4 Qd5 23.Nd6 Be6 24.Nxb7 Qxa2 25.Nc5 Bd5 26.b3 Rxf1+ 27.Rxf1 Re8 28.Re1 Rxe1+ 29.Bxe1 Qb1 30.Kh2 Bf6?!** [30...Be5+ 31.Bg3 Bxg3+ 32.Kxg3 Qf1 keeps an even game] **31.h4 Be7 32.Ne4 Kh7? 33.h5** [33.Qa5! planning Qxa7 would put pressure on Black.] **33...g5 34.Qf2** [34.Qe2 is even stronger] **34...Kg8 35.Qd2?!** [35.Qe2! **35...Bxe4 36.dxe4 Bd6+ 37.g3 c5 38.Kh3 Kf7 39.Qe2 d3!? 40.cxd3 Qxb3 41.Kg2 Ke7 42.e5?** Both players have navigated a complex middle game well. Natalya finally errs under the constant pressure to play precise moves. The position was even, but this just throws away an important pawn. **42...Qd5+ 43.Kh2 Qxe5 44.Qd2 g4 45.Qxh6? Qe2+! 0-1**

(2) Childress,Jason (2073) - Askin,David Benjamin (2027) [B18]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (6.2), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.f4 e6 7.Nf3 Bd6 8.Bd3 Ne7 9.0-0 Nd7 10.Ne4 Bxe4 A good move. Black gives up the two bishops, but gets enough control of the center for equality. **11.Bxe4 Nf6 12.Bd3 Qc7 13.Ne5 0-0 14.Nc4 Rfd8 15.Qf3 Nf5 16.c3** [16.Bxf5 exf5 allows Black control on the light squares.] **16...c5 17.g4 Nh4 18.Qh3 Ng6 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.f5 exf5 21.gxf5 Ne7 22.Bf4 Qd5 23.Be5 cxd4 24.Bxd4 Nc6 25.Bxf6 gxf6 26.Rf3 Ne5 27.Rg3+ Kf8**



The black knight on e5 is well posted and compensates for the doubled pawns. **28.Bf1 Ke7 29.Bg2 Qc5+ 30.Kh1 Qf2 31.Qh4 a5 32.Rf1 Qe2 33.Qe4 Qxe4 34.Bxe4 Rd2 35.Rg2 Rxg2 36.Kxg2 Rg8+ 37.Kf2 b6 38.Rg1?!** The black king is more central than his counterpart after this exchange. **38...Rxg1 39.Kxg1 Ng4 40.c4 Kd6 41.b3 Ne3 42.Kf2 Nd1+ 43.Kf3 Nc3 44.a3 Kc5 45.Ke3 a4 46.Bc2 axb3 47.Bxb3 Nb1 48.Kd3 Nxa3 49.Kc3?!** [49.Ba2] **49...b5?!** [49...Nb1+! 50.Kc2 Kb4!] **50.cxb5 Nxb5+ 51.Kd3 Nd6 52.Ke2?** letting the king in **52...Kd4 53.Kf3 Ke5 54.Kg4 Nxf5 55.Kh5** [55.Bxf7 Nh6+] **55...Nd6 56.Bc2 f5 57.Kh6 f4 58.Kxh7 f3 59.Bd3 Kf4 60.Kg7 f5 61.Kg6 Ne4?!** [61...Kg4! stops the h pawn] **62.h4! f2 63.h5 Ng5?!** [63...Ng3 64.h6 Ke3 65.Bc4 Ne2] **64.h6 Ke3 65.Bc4 Nf3? 66.h7?** [66.Bf1!] **66...Ne5+ 67.Kg7?** [67.Kxf5! Nxc4 68.h8Q f1Q+ 69.Ke6] **67...Nxc4 68.h8Q f1Q 69.Qe8+ Kf4 70.Qb8+ Ne5 71.Kf6 Qc4?** [71...Qa6+ wins] **72.Qxe5+ Kg4 73.Qxf5+ Kg3 74.Qg6+ Kf3 75.Qh5+ Qg4 76.Qh1+ Qg2 77.Qd1+ Qe2 78.Qb3+ Qe3 79.Qd5+ Qe4 80.Qd1+ Qe2 81.Qa4 Qb2+ 82.Kg6 Qb1+ 83.Kg5 Qg1+ 84.Kf5 Qb1+ 85.Kf6 Qb2+ 86.Kf7 Qb7+ 87.Kg6 Qe4+ 1/2-1/2**

(3) Winslow,Elliott Charles (2223) - Yan,Ruiyang (2221) [E50]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (6.3), 18.02.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 c5 6.Nf3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 d6 8.e4 Nc6 9.e5 dxe5



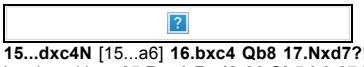
10.Nxe5?N [10.dxe5 Ne8 *(10...Ng4 11.Bf4 f6 12.Qc2 fxe5 13.Bxh7+ Kh8 14.Bg3)* 11.Bxh7+?? *(11.0-0+/-)* 11...Kxh7 12.Ng5+ Kg8 13.Qc2 g6-+ 0-1 (33) Havik,V (2139)-Papathanasiou,E (1951) Barcelona 2015] **10...cxd4 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.cxd4 e5 13.dxe5 Qa5+ 14.Kf1 Qxe5 15.Rb1 Bf5 16.Bb2 Qe6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Bxf5 Qxf5 19.Rb3 Rad8 20.Qf3 Qc2 21.g3 Rd1+ 22.Kg2 Rxh1 23.Kxh1 Qxc4 24.Kg2 h6 25.a3 c5 26.Rc3 Qd4 27.Rd3 Qe5 28.Qc6 Rb8 29.Re3 Qf5 30.Rf3 Qc8 31.Qd5 Qc7 32.Rc3 Rc8 33.Rc4 Qc6 34.Qxc6 Rxc6 35.Kf3 Ra6 36.a4 Kf8 37.Ke4 Ke7 38.Kd5 Ra5 39.Re4+ Kd7 40.Rc4 Ke7 41.Re4+ Kd7** "=?" **1/2-1/2**

(4) Clemens,Kristian (2019) - Boldi,Ethan [Kazanjian] (2090) [D46]

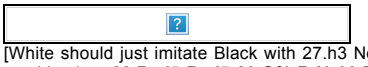
MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (6.4), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

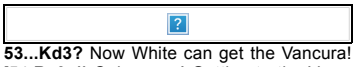
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.b3 Be7 9.Bb2 0-0 10.Qe2 c5 11.Rfd1 cxd4 12.exd4 Nh5 13.Bc1 Nhf6 14.Bb2 Re8 15.Ne5



15...dxc4N [15...a6] **16.bxc4 Qb8 17.Nxd7?!** [17.Rab1!?] **17...Nxd7 18.d5?! exd5** [18...Bd6!?] **19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Bf6 21.Qc2 Bxb2 22.Qxb2 Qd6 23.Bb5 Re7 24.Bxd7 Rxd7** So far a level position. **25.Rac1 Rad8 26.Qb5 h6 27.Rc3?**



[White should just imitate Black with 27.h3 Note 27...Qe5 28.Rc8! keeps it even.] **27...Qxd5!** Stealing a pawn in broad daylight! White neglected to make back rank luft and allowed this nice combination. **28.Rxd5 Rxd5 29.Qf1 Rd1 30.Rc7?!** [30.h4; 30.g3] **30...a5 31.Rc6 b5 32.Rb6** [32.Rc5 Rxf1+ 33.Kxf1 Rd1+ 34.Ke2 Rb1] **32...Rxf1+** [32...b4 33.Rb5 Rxf1+ 34.Kxf1 Rd1+ 35.Ke2 Ra1 36.Rxa5 b3] **33.Kxf1 Rd5 34.Ke2 Kh7 35.h4 f6 36.g4?!** [36.a3; 36.g3] **36...b4 37.h5?!** Advancing too far, this creates a weakeness **37...f5! 38.f3 fxg4 39.fxg4 Rd4?!** [39...Rg5 40.Ra6 Rxg4] **40.Rb5 a4?!** [40...Rxg4 41.Rxa5 Rg5 42.Ra4 Rxh5 43.Rxb4 Rh2+] **41.Kf3 a3 42.g5?!** [42.Kg3; 42.Rb8 '!'] **42...hxg5 43.Rxg5 Rd2** [43...Rd3+! 44.Ke2 (On everything else, THEN ...Rd2) 44...Rh3 45.Rb5 b3 46.axb3 a2 47.Ra5 Rh1 is a nice trick to know] **44.Rb5 Kh6 45.Rxb4 Kxh5 46.Ra4 Rxa2** It's now a six-piece endgame, so we can see with certainty every little blunder. But right now Black is won (in 36 moves, not that that helps). **47.Kg3 Ra1 48.Kg2 g5** That surprisingly costs Black eight moves, now it takes 42. But that's to mate, and there will be pawn moves along the way... [48...Kg5 was most move-efficient.] **49.Kh2 g4 50.Ra8** [50.Kg3!? drags it out the longest, although 50...Kg5! 51.Rxg4+ Kf5! (only winning move) 52.Ra4 Ke5 The key drawing method for White is called the Vancura Position, and White just can't get there from here. For example: 53.Kg2 Kd5 54.Rf4 (White needed to play 54.Rf3, which is a bit impossible) 54...Ra2+ 55.Kf3 *(55.Kg3 Rb2)* 55...Rh2!] **50...Kg5 51.Kg2 Kf4 52.Ra4+ Ke3! 53.Rxg4**



53...Kd3? Now White can get the Vancura! [53...Ra2+!! is the only move to win. 54.Kh3 *(54.Kf1? Kf3; 54.Kg3 Rb2; 54.Kg1; 54.Kh1 Rf2)* 54...Rf2] **54.Kf2?** Stepping out of the "Safe Zone." [54.Rg3+!! Only move! Getting to the Vancura Position with check. 54...Kc4 (54...Ke2 sets a little trap: 55.Rf3?? *(55.Rb3; 55.Kh2; 55.Rh3; 55.Rc3;* Even *55.Kh3* draws, precariously: *55...a2 56.Rg2+ Kf3 57.Rh2 Kf4 58.Rf2+ Ke3 59.Rh2)* 55...Rg1+!) 55.Rf3! and there it is. White checks from the side, ready to play to the a-file the moment the pawn advances to a2. And Black has no place to hide from those checks.] **54...Kc3** Why fool around? [54...a2 55.Ra4 Rh1] **55.Ke2** [55.Ra4 a2 56.Kg2 Kb3 57.Ra8 Rb1] **55...a2 56.Ra4 Rh1** and there's that classic skewer again. **0 1**

(5) Lum,Michael K (1914) - Kuczek,Kevin W (1982) [A85]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (6.5), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

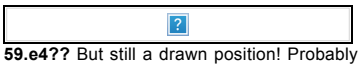
1.d4 f5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.h4!? b6 5.Nf3 d6?! 6.h5 Be7 7.h6 g6 8.Qc2 Bb7 9.Bg5?! [9.Ng5 Qd7 10.d5!? opens things up in a way White likes] **9...Ne4 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.e3 Nd7** Now Black has a solid game **12.Bd3 Ndf6 13.0-0-0 0-0-0 14.Kb1 Rhf8 15.Rhf1 e5 16.Nd5?** Giving a pawn **16...Nxd5 17.cxd5 Bxd5 18.Ba6+ Bb7 19.Bxb7+ Kxb7 20.d5 Qd7 21.Rc1 Rc8 22.Qb3 g5 23.Ne1?? Nd2+ 0-1**

(6) Melville,Cailen J (1884) - Busch,Jonah M (1944) [A62]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (6.6), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.g3 g6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Bf4 Nh5 11.Bg5 f6 12.Be3 f5 13.Qd2 Nf6 14.Ng5 Na6 15.Ne6 Bxe6 16.dxe6 Nc7 17.Rfd1 Nxe6 18.Qxd6 Qxd6 19.Rxd6 Rab8 20.Rad1 b6 21.Nd5 Ne4 22.Rd7 Bxb2 23.Bxe4 fxe4 24.Ne7+ Kf8 25.Nc6 Rbc8 26.Bh6+ Bg7 27.Bxg7+ Nxg7 28.Nxa7 Ra8 29.e3 Re7 30.Rd8+ Rxd8 31.Rxd8+ Kf7 32.Nc8 Re6 33.Rd7+ Kf6 34.Rb7 Nf5 35.Nxb6 Rc6 36.Nc4 Ke6 37.Kf1 h5 38.h4 Nd6 39.Nxd6 Kxd6 40.Ke2 Ra6 41.Rb2 Kd5 42.Kd2 c4 43.Kc2 Kc5 44.Kb1 c3 45.Rb3 Kc4 46.Rb8 Kd3 47.Rd8+ Ke2 48.Kc2 Ra3 49.Rf8 Rxa2+ 50.Kxc3 Ra5 51.Rf4 Rf5 52.Kd4 Rxf4 53.gxf4 Kf3 54.Ke5 Kg4 55.Kxe4 Kxh4 56.f5 gxf5+ 57.Kxf5 Kh3 58.Kf4 h4



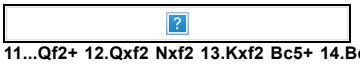
59.e4?? But still a drawn position! Probably White lost on time. [59.Kg5 just wins.] **0-1**

(7) Argo,Guy (1939) - German,Felix (1895) [C30]

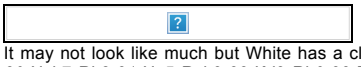
MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (6.7), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.f4 e5 2.e4 King's Gambit by transpostion. **2...Qh4+** '?!' **3.g3 Qe7 4.d3** [4.fxe5!] **4...d5!? 5.Nc3 Nf6?!** [5...dxe4] **6.fxe5 Qxe5 7.Nf3 Qe6 8.Bg2 dxe4 9.Ng5 Qb6 10.Ngxe4 Nxe4 11.Qe2**



11...Qf2+ 12.Qxf2 Nxf2 13.Kxf2 Bc5+ 14.Be3 Bxe3+ 15.Kxe3



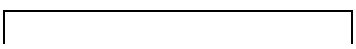
It may not look like much but White has a clear advantage here. Development matters in the endgame as well! **15...c6 16.Ne4 0-0 17.Nd6 Nd7 18.Rae1** [18.Bh3!? Rd8 *(18...Nb6 19.Bxc8 Nxc8 20.Nxb7 Rb8 21.Na5 Rxb2 22.Kd2 Rb6 23.Rhe1* keeps up some pressure.*)* 19.Kd2] **18...Nf6 19.c4?** [19.Kd2] **19...Rd8 20.Nxc8 Re8+?** [20...Raxc8 21.Kd2 Rc7 White doesn't have a whole lot.] **21.Kd2 Raxc8 22.Bh3 Rcd8 23.Rxe8+ Nxe8 24.Re1** [24.b4] **24...Kf8 25.Kc3 c5 26.a3 Rd6 27.Re2 a6?!** Pawns on light squares -- bad. **28.b4 b6 29.bxc5 bxc5 30.Re5** [30.a4! Rh6 31.Bc8 Nc7 32.Re5] **30...Rh6 31.Bd7** [31.Bc8 Rxh2 32.Rxc5 Ra2 33.Ra5 Nc7 34.Bxa6] **31...Nf6 32.Bc8 Rxh2 33.Rxc5 Rg2 34.g4** [34.Bxa6 Rxg3 35.Bb7 should be easy.] **34...Nxg4 35.Rg5** '!' **35...Ne3?!** [35...h5!] **36.Rxg2 Nxg2 37.Bxa6** The bishop is superior to the knight in this coming pawn race **37...Ke7 38.a4 Kd6 39.Bb7 Nf4 40.a5 h5 41.d4** White still has to put the win together, but he does manage it. [41.a6! Kc7 42.c5! Ne6 43.Kc4 Nd8 44.Bd5] **41...h4?!** [41...Kc7] **42.c5+ Kc7 43.a6 g5 44.d5** '!' **44...h3 45.d6+ Kb8 46.Kc4 g4 47.Kb5 Ka7** [47...g3 48.Kb6 g2 49.a7#] **48.c6 Ne6 49.c7 Nd4+ 50.Kc4 g3 51.c8Q g2 52.Qc5+ Kb8 53.Qxd4 h2 54.Bxg2 1-0**

(8) Persidsky,Andre (1856) - Heidari,Ako (1940) [D28]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (6.8), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Qe2 a6 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.a4?! Bd7 13.Bd2 Rac8 14.Rac1 Ne5 15.Nxe5 Qxe5 16.Ba2 Qb8?! [16...Rfd8] **17.e4 Bd6 18.Bg5?!** [18.g3] **18...Bc6?**





[18...Bxh2+ 19.Kh1 Bf4] **19.Rxd6! Qxd6 20.e5 Qc5 21.Nd5?!** [21.b4! Qxb4 22.exf6+/-] **21...Qxc1+! 22.Bxc1 Nxd5** What advantage there is is Black's. with two rooks and a pawn for the queen black is ahead **23.Bd2?!** [23.Bg5] **23...f5?!** This creates weakenesses [23...Ne7!-/+] **24.exf6+/- Rxf6 25.Bg5 Bd7** [25...Rf7] **26.Qd2 Rf7 27.a5 h6 28.Bxd5 exd5 29.Be3 Bc6 30.h3 Re8 31.Qd3 Re4 32.f3 Ra4 33.Qc3 Rc4 34.Qd3 Ra4 35.Qc3 Ra1+ 36.Kh2 Ra4 37.Kg3 Rf6 38.b3?!= Ra2 39.Bd2 Re6 40.Qd3 Kh8 41.Be3? Bb5?** [41...d4!-/+] **42.Qc3?** [42.Qb1!] **42...Rg6+-+ 43.Kf4 Raxg2 44.h4 Bc6 45.Bd4 Kh7 46.h5 Re6 47.Qd3+ Kg8 48.Qf5 Re8 49.Qh3 Rg5 50.Qh4 Bb5 51.Qh3 Kh7 52.Bc5 Ree5 53.Bd4 Rxh5! 54.Qc8 Re7 55.Qf8 Rd7 56.Qe8 Rg5 57.Ke3 Rg6 58.Kf2 Rdd6 59.Qe7 Bc6 60.Qf8 Rde6 61.Qf5 Kg8 62.Qf4 Re8 63.Qc7 Rf8 64.f4 Rf7 65.Qc8+ Kh7 66.f5 Rg5 67.f6 gxf6 68.Qd8 h5 69.Ke3 Rg3+ 70.Kd2 Rf3 71.Ke2 Rf5 72.Ke3 Kg6 73.Qg8+ Rg7 74.Qh8 Rg5 75.Qd8 Rf5 76.Qh8 Rh7 77.Qg8+ Rg7 78.Qh8 Bb5 79.Qd8 h4 80.Qh8 Rh5 81.Qd8 h3? 82.Qd6?** [82.Qxf6+ Kh7 83.Qxg7# if the score is correct] **82...Rf7 83.Qh2 Bf1 84.Kf2 Bg2 85.Ke3 Rf5 86.Kd2 Rf3 87.Be3 d4 88.Bxd4 Rd7 89.Qg1 Rf4 90.Ke3 Rfxd4 91.Qh2 Rd3+ 92.Kf4 R7d4# 0-1**

(9) Reichwein,Axel (1892) - Chin,Alex (1834) [B01]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated Game San Francisco (6.11), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Bxe2 5.Nxe2 Qxd5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.c3 0-0-0 8.Qb3 e5 9.Qxd5 Nxd5 10.Be3 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nxe3 12.Nxc6 Nxf1 13.Nxd8 Kxd8 14.Kxf1 f5 15.Nd2 b5 16.a4 b4 17.cxb4 Bxb4 18.Rd1 Ke7 19.Nc4 Ke6 20.Rd3 f4 21.Ke2 g5 22.Rb3 a5?! Black stifles his own bishop with pawns. **23.Rd3 g4 24.Rd4 Kf5 25.Kd3 c5?! 26.Rd5+ Ke6 27.Re5+** [27.Ke4!+-] **27...Kf6 28.Ke4 Rd8 29.Kxf4** [29.Rd5!] **29...Rd4+ 30.Re4 Bd2+ 31.Ne3?** [31.Nxd2 Rxd2 32.Kxg4 Rxb2 33.Kf3+/-] **31...h5= 32.h3 Bc1 33.hxg4 hxg4 34.b3 Bd2 35.f3 g3 36.Kxg3 Rxe4 37.fxe4??** [37.Nd5+ Ke5 38.fxe4 Kxe4 39.Nb6=] **37...Bxe3-/+ 38.Kf3 Bd4 39.Ke2 Ke5 40.Kf3 Bg1** This is won for Black, but somehow it was a draw. **1/2-1/2**

(10) Pane,Gianluca (1927) - Hakobyan,Sos (1818) [E38]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (6.12), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5 5.dxc5 Na6 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Qxc3 Nxc5 8.f3 d5 9.cxd5 Qxd5 10.e4 Qc6 11.Be3 Ncd7 12.Qxc6 bxc6 13.Rc1 Bb7 14.Ne2 0-0 15.Nd4 Rfc8 16.Kf2 Rab8 17.Be2 Kf8 18.Rc2 a6 19.Nb3 Ke8 20.Na5 Rc7 21.b4 Ba8 22.Rhc1 Ne5 23.Bxa6 g5



24.Bxg5 Neg4+ 25.Ke2 h6 26.Bf4 e5 27.Bg3 Nxe4 28.fxe4 Rb6 29.Bd3 h5 30.h3 Nh6 31.Nc4 1-0

(11) Lehman,Clarence E (1907) - Perlov,Alexander (1825) [B20]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (6.13), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.b4 cxb4 3.a3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nf3 e6 6.axb4 Bxb4 7.c3 Be7 8.Na3 Nc6 9.Nb5 Qd8 10.d4 Nf6 11.Bd3 0-0 12.0-0 b6 13.Bf4 Bb7 14.Qd2 a6 15.Nc7 Rc8! 16.Nxa6 Nd5 17.Bg3 Na5!



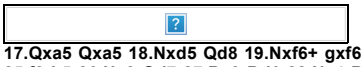
Black has given the pawn back but taken important queenside squares **18.Qb2 Rxc3 19.Bxh7+? Kxh7 20.Rxa5 bxa5 21.Qxb7 Qb6** Forcing the queen trade. White's combination starting with Bxh7+ was not enough **22.Qxb6 Nxb6 23.Rb1 Rfc8 24.Bf4 Nd5 25.Bd2 Rc2 26.h3 Ra2 27.Kf1 Rcc2 28.Ke1 a4 29.g4 f6 30.h4 Rab2 31.Kd1 Rxd2+ 32.Nxd2 Nc3+ 33.Kc1 Nxb1 34.Kxb2 Nxd2 35.Nc5 a3+ 36.Kxa3 e5 37.Kb2 exd4 38.Ne6 Nf3 39.Kc2 Kg6 40.Kd3 Ne5+ 41.Kxd4 Nxg4 42.f3 Nh6 43.h5+ Kf7 44.Kd5 Nf5 45.Nf4 Ng3 46.Kc6 Ba3 47.Kd5 Bc1 48.Nd3 Bh6 49.f4 Nxh5 50.f5 Ng3 51.Ne5+ fxe5 52.Kxe5 Bc1 0-1**

(12) Boldi,Nicholas Armen (1754) - Ricard,Bruce (1849) [B30]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (6.9), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c4 e5 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.d3 Be7 6.Be2 f5 7.exf5 Bxf5 8.0-0 Nf6 9.a3 0-0 10.Bd2 d5!? staring interesting complications. a simpler game is [10...Nd4] **11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Qb3 Be6 13.Qxb7 Na5 14.Qa6 Bc8 15.Qb5 Bd7 16.Qa6 Rf6**



17.Qxa5 Qxa5 18.Nxd5 Qd8 19.Nxf6+ gxf6 Black has emerged with an edge after the trade of queen for rook, knight and pawn **20.Bc3 a5 21.Nd2 Qc7 22.Nc4 a4 23.Bd2 Bc6 24.Rac1 Kh8 25.f3 h5 26.Ne3 Qd7 27.Bc3 Bd6 28.Nc4 Bc7 29.f4 Rg8 30.Rf2?!** [30.Bf3 Bxf3 31.Rxf3] **30...Qh3 31.Bf1 exf4 32.Bxf6+ Kh7 33.Be5?** [33.Re1] **33...Bxe5 34.Nxe5 Qe3! 35.Rc4** [35.Nxc6 Qxc1] **35...Qxe5 36.Rcxf4 Bd5 37.Rf5 Qe6 38.Rxh5+ Kg7 39.Rff5 Qe3+ 40.Kh1 Bf7 41.Rh3 Qe1 42.Rhf3 Bg6 43.Rxc5 Bxd3**



44.Rc7+ Kh6 45.Rh3+ Kg5 46.Rg3+ Kf6 47.Rf3+ Ke6 48.Rcf7 Be4! 49.R7f6+ Ke5 50.Rf2 Bxg2+! 51.Rxg2 Rxg2 52.Rf8 Rg6 53.Re8+ Re6 54.Rxe6+ Kxe6 55.Kg1 Qc1 56.h4 Ke5 57.h5 Kf4 58.h6 Kg3 59.b3 Qc5+ 60.Kh1 Qh5+ 61.Bh3 Qxh3+ 62.Kg1 Qg2# 0-1

(13) Breedt,Rudolph Frans (1882) - Xu,Jayden (1712) [B71]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (6.14), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.f4!? Bg7?! 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 Ng4?! 9.Bb5+ Nc6 10.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 11.Nxd1 a6 12.Ba4 Bd7 13.h3! Nxe5 [13...Nh6 14.Nxe7! Bxa4 15.Nd5] **14.Nxe5 Bxa4 15.Bf4! Bxc2 16.Nc3 g5 17.Bh2 Rc8 18.0-0 Rc5 19.Rac1 Bxe5 20.Bxe5 Rxe5 21.Rxc2 0-0 22.Rd1 Rc8 23.Rcd2 Rc7 24.Rd5 Rxd5 25.Nxd5 Rc2 26.Nxe7+ Kg7 27.Rb1 Kf6 28.Nd5+ Ke5 29.Ne3 Re2 30.Ng4+ Kf4 31.Rf1+ Ke4 32.Nf6+ Ke5 33.Rf2 Rxf2 34.Ng4+ Ke4 35.Kxf2 Kd3 36.Ne5+ Kc2 37.Nxf7 Kxb2 38.Nxg5 Kxa2 39.Nxh7 b5 40.Nf6 b4 41.Ne4 b3 42.g4 a5 43.g5 Kb2 44.g6 Kc2 45.Ke3 a4 46.g7 a3 47.g8Q a2 48.Qc4+ Kb2 49.Qc3+ Ka3 50.Nd2 a1N 51.Qxa1+ Kb4 52.Nxb3** and won **1-0**

(14) Drane,Robert William (1812) - Mercado,Adam (1789) [B31]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (6.15), 18.02.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.d3 Rb8 8.Rb1 0-0 9.h3 d6 10.Be3 Nd7 11.Qd2 Re8 12.Bh6 Bh8 13.Ng5 Nf8 14.f4 Ne6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.f5 exf5 17.exf5 Bd4+ 18.Kh1 Bxf5 19.g4 Be6 20.Rbe1 Bf7 21.Qf4 Bf6 22.g5 Rxb2 23.gxf6 e5 24.Qc1 Qd7 25.Kh2 Reb8 26.Qd2 Qc7 27.Re4 d5 28.Rh4 R8b4 29.Bg5 c4 30.dxc4 d4 31.Nd1 Rxa2 32.Qxb4 Rxc2+ 33.Rf2 d3 34.Qe7 Rxf2+ 35.Nxf2 Qa5 36.Rxh7 1-0

(15) Babayan,Gagik (1784) - Acosta,Anthony (1762) [B46]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (6.16), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 Bb4 8.Bd2 d5 9.exd5 cxd5 10.Qg4 Bf8 11.0-0 Nf6 12.Qh4 Be7 13.a3 Ne4 14.Qh5 Nxd2 15.Rfe1 g6 16.Qe2 Ne4 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Qxe4 Qd5 19.Qe2 Bb7 20.f3 0-0 21.Kh1 Qh5 22.b4 Bh4 23.Rf1 Bg3 24.h3 Bc7 25.Bc4 Qh4 26.Rfd1 Qg3 27.Kg1 Qh2+ 28.Kf2 Bb6+ 29.Ke1 Rfd8 30.Bd3 Bd4 31.Rab1 Bc3+ 32.Kf2 Be5 33.Qf1 Qg3+ 34.Ke2 Qf4 35.Qe1 Rac8 36.Qd2 Qg3 37.Rg1 Bc6 38.Kf1 Bb5 39.Qe2



39...Rxc2 40.Bxb5 Rxe2 41.Bxe2 Bd4 0-1

(16) Abraham,Renjish (1861) - Cortinas,Martin A (1662) [A20]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (6.17), 18.02.2020

1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.d3 Bb4+ 6.Nd2 Nf6 7.Ngf3 Nc6 8.0-0 0-0 9.a3 Bc5 10.b4 Bb6 11.Bb2 Re8 12.b5 Nd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.Bxd4 exd4 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.a4 Rc8 17.Nxd4 Qd6 18.Re1 Qb6 19.Nf3 d4 20.Qb3 Qc5 21.Qb2 Rcd8 22.Rac1 Qb6 23.Rc4 Bxf3 24.Bxf3 Re7 25.Qb4 Red7 26.a5 Qe6 27.Qb2 Ng4 28.Rec1 Ne5 29.Rc7 Nxf3+ 30.exf3 h6 31.Kg2 Qe5 32.Qc2 Qxb5 33.Rc5 Qa6 34.Qc4 Qd6 35.Re1 Re7 36.Re4 Kh7 37.Rxe7 Qxe7 38.Rd5 Rxd5 39.Qxd5 b6 40.axb6 axb6 41.Qxd4 Qb7 42.Qe4+ Qxe4 43.fxe4 1-0

(17) Carron,Joel (1645) - Madhavan,Srikrishnan (1720) [C01]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (6.18), 18.02.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.c4 c6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Ne4 9.Qc2 Bf5 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 h6 12.Ne1 Qf6 13.f3 Nd6 14.c5 Bxd3 15.Nxd3 Nf5 16.Ne5 Re8 17.Rb1 Rxe5 18.dxe5 Qxe5 19.Bd2 Nd7 20.Rfe1 Qf6 21.Be3 b6 22.cxb6 axb6 23.Bxb6 h5 24.Bf2 g6 25.Rb7 Ne5 26.Bd4 Nxd4 27.cxd4 Nc4 28.Qd1 Rxa3 29.Re8+ Kg7 30.Ree7 Nd6 31.Ra7 Rc3 32.Qd2 Rc4 33.Qe3 Rxd4 34.Re6 Rd1+ 35.Kf2 Qb2+ 36.Qe2 Rd2 37.Qxd2 Qxd2+ 38.Kf1 Qc1+ 39.Re1 Qc4+ 40.Re2 d4 41.Raa2 d3 42.Red2 Nf5 43.Kf2 Qh4+ 44.Kf1 Ne3+ 0-1

(18) Malykin,Erika (1675) - Allen,Alex (1671) [D30]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (6.19), 18.02.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c6 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.c4 Bd6 6.Bxd6 Qxd6 7.c5 Qc7 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.Nbd2 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Qxe5 12.Qb3 0-0 13.Nf3 Qh5 14.h3 Re8 15.0-0-0 Re7 16.g4 Bxg4 17.hxg4 Qxg4 18.Nd4 g6 19.Rdg1 Qd7 20.Nf5 Re5 21.Nd6 b6 22.Qc3 Qe6 23.Bf5 Rxf5 24.Nxf5 Qxf5 25.cxb6 axb6 26.a3 Ne4 27.Qc2 Qxf2 28.Qxc6 Qxe3+ 29.Kb1 Qd3+ 30.Ka1 1/2-1/2

(19) Gurovich,Roman (1714) - Mays,Jerry L (1700) [A41]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (6.20), 18.02.2020

1.d4 g6 2.Bf4 d6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Qb6 6.Na3 a6 7.Nc4 Qc7 8.a4 Bg4 9.dxc5 Be5 10.cxd6 exd6 11.Nxd6+ Qxd6 12.Qxd6 Bxd6 13.Bxd6 Nc6 14.Ne5 Be6 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.c4 Ne7 17.Be2 Nf5 18.Be5 0-0 19.0-0 Rfd8 20.Rfd1 Rd7 21.Rxd7 Bxd7 22.Re1 Be6 23.b4 Kf8 24.b5 cxb5 25.axb5 axb5 26.cxb5 Bb3 27.Rb1 1-0

(20) Kaplan,Glenn (1676) - Hack,Richard (1567) [A21]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (6.21), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.d3 e5 8.Ng5?! c6 9.Bd2 h6 10.Nf3 Na6 11.b4? Nc7 [11...Nxb4-/+] **12.Qb3 Qe8 13.a4 Bd7 14.b5 Rb8 15.Nh4 g5 16.Nf3 f4 17.Rab1 Kh8 18.h4 g4 19.Nh2 fxg3 20.fxg3 Ne6 21.Ne4 Nxe4 22.Bxe4 Rxf1+ 23.Nxf1 Nc5 24.Qa3 Nxe4 25.dxe4 Qe6 26.Ne3 Bf8 27.Qd3 Be8 28.Nf5 Kh7 29.Rf1 Rd8 30.Ne3 Bf7 31.Qc3 cxb5 32.cxb5 Rc8 33.Qa5 Bg6 34.Nd5 Be7 35.Qxa7 Bxe4 36.Nxe7 Qxe7 37.Qe3 d5 38.Qxh6+ Kg8 39.a5 Qc5+ 40.Be3 d4 41.Qe6+ Kh8 42.Qf6+ Kh7 43.Qf7+ Kh8 44.Rf6 1-0**

(21) Revi,Frank (1298) - Morgan,Jerry (1467) [D11]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated Game San Francisco (6.22), 18.02.2020

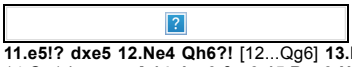
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Bf4 Qb6 5.Qc2 Bg4 6.c5 Qb4+ 7.Bd2 Qc4 8.Nc3 Bxf3 9.e3 Be4 10.Qd1 Bd3 11.Rc1 Bxf1 12.Rxf1 Qd3 13.Qb3 Qa6 14.f3 Nbd7 15.e4 e6 16.e5 Ng8 17.f4 Bxc5 18.dxc5 Nxc5 19.Nb5 Qb6 20.Nd6+ Kd7 21.Rxc5 Qxb3 22.axb3 Nh6 23.Nxb7 Rab8 24.Na5 Rb6 25.h3 Nf5 26.b4 Ng3 27.Rf3 Ne4 28.Rc2 Rc8 29.Be3 Rxb4 30.Bxa7 Rb5 31.Nb3 c5 32.Nd2 Nxd2 33.Kxd2 Rb7 34.Ra3 c4 35.Bd4 Rcb8 36.g4 g6 37.Ra6 Rb3 38.Bc3 Rc8 39.f5 Rc6 40.Ra7+ Rc7 41.fxe6+ fxe6 42.Rxc7+ Kxc7 43.Ke3 Rb8 44.Rf2 Rh8 45.Rf7+ Kd8 46.Ra7 1-0

(22) Casares Jr,Nick (1600) - Ahrens,Richard (1256) [C33]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated Game San Francisco (6.23), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Qh4+ 4.Kf1 Qf6 5.d4 d6 6.Nc3 Ne7 7.h3 a6 8.a3 Be6 9.d5 Bd7 10.Nf3 g5 Diagram



11.e5!? dxe5 12.Ne4 Qh6?! [12...Qg6] **13.Nexg5** [13.d6!] **13...Be6?** The King's Gambit is a confusing opening, which makes many players go astray. This blunder ends the game. [13...Nf5 14.Qe1 is messy] **14.dxe6 fxe6 15.Bxe6 Nec6 16.Qd5 Ke7 17.Bd2 Nd8 18.Bb4+ Kf6 19.Qxe5+ Kg6 20.Qf5+ Kg7 21.Bc3+ Qf6 22.Qxf6# 1-0**

(23) Poling,Scott E (1828) - Mahooti,James J (1854) [D90]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (6.24), 18.02.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Bf4 Nf6 5.e3 Nc6 6.Nc3 a6 7.Bd3 g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.h3 0-0 10.0-0 e6 11.Rc1 Nh5 12.Bh2 Bh8 13.Na4 Ng7 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Bd7 16.Bc7 Bxa4 17.Qxa4 Qe7 18.Bb6 Rfc8 19.Rc2 Rxc2 20.Qxc2 Ne8 21.Rc1 Bf6 22.a4 Qd7 23.b4 Be7 24.b5 Bd6 25.bxa6 bxa6 26.Qc6 Qxc6 27.Rxc6 a5 28.Bb5 Bb4 29.Bc5 Nf6 30.f3 h5 31.Rc7 g5 32.g4 hxg4 33.hxg4 Kg7 34.Ra7 Rc8 35.Bb6 Bd2 36.Kf2 Rc3 37.Bxa5 Bxe3+ 38.Ke2 Bxd4 39.Bxc3 Bxa7 40.Kd3 Kg6 41.a5 Ng8 42.Bd4 Bb8 43.a6 Ne7 44.a7 Bxa7 45.Bxa7 Ng8 46.Kd4 Kf6 47.Bb8 Ke7 48.Kc5 Kf6 49.Kd6 Ne7 50.Ba6 Ng6 51.Bc7 Nf4 52.Bf1 Ng6 53.Bd8+ Kg7 54.Bxg5 Nf8 55.Bd2 1-0

(24) Olson,David (1400) - Tamondong,Cesar (1617) [E61]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated Game San Francisco (6.25), 18.02.2020

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 g6 4.e3 Bg7 5.d4 cxd4 6.exd4 0-0 7.Bd3 d5 8.c5 Nc6 9.Bc2 Bg4 10.Be3 Re8 11.Qd2 Bxf3 12.gxf3 e5 13.0-0-0 exd4 14.Bxd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Ne4 16.Qxd5 Nxc3 17.Qxd8 Nxa2+ 18.Kb1 Nc3+ 19.bxc3 Raxd8 20.Kb2 Bf8 21.Be4 Bxc5 22.Bxb7 Rb8 23.Rd7 Re7 24.Rhd1 Rxb7+ 25.Rxb7 Rxb7+ 26.Kc2 Bxf2 0-1

(25) Ross,Max L (1549) - Gimelfarb,Ilia (1599) [D02]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.10), 18.02.2020

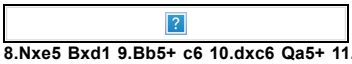
1.d4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 Bg4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 e5 6.dxe5 Nxe5 7.Be2 Bd6 8.Nxe5 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 Bxe5 10.Qb5+ Qd7 11.Qxb7 0-0 12.c3 Qg4 13.0-0 Rfb8 14.Qa6 Rb6 15.Qd3 Bxh2+ 16.Kxh2 Qh5+ 17.Kg1 Ng4 18.Re1 Qh4 19.Qf5 Rf6 20.Qxg4 Qxg4 21.Nf1 Qh4 22.e4 Qxf2+ 23.Kh1 0-1

(26) Ansari,Jahaan (1461) - Roberts,Joseph (1358) [D06]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.26), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.e4 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.d5 Ne5



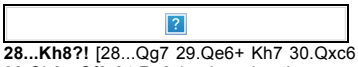
8.Nxe5 Bxd1 9.Bb5+ c6 10.dxc6 Qa5+ 11.Nc3 0-0-0 12.cxb7+ Kxb7 13.Nc6 Qc7 14.e5 Nd5 15.Ne4 e6 16.Bd2 Qb6 17.Nxd8+ Qxd8 18.Rxd1 Qb6 19.Bd3 Nb4 20.Bxb4 Bxb4+ 21.Ke2 Be7 22.b3 Qa5 23.a4 Qxe5 24.Kf3 f5 25.Ng3 g5 26.Ne4 fxe4+ 27.Bxe4+ Kb6 0-1

(27) Martin,Michael J (1387) - Radaelli,Lucas (1411) [C78]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.27), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Bc5 6.c3 Nf6 7.d3 d6 8.h3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Re1 Be6 11.Bxe6 Rxe6 12.Ng5 Re7 13.Be3 Rd7 14.b4 Bxe3 15.Rxe3 d5 16.Nd2 dxe4 17.Ndxe4 Nd5 18.Rg3 h6 19.Qg4? This just isn't worth it. **19...hxg5 20.Nxg5 Nf6 21.Qf5 Rd5** [21...Ne7!? 22.Qxe5 Ng6 pushes White back (at the cost of another pawn)] **22.Ne4** [22.Ne6!? fxe6 23.Qxe6+ gets another pawn for now, but Black is still up that knight (and not under much attack with the exchanges)] **22...Nxe4 23.Qxe4 Qd7 24.Re1 Rd8 25.Ree3? f5! 26.Rxg7+ Qxg7** [26...Kxg7 27.Rg3+ Kf7 28.Qh4 Rf8 slips away 29.Qh5+ Ke6 30.Rg6+ Rf6] **27.Qxf5 Qf7** [27...Ne7! 28.Qe6+ Kh8 is safe: 29.Rg3 R8d6] **28.Qg4+**



28...Kh8?! [28...Qg7 29.Qe6+ Kh7 30.Qxc6 Qg6 31.Qxc7+ R8d7 is starting to be a lot of pawns, but Black is still winning.] **29.Qh4+ Kg8 30.Rg3+ Kf8 31.Rf3?!** [31.Qh6+ Ke8 32.Rg7 R8d6 33.Qh8+ Qf8 34.Rg8-/+ also wins the queen but keeps the kingside pawns healthy.] **31...Qxf3 32.gxf3 Rxd3?** [32...R8d6-+ holds onto everything.] **33.Qf6+ Kg8 34.Qxc6** Things have simplified quite a bit, with more black pawns to fall. It's harder for Black to pick pawns off, for fear of getting a rook snared to a double attack. **34...Kh7 35.Qxc7+ R8d7 36.Qxe5 Rg7+ 37.Kf1**



Here the scoresheet says "37...Rd7 1/2-1/2" but whichever rook, White should play on. **1/2-1/2**

(28) Uzakbaev,Nursultan (1415) - Cendejas,Jon Rodolfo (1254) [C44]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.28), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.0-0 dxc3 7.Nxc3 d6 8.Qb3 Qe7 9.Nd5 Nxe4?? 10.Nxe7 1-0

(29) Harris,Clarence (1402) - Chan,John (1506) [C00]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.30), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d3 Nc6 3.g3 Bc5 4.Bg2 h6 5.Nf3 e5 6.0-0 Nf6 7.h3 d6 8.Nc3 a6 9.Re1 Be6 10.Be3 Bxe3 11.Rxe3 Qd7 12.Kh2 g5!?



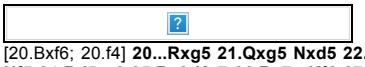
Bluntly taking advantage of not having committed his king yet. [12...h5!? is another way to go. 13.Re1 h4!? 14.Nxh4 g5 15.Nf5 Bxf5 16.exf5 Qxf5 is various problems for White.] **13.g4?** This is a drastic overreaction and ruins White's game. [13.Nd2; 13.d4! g4! *(13...exd4 14.Nxd4+/-)* 14.d5! gxh3! followed by ...Ng4+ is wild but keeps chances for both sides. *(14...gxf3? 15.Qxf3+/-)*] **13...0-0-0** [13...h5! right away is even stronger.] **14.Ng1 Kb8 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 Ne7 17.c4 h5-+** The difference in king position is a huge factor. **18.f3?** [18.gxh5; 18.Rf3 Nxg4+ 19.Kh1 Nf5! **18...hxg4 19.Re1 Ng6 20.Re3 Nf4 21.Bf1 gxh3 22.Ne2 Ng2 23.Bxg2 hxg2+ 24.Kg3 Qh3+ 25.Kf2 Nh5 26.f4 Qh4+ 27.Kxg2 gxf4 28.Rh3 Rdg8+ 29.Kh2 Qf2+ 30.Kh1 Qg2# 0-1**

(30) Morgan,Jacob (1227) - Jade,Valerie (1532) [B21]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.31), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e5 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 exd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qd1 Nf6 7.Nc3 Ke7 This must be a touch-move error. **8.Nf3 h5 9.Bc4 d6 10.Bg5 Be6 11.Nd5+ Ke8 12.0-0 Be7 13.Re1 Kf8 14.Rc1 Bg4 15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.h3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Ne5 18.Qb3 h4 19.Bd5 Rh5+- 20.Qe3?**



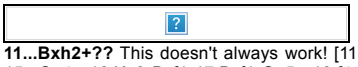
[20.Bxf6; 20.f4] **20...Rxg5 21.Qxg5 Nxd5 22.Qxe7+ Nxe7 23.Red1 f5 24.f4 Nf7 25.exf5 Nxf5 26.Rc7 b5 27.Rd5 Ne7 28.Rxb5 a6 29.Rbb7 Re8 30.Kf2 Nd8 31.Ra7 d5 32.Rxa6 d4 33.Rd6 Nf5 34.Rd5 g6 35.Rc8 Ke7 36.Rc7+ Kf6 37.a4 Ne6 38.Rc6 Rb8 39.Rb5 Rxb5 40.axb5 d3 41.b6 d2 42.Ke2 Nfd4+ 43.Kxd2 Nxc6 0-1**

(31) Rushton,Peter James (1294) - Uzakbaev,Nursultan (1415) [C51]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.32), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Bd6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d4 0-0 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Bxe5 10.Qb3 d5?! [10...Nxe4-+] **11.exd5**



11...Bxh2+?? This doesn't always work! [11...Ng4! is plenty of fun (and hardly necessary): 12.h3 (12.g3 Nxh2! 13.Kxh2 Qh4+ 14.Kg1 (14.Kg2 Bh3+ 15.Kf3 *(15.Kg1 Bxg3; 15.Kh1 Bxg3)* 15...Qg4+ 16.Ke3 Bxf1 17.Bxf1 Qg5+ 18.f4 Qxg3+ 19.Kd2 *(19.Ke2 Bxf4)* 19...Qxf4+ 20.Kc2 Qxf1) 14...Bxg3 15.fxg3 Qxg3+ 16.Kh1 Qh4+ 17.Kg1 Bh3 The loose bishop on c4 is almost an afterthought.) 12...Qh4 White's pieces are all walled off on the queenside.] **12.Kh1??** [12.Kxh2 and White seems to defend. 12...Ng4+ 13.Kg1 Qd6 *(13...Qh4 14.Bf4)* 14.g3 Qg6 15.Nd2 Qh5 16.Nf3] **12...Ng4 13.g3 Qf6 14.Nd2 Qh6** [14...Bxg3 15.fxg3 *(15.Kg2 Bd6)* 15...Qh6+ 16.Kg2 Qh2+ 17.Kf3 Bf5 and a rook to e8] **15.Kg2** [15.Nf3 Qh5 16.Kg2 Re8 17.Rh1 Re2! is a nice self-blocking theme *(17...Ne3+ 18.fxe3 Qh3+ 19.Kf2 Qxg3+ 20.Ke2 Qg2+* is enough*)* 18.Bxe2 Ne3+ 19.fxe3 Qh3+ 20.Kf2 Qxg3+ 21.Kf1 Bh3#] **15...Ne5! 16.Nf3 Qh3+ 17.Kh1 Bxg3+ 0-1**

(32) Wagner,Tyler (1050) - James,Charles (1404) [D13]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.33), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.e3 Nh5 7.Bg3 Nxg3 8.hxg3 Bg4 9.Nbd2 e6 10.Bb5 Bd6 11.Qc2 h6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qxc6+ Ke7 14.Rc1 Rc8 15.Qb7+ Qd7 16.Qxd7+ Kxd7 17.0-0 f6 18.e4 dxe4 19.Nxe4 Be7 20.Nc5+ Bxc5 21.dxc5 e5 22.Rfd1+ Ke7 23.b4 g5 24.Re1 Bf5 25.Nd4 Bh7 26.Nb5 a6 27.Nd6 Rc7 28.a4 Rb8 29.b5 a5 30.b6 Rc6 31.f3 Scoreshee breaks down. 1-0 46. **1-0**

(33) Neugut,Eitan (1322) - Dubensky,Walter Barnett (1120) [A27]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.34), 18.02.2020

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5 3.e3 Nc6 4.Nf3 d6 5.h3 Be6 6.d4 exd4 7.exd4 Bxd4 8.Nxd4 Nf6 9.Bg5 Qd7 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Qd4 Ke7 13.0-0-0 a6 14.Nd5+ Bxd5 15.Qxd5 Rhe8 16.Qxc6 bxc6 17.Re1+ Kd7 18.Rxe8 Rxe8 19.Bd3 h6 20.Kd2 Re5 21.Re1 Rg5 22.g4 h5 23.Bf5+ Kd8 24.Re3 c5 25.Ra3 1-0

(34) Lintz,Michael Harry (1376) - Frank,Robert H (1222) [D00]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.35), 18.02.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.e3 d5 4.Nd2 c5 5.c3 c4 6.b3 b5 7.a4 Bd7 8.axb5 cxb3 9.Qxb3 Ne4 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Bc4 Qb6 12.Ne2 Bd6 13.Bxd6 Qxd6 14.Qa3 Qxa3 15.Rxa3 0-0 16.0-0 Rc8 17.b6 Bc6 18.Rxa7 Rxa7 19.bxa7 Nd7 20.Ra1 Ra8 21.Bb3 Nb6 22.Ra6 Nc8 23.Rxc6 Nxa7 24.Ra6 Kf8 25.g4 Ke7 26.Ng3 g6 27.Nxe4 1-0

(35) Starr,Albert Martin (1552) - Bayaraa,Timothy (1193) [A00]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.36), 18.02.2020

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.c4 d6 5.Bc3 a5 6.Qa4+ Bd7 7.Qb3 c5 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Nxc3 b6 10.Rb1 Ra6 11.Nb5 0-0 12.Nxd6 a4 13.Qb2 Be6 14.Nb5 Bxc4 15.d3 Bxb5 16.Qxb5 Qd6 17.Qb2 Nc6 18.Nf3 Re8 19.g3 Qxd3 20.e3 Qf5 21.Nh4 Qc8 22.Bxa6 Qxa6 23.Qb5 Qa8 24.0-0 Ne5 25.Qxb6 g5 26.Qxf6 gxh4 27.f3 hxg3 28.hxg3 Re6 29.Qf4 Qd5 30.Rb8+ Kg7 31.Qg5+ Rg6 32.Qf4 c4 33.g4 c3 34.Qd4 Qa5 35.Qd8 Qa7 36.Qh8+ Kh6 37.Qxe5 Rg5 38.Qd6+ Rg6 39.Qf8+ Rg7 40.Re8 Qb6 41.Qb4 Qc6 42.Re4 f5 43.Rc4 Qe6 44.Qxc3 Qf7 45.Qc1 Kg5 46.e4+ f4 47.Rc5+ Kh6 48.Rh5+ Kg6 49.Qc6+ Qf6 50.Rh6+ Kxh6 51.Qxf6+ 1-0

(36) Rothman,Ivan (1487) - Gimelfarb,Natan (1134) [C27]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.37), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 h6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Na4 Bb6 8.Nxb6 cxb6 9.0-0 Qc7 10.f5 Qc5+ 11.Kh1 Nc6 12.c3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 h5? 14.b4 Nd4 15.bxc5 Nxf3 16.Rxf3 bxc5 17.Bb5+ Ke7 18.Bg5 Kf8 19.Bc4 Ng4 20.h3 f6 21.Bd2 a6 22.Kg1 Nh6 23.a4 Nf7 24.h4 Nh6 25.Bd5 Ra7 26.a5 Ng4 27.Rb1 Rh6 28.Rxb7 Rxb7 29.Bxb7 Rh8 30.Bxa6 Ke7 31.c4 Rb8 32.Bb5 Nh6 33.Rf1 Nf7 34.Ra1 Ra8 35.a6 Ra7 36.Ba5 Nd8 37.Bb6 Ra8 38.a7 Nb7 39.Bc6 1-0

(37) Simpkins,Jerry (1539) - Johnson,Nathaniel [C50]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.39), 18.02.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 h6 4.c3 d6 5.d4 Bg4 6.Qb3 Bh5 7.Bb5 Nge7 8.d5 a6 9.dxc6 axb5 10.cxb7 Rb8 11.Qxb5+ c6 12.Qa6 Bxf3 13.gxf3 Qc7 14.Na3 Qxb7 15.Qxb7 Rxb7 16.Nc4 Ng6 17.Be3 Be7 18.0-0-0 0-0 19.Nxd6 Bxd6 20.Rxd6 Rc8 21.Rhd1 Kh7 22.Rd7 Rcc7 23.Rxc7 Rxc7 24.Rd6 f6 25.b4 Nh4 26.f4 exf4 27.Bxf4 Rc8 28.Rd7 Kg6 29.Rc7 Re8 30.e5 Re6 31.exf6 gxf6 32.Be3 Nf5 33.a4 Ne7 34.c4 Re4 35.Kb2 Rxc4 36.Rxe7 Rxb4+ 37.Ka3 Rc4 38.a5 f5 39.a6 f4 40.a7 fxe3 41.a8Q Rc1 42.Qg8+ 1-0

(38) Hall,Diana - Chambers,Don (1298) [C55]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Extra Rated Game San Francisco (6.40), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.0-0 Na5 6.b3 Nxc4 7.bxc4 d6 8.Nd5 Nxe4 9.Qe2 Bf5 10.d3 Nc3?? 11.Qe1?? Nxd5 12.cxd5 0-0 13.Bb2 c6 14.c4 Bxd3 15.dxc6 bxc6 16.Nxe5 Bxf1 17.Kxf1 Re8 18.Qe4 dxe5 19.Bxe5 f6 20.Qxc6 Rxe5 21.g3 Qd3+ 22.Kg1 Rae8 White played 23.f4 and then resigned. **0-1**

(39) Byrd,Bill - Ballantyne,Andrew (877) [C34]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.41), 18.02.2020

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Qe7 5.0-0 Qc5+ 6.Kh1 Qxc4 7.d4 Nb4 8.Na3 Qc6 9.Ne5 Qxe4 10.Re1 Qf5 11.Nc6+ Be7 12.Nxb4 d6 13.Qf3 Qa5 14.Bd2 Qb6 15.Nd5 Qxd4 16.Nxc7+ Kd7 17.Nxa8 Qxd2 18.Nc4 Qxc2 19.Qxf4 Qd3 20.Rad1 Qg6 21.Ne5+ Kd8 22.Nxg6 hxg6 23.Rxd6+ Ke8 24.Qa4+ Kf8 25.Rd8+ Bxd8 26.Qe8# 1-0

(40) North,Jeff James (867) - Neuberg,Bryan [C30]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.42), 18.02.2020

1.e4 e5 2.f4 Bc5 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 h6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 0-0 8.Be3 Re8 9.Qd2 Na6 10.0-0-0 Nxe4 11.Nxe4 Rxe4 12.Bd5 Re7 13.f5 Bxd4 14.Qxd4 Bxf5 15.Rhf1 c5 16.Qf4 Bg6 17.Rf3 Bh5 18.g4 Bxg4 19.Qxg4 Nb4 20.Bxh6 Kf8 21.Qxg7+ Ke8 22.Rxf7 Nxd5 23.Rf8+ Kd7 24.Qg4+ Kc7 25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.Rxd5 1-0

(41) Shannon,Rex - Pagan Griso,Simone [B10]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.43), 18.02.2020

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e5 Bg4 4.d4 e6 5.Be2 Ne7 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Bxf3 Ng6 8.Bd2 Qb6 9.Nc3 Qxd4 10.0-0 Nxe5 11.Re1 Nxf3+ 12.gxf3 Bd6 13.Qe2 Qh4 14.Kg2 Nd7 15.Nxd5 cxd5 16.Qb5 b6 17.Qxd5 Qe7 18.Qxa8+ Bb8 19.Re4 0-0 20.Qb7 Qd6 21.Bf4 e5 22.Be3 f5 23.Rc4 f4 24.Rc6 Qe7 25.Bd2 e4 26.Kf1 exf3 27.Rc8 Qe2+ 28.Kg1 Qxd2 29.Rxf8+ Kxf8 30.Qxf3 Ne5 31.Qa8 Qd6 32.Re1 f3 33.Kf1 Qd8 34.Rxe5 Qc8 35.Qxf3+ Kg8 36.Qb3+ Kf8 37.Qf3+ Kg8 38.Qd5+ Kh8 39.Re6 Qf8 40.Qe4 1-0

(42) Allen,Tom Carter (1426) - Nicol,George R (1015) [B21]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.44), 18.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 e5 4.Nf3 d6 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Bc4 h6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.d5 Na5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Qe2 a6 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.Be3 b5 14.a3 0-0 15.Nd2 Rfc8 16.Rac1 Nc4 17.Nxc4 Rxc4 18.b3 Rcc8 19.f4 Ng4 20.fxe5 Nxe5 21.h3 Rab8 22.Qh5 b4 23.axb4 Rxb4 24.Bd4?? Rxd4 0-1

(43) Sullivan,George Thomas (914) - Tabatabai,Ashkon (962) [D37]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (6.45), 18.02.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bg5 g6 5.e3 Bg7 6.Nf3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 Qe7 8.0-0 Qb4 9.Bb3 b6 10.a3 Qd6 11.Rc1 Ng4 12.Nb5 Qd7 13.Nxc7+ Kf8 14.Nxa8 Bb7 15.Rc7 Qd6 16.Be7+ 1-0

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Newsletter #907

Feb 28, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM Round7
- Charlotte Chess Center Defeats Mechanics' Institute 14-10 in our 2nd Historic Club vs. Club Match
- TD Corner
- Tony's Teaser
- Scholastic Chess
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- TNM Games
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 Max Wilkerson Memorial TNM Round 7 Recap

Section Favorites Win Out, Next TNM Starts Next Week!

There was excitement building for the final round of the Max Wilkerson TNM, as two sections had perfect scores, and the top section had one lone player able to catch up to championship leader FM Josiah Stearman. At the end of the day, the leaders showed their dominance in impressive fashion.

FM Josiah Stearman had a dominant TNM en route to a clear victory in the championship section

In the championship section, FM Josiah Stearman had a full point lead over one player, Nicholas Weng. Weng was asked on the broadcast after his impressive first round victory if he thought he would win, to which he smiled and said yes. This was a bold and confident statement from a 12-year old who is rated 1864, and he knew he would have to navigate through some tough opponents to be in contention. After victories over WFM Natalya Tsodikova and NM Michael Walder, however, he was showing he was up to the task of pulling off a major TNM upset. Neverthless, Stearman made short work of Weng en route to another TNM Championship. He finishes with 6.5/7, a point and a half above the rest. In a tie for 2nd and 3rd are TNM veteran IM Elliott Winslow and CM Ethan Boldi, who turned in a solid TNM performance with 5/7. Congratulations to these three players!

In the u/2000 section, Bruce Ricard was chasing perfection as he was coming into the round 6/6, an amazing tournament showing considering it could prove difficult for even a master to go 6/6 in this section. Ricard's opponent called in last minute, however, and said he would not make the match. This gave Ricard 7/7, which was not needed as he had already clinched the section championship last week, with a point and a half ahead of the field. Ricard played an extra rated game against Mechanics' veteran NM Carlos Davila, and Davila showed there is still some things to an under 2000 player to learn, as Davila won in impressive fashion. Bruce turned in an amazing TNM showing, and we congratulate him. Bob Drane finished clear 2nd with 5.5/7 and 3rd is a tie between Renjish Abraham and Nicholas Boldi at 5/7.

Bruce Ricard on board 5 and Ilia Gimelfarb on board 6 (both playing white) crusied to victories in their sections

In the u/1600 category, Ilia Gimelfarb continues to dominate the section, as he achieved absolute perfection withj a 7/7 score after defeating Joseph Roberts. His rating will put him into the next section for the TNM, and it will be interesting to follow his performance against stronger competition. In a 3-way tie for 2nd are Maz Ross, John Chan, and Nursultan Uzakbaev at 5.5/7.

For a full list of standings and results from the round, click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045433/https://www.milibrary.org/tuesday-night-marathon)

To watch a replay of the live broadcast, please click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045433/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vw-kw94tG_U&t=7099s)

Congratulations to all the winners and players of the Tuesday Night Marathon!

Charlotte Chess Center Defeats Mechanics' Institute in our 2nd Match

The second of our club vs. club matches took place on Wednesday February 26, and it ended in a victory for the Charlotte Chess Center at 14-10. These matches are organized to faciltiate collaboration and competition of our chess clubs and showcase chess culture. They also give viewers an opportunity to learn about the players in our respective communities and the history of our chess clubs. The match was designed as a 12-player team match in which players play two games against the same opponent under a G/15 +2 time control with white and black. The players were chosen to represent sections divided by rating, giving players of many skill levels the opportunity to participate and represent their club.

The Mechanics' team played from inside the chess club against the Charlotte Chess Center

Here was the team representing Mechanics', along with their Chess.com handle. Mechanics' team is on the left.

u/2400

NM Eric Yuhan Li (wepkins) 2344 vs FM Peter Giannatos 2367

NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) 2218 vs Karthik Rangarajan 2338

u/2200

NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) 2126 vs Dominique Myers 2176

Kristian Clemens (kclemens) 2003 vs Vishnu Vanapalli 2137

u/2000

Guy Argo (guyargo) 1939 vs Alex Velasquez 1939

Ako Heidari (Oka_Ako) 1928 vs Andrew Chen 1882

u/1800

Jayden Xu (pianowizard) 1720 vs Garrett Browning 1771

Cesar Tamondong (cesarkan2) 1600 vs David Cogswell 1712

u/1600

Alejandro Canales (lilpix2) 1583 vs Enzo Restelli 1534

Valerie Jade (evariel) 1532 vs Jeffrey Prainito 1500

u/1400

Joseph Roberts (mojorobi) 1358 vs Bradley Juopperi 1392

Pete Rushton (prushton) 1181 vs Chalpati Gundumalla 1330

The match was broadcast on our Twitch channel with commentary from GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead. The Charlotte Chess Center had their own stream with commentary by GM Daniel Naroditsky, winner of the 2019 CalChess Blitz Championship held at Mechanics' Institute. It was great to have his stream covering the match, as he has a large following and was even raided on Twitch by Alexandra Botez. We appreciate the collaborative coverage and participation.

Parents and players watch on the screen as NM Ruiyang Yan is the final game left of the evening

While Mechanics' Institute did not win the match, our players performed well, and a couple of the games were close and could have easily turned the match the other way. I think it is safe to say that our team MVP of the evening was Eric Li, who defeated Charlotte Chess Center Director and founder FM Peter Gianattos 2-0. Despite the loss, players were socializing after the match, laughing, playing blitz, and just talking. The sound of that social interaction and togetherness reflect the intent of these matches and illustrate how brick and mortar clubs still have a powerful and pervasive place in our chess culture and community.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

This column will return with the new TNM.

Tournament Director's Corner

Tournament software calculated Post Tournament Rating

by Judit Sztaray, Senior Tournament Director, Fide Arbiter

In the past few weeks, I have received an increasing number of requests to include the tournament software calculated Post Tournament Rating (PTR). While I understand the interest, the main reason we have not used it is the risk of inaccuracy. With the current TNM concluded, however, we have the capacity to test it and demonstrate its accuracy to everyone.

Here are the Standings after Round 7, with the PTR included for the top 10 players in the Championship section, and top five players in the U2000 and U1600 section. Also included in the table is the MSA post rating that came out after the rating of the event, as well as the calculated difference between MSA and Swissys' PTR.

#	Name	ID	Rating	Post	MSA	Diff
2	FM JOSIAH PAUL STEARMAN	14006506	2445	2458	2448	-10
2	IM ELLIOTT CHARLES WINSLOW	10363365	2223	2246	2252	6
3	ETHAN [KAZANJIAN] BOLDI	15088362	2090	2122	2131	9
4	WCM RUIYANG YAN	15462690	2221	2232	2242	10
5	NICHOLAS WENG	15499404	1864	1968	1939	-29
6	WFM NATALYA TSODIKOVA	12634942	2204	2200	2202	2
7	FM KYRON WAYKUAN GRIFFITH	12860484	2434	2436	2469	33
8	DAVID BENJAMIN ASKIN	13776967	2027	2046	2025	-21
9	JASON CHILDRESS	12625556	2073	2065	2067	2
10	AKO HEIDARI	15206848	1940	1976	1990	14
#	Name	ID	Rtng	Post	MSA	Diff
1	BRUCE RICARD	15741428	1849	1957	1943	-14
2	ROBERT WILLIAM DRANE	12478485	1812	1879	1871	-8
3	NICHOLAS ARMEN BOLDI	15088356	1754	1780	1863	83
4	RENJISH ABRAHAM	14384094	1861	1857	1863	6
5	RUDOLPH FRANS BREEDT	13701346	1882	1878	1888	10
#	Name	ID	Rtng	Post	MSA	Diff
1	ILIA GIMELFARB	17158733	1599	1708	1731	23
2	MAX L ROSS	16425248	1549	1631	1608	-23
3	JOHN CHAN	12561007	1506	1513	1511	-2
4	NURSULTAN UZAKBAEV	17137317	1415	1509	1494	-15
5	JOSEPH ROBERTS	16864855	1358	1472	1449	-23

I took another tournament, the Chernev memorial, which happened on January 25th.

#	Name	ID	Rating	Post	MSA	Diff
1	ARCHIT DASIKA	14903402	2169	2174	2151	-23
2	SIDDHARTH ARUTLA	15336920	1658	1787	1755	-32
3	FM KYRON WAYKUAN GRIFFITH	12860484	2434	2435	2460	25
4	PATRICK PEIJUN LIU	16667410	1629	1675	1692	17
5	MICHAEL DA CRUZ	12554298	2004	1994	2000	6
6	KRISH MATAI	16444206	1712	1741	1743	2
7	CAILEN J MELVILLE	14006141	1884	1896	1975	79
8	ADITYA ARUTLA	16207801	1691	1746	1745	-1
9	VIKTOR MISHKIN	14960114	1892	1891	1892	1
10	JAMES J MAHOOTI	12621393	1853	1864	1865	1
11	ADAM MERCADO	16571026	1789	1810	1805	-5
12	SIMONA NAYBERG	14373224	1926	1893	1894	1
13	LINO FABIANI	14516978	1810	1794	1794	0
14	MANAS PALDHE	16418854	2041	2000	2002	2
15	STOYAN VASSILEV	12744505	2309	2278	2235	-43

A few things can be immediately concluded from the data:

1. SwisSys has the supplemental ratings listed as Rating, which is the pre-tournament rating. USCF always modifies the unofficial (aka actual rating), however, and that changes after each tournament. This is the first and main source of the inaccuracy listed on the standings coming out from this tournament software platform. The Tuesday Night Marathon has an even higher risk of inaccuracy due to the length of the tournament spanning several weeks and using an older supplement rating.
2. If the supplemental rating is the actual rating that USCF uses to update (i.e. the player hasn't played any tournament since the third Wednesday of last month), then the estimation is much closer, in certain cases even 100% accurate.
3. Of course if any player is still in the provisional range, the accuracy cannot be expected to be close.

As a former data scientist, this quick demonstration did spark my interest in doing a deeper analysis on the influencing factors, and in general how we can improve the process, but will leave that discussion for another time. For now, I hope this serves to demonstrate the reason we are not using this system.

Any question, feedback, comment or opinion? Email us to chessroom@milibrary.org and let's continue the discussion.

Tony's Teasers

Last week's problem:
White to move and mate in 3. K.S. Howard 1936

Solution: 1. e4!! Kh5 2. Kf3 e5 3. g4#

This week's problem: B. Harley 1941. Mate in 3 #907

Scholastic Chess

Tomorrow, SUNDAY, March 1st - New start time: 11AM

Special Team Competition and Scholastic Swiss

Events Running Parallel - Pick One and Join Us!

This is the second time we are organizing these events, following the successful tournament at the end of January.

Come out, and play against other high school kids as a team. All special rules will be explained on site.

3 sections: 700+, 400-699, and under400
First round: 11AM and then rolling schedule
Prizes: Trophies to Top 5 trophies, medals to all others!
Ideal for new tournament players - notation and use of clock is not necessary!
Register (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045433/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissMar2020) - More information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045433/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-kids-swiss-mar-2020)

Our next big event is the signature scholastic event of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club

2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship

FREE EVENT – Everyone MUST register to secure your spot!

Saturday, March 28, 2020 @ Golden Gate Park

This year we'll have two USCF rated sections: under800 and 800+. This was done to give a better experience for players at all levels.

We recommend for anyone who participated in a USCF-rated tournament before to register for any of the two sections.
If this is your first time competing, the best is to register for the non-rated section that best fits your grade level: Grade K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12.

Welcome email will be sent out on Thursday for everyone who registered online. This email will have very important information on venue, logistics, event timeline, and the awards ceremony.

Information (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045433/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-san-francisco-scholastic-championship) **- Registration** (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045433/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2020/2020SanFranciscoScholasticChampionship) **- Flyer** (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045433/https://www.milibrary.org/sites/default/files/SFScholastic_Mar28.pdf)

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

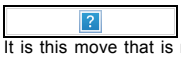
Practical Openings 6: Dutch Defense 1. d4 f5

The Dutch Defense has several advantages over the most common responses Black has to 1.d4. It limits White's options so that one does not have to learn the massive theory of the Queen's Gambit or Slav or Indian defenses. Secondly, it avoids the (now popular) London System with its own new theory and the solid positions that make some White players very comfortable. Thirdly, it imbalances the pawn structure so that it will always be a double-edged game where Black can get winning chances. The fourth reason (that of all Practical Openings we have done in these weeks) is that you need only learn certain lines of play, and then you are all set against even strong opponents.

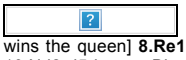
There are a few options for White to play against the Dutch. The most popular and most highly regarded is to fianchetto White's king's bishop with g3 and Bg2, to pressure the center and the queenside on the long diagonal. White also has straightforward development with 2. Nc3 and 3. Bg5. This logical play by White requires principled defense, yet then Black should be fine. The third choice for White is the Staunton Gambit, 2. e4 fxe4 3. f3, which offers a pawn for quick development and attacking chances. This gambit is tricky, but careful defense from Black takes the sting out of it.

(1) White - Black [A80]

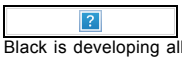
1.d4 f5 2.g3 [White could also choose the move order 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6] **2...Nf6 3.Bg2 e6** The most popular line for Black in the Dutch is to fianchetto the bishop with 3...g6 - the Leningrad System. (It's curious how the name of the chess variation is one of the few memories of the temporary name for St. Petersburg.) That system for Black is reasonable but well known. We recommend something less investigated. **4.c4 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Nc3 d6 7.0-0 a5**



It is this move that is recommended to ensure Black has sufficient control over the whole board. In the older times Black would play directly for the kingside with [7...Qe8 though White would get some edge. e.g. 8.Re1 Qg6 9.e4! fxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Rxe4! Qxe4? 12.Nh4



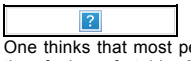
wins the queen] **8.Re1** [8.b3 Bd7 9.Bb2 *(9.d5 e5 10.Ng5 Na6 11.Ne6 Bxe6 12.dxe6 c6* has chances for both sides. The e6 pawn is as weak as it is strong.*)*] **8...Ne4 9.Bf4** [9.Nxe4 fxe4 10.Nd2 d5 leaves Black strong in the center] **9...Nd7 10.Rc1 Ndf6** Diagram



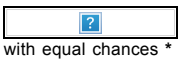
Black is developing all the pieces and taking his/her fair share of the center. This is an unbalanced position with chances for both sides. *

(2) White - Black [A80]

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Diagram



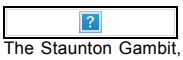
One thinks that most people play the main lines against the Dutch, but that is not the case. Mostly people haven't prepared too much and they themselves would like some sideline in which they feel comfortable. **2...d5** taking a firm grip on the center which White cannot contest with c2-c4. Instead [2...Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 fxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 is playable but slightly passive.] **3.Bg5 g6** [3...Nf6 is perfectly playable. If White doubles the pawns Black's two bishops and central control will compensate. (see example 2)] **4.h4 Bg7 5.e3 c6 6.Bd3 Be6** the bishop develops before the knight on b8 so that they both take part in the action. **7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Ngf6 9.hxg6 hxg6 10.Rxh8+ Bxh8** Diagram



with equal chances *

(3) White - Black [A82]

1.d4 f5 2.e4 Diagram



The Staunton Gambit, an aggressive line which can be met well with accurate play. **2...fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 d5!** This maintains the gambit pawn while not allowing White to develop and control the center. **5.Bg5 Bf5 6.fxe4 dxe4 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.Nge2 Qd7** Diagram

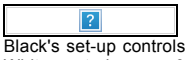


Gamibt players could be happy with the White side, but objectively Black has an edge. *

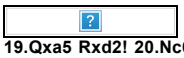
(4) Topalov,Veselin (2752) - Ivanchuk,Vassily (2769) [A80]

Wch Blitz Astana (10), 09.07.2012

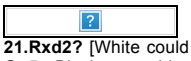
A very entertaining game between two of the world's top players from the last decades. **1.Nf3 f5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.Nbd2 Be7** Diagram



Black's set-up controls the center just as well as White's. **5.c3 b6 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.e4 Bb7!? 8.Bd3 g6!** This holds the central squares. Black is fine with the two bishops to compensate for the White central space. **9.h4 Qe7 10.Qe2 Nc6 11.0-0-0 0-0-0 12.Ba6 Bxa6 13.Qxa6+ Kb8 14.Rhe1 Bxh4!?** Greedy but risky. White has central play but needs to justify the pawn sacrifidce. [14...fxe4] **15.d5 Na5 16.exf5 gxf5 17.dxe6?!** [17.Nd4!] **17...dxe6 18.Ne5 Bg5** Diagram



19.Qxa5 Rxd2! 20.Nc6+ Kb7 Diagram

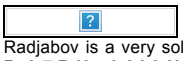


21.Rxd2? [White could hold the game with the direct 21.Qxa7+ Kxc6 22.Rxd2 as Black must play ...Bxd2+ with equality since 22...Rd8? loses to 23.f4! Bxf4 24.Qa4+] **21...Bxd2+ 22.Kxd2 Qg5+** Black saves his queen and wins White's. **0-1**

(5) Carlsen,Magnus (2693) - Radjabov,Teimour (2747) [A80]

Porto Vecchio m of the Hopes Porto Vecchio (5), 18.05.2007

This was a faster time game, but a great match of the world's top young players (who are still battling for the world title today). The Dutch is an opening to play against the world's best. **1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 d5 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.e3 c6** Diagram



Radjabov is a very solid player who takes his central squares. Magnus was not yet #1 in the world at this time (that was just a couple years later), but clearly a formidable opponent. **6.Qf3 Be6 7.Bd3 g6 8.h3 Nd7 9.g4** Real aggression, but Black is solid. **9...fxg4 10.hxg4 Bf7 11.Nge2 Qb6 12.0-0-0 0-0-0 13.Nf4 Bb4 14.Nce2 Qa5 15.Kb1 Bd6 16.c3 b5** Black has a plan to advance on the queenside because the center is under control. Magnus does hits the center, but forgets about a tactic. **17.e4? dxe4 18.Bxe4 Qxa2+ 19.Kc1 Kc7?! 20.Bxc6?** too greedy to ge the pawn back [20.Nd3 Bb3] **20...Qa1+ 21.Kc2** Diagram



21...Bb3+! 22.Kd2 [22.Kxb3 Qa4#] **22...Qxb2+ 23.Ke1 Bxd1 24.Kxd1 Qb3+ 25.Kd2 Qa2+ 26.Kd1 Qb3+ 27.Kd2 Qa2+?!** [27...Bxf4+! 28.Nxf4 Ne5! 29.Nd5+ Rxd5 30.Qxd5 Qb2+ would win for Black] **28.Ke3 Rhe8+ 29.Be4 f5 30.gxf5 gxf5 31.Ra1** desperation **31...Qxa1 32.Nd5+ Kb8 33.Qxf5 Qa5 34.Kf3 Rf8 0-1**

2020 Wilkerson Memorial TNM Games Round 7

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Stearman,Josiah Paul (2445) - Weng,Nicholas (1864) [B23]

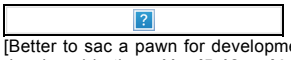
MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (7.1), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nf3 g6 [4...a6!?] **5.Bc4 Bg7 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Qf3**



Josiah has had a great tournament and wants to finish this last round quickly! In fact this threatened mate on f7 forces a decision by Black. **7...e6?!** [7...Nh6 would avoid weakening squares in the center. 8.Ne2 0-0 9.d3 Ng4 10.Bb3 d6 11.h3+/=] **8.Nb5 d6**



[Better to sac a pawn for development with 8...d5!? 9.exd5 a6 10.dxe6 fxe6 11.Na3 Nf6+/=] **9.Qa3! Be5?!** [9...Bf8!?] **10.d3 g5?! 11.c3!** Targeting the bishop on e5. Black cannot get his pieces developed in time. **11...d5 12.cxd4** [12.exd5 exd5 13.0-0! dxc4 14.Re1] **12...Bb8 13.Bb3 Qb6 14.Qc5 Qxc5 15.dxc5 a6** [15...dxe4 16.dxe4 Nf6 17.f3 h6 18.Be3] **16.Nc3** [16.Nd6+! Bxd6 17.cxd6 dxe4 18.dxe4 Nf6 19.f3 g4] **16...dxe4 17.Nxe4** White has an extra pawn. better development and better pawn structure. Josiah wraps it up efficiently. **17...h6 18.Bd2 f5 19.Bc3 Rh7 20.Ng3 Ne7 21.Nh5 Rf7?! 22.Ng7+**



Winning more material, so Black resigned. Congratulations Josiah! **1-0**

(2) Winslow,Elliott C (2223) - Childress,Jason (2073) [B01]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (7.2), 25.02.2020

[Winslow, Elliott C]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 [3.Bb5+ Bd7 *(3...Nbd7!?)* 4.Bc4 Bg4 5.f3 Bf5 6.g4 Bc8 Bishop ping-pong! 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.g5 Nb6 9.Bb5+ Nfd7 10.f4 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 c6 12.Bc4 cxd5 13.Bxd5 Ne5 14.Be4 Bg4 15.Nf3 Nc6 16.d4 1-0 (30) Fischer,R-Bergraser,V Monte Carlo 1967] **3...Bg4 4.Bb5+ c6 5.dxc6 Bxd1??**



[5...Qa5+; 5...Nxc6] **6.c7+!** [There is a lure here, in that 6.cxb7+?? Nbd7-+ (note g2 hanging!) 7.Bc6 *(7.bxa8Q Qxa8 8.f3 Bxc2-+)* 7...Rb8 8.Kxd1 (8.Bf4 Qb6-+ (8...Qa5+ 9.Nc3 Rd8?! 10.Kxd1 Qb4 11.Nb5-+ Qxb2?? One must be ever awake! *(11...e5)* 12.Nc7# (woops!) 1-0 (12) Bellos,V (1499)-Darviris,D (1000) Petroupoli 2012)) 8...Qb6] **6...Nc6** [6...Qd7? 7.c8R# *(7.c8Q#)*] **7.cxd8Q+ Rxd8 8.Bxc6+** [8.Kxd1] **8...bxc6 9.Kxd1+- 1-0**

(3) Askin,David Benjamin (2027) - Boldi,Ethan [Kazanjian] (2090) [D46]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (7.3), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Bb4 This active looking move usually leads to a loss of tempo or trading the bishop for knight. [5...Bd6; or 5...Nbd7 is preferable.] **6.Bd2 0-0 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.0-0 Bxc3** [8...b6? falls into the trap 9.Nxd5! Nxd5 10.cxd5 Bxd2 11.dxe6 winning a pawn] **9.Bxc3 b6 10.Qe2 Bb7 11.Rfd1** with the two bishops, White holds an opening edge. **11...Rc8 12.Rac1 Qc7 13.cxd5 exd5 14.b4 Qb8 15.Bf5 g6 16.Bh3 a6 17.Ne5** '!' **17...Rcd8 18.Nd3?!** There is no reason to abandon this square. [18.f3!] **18...Ne4 19.Be1 Ndf6 20.g3** [20.g4!] **20...Kg7 21.Bg2 Rfe8 22.f3 Nd6 23.Ne5 Qa8 24.Bf1?!** [24.g4+-] **24...Nd7 25.Nxd7?!** Better to hold the outpost with [25.e4!+/-; or 25.Bh3 as 25...Nxe5?! 26.dxe5 Rxe5?! 27.Bc3 wins the exchange.] **25...Rxd7= 26.Qd2 Rde7 27.Bf2 Qc8 28.Re1 Qf5 29.Kg2 h5 30.Bd3 Qd7 31.Qc2 b5 32.e4? dxe4 33.fxe4**



33...Nxe4! 34.Bxe4 Rxe4 35.Rxe4 Rxe4 [35...c5!] **36.Kg1 Qd5 37.Qc5 Qe6 38.Qb6 Qd7 39.d5 Rc4?!** [39...c5! 40.bxc5 Bxd5] **40.Rxc4 bxc4 41.Qd4+ Kh7 42.d6 c3 43.Qxc3 Qxd6 44.Bc5 Qd1+ 45.Kf2 Qd5 46.Bf8 Qf5+ 47.Kg1 f6 48.Qc4 Qd7 49.Bc5 Bc8 50.Qf4 Kg7 51.Qb8?** [51.Qd6! forces an ending with good drawing chances] **51...Qd1+ 52.Kf2 Qd2+ 53.Kg1 Qd1+ 54.Kf2 Qd2+ 55.Kg1 Qe1+ 56.Kg2**

56...Bh3+! 57.Kxh3 Qf1+ 58.Kh4 g5+ 0-1

(4) Yan,Ruiyang (2221) - Argo,Guy (1939) [B07]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (7.4), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.g3 e5 5.Nge2 c6 6.Bg2 Qc7 7.a4 Be7 8.0-0 h6 9.h3 a5 10.Be3 White has a good setup and holds an opening edge. **10...b6 11.f4 Ba6 12.Rf2 0-0-0?!** aggressive but risky. **13.d5 c5 14.g4** [14.Nb5] **14...Nh7?!** [14...exf4] **15.Bf1 Bh4 16.Rf3 Rde8 17.Ng3 c4 18.Nf5 Bf6 19.Nb5 Bxb5 20.axb5 exf4 21.Bxf4 Be5 22.Ra4!** winning a pawn **22...Bxf4 23.Rxc4 Nc5 24.Rxf4 g5 25.Rf3 Rxe4?!**

This wins the pawn back but leads to tactical trouble. **26.Rxe4 Nxe4 27.Qd4 Re8?!** This loses but Black is in trouble no matter what. [27...Qc5 28.Nxd6+!; 27...Nhf6 28.Bd3 Qc5 29.Bxe4 Qxd4+ 30.Nxd4 Nxe4 31.Rxf7] **28.Re3 Qxc2 29.Rxe4!** There is a knight fork on d6. **1-0**

(5) Kuczek,Kevin W (1982) - Tsodikova,Natalya (2204) [B23]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (7.7), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5+ Nc6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.d3 e6?! [7...Nf6; 7...Nh6] **8.0-0 Ne7 9.Qe1** [9.e5] **9...0-0 10.b3 f5 11.Rb1 fxe4 12.Nxe4 Nf5 13.a4** [13.Bb2! to trade dark-squared bishops would be nice for White.] **13...Rb8 14.Ba3 Rb7 15.Kh1 Re7 16.Qd2 Nd4 17.Rbe1?!** [17.Nxd4 Bxd4 18.c3 Bg7 19.d4] **17...Nxf3 18.Rxf3 e5!** Black starts to take over, using the power of her two bishops. **19.Ng5?** [19.Bb2 Bh6 20.Qf2!?] **19...exf4 20.Ref1 h6 21.Ne4 g5** The black kingside pawns are too strong. **22.b4 c4 23.dxc4? Rxe4 0-1**

(6) Busch,Jonah M (1944) - Heidari,Ako (1940) [C04]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (7.8), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.c3 e5!? 5.Ngf3!? [5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Ngf3 exd4 7.Bc4 Qh5 was a famous game: 0-1 (36) Fischer,R-Byrne,R US ch (8) New York 1965; 5.dxe5!? dxe4!? *(5...Nxe5 6.Ngf3)* 6.Qa4 Qd5!?] **5...exd4 6.cxd4 dxe4 7.Nxe4 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.a3 Be7** [9...Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 0-0 is an easy game for Black.] **10.d5** This gives White a little more space in the coming positions. **10...Nb8 11.Bc4 0-0 12.0-0 Nbd7 13.Bf4 Nb6 14.Ba2 Ne8 15.Qc2 Nd6 16.Nd4 Bd7 17.Rac1 Rc8 18.Qd3 a6 19.Rfe1 Re8 20.Re2 Bg5!** exchanging pieces is good strategy when in a cramped position **21.Qg3** [21.Rxe8+ Nxe8 22.Be3] **21...Bxf4 22.Qxf4 Rxe2 23.Ncxe2 g6 24.h4 h5 25.Nf3 Qe7 26.Ned4 Kg7 27.Re1 Qf6 28.Qxf6+ Kxf6** The ending is equal. **29.Ne5 Be8 30.f3 Na4 31.b4?!** [31.Nd3] **31...Nc3 32.Bb3 Ncb5 33.Nc2?! Nf5** Now White loses the h4 pawn. **34.a4 Nbd6 35.Kh2 Nxh4 36.g4 hxg4 37.fxg4 g5 38.Nd4 Ng6 39.Nxg6 Kxg6 40.Bc2+ Kg7 41.Nf5+ Nxf5 42.Bxf5 Rd8 43.Re7 Kf6?!** [43...Bxa4 44.Rxc7 Rxd5] **44.Rxc7 Rxd5 45.Rxb7 Bxa4 46.Rb6+ Ke5 47.Rxa6 Bb5 48.Ra7 Bc4 49.Kg3 Rd2 50.Re7+ Kf6 51.Rb7 Rb2 52.Kf3??** [52.Rb6+ should draw] **52...Bd5+ 53.Be4**

53...Rb3+! 54.Ke2 Bxb7 55.Bxb7 Rxb4 56.Bc8 Ke5 57.Kf3 Rb3+ 58.Kf2 Kf4 59.Kg2 Rg3+ 60.Kf2 Rxg4 0-1

(7) Perlov,Alexander (1825) - Clemens,Kristian (2019) [D23]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (7.9), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qc2 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bf5 6.Nc3 e6 7.Bg5 Be7 8.a4 0-0 9.e3 Nbd7 10.Be2 h6 11.Bh4 Rc8 12.Rd1?! [12.0-0] **12...Qb6! 13.e4 Bh7 14.e5 Nd5?!** [14...Qxb2! 15.exf6 *(15.Rd2 Qc1+ 16.Rd1 Qa3 17.exf6 Nb6!)* 15...Bb4 16.0-0 Nb6 17.Qa2 Bxc3 18.Qxb2 Bxb2 wins a pawn] **15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.b4?!**

[16.Rd2] **16...Nd5!** White should have castled earlier. **17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.a5?** Dropping a pawn. [White is in trouble and needs to try 18.Qb5] **18...dxc4 19.axb6 Nxb6 20.0-0 Nd5 21.Rc1 b5! 22.Nd2 Nxb4 23.Rc3 a5 24.Rfc1 Na2 0-1**

(8) Reichwein,Axel (1892) - Melville,Cailen J (1884) [C00]

MI Wilkerson TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (7.10), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.g3 Nc6 5.Bg2 a5 6.Ngf3 dxe4 7.dxe4 e5 8.0-0 Bc5 9.h3 0-0 10.Re1 Qe7 11.c3 a4 12.Qc2 Rd8 13.Nf1 b6 Black has chosen a logical set-up against the King's Indian Attack. **14.Be3 a3 15.b4 Bxb4?!** No need to sacrifice. **16.cxb4 Nxb4 17.Qb1 Ba6 18.Bg5** [18.Nxe5! would leave Black only one pawn for the piece.] **18...Bd3 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qc1 Nc2 21.Nh4 Nxa1 22.Nf5 Qf8 23.Qxa1 b5 24.N1e3 b4 25.Ng4 Ra6 26.Bf1 Qc5 27.Qd1! Qc2 28.Qxc2 Bxc2 29.Bxa6 b3 30.Nxf6+ Kh8**

31.axb3? [31.Ne3! stops Black on the queenside and converts the extra material.] **31...Rd1! 32.Rxd1 Bxd1**

White is two pieces up but cannot stop the a-pawn! Yet **33.Bc4?** [White can give both (!) pieces back: 33.Ne3! a2 *(33...Bxb3?! 34.Nc2 Bxc2 35.Bc4 Bb1 36.Ng4 a2 37.Bxa2 Bxa2 38.Nxe5)* 34.Nxd1 a1Q 35.Be2 when it's White playing for the win.] **33...a2 34.Kg2 a1Q 35.Bxf7 Qc3** The queen is too powerful. **36.Ne3 Kg7 37.Nfd5 Qxb3 38.Be6 Bc2 39.Nf5+ Kf8 40.f3 Qa2 41.Nb4 Qxe6 42.Nxc2 Qc4 43.Nfe3 Qe2+ 44.Kg1 Qxf3 45.Nf1 Qxe4 46.Nce3 c5 47.Kf2 Qd3 48.Kf3 c4 49.Kg4 Qg6+ 50.Kf3 c3 51.Nh2 Qc6+ 52.Ke2 c2 0-1**

(9) Drane,Robert William (1812) - Breedt,Rudolph Frans (1882) [B03]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (7.13), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Be3 g6 8.d5!? Ne5 9.Bd4

White weighs initiative over rote development and embarrasses Black's knight. **9...f6?!** [9...Bg7?? 10.f4+-; 9...Bh6! places all sorts of obstacles in White's way to implementing f2-f4 and long diagonal play. White has a hard time even demonstrating any significant advantage. 10.Nf3!? Bg4 11.Bxe5 dxe5 12.c5 Nd7 13.Bb5 0-0 14.Bxd7 Bxd7 15.Nxe5 Bg7 16.Qd4 is Stockfish 11's best shot at one.] **10.b3?!** [10.f4! Nf7 *(10...Nexc4?? 11.Bxc4 Nxc4 12.Qa4+)* 11.Bd3 *(11.Nf3 Bh6 12.g3 0-0 13.b3)* 11...Bh6 12.Nge2 pushes Black to the brink.] **10...Bg7 11.g3** [11.f4!] **11...Bg4?!** [11...0-0] **12.Be2 Bf5 13.f4 Nf7 14.Be3 Nh6 15.Rc1 Nd7 16.Nf3 Bh3 17.Bf1 Bg4 18.h3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Nf5 20.Bf2 Nc5 21.h4** [21.g4 obviously makes more sense; And maybe best is 21.b4 Na6 22.a3 , saving g3-g4 for after White gets around to improving his development.] **21...h5?!** "Punishing" White for his last, but it's an "out of the frying pawn" sort of move. **22.g4! hxg4 23.Qxg4** It's going to take quite an effort to save g6 (which ultimately fails anyway). **23...Kf7 24.Rg1 Rh6 25.b4 Na6 26.h5!?** [26.a3 is of course just fine as well] **26...Qd7 27.Bd3 e6**

28.Kd2! White couldn't castle anyway! **28...gxh5 29.dxe6+ Qxe6 30.Qxf5 Qxf5 31.Bxf5 Nxb4 32.Rb1 1-0**

(10) Rakonitz,David (1613) - Boldi,Nicholas Armen (1754) [D61]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (7.15), 25.02.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Qc2 h6 8.Bh4 c6 9.Rd1 b6 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.0-0 Rc8 12.Rfe1 c5 13.Qe2 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Nc5 15.cxd5 Nxd5 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Bb1 Nd7 19.Rc1 Nf6 20.Red1 Qb7 21.f3 Qa8 22.e4 Bb7 23.Qe3 Rfd8 24.Nb5 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Qb8 26.Qe1 a6 27.Nc3 b5 28.b4 Qa7+ 29.Kf1 Qb6 30.Rd1 Qc7 31.Rxd8+ Qxd8 32.Qd1 Qc7 33.Qd3 Qd7 34.Ke2 Kf8 35.Qxd7 Nxd7 36.Ke3 Ke7 37.Kd4 e5+ 38.Ke3 Kd6 39.Nd1 Nb8 40.Nb2 Nc6 41.Nd3 a5 42.a3 Bc8 43.Ba2 f6 44.Bd5 Nd4 45.Kd2 a4 46.Nc5 f5 47.Bb7 Bxb7 48.Nxb7+ Kc6 49.Nc5 Kd6 50.Kd3 fxe4+ 51.fxe4 Nc6 52.Nb7+ Ke7 53.Nc5 Na7 54.Ke3 Nc8 55.Nd3 Kf6 56.Kf3 Nd6 57.Nc5 Nc4 58.Nd7+ Ke7 59.Nc5 Nxa3 60.Ke3 Nc2+ 61.Kd3 Nxb4+ 62.Kc3 Nc6 63.Nd3 Kd6 64.Nb4 Nxb4 0-1

(11) Mercado,Adam (1789) - Gurovich,Roman (1714) [B19]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (7.16), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.h4 h6 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Ngf6 11.Bd2 e6 12.0-0-0 Bd6 13.Ne4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4 Qc7 15.c4 0-0-0 16.c5 Bf8 17.Bf4 Qa5 18.Kb1 Qa4 19.Nd2

19...Nxc5 20.dxc5 Rd4 21.Qe2 Rxf4 22.g3 Rd4 23.Nb3 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Be7 25.Rd4 Qb5 26.Rc4 Rd8 27.Kc2 a5 28.a4 Qa6 29.Qe4 Rd5 30.g4 Re5 31.Qd3 Rd5 32.Qe4 Re5 33.Qd3 Rd5 34.Rd4 Qxd3+ 35.Rxd3 Rxd3 36.Kxd3 Bd8 37.Nd4 Bf6 (...) **1-0**

(12) Cortinas,Martin A (1662) - Kaplan,Glenn (1676) [A49]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (7.18), 25.02.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 Nc6 7.Bb2 Bf5 8.Nh4 Bg4 9.h3 Bd7 10.Nd2 Qc8 11.Kh2 e5 12.d5 Ne7 13.c4 Nh5 14.e4 Bh8 15.Qe2 f5 16.exf5 Nxf5 17.Nxf5 Bxf5 18.Qe3 Nf4 19.g4 Nxg2 20.Kxg2 Bd7 21.Ne4 Rf4 22.f3 Bg7 23.Rae1 Qd8 24.Bc1 h6 25.Qd3 Rf7 26.c5 a6 27.cxd6 Bb5 28.dxc7 Rxc7 29.Qd1 Bxf1+ 30.Rxf1 Rac8 31.Be3 Rc2+ 32.Rf2 Rxf2+ 33.Bxf2 Bf6 34.d6 Rc6 35.b4 Kg7 36.Bc5 Qd7 37.a3 b6 38.Be3 g5 39.Qd3 b5 40.Bc5 Kf7 41.Ng3 1/2-1/2

(13) Casares Jr,Nick (1600) - Malykin,Erika (1675) [B56]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (7.19), 25.02.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 d6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bd7 7.f3 a6 8.Bc4 Rc8 9.Be2 g6 10.Qd2 Bg7 11.0-0-0 Ne5 12.g4 b5 13.Bh6 Bxh6 14.Qxh6 Qa5 15.Nb3 Qb6 16.h4 b4 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 Bb5 19.Bxb5+ Qxb5 20.Qg7 Kd7 21.f4 Nd3+ 22.Kb1 Nf2 23.Qxf7 Nxh1 24.Nd4 Qc5 25.Qe6+ Kd8 26.Qf7 Kd7 27.Qe6+ Kd8 28.Qf7 Qc4 29.Re1 Re8 30.Ne6+ Kd7 31.Nf8+ Kc7 32.Rxe7+ Kb6 33.Nd7+ Ka5 34.c3 Qd3+ 35.Kc1 bxc3 36.bxc3 Rxc3+ 0-1

(14) Baer,Michael A (1441) - Carron,Joel (1645) [A45]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (7.20), 25.02.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Bf4 a6 4.e3 d5 5.Bd3 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Ne5 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 Bd6 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Qf3 e5 13.Qg3 Rd8 14.Rfd1 e4 15.Qxd6 Rxd6 16.Bxe4 Be6 17.Bf3 Rad8 18.h3 b5 19.a3 Bf5 20.Rd2 d4 21.exd4 Rxd4 22.Rxd4 Rxd4 23.Rd1 Rxd1+ 24.Bxd1 Kf8 25.Kf1 Ke7 26.Ke1 Kd6 27.Kd2 Kc5 28.Bf3 a5 29.g4 Be6 30.Ne4+ Nxe4+ 31.Bxe4 h5 32.f3 hxg4 33.hxg4 Kd4 34.Bd3 Kc5 35.Ke3 Bd5 36.f4 g6 37.Be4 Be6 38.f5 gxf5 39.Bxf5 Bd5 40.Bd3 Be6 41.g5 Bd5 42.g6 fxg6 43.Bxg6 Be6 44.b3 Bd5 45.Be4 Be6 1/2-1/2

(15) Hansen,Mateo Stephen (1624) - Hack,Richard (1567) [C55]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U2000 San Francisco (7.23), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nd5 d6 7.Nxe7+ Nxe7 8.d3 Bg4 9.h3 Be6 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.c3 Ng6 12.Qb3 Qc8 13.Re1 c5 14.d4 c4 15.Qb4 Qc6 16.Nd2 b5 17.a4 a6 18.g3 Nd7 19.b3 exd4 20.bxc4 bxa4 21.cxd4 Nb6 22.d5 exd5 23.exd5 Qc7 24.Re6 Rad8 25.Rb1 Nc8 26.Ne4 Ne5 27.Bb2 Nf3+ 28.Kg2 Qf7

29.Nf6+ gxf6 30.Kxf3 Qg6 31.Rbe1 Qh5+ 32.Kg2 Rde8 33.Qxa4 Qg6 34.Rxe8 1-0

(16) Gimelfarb,Ilia (1599) - Roberts,Joseph (1358) [C60]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.6), 25.02.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.c3 g6 5.d4 Bg7 6.d5 Nb8 7.Ba4 0-0 8.Bg5 d6 9.Nbd2 Nd7 10.Nf1 Nf6 11.Bc2 Bd7 12.c4 c5 13.Qd2 b5 14.b3 Bg4 15.cxb5 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Rc8 17.Bd3 Qd7 18.h4 h5 19.a4 Rb8 20.Bh6 a6 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Ne3 Ne8 23.b4 Nc7 24.bxc5 dxc5 25.bxa6 Ra8 26.Qc3 f6 27.Qxc5 Nxa6 28.Qb5 Qc7 29.0-0 Rfb8 30.Qc4 Qd7 31.Kg2 Nb4 32.a5 Nxd3 33.Qxd3 f5 34.Nc4 fxe4 35.Qxe4 Nxd5 36.Nxe5 Qe6 37.Rfd1 Rb5 38.a6 Rf8 39.Nd3 Qb6 40.Rdc1 Rf7 41.Qe5+ Kh7 42.Qe8 Rc7 43.Rxc7+ Nxc7 44.Qf7+ Kh8 45.Qf8+ Kh7 46.a7 Ra5 47.Rxa5 Qxa5 48.Qf7+ Kh6 49.Nf4 Qf5 50.Qxc7 Qf6 51.a8Q g5 52.Qg8 1-0

(17) Radaelli,Lucas (1411) - Ross,Max L (1549) [C51]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.26), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Be7 6.d4 d6 7.Qb3 Na5 8.Qa4+ c6 9.Bd3 exd4 10.cxd4 Nf6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Ba3 b5 13.Qc2 h6 14.Nbd2 Bd7 15.Rfe1 Rc8 16.Re2 c5 17.dxc5 dxc5 18.e5 Nd5 19.Be4 Nf4 20.Re3 b4 21.Bb2 c4 22.Nf1 c3 23.Bc1 Nc4 24.Bh7+ Kh8 25.Re4 Ng6 26.Bxg6 fxg6 27.e6 Be8 28.Ne3 Nxe3 29.Bxe3 Qd5 30.Rd1 Qb7 31.Ne5 Rf6 32.Ng4

32...Ba4 33.Qxa4 Qxe4 34.Nxf6 Bxf6 35.a3 Qxe6 36.axb4 c2 37.Rc1 Qc4 38.h3 Bb2 0-1

(18) Chan,John (1506) - Olson,David R (1400) [A46]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.27), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.a3 Be7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.h3 b6 6.e4 c5 7.Be3 d6 8.Be2 a6 9.0-0 Qc7 10.Qc1 Bb7 11.e5 dxe5 12.dxe5 Nd5 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.Bf4 Qc6 15.Nh2 Rd8 16.Bf3 Qg6 17.Bg3 Ra7 18.Ng4 Nc6 19.Be2 Nd4 20.Bd1 h5 21.Nh2 Bc8 22.Kh1 Nf5 23.Bf4 Rad7 24.Nf3 Bb7 25.c3

25...d4 26.Rg1 d3 27.Qd2 c4 28.e6 Qxe6 29.Ne5 Rd5 30.Re1 Qf6 31.Bf3 Rxe5 32.Bxe5 Qg6 33.Bxb7 a5 34.Be4 Qe6 35.Bh2 Bc5 36.Bg1 g6 37.Rad1 Kg7 38.Bf3 Qf6 39.Bh2 Kh7 40.Bf4 Qg7 41.Be5 Qf8 42.Be4 Nh6 43.Bf4 Ng8 44.Bf3 Nf6 45.Bg5 Kg7 46.Bh6+ 1-0

(19) Martin,Michael J (1387) - Uzakbaev,Nursultan (1415) [C68]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.28), 25.02.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.d4 a6 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.dxe5 Bg4 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 Nxg4 11.hxg4 Bxg4 12.Bg5 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Qxg5 14.Ne2 0-0-0 15.Qxf7 Rhf8 16.Qe6+ Rd7 17.Rxh7 Bc5 18.Rh2 Bxf2+ 19.Rxf2 Qh4 20.Nd4 Qxf2+ 21.Kd1 Qxd4+ 0-1

(20) Rushton,Peter James (1294) - Simpkins,Jerry (1539) [A04]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.29), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be2 Nf6 5.d3 f4 6.d4 Nbd7 7.d5 Nc5 8.Bd3 Bg4 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bxd7+ Qxd7 11.Ng5 h6 12.Ne6 Nxe6 13.dxe6 Qxe6 14.Qd3 c6 15.Bd2 Ng4 16.h3 Nf6 17.0-0-0 Be7 18.f3 Nh5 19.Be1 0-0 20.Bf2 Rfd8 21.Kb1 b5 22.Rhg1 Ng3 23.Bxg3 fxg3 24.Ne2 Bh4 25.f4 Qf6 26.f5 Qg5 27.Qb3+ Kh8 28.Rgf1 a5 29.Qe6 Qe3 30.Nc3 b4 31.Rd3 Qg5 32.Na4 d5 33.f6 gxf6 34.Qxc6 dxe4 35.Rd7 Rac8 36.Qd5 Re8 37.Nc5 f5

38.Nxe4 Qg6 39.Nd6 Qe6 40.Nf7+ Kg8 41.Nxh6+ Kh8 42.Nf7+ Kg8 43.Qd2 f4 44.Re1 Qf5 45.Nh6+ 1-0

(21) Jade,Valerie (1532) - Wagner,Tyler (1050)

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.30), 25.02.2020

0-1

(22) Starr,Albert Martin (1552) - Neugut,Eitan (1322) [A00]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.31), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.c4 Nc6 5.Bc3 0-0 6.Qb3 Qe7 7.a3 Bxc3 8.Nxc3 b6 9.e3 Bb7 10.Nge2 Rfe8 11.d4 Ne4 12.d5 Na5 13.Qb4 Nc5 14.Nd4 Qf6 15.Be2 Na6 16.Qb1

16...Nxc4 17.Bxc4 Qxd4 18.Qd3 Qe5 19.0-0 Nc5 20.Qc2 Ne4 21.Nxe4 Qxe4 22.Bd3 Qxd5 23.e4 Qe5 24.f4 Qd4+ 25.Kh1 c5 26.Rad1 Bxe4 27.Bxe4 Qxe4 28.Qb3 Qe6 29.Qf3 Rad8 30.h3 Qc6 31.Rd5 h6 32.Rfd1 Qe6 33.Rd6 Qe3 34.Qg4 Re6 35.R6d3 Qe2 36.Qf5 Qe4 37.Qxe4 Rxe4 38.Rxd7 Rxd7 39.Rxd7 Ra4 40.Rd3 Rxf4 41.g3 Ra4 42.Kg2 g5 43.Kf2 Re4 44.g4 c4 45.Rd7 a6 46.Rd6 Re6 47.Rd4 b5 48.a4 Kg7 49.axb5 axb5 50.Rd5 Rb6 51.Rc5 Kf6 52.Ke3 Ke6 53.Kd4 Kd7 54.Kc3 b4+ 55.Kxc4 b3 56.Rd5+ Ke6 57.Rd1 b2 58.Rb1 Ke5 59.Kc3 Kf4 60.Kc2 Kg3

61.Rg1+ Kxh3 62.Kb1 Kh2 63.Rd1 Rb4 64.Rd6 Kg3 65.Rxh6 Kxg4 66.Rf6 Rb7 67.Rc6 f5 68.Rc2 f4 69.Rg2+ Kf5 70.Rc2 f3 71.Rc5+ Kf4 72.Rc4+ Kg3 73.Rd4 f2 74.Rd3+ Kg2 75.Rd2 Kg1 0-1

(23) Ahrens,Richard William (1256) - Byrd,Bill [A57]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.32), 25.02.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.e3 bxc4 5.Bxc4 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Bd2 0-0 8.Nf3 d6 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.e4 Nb6 11.Bd3 Bg4 12.Be2 a5 13.Ng5 Bd7 14.f4 e6 15.Bf3 exd5 16.exd5 Rb8 17.b3 a4 18.Rb1 Bf5 19.Be4 Nxe4 20.Ngxe4 Nxd5 21.Re1 Re8 22.Nxd5 Bxe4 23.Rc1 Bxd5 24.Ba5 Rxe1+ 25.Qxe1 Qe8 26.Bc3 Qxe1+ 27.Bxe1 Bd4+ 28.Kh1 axb3 29.axb3 Rxb3 0-1

(24) James,Charles (1404) - Morgan,Jacob (1227) [E20]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.34), 25.02.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.e4 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Qc2 dxe4 7.Be3 0-0 8.Nxe4 Be6 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.Nf3 h6 11.h3 Re8 12.0-0 Nd5 13.Bd2 Rc8 14.a3 c5 15.b3 cxd4 16.Qb2 Nc5 17.Nxc5 Rxc5 18.Rfe1 Bf6 19.Ne5 Rc8 20.Qxd4 Bxe5 21.Rxe5 Nf6 22.Qe3 Bxb3 23.f4 Bc4 24.Bf5 Be6 25.Bxe6 Rxe6 26.Rxe6 fxe6 27.Qxe6+ Kh8 28.Bb4 Qd4+ 29.Kh2 Qxf4+ 30.Kg1 Re8 31.Qf7 Qd4+ 32.Kh2 Qxa1 33.Bf8 Qe5+ 34.Kh1 Qg5 35.Be7 Rc8 36.Bf8 Rc1+ 37.Kh2 Qf4+ 0-1

(25) Dubensky,Walter Barnett (1120) - Chambers,Don (1298) [D02]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.35), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Bd3 e6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.Bxd6 cxd6 8.Nbd2 e5 9.c3 e4 10.Be2 exf3 11.Nxf3 Bg4 12.Qa4 Ne4 13.Rfe1 h5 14.Rac1 h4 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Qg5 17.Bg4 f5 18.f4 Qg6 19.Bd1 Nd2 20.Rc2 Qg3 21.Re2 Nf3+ 22.Kf1

22...Rh6 [22...Nh2+ 23.Kg1 Ng4!] **23.Rf2 Nh2+ 24.Ke1 Re6 25.Rce2 Kf7 26.Qc2 Kf6 27.e4 dxe4 28.Qa4 e3 29.Rxe3 Rxe3+ 30.Be2 Rae8 31.Kd1 Qxf2 32.Kc2 Qxe2+ 33.Kb3 Qd1+ 34.Ka3 Qxa4+ 35.Kxa4 b5+ 36.Kb3 Nxd4+ 37.Ka3 a5 38.b3 Rxc3 0-1**

(26) Hilliard,Michael (1476) - Harris,Clarence (1402) [A48]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.36), 25.02.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.b3 Bg7 4.Bb2 d6 5.Nbd2 0-0 6.e3 Bf5 7.Bc4 d5 8.Be2 Nc6 9.a3 Re8 10.0-0 Qd6 11.Ne5 Qe6 12.Rc1 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Ng4 14.Bxg4 Bxg4 15.f3 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Qxe5 17.fxg4 Qxe3+ 18.Kh1 e5 19.Rf3 Qc5 20.b4 Qe7 21.c4 e4 22.Re3 Qg5 23.Qe2 Rad8 24.cxd5 Qxd5 25.Nxe4 Qe5 26.Nf6+ Qxf6 27.Rxe8+ Rxe8 28.Qxe8+ Kg7 29.Re1 Qc6 30.Qe5+ Kg8 31.Qe8+ Kg7 32.Qxc6 bxc6 1-0

(27) Gimelfarb,Natan (1134) - North,Jeff James (867) [C02]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.37), 25.02.2020

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.e5 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 f6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Bf4 Bd7 9.Nh4 Ke7 10.exf6+ Nxf6 11.Qe2 Qa5 12.Nf5+ Kd8 13.Nxg7 Bxc3+ 14.Bd2 Bxd2+ 15.Qxd2 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Rg8 17.Nxe6+ Bxe6 18.Re1 Re8 19.Bb5 Rc8 20.Bxc6 Rxc6 21.Rc1 Bd7 22.Rc5 Ne4+ 0-1

(28) Johnson,Nathaniel - Frank,Robert H (1222) [A00]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.39), 25.02.2020

1.h4 e5 2.e4 Nf6 3.d3 d5 4.Nd2 Bc5 5.Be2 Nc6 6.c3 0-0 7.Bf3 d4 8.c4 a5 9.h5 a4 10.a3 Bd7 11.Ne2 Bg4 12.Ng3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Ne7 14.0-0 h6 15.b3 axb3 16.Nxb3 Bb4 17.Bb2 Bd2 18.Nxd2 c5 19.a4 Qa5 20.Qd1 Qb4 21.Ba3 Qa5 22.Nf3 Qc7 23.Bc1 Kh7 24.a5 Rg8 25.Qd2 Qd6 26.Nf5 Nxf5 27.exf5 Nxh5 28.Qe2 f6 29.Qe4 Qc7 30.Nh4 Nf4 31.Bxf4 exf4 32.Qf3 Ra7 33.Ng6 Rga8 34.Qxf4 Qxf4 35.Nxf4 Rxa5 36.Rxa5 Rxa5 37.Nd5 Ra3 38.Rb1 Rxd3 39.Rxb7 Rd1+ 40.Kh2 Rc1 41.Nxf6+ 1-0

(29) Ballantyne,Andrew (877) - Sullivan,George Thomas (914) [B21]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.40), 25.02.2020

1.e4 c5 2.d4 e6 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.c3 dxc3 5.Nxc3 a6 6.Bc4 d6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.e5 Ng4 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.exd6 Qd7 12.Qd4 Nf6 13.Ne4 Nxe4 14.Ne5 Nc6 15.Qxe4 Qxd6 16.Nxc6 Qxc6 17.Qxc6+ bxc6 18.a4 Bb7 19.b4 0-0 20.b5 axb5 21.axb5 Rxa1 22.Rxa1 cxb5 23.Bxb5 Rd8 24.g3 Bf3 25.Ba4 g6 26.h4 h5 27.Kf1 e5 28.Ke1 e4 29.Bd1 f6 30.Bxf3 exf3 31.Ra3 Re8+ 32.Kf1 g5 33.hxg5 fxg5 34.Rxf3 Rf8 35.Rxf8+ Kxf8 36.Kg2 Kf7 37.f3 Kg6 38.Kh3 Kf5 39.g4+ hxg4+ 40.fxg4+ Kg6 41.Kg3 Kf6 42.Kf3 Ke5 43.Ke3 Kd5 44.Kd3 Ke5 1/2-1/2

(30) Bayaraa,Timothy (1193) - Neuberg,Bryan

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.41), 25.02.2020

0-1

(31) Pagan Griso,Simone - Hall,Diana [D07]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.42), 25.02.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bf4 Bd6 6.Bxd6 cxd6 7.e3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 d5 9.Bb3 0-0 10.0-0 Ne4 11.Bc2 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.Qd3 g6 14.h4 b6 15.h5 Ba6 16.Qd2 Bxf1 17.Rxf1 Qxa2 18.Nh4 Ne7 19.Rc1 Rac8 20.e4 Qb2 21.exd5 Nxd5 22.Qg5 f5 23.hxg6 Rf6 24.Qh6 Rc7 25.Bd1 Nxc3 26.Rc2 Ne2+ 27.Rxe2 Qxd4 28.Re1 a5 29.Nxf5 exf5 30.Bb3+ Kh8 31.Re8+ Rf8 32.Qxf8# 1-0

(32) Skwerer,Sean - Dunlap,Steven (1037) [D00]

MI Wilkerson TNM: U1600 San Francisco (7.43), 25.02.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.f4 d5 3.Nf3 c5 4.dxc5 Qa5+ 5.c3 Qxc5 6.Nd4 Nc6 7.b4 Qb6 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Qd3 Nxe3 10.Qxe3 g6 11.b5 Nxd4 12.cxd4 Qa5+ 13.Qc3 Qxb5 14.e3 Qb6 15.a4 e6 16.Bb5+ Bd7 17.0-0 Bxb5 18.axb5 Qxb5 19.Na3 Qc6 20.Qa5 Bxa3 21.Qxa3 b5 22.Rab1 a5 23.Rfc1 b4 24.Qd3 Qd7 25.f5 0-0 26.fxg6 fxg6 27.e4 e5 28.Rf1 Rxf1+ 29.Rxf1 Rf8 30.Ra1 Qf7 31.dxe5 Qf2+ 32.Kh1 Qb2 33.Rf1 Rxf1+ 34.Qxf1 Qxe5 35.Qb5 Qa1+ 0-1

(33) Ricard,Bruce (1849) - Davila,Carlos (2066) [B12]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Rated Extra Game San Francisco (7.5), 25.02.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 e6 5.g4 Bg6 6.Nge2 c5 7.h4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 h5 9.f4 hxg4 10.Bb5+ Nd7 11.f5 Rxh4 12.Rf1 Rh5 13.Qxg4 exf5 14.Nxf5 Rxf5 15.Rxf5 Bxf5 16.Qxf5 Qh4+ 17.Ke2 0-0-0 18.Bxd7+ Rxd7 19.e6 Re7 20.Be3 Nh6 21.Bxh6 Rxe6+ 22.Be3 d4 23.Nd5 dxe3 24.Nf4 Qf2+ 25.Kd3 Qd2+ 26.Kc4 b5+ 27.Qxb5 Re4+ 0-1

(34) Poling,Scott E (1828) - Abraham,Renjish (1861) [E06]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Rated Extra Game San Francisco (8.14), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 c6 7.a4 Na6 8.Nc3 Rb8 9.Bf4 Bd6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Qd8 14.Nxd6 Qxd6 15.c5 Qe7 16.Rb1 [16.Qd2] **16...Nb4 17.a5?** [17.Qb3 a5 18.Ne5+/-] **17...b5 18.Qb3 Nd5 19.Ne5 Qc7 20.Ra1 a6 21.Bxd5 exd5 22.Qd3 Re8 23.b4 Be6**

24.f4? [24.Rfe1] **24...f6! 25.Ng6 Bg4** [25...Bh3 26.Rfe1 Qd7] **26.Rfe1 Qd7 27.Nh4 Re7** [27...Re4! 28.Rxe4?! (But Black is about to take over the e-file anyway) 28...dxe4 29.Qxe4 Re8 30.Qd3 Qd5 White is in trouble. In fact, White is lost!] **28.Kf2 Rbe8 29.Rxe7 Qxe7 30.Nf3 Qe4!** Black forces his way in, and everything goes wrong for White. **31.Qxe4** [31.Rd1 Bxf3 32.Qxf3 Qc2+ 33.Kf1 Qc4+] **31...dxe4** [31...Rxe4!? 32.Rd1 g5-/+ is also excellent.] **32.Ng1 e3+** (Quick, before Ke3 completely neutralizes this dangerous pawn) **33.Ke1 Be6?!** [33...g5 keeps up the pressure. 34.fxg5 hxg5 when, after due preparation, ...f5-f4 is crushing. 35.d5!? cxd5 36.h3 might get counterplay with Rd1 or pushing the c-pawn, but Black is still ahead.] **34.Ke2?!** [34.Ne2!? Bc4 35.f5!? Re4 36.Rd1 Bb3 37.Nc3! Rg4 38.Rd3 Bc2 39.Rxe3 Rxd4 40.Re6= (according to the computer)] **34...Bc4+ 35.Kf3 f5?!** [35...g5 36.Re1 Bd5+ 37.Ke2 Kg7 when f5 is available for Black's king 38.f5 Kf7] **36.Re1 Re4 37.Rxe3 Rxd4 38.Re8+ Kf7 39.Ra8 Bd5+ 40.Ke3 Rxb4 41.Rxa6 Rb3+** After this mutual breakout it's Black on top. **42.Kd4** [42.Kf2 Rc3; 42.Kd2 Be4] **42...b4?** [42...Rb1 43.Ne2 (43.Nh3 Rd1+ 44.Kc3 Rc1+ 45.Kd4 Ke6! *(45...Rc4+ 46.Ke5 Rxc5)*) 43...Rd1+ 44.Kc3 Bf3 45.Nd4? b4+] **43.Ne2?!** [43.Rb6!=] **43...Rb2-/+ 44.Nc1** [44.Ke3?? Rxe2+; 44.Kd3 Be4+ 45.Ke3 Ke6; 44.Ra7+ Kg6 45.Ke3 Rc2] **44...Ke6?=** [44...Be4! still looks to pick off the c-pawn 45.Kc4?? Rc2+] **45.Nd3 Rd2** [45...Rc2] **46.Ke3 Rxh2?** [46...Rc2 47.Nxb4 Rxc5 48.Nxd5 Kxd5 49.Kd3 Rb5=] **47.Nxb4 Rb2** [47...Rg2 48.Rb6 Rxg3+ 49.Kd4 Kd7 50.Nxd5 cxd5 51.Kxd5+-] **48.Rb6! Rb3+** (Scoresheet says 48...Rc2+) **49.Kd4 Kd7 50.Nxd5 1-0**

(35) Chin,Alex Paul (1814) - Morgan,Jerry (1467) [B03]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Rated Extra Game San Francisco (7.17), 25.02.2020

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 d5 6.Be3 e6 7.c3 N8d7 8.a4 a5 9.Qg4 f5 10.Qg3 Qe7 11.h4 c5 12.Na3 cxd4 13.Bxd4 Nc5 14.Bc2 Ncxa4 15.Nb5 Nc5 16.Nd6+ Kd8 17.Bxc5 Qc7 18.b4 Nd7 19.Qg5+ 1-0

(36) Tamondong,Cesar Bercilla (1617) - Pane,Gianluca (1927) [D23]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Rated Extra Game San Francisco (7.25), 25.02.2020

[Tamondon,Cesar Bercilla]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Qc2 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bf5 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.Bf4 e6 8.e3 Be7 9.Be2 Nh5 10.h3 Nxf4 11.exf4 h5 12.0-0 Rc8 13.Rad1 b5 14.Qb3 Qb6 15.Ne5 Nf6 16.Bf3 Nd5 17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.Rc1 Rxc1 19.Rxc1 f6 20.Nd3 [20.Bxh5++- Rxh5 21.Rc8+ Bd8 22.Nc6 Rh8 23.Rxd8+ Kf7 24.Rd7+] **20...0-0 21.Nc5 Rc8 22.Bxd5?** [22.Bxh5+- Bxc5 23.Qe3 Qd8 24.dxc5 d4 25.Qb3 Kh8 26.Qxb5 Qc7 27.Qc4 Qxf4 28.Rd1 e5 29.b4 Qe4 30.Bg4 Bxg4 31.hxg4 Rc7 32.f3 Qe3+ 33.Kf1 Qh6 34.Qc1 Qg6 35.Qb1 Qh6] **22...exd5 23.Qxd5+ Be6 24.Qe4 Bxc5 25.dxc5 Qc6 26.Qe3 Bxa2 27.b4 Bd5 28.f3 Re8 29.Qa3 a6 30.Qd3 Kf7 31.Rd1 Bc4 32.Qf5 Qe6 33.Qxh5+ Kg8 34.Qg6 Qf7 35.Qf5 Qe7 36.Qd7 Qxd7 37.Rxd7 Re1+ 38.Kf2 Re2+ 39.Kg3 Re6 40.f5 Rc6 41.Kf4 Kf8 42.g4 a5 43.bxa5 b4 44.Rb7 b3 45.Rb6 Rxc5 46.a6 Rb5 47.a7 Rxb6 48.a8Q+** Here I offered a draw when my opponent has 1 minute , 17 seconds to my 20 minutes. I did not want to win on a cheapo. **1/2-1/2**

(37) Shannon,Rex - Agdamag,Samuel Z (1522) [B01]

MI Wilkerson TNM: Rated Extra Game San Francisco (7.33), 25.02.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 c6 5.Bd2 Qc7 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Be2 Nf6 9.Ne5 Bg6 10.Bf4 Qb6 11.Rb1 e6 12.0-0 Be7 13.Bg5 Nbd7 14.Nxd7 Nxd7 15.Bxe7 Kxe7 16.Re1 Rhd8 17.Qd2 Kf8 18.Na4 Qc7 19.Qb4+ Kg8 20.Rbc1 Nf6 21.Nc5 b6 22.Nd3 Nd5 23.Qd2 Qd6 24.Bf3 Bxd3 25.Qxd3 Nb4 26.Qb3 Nd5 27.Rcd1 Rac8 28.c4 Nf6 29.Rd2 Qf4 30.Red1 [30.Qd1] **30...Ne4 31.Re2 Ng5 32.g3 Nxf3+ 33.Kg2 Nh4+ 34.gxh4 Qxh4 35.Qc3 Qh5 36.Rde1 Qg5+ 37.Kh2 Qf4+ 38.Kg2 Qxd4 39.Qb4 c5 0-1**

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Newsletter #908

Mar 6, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- New TNM
- Hurt Memorial report
- Quads report
- Brilliancy prize
- Paul Whitehead
- TD Corner
- Tony's Teaser
- Scholastic Chess
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- TNM Games
- Submit your piece or feedback

Ted & Ruby Yudacufski TNM Report

The 2nd Tuesday Night Marathon (TNM) of 2020 began last Tuesday in honor of Ted and Ruby Yudacufski. Ted started and led the Monterey Chess Club in 1966, and the club ran through 2003. Many Bay Area players were influenced by their contribution to chess.

There was no break between TNM's this time around, so this TNM will truly feel like a marathon for returning players. The top players were in good form for the first round, as FM's Kyron Griffith and Josiah Stearman won their games, along with IM Elliott Winslow, WFM Natalya Tsodikova, NM Larry Snyder, and CM Ethan Boldi.

In the u/2000 section, many of the usual MI regulars started off with a victory, along with MI scholastic coaches Andrew Schley and Phil Warton. Also joining this section is back to back u/1600 section winner Ilia Gimelfarb, who started his u/2000 campaign with a nice win against the laways tough Marty Cortinas.

In the u/1600 section, 41 players are currently registered in this section alone, including many new faces which is great to see. With Gimelfarb playing up to the next section, we will watch to see who is ready to take the next step in u/1600 TNM supremacy.

Great moment captured before the start of the TNM, as former Mechanics' Institute Chess Director IM John Donaldson shows an opeing line

For full standing after round 1, please follow the link here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924060133/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/ted-and-ruby-yudacufski-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-mar-apr-2020)

To watch a replay of the live broadcast, please click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924060133/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJpQTNEJ7nk&t=285s)

Congratulations to all the winners and players of the Tuesday Night Marathon!

Jim Hurt Memorial Report

The Jim Hurt Memorial 1-day championship had a large turnout of 53 players! With a strong competitive top section with many of the nation's talented youngsters playing, it would prove to be an exciting afternoon and evening of chess. In the end, despite the wealth of young talent, it was professional poker player Daniel Smith who dominated the tournament with the lone perfect score of 4-0, after a final round victory over Arul Viswanathan. In the under 1800 section, David Li was also perfect, defeating some strong club players in the section including Teodoro Porlares and Alejandro Canales en route to sole first. Congratulations to the winners and everyone who participated in honoring tournament organizer and director Jim Hurt, who organized the LERA tournaments in Sunnyvale for many years, events which I played extensively as a young player in the mid 1980's. I remember him as a vary warm person who loved organzing those events and it was an honor for us to host a tournament in his name.

Crosstable for this event can be found by clicking here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924060133/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202002298582-16418854)

Dan Smith (left with glasses) won the 2020 Jim Hurt Memorial

A strong field of kids included WIM Rochelle Wu, NM Vyom Vidyarthi, Austin Mei, Ethan Boldi, Abhinav Penagalapati, Arul Viswanathan, Andrew Guo, Jacon Chiang and Jeremy Cawthon.

Mechanics' Championship Quads #2 Report

The 2nd Mechanics' championship quads were held on Sunday February 29th and drew 20 players. The section winners were as follows:

Quad 1: Austin Mei (2149) 3/3

Quad 2: Rohan Rajaram (1905) 2.5/3

Quad 3: Stewart Katz (1856) 3/3

Quad 4: Erika Malykin (1693), Albert Starr (1554) 2/3

Quad 5: Warren Tian (1374) 3/3

Congratulations to the winners! Full crosstable can be found here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924060133/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202003019252.1-16418854)

January/February Brilliancy Prize

We received only a few submissions for the monthly brilliancy prize. We will work harder to promote the brilliancy prize offering, but this game submitted is the winner for January/February. Congratulations to TNM player David Rakonitz.

(1) Hansen,Mateo - Rakonitz,David [C01]

Wilkerson TNM, 21.01.2020

1.e4 e6 The French Defense - this solid prickly opening can frustrate the player of the White pieces who likes open, tactical games. **2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4** Mateo chooses the exchange variation, which allows Black quick equality. **4...Bd6 5.Bd3 Ne7 6.Ng5?!** Direct aggression, but this early attack will not succeed against careful defense. **6...h6 7.Qh5 g6! 8.Qh4 Bf5 9.Nf3 Bxd3** Diagram

10.Qf6?! Strong aggressin again from Mateo! Black is fine but must be careful. **10...Rh7** [Also possible is 10...0-0 since 11.Bxh6? Nf5! defends the threatened mate and wins a piece.] **11.cxd3 Nd7 12.Qh4 Nf5 13.Qxd8+ Kxd8** Diagram

The attack is gone with the (necessary) trade of queens. Black is left with the better pawn structure in the ending. **14.0-0 c6 15.Bd2 Kc7 16.b4 a6 17.a4 Rhh8 18.Nc3 g5** [Not 18...Bxb4? 19.Nxd5+] **19.h3 Rhe8 20.Rfc1 Nf6 21.g4 Ng7 22.h4 Kd7!?** Diagram

This is a more active defense is better than defending the g-pawn with ...Ne6. Black gets excellent compensation for the sacrificed pawn. **23.hxg5 hxg5 24.Nxg5 Nxg4 25.Nxf7 Nf5** [25...Rf8 26.Nxd6 Kxd6 27.Rf1 Rf3 would be strong pressure for the pawn.] **26.f3 Nxd4!?** [Black could keep a simple advantage with 26...Nge3] **27.Nxd6 Kxd6** [27...Rg8 would be an aggressive move looking for a strong attack] **28.Bf4+?!** [The best chance to hold the game would be 28.fxg4 Nf3+ 29.Kg2 Nxd2 30.Rc2 Nb3 31.Rh1 Re6] **28...Ne5! 29.Re1?** [White is suffering in the endgame with his isolated pawns, but this move ends the game. Needed was 29.Kf2 Kd7 30.Bxe5 Rxe5 31.Rg1 Rf8 32.Rg3 Ref5 33.Rd1 when White can try to hold a pawn down ending] **29...Ndxf3+ 30.Kh1 Kd7 31.Bxe5 Nxe5 32.Rad1** Diagram

Now the black attack comes full force. **32...Rh8+ 33.Kg2 Rag8+ 34.Kf2 Rh2+ 35.Ke3 Rg4 36.b5 d4#** Diagram

0-1

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Friendly Rivalries, Part 18.

By FM Paul Whitehead

Continuing from here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/894#whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924060133/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/894#whitehead)

Reaching back 42 years ago to 1978, and spotlighting some more victories over my peers and rivals. These folks were masters of the game, resourceful and experienced.

I'm proud to have known and played them.

1978 was a great year for me, co-winner of the American Open and U.S. Junior Closed, as well as co-winner of the Northern California (Bagby) Championship, tournaments I've written about in past newsletters.

Despite the distance of those years, the game scores help recall those days vividly. This is, I think, a wonderful way the chess player can keep in touch with personal history.

I've always found an interest in the lives people have lived outside of chess, and you can find out more about these folk here:

Julius Loftsson:

http://www.uschess.org/content/view/9116/512/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924060133/http://www.uschess.org/content/view/9116/512/)

Douglas Root:

https://www.ntdaily.com/owning-the-board/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924060133/https://www.ntdaily.com/owning-the-board/)

Craig Barnes:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9IwRf9qhy8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924060133/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9IwRf9qhy8)

Dennis Waterman:

https://www.ixgames.com/dennis_waterman/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924060133/https://www.ixgames.com/dennis_waterman/)

Kenneth Regan:

http://www.buffalo.edu/news/experts/ken-regan-faculty-expert-chess.html

(1) Whitehead,Paul A - Loftsson,Julius H [A08]

SF vs LA Telephone Match, 1978

I never met Julius Loftsson in person! This game was played in the National Chess League of the late 1970's, with moves being relayed by the telephone to a TD, who would come over to your board and make the move. Undoubtably there were some shenanigans, but it was all in good fun. I played for the Berkeley Riots. The Washington Plumbers won in 1976, making the cover of Chess Life. GM Nick de Firmian told me he played Loftsson 23 times, with one win for Nick and 22 draws! This was a hard fought game, with the turning point coming on the 24th move: 24...Nb4?! was ill-advised. White's e-pawn turned into a monster. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.Nbd2 Bd6**

6.Bg2 Nge7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nh4 Bc7 9.f4 f5 10.exd5 exd5

11.Re1 Qd6 12.Ndf3 Bd7 13.c3 Rae8 14.Ne5 Be6 15.Nhf3 Kh8

16.Kh1 d4 17.c4 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Qb6 19.Qb3 Bxe5 20.Qxb6 axb6

21.Bxb7 Bd7 22.fxe5 Bc6+ 23.Bxc6 Nxc6 24.Bf4 Nb4 25.Rad1 Nxa2

26.e6 Nb4 27.Bc7 Nc2 28.Re5 Ne3 29.Ra1 Ng4 30.Re2 Rc8

31.Bxb6 Rc6 32.e7 Re8 33.Ra8 Nf6 34.Bd8 Kg8 35.b3 Kf7

36.h3 Nd7 37.Kg2 g5 38.Ra7 Re6 39.Rf2 Ne5 40.Rxf5+ Kg7

41.Rf8 Nxd3 42.Rxe8 Re2+ 43.Kf3 Re3+ 44.Kg4 Ne5+ 45.Kh5

1-0

(2) Regan,Kenneth - Whitehead,Paul A [B40]

SF vs Westfield Telephone League Match, 1978

Revenge is sweet. Regan had defeated me a year earlier in the U.S.Junior Closed Championship in Denver. He had me crushed out of the opening here too: black's 7...Qg5?! is highly dubious. Better was 7...Bxb5 8.Nxb5 Nc6 with a good game. 17.Qc4?! let black back into the game (17.Nd4!) and white missed another chance to keep it level with the problematic 19.Rg3! Black scooped up a piece, kept his head in the flurry of complications and ultimately prevailed. Not pretty, but as a dish served cold... not bad either. **1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e5 d4 5.cxd4 cxd4**

6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Nxd4 Qg5 8.Nf3 Qxg2 9.Rg1 Qh3 10.Nc3 Bb4

||

11.Rxg7 Bxc3 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.dxc3 0-0-0 14.Bg5 f6 15.exf6 Ngxf6

||

16.Qe2 Nc5 17.Qc4 Rd5 18.Be3 b5 19.Qh4 Qxf3 20.Bxc5 Rxc5

||

21.Qd4 Rd5 22.Qxa7 Qh1+ 23.Ke2 Re5+ 24.Kd2 Rd8+ 25.Kc2 Qe4+

||

26.Kb3 Qc4+ 27.Ka3 Qc6 28.Rag1 Re4 29.Kb3 b4 30.Rc7+ Qxc7

||

31.Qa8+ Kd7 32.Rg7+ Kd6 33.Qa6+ Qc6 34.Qa7 Qd5+ 35.c4 Qxc4+

||

0-1

(3) Whitehead,Paul A - Barnes,Craig N [B70]

Berkeley Labor Day, 1978

Craig Barnes was National High School Champion in 1972, the year I started playing. I watched Craig play in the US Junior Closed at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco in 1973. He played at Lone Pine in 1971, and 1973 through 1976. This was our only encounter. Black was fine up until he mis-cued with 19...Qc7? Taking the knight at b3 was better. After 20.Nb5! black was faced with losing the a-pawn, but even worse his knight at b4 had nowhere to go. All the tactics worked in white's favor, and the game ended after a few more brutal moves. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6**

||

6.Be2 g6 7.Nb3 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Kh1 Qc8

||

11.f4 a5 12.a4 Nb4 13.Bf3 Re8 14.Nd4 Bc4 15.Rf2 Qc5

||

16.Rd2 h6 17.Bh4 Rad8 18.Bf2 Qc8 19.Nb3 Qc7 20.Nb5 Bxb5

||

21.axb5 d5 22.exd5 Qc4 23.c3 Nbxd5 24.Rd4 Qxb5 25.Rxa5

||

1-0

(4) Whitehead,Paul A - Waterman,Dennis [C19]

Marin Co. Championship, 1978

A strong master and friend of many of my chess pals, Dennis in a roundabout way made me a chess master. We played a game at the MI in 1973 when I was an up and coming player, maybe A Class already. I had completely outplayed him and he made the classic offer of a draw... which I took. After berating myself for hours afterwards, I told myself I would fight from now on in every game, no matter the strength or rating of my opponent. By the time Dennis and I met over the board again, there was no question that this would be for blood. In this game white pushes, pushes, pushes, with 22.a5, 23.Bc5 and 26.Nxc4! and black finally missteps: he should defend with 26...dxc4 as given in the notes. A few moves later black blundered in a difficult position with 31...Ne7? after which 32.Rd6! left black facing 33.Ba6+. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+**

||

6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Nf3 Ne7 8.a4 b6 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bd3 Nbc6

||

11.0-0 c4 12.Be2 f6 13.Re1 0-0-0 14.Ba3 Be8 15.Bf1 Bf7

||

16.Qb1 h5 17.Qb5 Nf5 18.Reb1 h4 19.h3 Bh5 20.Nd2 fxe5

||

21.dxe5 g5 22.a5 Nxa5 23.Bc5 Qxc5 24.Qxc5+ bxc5 25.Rxa5 Rh7

||

26.Nxc4 Rc7 [26...dxc4 27.Bxc4 Rh6 28.Rxc5+ Kd7 29.Rb7+ Ke8 30.Rxa7~~] **27.Na3 Rdd7 28.Bb5 Rg7 29.Ra6 g4 30.hxg4 Bxg4**

||

31.Rxe6 Ne7 32.Rd6

||

1-0

(5) Root,Douglas - Whitehead,Paul [E97]

American Open Championship, 1978

This is the only time Douglas Root and I played, on my way to a tied 1st (with David Strauss). This game was a lot of fun to play for black: white was too complacent, and black (as usual) dead-set on being as aggresive as possible. 11.exf5?! seems to be an experiment, and black gets an easy game. Later, black sacrifices his queen and drives the white king into the center. White becomes pinned down from all sides, and in the end the queen is no match for the swarm of black pieces. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6**

||

6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 Nh5 10.g3 f5

11.exf5 gxf5 12.Bb2 Ng6 13.c5 e4 14.Ne1 Nf6 15.f4 exf3

16.Nxf3 Ng4 17.Qb3 Qe7 18.Rae1 Qe3+ 19.Kh1 f4 20.Bd1 Nf2+

21.Kg1 Nxd1+ 22.Rxe3 Nxe3 23.Re1 Bf5 24.Bc1 Nc2 25.Rd1 fxg3

26.hxg3 Rae8 27.Nb5 Bg4 28.Qxc2 Bxf3 29.Bg5 Re2 30.Rd2 Re1+

31.Kf2 Rh1 32.Ke3 Bg4 33.Nd4 Re1+ 34.Ne2 Rf3+ 35.Ke4 Rxg3

36.cxd6 cxd6 37.Bf4 Rg2 38.Be3 Rexe2 39.Rxe2 Rxe2 40.Qc7 Bh6

41.Qd8+ Kf7

0-1

Tournament Director's Corner

Tony's Teasers

Last week's problem:
B. Harley 1941. Mate in 3 #907

Solution: 1. Qc5!! b3 2. Kb5 f6 3.Rxe7#

This week's problem:

White to move and mate in 3. C.S. Kipping, 1911

Scholastic Chess

March Swiss - Report

We held our first March scholastic swiss on Sunday the first, right before the afternoon quads. 25 players came down to MI to participate, and the section winners were as follows:

700+: Samson Lieberman (1411) 3.5/4

400-699: Neev Patel (594) Lucas Tan-Choy (556) 3/4

u/400: Lawrence Wu (1016p) 4/4

Full crosstable for the event can be found here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924060133/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202003019212.0-15121586)

We want to congratulate all the players and thank the parents for supporting scholastic chess!

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Ted & Ruby Yudacufski TNM - Round 1

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Griffith,Kyron Waykuan (2469) - German,Felix (2007) [B01]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: Open San Francisco (1.1), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 [5...g6; 5...Bg4; 5...a6] **6.Ne5** An aggressive move, aiming to take control of this advanced square for an outpost. [6.h3] **6...Nbd7 7.f4 g6 8.Bc4 Nd5 9.Ne4 Qc7 10.0-0 Bg7 11.Qe1 0-0 12.c3 b6 13.Qh4 Bb7 14.Ng4!?** Immediately initiating the attack. More normal would be to develop with 14. Bd2. **14...h5**

[14...c5!] **15.f5! N7f6?** [15...hxg4 16.Ng5 N7f6 17.fxg6 fxg6 18.Bd3 would give White excellent attacking chances for the piece. Still, Black should try this as at least he has a material edge.] **16.Nh6+ Kh8?!** [16...Bxh6 17.Bxh6 Ng4 18.Bxf8 Rxf8 19.fxg6 fxg6 20.Rxf8+ Kxf8 21.Rf1+ Ke8 would survive longer.] **17.Nxf7+! Rxf7 18.fxg6 Rff8 19.Nxf6 Rxf6 20.Qxh5+ Kg8 21.Qh7+ Kf8 22.Bh6**

1-0

(2) Askin,David Benjamin (2004) - Stearman,Josiah (2434) [E07]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: Open San Francisco (1.2), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 c6!? Not as bad as it looks. Black will now transpose into a closed Catalan. **5.Bg2 d5 6.0-0 Be7 7.b3 Nbd7 8.Bb2 0-0 9.Nbd2 Ba6 10.a4 Rc8 11.Rc1 Bb4 12.Qc2 Qe7 13.e4! dxc4?! 14.bxc4 e5 15.dxe5?!** [15.Nxe5! Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nd7 17.Nf3 leaves White clearly on top.] **15...Ng4 16.Bh3 h5 17.Nh4?!** [17.Nb3 Rcd8 18.Nbd4] **17...Ndxe5 18.Nf5 Qc7 19.f4**

19...Rfd8! 20.Nb3 [20.fxe5 Rxd2] **20...Nxc4 21.Bxg4 hxg4 22.Bxg7 Qd7?!** [22...Nd2] **23.Rfd1?!** [23.Qe2! hitting the g4 pawn would leave Black in serious trouble.] **23...Na3 24.Rxd7 Nxc2 25.Rxd8+?!** [25.Rxa7 Bc4 26.Nbd4 is still better for White] **25...Rxd8 26.Bf6 Rd3 27.Ne7+?** [27.Rxc2 Rxb3 28.Rxc6 Bc5+ 29.Bd4 is equal] **27...Bxe7 28.Bxe7 Ne3 29.Na1 Rd2** Black has a winning attack in this endgame. **30.Nb3 Rg2+ 31.Kh1 Rb2** White resigns as 32. Nd4 Bd3! will wrap things up. A terrific battle! **0-1**

(3) Winslow,Elliott Charles (2234) - Clemens,Kristian (2004) [D11]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: Open San Francisco (1.3), 03.03.2020

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4 5.Qb3 Qb6 6.c5 [Relevant: 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nh4 Nbd7 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Bg2 g5 12.0-0 Be7 13.Rd1 Nf8 14.cxd5 exd5 15.e4 1-0 (87), Wang,H (2756)-Shirov,A (2684) Moscow 2019] **6...Qxb3** [6...Qc7!? 7.Ne5!?] **7.axb3 Nbd7 8.b4** I confess to a perverse preference for this sort of pawn structure -- **if** and only if I can get b3-b4-b5 in. If Black could play ...a6 and move his rook (or be castled so it were protected) it would be a disaster for White. **8...Bxf3 9.gxf3 e5 10.b5 g6**

Of course Black has various other moves here. (I left my memory book on move 5.) **11.b4N** [Predecessor: 11.bxc6 bxc6 12.Nc3 1/2-1/2 (27) Spelec,D (2066)-Kuzner,C (1817) Ptuj 2012] **11...Bg7 12.bxc6 bxc6 13.Ba6 Rb8 14.b5 cxb5 15.c6 Nb6 16.dxe5 Nh5 17.c7 Ra8 18.Bxb5+ Ke7 19.f4 a6 20.Bxa6 Ke6 21.Nc3 f6**

22.e4!? "Window-ledging," to use the term from David Smerdon's recent "Swindles" book. [22.c8Q+! Nxc8 *(22...Rhxc8 23.Bxc8+ Rxc8 24.Ra6)* 23.Nxd5! somehow had escaped my attention in this particular position.] **22...fxe5 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24.exd5+ Kd6 25.c8Q Rhxc8 26.Ba3+**

26...Kc7? [26...Kxd5! was my thought at the time, when I can win the exchange but maybe not the game. Two pawns each, all on the kingside, mine split and weak, knight (in the zone) for rook -- I'm suspcious of Stockfish's evaluation.] **27.Rc1+ Kb6 28.Rxc8 Rxa6 29.Rc6+ Kb7 30.Rxa6 Kxa6 31.fxe5 Bxe5 32.Ke2 Kb5** [32...Nf4+ 33.Kf3 Nxd5 34.Ke4 Nb6 35.Kxe5 Nc4+ 36.Kd5 Nxa3 37.Ra1] **33.Kd3 Nf6 34.Rb1+ Ka6 35.Kc4 Bxh2 36.Bc5 Nd7** [36...Bc7 37.d6 Bd8 38.Rb8 Rooks are just better pieces than bishops or knights, that's all there is to it.] **37.Rh1 Ne5+ 38.Kd4 h5 39.Ke4 Nd7 40.Rxh2 Nxc5+ 41.Ke5 Nd3+ 42.Kf6 Nf4 43.d6 Kb7 44.Rh4 Nd5+ 45.Ke6 g5 46.Rd4 Nf4+ 47.Rxf4 1-0**

(4) Heidari,Ako (1971) - Tsodikova,Natalya (2204) [A26]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: Open San Francisco (1.4), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.e4 f5 7.Nge2 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 [9.Rb1 Is a good alternative. White has played a Botvinnik set-up, which is often seen with colors reversed.] **9...f4!? 10.gxf4 Nh5 11.f5** [11.fxe5 dxe5 12.Qd2] **11...Nd4** continuing in gambit style. Also possible was [11...gxf5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Ng3] **12.f4** [12.Qd2] **12...Nxf4 13.Nxf4 exf4 14.Bxf4 gxf5 15.Qh5 Be6 16.Bg5** [16.Rae1 gets the last piece in play.] **16...Qd7 17.Nd5 Bxd5! 18.cxd5 Qf7 19.Qh4 f4 20.Bh3** [20.Rxf4? Ne2+] **20...Kh8 21.Rae1 Be5 22.Kh1 f3 23.Be3 Nc2 24.Be6 Qe8 25.Bf5 Rxf5 26.exf5 Nxe1 27.Qxe1?** The wrong capture, allowing Black to jump to the kingside. An even game goes downhill now. [27.Rxe1] **27...Qh5 28.Rf2 Qxf5 29.Qf1 Rf8 30.Rc2 Rf7 31.a4 Bg7 32.Qf2 Qxd3 33.Rd2 Qc4 34.h3 Qxa4 35.Bd4 Bxd4 36.Rxd4 Qb5 37.Re4 h5 38.Re8+?? Qxe8 0-1**

(5) Smith,Daniel S (2147) - Lum,Michael K (1914) [D00]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: Open San Francisco (1.5), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 Bf5 4.c4 e6 5.Qb3 Qc8 [5...Nc6 6.Qxb7 Nb4 7.Na3 Rb8 8.Qxc7 Qxc7 9.Bxc7 Rc8 10.Bg3 dxc4 would be a sharp and interesting alternative.] **6.Nc3 c6 7.Nf3 Nh5 8.Bg3 Nxg3 9.hxg3 Bd6 10.Nh4 Be4 11.Rc1 Qd7?!** [11...0-0!] **12.Nf3 Bg6 13.c5 Be7 14.Ne5 Qc7 15.Nxg6 fxg6 16.Bd3 0-0 17.Ne2 Bf6** [17...Nd7!? 18.Nf4 e5 19.Ne6 Qa5+ 20.Ke2 *(20.Rc3)* 20...Rf7! 21.Qxb7 Rb8 22.Qxd7 Rxb2+ 23.Rc2 Rxc2+ 24.Bxc2 Qxa2 is a perpetual check by one player or the other. *(or 24...Qc3)*] **18.Nf4 Re8**

19.Nxg6? [19.Rxh7!+- Kxh7 20.Bxg6+ Kg8 21.Bxe8] **19...hxg6 20.Bxg6 Nd7! 21.f4 Nf8 22.Bxe8 Rxe8 23.g4 Ng6 24.g3 Qf7 25.Rc2 Bd8 26.Qd3 Bc7 27.Rh5 Ba5+ 28.Kd1 Bd8 29.Rch2 Qf6 30.Kc2 b6 31.Qa6 Qf7 32.f5 exf5 33.gxf5 Rxe3**

34.fxg6? [34.Qc8! Qe8 35.Qxd8! Qxd8 36.fxg6 wins the queen back with an extra pawn 36...Kf8 37.Rh8+ Ke7 38.Rxd8 Kxd8] **34...Qxg6+ 35.Kd2 Bg5! 36.Rxg5 Qxg5 37.Kc2 Qf5+ 38.Kc1 Re1+ 39.Kd2 Re8** [39...Rb1!] **40.cxb6 axb6 41.Qd3 Re4 42.Re2 c5 43.dxc5 bxc5 44.Rxe4 dxe4 45.Qe3 Qd5+ 46.Kc3 Qxa2 47.Qxc5 Qb1 48.Qd5+ Kh7 49.Qf5+ Kg8 50.Qe6+ Kh7 51.Qf5+ Kg8 52.Qd5+ Kf8 53.Qd6+ Kf7 54.Qd7+ Kg8 55.Qe8+ Kh7 1/2-1/2**

(6) Melville,Cailen Jeremiah (1909) - Walder,Michael (2102) [A65]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: Open San Francisco (1.6), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nge2 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Ng3 exd5 9.cxd5

9...Nh5!? 10.Nxh5 gxh5 11.Be3 f5 12.Bd3 Nd7 13.0-0 f4 14.Bf2 Ne5 15.Be2 Qg5 16.Kh1 Bd7 17.g3?! [17.Rg1; 17.Na4; 17.Bb5!] **17...Ng6 18.Rg1 Qf6 19.Qd2 Rae8 20.Rae1 h4?** [20...Kh8] **21.g4?** [21.gxh4!=] **21...Re5?** [21...Ne5; 21...h3] **22.h3 h5 23.gxh5 Rxh5 24.Kh2 Bh6 25.Bb5 Bc8 26.Bd3 Rg5** [26...Kh8!-/+] **27.Rxg5 Qxg5= 28.Qd1**

28...Qe7? [28...Bg7; 28...Qf6] **29.Rg1 Kf7**

30.Nb5? [30.Rxg6! Kxg6 31.e5+!+/-] **30...a6??**

[30...Ne5=] **31.Rxg6!! Kxg6 32.Nxd6!+- Kh5 33.Nxc8 Rxc8 34.Qg1 Qg7 35.Qg4+! Qxg4 36.hxg4+ Kg5 37.b3?!** [37.e5! Bg7 *(37...c4 38.Bf5!)* 38.e6!] **37...Bg7 38.Kh3**

38...Be5 39.Bxh4+ Kg6?!

Now, after that great double combination to create all those passed pawns, Cailen misses his last chance to send them down the board! [39...Kh6+/-] **40.Be1??** [40.d6!! Rh8 41.d7 Rxh4+ (41...Bc7 42.g5 Kh5 43.Bc4 *(43.e5)* 43...Rf8 44.e5) 42.Kxh4 Bf6+ 43.g5! Bxg5+ 44.Kg4] **40...b5-/+ 41.Kg2** [41.d6 Rd8] **41...c4-+ 42.bxc4 bxc4 43.Bxc4 Rxc4 44.a3 Rc2+ 45.Kf1 Bd6 46.a4 Kf6 47.a5 Ke5 48.g5 Bc5 49.g6 Kf6 50.e5+ Kxg6 51.d6 Kf7 52.Bh4 Ke6 53.Bf6 Bxd6 54.exd6 Kxf6 55.Ke1 Ke6 56.d7 Kxd7 0-1**

(7) Snyder,Larry (2061) - Lehman,Clarence E (1900) [C45]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: Open San Francisco (1.7), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb6 6.a4 Qf6 7.Qe2 a5 8.Nc3 Nge7 9.Be3 Bxe3 10.Qxe3 Nb4 11.0-0-0 c6 12.f4 0-0 13.g4 Ng6 14.f5 Ne5 15.g5 Qe7 16.Qf4 f6 17.h4 d5 18.Bh3 Qc7 19.Kb1 b5 20.g6?! [20.gxf6 opens the kingside to go after the black king.] **20...bxa4 21.Nxa4 dxe4 22.h5 Qe7 23.Qxe4 h6 24.Nd2 Ba6 25.Bf1 Bxf1 26.Rhxf1 Rfd8 27.Nc4 Rd5** [27...Nxg6! gets rid of the advanced g-pawn.] **28.Nxe5 Rxe5 29.Qc4+ Kf8?** [29...Kh8] **30.c3** [30.Nb6! Re4 31.Nd7+ Qxd7 32.Qxe4 should win.] **30...Re4?!** [30...Nd5 31.Qxc6 Rd8] **31.Qc5 Nd3?!** [31...Na6 32.Qxc6 Re8] **32.Rxd3 Rxa4 33.Qxe7+ Kxe7 34.Re1+ Kf8 35.Rd7** There is no hope for Black in this endgame with the white rooks invading. **35...Rf4 36.Ree7 Rb8 37.Rf7+ Kg8 38.Rxg7+ Kh8 39.Rh7+ Kg8 40.Rxh6 Rf2 41.g7! Rfxb2+ 42.Ka1 Rb1+ 43.Ka2 1-0**

(8) Xu,Jayden (1826) - Estolas,Brendyn (2030) [E17]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: Open San Francisco (1.8), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Qd3 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Ne5 c5 10.0-0 Na6 11.a3 Re8 12.Bf4 cxd4 13.Qxd4 Bc5 14.Qd3 Bd6 15.Nxd5?

15...Nxd5? [15...Nc5 wins as the knight hits the queen and guards the bishop on b7.] **16.Nxf7! Nxf4 17.Nxd8 Nxd3 18.Nxb7 Rxe2 19.Nxd6 Rd8 20.Bd5+?!** [20.Nb5 is a pawn up] **20...Kf8 21.Bc4 Rxd6 22.Rad1 Nxb2! 23.Bxe2 Nxd1 24.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 25.Bxd1 Ke7 26.Kg2 Kd6 27.Kf3 Nc5 28.Bc2 Ne6 29.Kg4 g6 30.f4 Nd4?!** [30...b5 31.f5 gxf5+ 32.Bxf5 Nf8 33.Kg5 a5 34.Kf6 is dynamically equal.] **31.Bd3 Ne6 32.f5 gxf5+ 33.Bxf5 Nf8 34.Kg5 Ke5 35.Bc2 b5 36.Bd3 a6 37.Kh6 Kd4 38.Bc2 Kc3 39.Bd1 Kd2 40.Bf3 Ke3 41.Bg4 Kf2?!** [41...a5!] **42.Kg7 Kg2?** [42...Ng6 43.Kxh7 Ne5 44.Bc8 a5 still gives Black chances.] **43.Bc8 a5 44.Kxf8 Kxh2 45.g4 b4 46.axb4 axb4 47.Kg7 Kg3 48.Kh6 b3 49.g5 Kf4 50.Be6 b2 51.Ba2 1-0**

(9) Perlov,Alexander (1824) - Boldi,Ethan [Kazanjian] (2110) [E17]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: Open San Francisco (1.36), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Nf3 c6 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bf4 b6 10.Re1 Bb7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Nd7 14.Bf4 Bg5 15.Qd2 Bxf4 16.Qxf4 Nf6 17.Rad1 Re8 18.e4 Qe7 19.e5 Nd7 20.Re2 Nf8 21.Qd2 Rad8 22.Qc2 Ne6 23.f4 c5 24.dxc5 Qxc5+ 25.Rf2 Nc7 26.Bf3 Bc6 27.Kg2 a5 28.Ne4?? Simply a terrible blunder. **28...dxe4 29.Bxe4 Qxc2 0-1**

(10) Boldi,Nicholas Armen (1862) - Davila,Carlos (2066) [B13]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: Extra Gam San Francisco (1.37), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 Nf6 6.0-0 e6 7.c3 Be7 8.Bf4 0-0 9.Nbd2 Nc6 10.Rc1 a6 11.h3 Bh5 12.Re1 Rc8 13.Bd3 b5 14.Rc2 Re8 15.Qb1 Qb6 16.a3 a5 A classic minority attack by Black. White now chooses to prevent ...b4 at the cost of a backward c-pawn. A reasonable choice here. **17.b4 a4?!** [17...axb4 18.axb4 Ra8] **18.Rcc1 Bf8 19.Ne5 Bg6 20.Nxg6 hxg6 21.Nf3 Nh5 22.Bh2 Be7 23.Qb2 Na7 24.Qd2 Bd6 25.Bxd6 Qxd6 26.Ne5 Rc7 27.Be2 Nf6 28.Bd3 Rec8 29.Re3 Nd7 30.Nf3?!** [30.Nxd7 Rxd7 31.Rg3] **30...Qf4 31.Be2 Nf6 32.Qe1 Ne4 33.Ne5 Qh6 34.Bf3 f5?!** [34...Nd6 is more solid] **35.Bxe4 dxe4 36.Rc2 Nc6 37.Nxc6 Rxc6 38.Qe2** [38.f3!] **38...Qh5! 39.Qxh5 gxh5 40.Kf1**

40...f4? [40...Rc4! 41.f3! exf3 42.gxf3 Kf7 43.Rd3 e5!] **41.Rxe4= Rxc3 42.Rxc3 Rxc3 43.Rxe6 Rxa3 44.Rb6 Ra1+** [44...Rd3] **45.Ke2 a3 46.Rxb5 a2??** [46...Rb1 47.Ra5 Rb3 48.h4+/=] **47.Ra5 Kf7 48.b5** [48.h4!+-] **48...Ke7** [48...g5!] **49.h4 Kd6 50.Kf3 Kc7 51.Ra6 g6 52.Kxf4 Rd1 53.Rxa2 Rxd4+ 54.Kg3 Rg4+ 55.Kh3 g5 56.hxg5 Rxg5 57.Rb2 Kb6 58.g3 Rg4 59.Re2 Rg5 60.Kh4 Rxb5 61.Re6+ Kc7 62.Rh6 Rb2 63.Rf6 Rb5 64.f4 Kd7 65.Rh6 1-0**

(11) Argo,Guy (1939) - Acosta,Anthony (1761) [B01]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.9), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 Bg4 6.f3 Bf5 7.Nge2 c6 8.0-0 e6 9.Ng3 Bg6 10.Qe2 Be7 11.f4 Qd8

12.f5! exf5 13.Nxf5 Bxf5 14.Rxf5 Nbd7 [14...Qxd4+? 15.Be3 Qd7 16.Bc5 would leave Black in an awful mess.] **15.Ne4 0-0 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.c3 Nb6 18.Bb3 a5 19.a4 g6 20.Rf3 Nd5 21.Bxd5?!** Giving up the two bishops and most of White's advantage. **21...cxd5 22.Qb5 b6 23.Bh6 Bg7 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Re1 Qd6 26.Re5 Rfd8 27.Rfe3 Ra7 28.g4 h6 29.Kg2 Rad7 30.h4 Qf6 31.Kg3 Qd6 32.Kh3 Qf6 33.Qe2 Qc6 34.Qc2 b5 35.h5 bxa4 36.Re6 Rd6!** Keeping a cool head and not exposing the king due to greed. **37.Re7 R8d7 38.g5? hxg5 39.h6+?** The last two moves have been chasing a win that's not there. They have just given away two pawns. **39...Kxh6 40.Kg4 Rxe7 41.Qh2+ Kg7 42.Rxe7 Qc8+ 43.Kg3 Rf6 44.Qe2 Qf5 45.Re8 Qf4+ 46.Kg2 g4 47.Kg1 g3 48.Ra8 Qc1+ 0-1**

(12) Mahooti,James J (1870) - Porlares,Teodoro (1756) [E00]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.11), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Be7 5.Bg2 d5 6.Nc3 c6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 dxc4 9.e4 Nbd7 10.Qc2 b5 11.e5 Nd5 12.Ne4 h6 13.a4 Bb7 14.b3 cxb3 15.Qxb3 b4! White now doesn't have enough compensation for the pawn. **16.a5 c5 17.dxc5 Nxc5 18.Nxc5 Bxc5 19.a6 Bc8 20.Rfc1 Qb6 21.Be1 Bd7 22.Nd2 Bd4** [22...Nc3! 23.Bxa8?! Rxa8 is a terrific exchange sacrifice. With the extra pawn and light squares Black is clearly ahead.] **23.Nc4 Qd8 24.Rab1 Rb8 25.Qd3?!** [25.Bxd5 exd5 26.Ne3] **25...Nc3! 26.Bxc3 Bxc3 27.Qe4?!** [27.Qe3 Bb5 28.Nd6 Bxa6 29.Qxa7 Is still a clear pawn down, but keeps White in the game. Now Black goes two pawns up.] **27...Bb5 28.Rd1 Qc7 29.Nd6 Bxa6 30.Rdc1 Qc5 31.Ra1 Rb6 32.Bf1 Bxf1 33.Kxf1 Qxe5 34.Qxe5 Bxe5 35.Nc4 Bxa1 36.Nxb6 axb6 37.Rxa1 Rc8 38.Rb1 Rc4 39.Ke2 f5 40.Rb3 Kf7 41.Kd2 e5 42.Re3 Ke6 43.f3 g5 44.Rb3 e4 45.fxe4 fxe4 46.Re3 Ke5 47.Rb3 Kd4 48.Ke2 g4 49.Rb2 Kc3 50.Rb1 Kc2 51.Rd1 b3 52.Rd2+ Kc3 53.Kd1 Rd4 0-1**

(13) Horng,Timothy (1723) - Schley,Andrew (1819) [C18]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.12), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 cxd4 6.axb4 dxc3 7.bxc3 [7.Nf3] **7...Qc7 8.Qd4?!** [8.Nf3] **8...Ne7** [8...Nc6 9.Bb5 Nge7] **9.Bb2? Nbc6 10.Qg4 Qxe5+ 11.Be2 h5** Black has clearly won the opening battle. **12.Qg3 Nf5 13.Qxe5 Nxe5 14.Nh3 Nc4 15.Bc1 Bd7 16.0-0 a6 17.Rd1 Bb5 18.Nf4 g6 19.Nd3 0-0** [19...Ke7 would keep the king centralized.] **20.Nc5 b6 21.Nb3?!** [21.Bxc4 leaves White with at least play on the dark squares.] **21...Ncd6 22.Bf3 Rac8 23.Bd2 Nh4 24.Nd4 Nxf3+ 25.Nxf3 Ne4 26.Be3 Nxc3 27.Rd2 Ne4 28.Rdd1 Rxc2 29.Nd4 Rc4 30.Nxb5 axb5 31.Bxb6 Rb8 32.Ba5 Rbc8 33.f3 Nc3 34.Re1 Na4 35.Kf2 Rc2+ 36.Kg3 R8c4 37.Reb1 Nc3 38.Rb3 Ne2+ 0-1**

(14) Poling,Scott E (1817) - Kaplan,Glenn (1697) [A49]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.13), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.Qd3 c5 8.e3 a6 9.a4 Rb8 10.Rd1 b6 11.Ra3 Bb7 12.Nd2 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 Qc8 14.Qe2 b5 15.axb5 axb5 16.Ra5 b4 17.Nce4 cxd4 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Ne4 Qb7 20.exd4 Bg7 21.f3 Rfc8 22.Bf4 Qc7 23.Rb5 Qxc2 24.Rd2 Qc4 25.Rxb8 Qxe2+ 26.Rxe2 Nxb8 27.d5 b3 [27...Nd7-+] **28.Nc3?! Bxc3 29.bxc3**

29...Rc7 [29...Nd7 walks a tightrope to a bigger advantage: 30.Rxe7 b2 31.Re1 Rxc3 32.g4 Nf6 33.Bh6 Rc2+ 34.Kg3 Re2!] **30.Bxd6!? Rb7?** [30...exd6 31.Re8+ Kg7 32.Rxb8 Rxc3 is a winning endgame.] **31.Bxe7??** [31.Bb4! quickly gets rid of the b-pawn and draws. 31...Nd7 32.Rb2 Nb6 33.d6! exd6 34.Rxb3=] **31...b2 32.Bf6 Nd7 33.Re8+ Nf8 0-1**

(15) Hansen,Mateo Stephen (1691) - Chin,Alex Paul (1814) [D00]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.14), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bf5 4.e3 e6 5.Bd3 Bg6 6.0-0 c5 7.Ne5 Nc6 8.f4 cxd4 9.exd4 Qb6 10.Be3 Bd6 11.Na4 Qa5 12.b3 Ne4 13.Bxe4 Bxe4 14.Qg4 g6 15.Qh4 Be7 16.Qh6 Bf8 17.Qh4 Bg7 18.Nc5 Qc7 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.c3 Nxe5 21.fxe5 Qxc3 22.Qxe4 Qc6 23.Qh4 0-0 24.Rac1 Qd7 25.Bg5 h6 26.Bf6 Rac8 27.Rcd1 Rc2 28.Rd3 Qd5 29.Rdf3

29...Rxa2?? [29...Bxf6! 30.Qxf6 *(30.exf6 Kh7)* 30...Qxd4+ 31.Kh1 h5 (air!) *(31...Rc7!?; 31...Qe4!?)* 32.Rg3 Qe4] **30.Bxg7 Kxg7 31.Qf6+ Kg8**

[31...Kh7 is the same (well, on f7)] **32.Qxg6+! fxg6 33.Rxf8+ Kg7 34.R1f7# 1-0**

(16) Drane,Robert William (1812) - Tuck,Drew (1651) [C24]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.15), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.exd5 cxd5 6.Bb3 Nc6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Re1 0-0 9.Bg5 d4 10.a3 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 Bg4 13.Nbd2 Nh5? [13...Re8 14.h3 Bh5] **14.h3! Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nxg3?!** [15...Nf4 16.Bxf4 exf4 17.Qh5 Kg7 18.h4] **16.fxg3! Ne7** [16...Kg7!? 17.g4 Qf6 White has a big plus with or without the queens on.] **17.Rf1 Ng6**

18.Qf6 Good enough! [(But 18.Ne4!? leans in harder. With Qf5, h3-h4, f7 still going)] **18...Kh7 19.Bxf7 Qxf6 20.Rxf6 Nh8 21.Rxd6 Rxf7 22.Rf1 Raf8 23.Rxf7+ Rxf7 24.Re6 Ng6 25.Nc4 Rc7 26.a4 Kg7 27.Nxe5 Nxe5 28.Rxe5** White handles the rook ending well, never really letting Black into the game. **28...Kf6 29.Re2 a6 30.Kf2 b5 31.axb5 axb5 32.Ke1 b4 33.Kd2 Rb7 34.Re4 b3 35.Rxd4 bxc2 36.Kxc2 Rc7+ 37.Kd2 Rb7 38.b4 Rb5 39.g4 Re5 40.Re4 Rb5 41.Kc3 Rb7 42.Kc4 Rc7+ 43.Kd5 Rd7+ 44.Kc4 Rc7+ 45.Kb5 Rc2 46.d4 Rxg2 47.Re3 Rd2 48.Kc4 Rc2+ 49.Rc3 Rd2 50.Kc5 Ke7 51.b5 Kd7 52.b6 Kc8 53.d5 Kd7 54.Rc4 Rb2 55.Rb4 Rc2+ 56.Kd4 Rc8 57.b7 Rb8 58.Kc5 Kc7 59.d6+ Kd7 60.Kb6 1-0**

(17) Carron,Joel (1645) - Mercado,Adam (1805) [C47]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.16), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bc5 6.Be3 Bb6 7.Qd2 Ng4 8.Nxc6 Bxe3 9.Nxd8 Bxd2+ 10.Kxd2 Kxd8 11.f3 Ne5 12.Rd1 f5 13.Kc1 f4 14.Be2 Rf8 15.Rd5 d6 16.Rhd1 Bd7 17.R5d2 Be6 18.Nd5 Kd7 19.Nb4 Bc4 20.Nd3 Bxd3 21.Bxd3 [21.cxd3!] **21...Rf6 22.Bf1 g5 23.Rd5 Ke7 24.c4 c6 25.R5d2 a5 26.Rf2 c5 27.Be2 Ra6 28.g3?! fxg3 29.hxg3?**

29...Ng4!-+ 30.Rh1 Nxf2 31.Rxh7+ Rf7 32.Rh2 Nd3+ 33.Bxd3 Rxf3 34.Rh7+ Kf6 35.Be2 Rxg3 36.Rxb7 Re3 37.Bh5 Rxe4 38.Rf7+ Ke5 39.Be2 Rd4 40.Rg7 Kf6 41.Rg8 Ra7 42.Bh5 Rh7 43.Bf3 Rh2 44.Bd5 Rf4 1-0

(18) Tsolias,Georgios (1791) - Lagrotta,Daniel S (1633) [C02]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.17), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.e5 Qb6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nf3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Nxd4 9.a3 Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 Bxc3 11.Qxc3 Ne7 12.Qb4 Qxb4 13.Bxb4 Bd7 14.Rc1 Rc8 15.Rxc8+ Nxc8 16.Kd2 b6 17.Ba6 Ne7 18.Rc1 Nc6 19.Bd6 Kd8 20.Kd3 f6 21.f4 Black may be a pawn up, but it's a horrible bind he's in. **21...h5 22.b4 h4**

23.Bb7? [23.b5 and Rc7 is the way to do it!] **23...Ne7** White's advantage has slipped away. **24.Bb8?** and now: Advantage Black! **24...Bb5+ 25.Kd2 Bc4! 26.Bxa7?** [26.a4 a5-/+] **26...Kc7 27.Ba6 Ra8** [27...f5!] **28.Bxc4**

28...Rxa7? [28...dxc4! 29.Rxc4+ Kb7 wins both bishops of course.] **29.Bb5+!** It's not much, but White has an edge. **29...Kd8 30.a4 Rc7? 31.Ra1?** [31.exf6! gxf6 32.Re1 wins the e-pawn and the game.] **31...fxe5 32.fxe5 Nc6?**

There were useful squares in the other direction: g6, f5. White now neatly liquidates into a win: **33.Bxc6! Rxc6 34.Rc1! Rxc1 35.Kxc1 Kc7 36.b5?** [36.h3!; 36.b5 h3 37.gxh3 it's possibly unwinnable.] **1-0**

(19) Rakonitz,David (1613) - Warton,Philip (1790) [A57]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.18), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 c5 4.d5 b5 5.b3 bxc4 6.bxc4 Bg7 7.Bb2 Na6 8.Nc3 Rb8 9.Rb1

9...Rxb2 [9...Qa5! 10.Qd2 Ne4!! 11.Nxe4 Qxa2-+] **10.Rxb2 Ne4?!** [10...Nxd5!] **11.Nxe4 Bxb2 12.e3?** [12.Qd2] **12...Qa5+ 13.Ned2 Qxa2 14.Be2 0-0 15.0-0 Nb4** [15...d6] **16.Qb1 d6 17.Qxa2 Nxa2 18.Rb1 Bg7 19.Bd3 Nb4 20.Bf1 a5 21.Rb3 a4 22.Rb1 Bd7 23.Ne1 a3 24.Nb3 a2 25.Rc1 Bf5 26.Nf3 Bb2 27.Re1 Nc2 28.Rd1 a1Q 29.Nxa1 Bxa1 30.h3 Bf6 31.Nd2 Ra8 32.e4 Bd7 33.Rb1 Nb4 34.Nb3 Ra2 35.Nc1 Ra1 36.Rxa1 Bxa1 37.Nb3 Bc3 38.Nc1 Ba4 39.Ne2 Bd2 40.Ng3 Bc2 41.Be2 Bd3 42.Kf1 Bxe2+ 43.Kxe2 Bf4 44.Nf1 e6 45.g3 Bc1 46.Ke1 exd5 47.exd5 Bb2 48.Nd2 f5 49.Nf3 Bf6 50.Nd2 Kf7 51.Ke2 Nc2 52.Kd3 Nd4 53.Nf1 Nf3 54.Ke3 Ne5 55.Nd2 g5 56.Ke2 Bd8 57.f4 Ng6 58.Kf3 gxf4 59.gxf4 Ba5 60.Nb3 Nh4+ 61.Kf2 Bc3 62.Ke2 Kg6 63.Nc1 Kf6 64.Nd3 Bd4 65.Kf1 Ng6 66.Ke2 Ne7 67.Nc1 Nc8 68.Kd3 Nb6 69.Nb3 Bb2 0-1**

(20) Babayan,Gagik (1784) - Casares Jr,Nick (1600) [E00]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.19), 03.03.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.a3 Be7 5.Bf4 Nh5 6.Bg3 Nxg3 7.hxg3 c5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.cxd5 0-0 10.e3 exd5 11.Qxd5 Qe7 12.Qh5 h6 13.Bd3 Be6 14.Nf3 Nd7 15.Qh4 f6 16.b4 Bb6 17.Qe4 f5 18.Qh4 Rf6 19.0-0 g5 20.Qh2 Qg7 21.Na4 Bc7 22.Nd4 Raf8 23.Nxe6 Rxe6 24.Bc4 Qf6 25.Rad1 Kg7 26.Rxd7+ Re7 27.Rxe7+ Qxe7 28.Nc5 Re8 29.Qh5 Qf6 30.Qxe8 1-0

(21) Gimelfarb,Ilia (1599) - Cortinas,Martin A (1784) [B22]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u2000 San Francisco (1.20), 03.03.2020

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Nf3 d6 7.exd6 e6 8.Nc3 Nb6 9.Nb5 Nd5 10.Ne5 a6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nc7+ Nxc7 13.dxc7 Qxc7 14.Qa4 Bd7 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Ba5 Qa7 17.Bc3 0-0 18.Qc2 Rac8 19.b4 Rce8 20.Bd3 g6 21.0-0 Qc7 22.h4 Bh2+ 23.Kh1 Bf4 24.Bxa6 Ra8 25.Bd3 Rfd8 26.a4 Bh6 27.a5 Bg7 28.Rfe1 Bc8 29.Qb2 Qd6 30.Be4 Ba6 31.Rad1 Bb5 32.Re3 h5 33.Qc2 f5 34.Bd3 Bxd3 35.Qxd3 Ra7 36.Qc4 Re7 37.a6 Kf8 38.a7 e5 39.Qa6 Ra8 40.b5 Rexa7 41.Qxc6 Rd8 42.d5 e4 43.Qxd6+ Rxd6 44.Bb4 Ke7 45.Bxd6+ Kxd6 46.Rg3 Kc5 47.d6 Rd7 48.Rxg6 Be5 49.g3 Kxb5 50.Rh6 Kc5 51.Rxh5 Kc6 52.Rxf5 Bg7 53.h5 Bb2 54.h6 1-0

(22) Simpkins,Jerry (1539) - Krezanoski,Paul (1187) [C00]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.10), 03.03.2020

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.e5 a6 5.d4 Nge7 6.Be2 Nf5 7.0-0 Na7 8.Be3 c5 9.Bd3 Nxe3 10.fxe3 h6 11.Nbd2 Be7 12.e4 0-0 13.exd5 exd5 14.h3 Nc6 15.Rc1 Qb6 16.Qb3 Qxb3 17.axb3 cxd4 18.cxd4 Bb4 19.Nb1 Ba5 20.Na3 Re8 21.Nc2 Bb6 22.Kh1 Be6 23.b4 Ne7 24.b5 a5 25.b4 Nf5 26.bxa5 Ng3+ 27.Kg1 Nxf1 28.Kxf1 Bxa5 29.b6 Rab8 30.Bb5 Rec8 31.Ba4 Rc3 32.Rb1 Bxh3 33.Rb5 Rxf3+ 34.Ke2 Bxg2 35.Rxa5 Rf4 36.Ke3 Re4+ 37.Kf2 Bh1 38.Bd7 Rh4 39.Rc5 Kf8 40.Rc7 Ke7 41.Bc6+ Kf8 42.Bxb7 Rh2+ 43.Kg1 Rxc2 44.Rxc2 Rxb7 45.Kxh1 Rxb6 46.Rc5 f6 47.Rxd5 Ke7 48.Rc5 fxe5 49.dxe5 Ke6 50.Rc7 g5 51.Rh7 Kxe5 52.Kg2 Kf5 53.Kg3 Kg6 54.Rh8 h5 55.Rg8+ Kf5 56.Rc8 h4+ 57.Kh3 Rb3+ 58.Kh2 g4 59.Rc5+ Kf4 60.Rh5 Rb2+ 61.Kg1 g3 62.Rxh4+ Kf3 0-1

(23) Rushton,Peter James (1181) - Starr,Albert Martin (1507) [C42]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.21), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bc4 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.d4 Bg4 7.Qd3 Nbd7 8.a3 Ba5 9.b4 Bb6 10.Bb2 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 exd4 12.Ne2 Ne5 13.Qb3 Nxc4 14.Qxc4 Nxe4 15.Qd3 d5 16.Nxd4 Bxd4 17.Qxd4 Qf6 18.Qxd5 Qxb2 19.Qxe4 c6 20.c4 Rfe8 21.Qf3 Rad8 22.Rae1 Kf8 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Qd3 Kg8 25.Qd7 Qe2 26.h3 Qe7 27.Qd4 a5 28.c5 Rd8 29.Qg4 h6 30.Qc4 Qc7 31.a4 axb4 32.Qxb4 Rd5 33.Rc1 Qd7 34.a5 Kf8 35.Rb1 Rd1+ 36.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 37.Kh2 Qd7 38.Qb1 Qc7+ 39.Kg1 Qxa5 40.Qxb7 Qxc5 41.Qc8+ Ke7 42.Qc7+ Kf6 43.Qf4+ Kg6 44.g4 Qd5 45.h4 c5 46.h5+ Kh7 47.f3 Qd4+ 48.Qxd4 cxd4 49.Kf1 g6 50.Ke2 Kg7 [50...gxh5 51.gxh5 Kg7] **51.Kd3 Kf6?** [51...gxh5 52.gxh5 Kf6] **52.f4?** [52.hxg6=] **52...gxh5 53.gxh5 Kf5 54.Kxd4 Kxf4 55.Kd5 f5 56.Ke6 Kg5 57.Ke5 f4 58.Ke4 Kg4 59.Kd3 Kg3 60.Ke2 Kg2 61.Ke1 f3 0-1**

(24) Chan,John (1500) - Gimelfarb,Natan (1049) [D02]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.22), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.h3 Bf5 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.Bf4 e6 7.g4 Bg6 8.Bg2 Bd6 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.Na3 0-0 11.0-0 f5 12.Nb5 fxg4?? 13.Nxd6 gxf3 14.exf3 Nxd6 15.Re1 Bf5 16.b3 Rf6 17.Qd2 Rg6 18.Kf1 Rh6 19.Ke2 Rf8 20.Rh1 Rff6 21.Rag1 Rfg6 22.Bf1 Bxh3 23.Rxg6 Bxf1+ 24.Rxf1 Rxg6 25.Rh1 Nf5 26.a4 Rg2 27.Kf1 Rg6 28.b4 e5 29.dxe5 Kf8 30.Qxd5 Rg3 31.Rxh7 Ke7 32.Qc5+ 1-0

(25) (),William C (1042) - Zirbel,Dominic Andrew (1467) [C02]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.23), 03.03.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.b3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 10.Bxb4 Qxe5+ 11.Be2 Qxa1 12.Nc3 Qxd1+ 13.Nxd1 Nf6 0-1

(26) Wagner,Tyler (1020) - Uzakbaev,Nursultan (1415) [D07]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.25), 03.03.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.Nf3 Bb4+ 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.e3 e5 7.Nxe5 Qd6 8.c5 Qe6 9.Qa4 Ne4 10.Nxc6 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Nxc3 12.Qa5 Ne4 13.Qxc7 Bd7 14.Nd8 Qf5 15.Bf4 Rxd8 16.Bd3 0-0 17.0-0 Qe6 18.Qxb7 Nd2 19.Rfe1 Qg4 20.Qxd5 Be6 21.Be2 Rxd5 22.Bxg4 Bxg4 23.Be5 Re8 24.f3 Bxf3 25.gxf3 Nxf3+ 26.Kf2 Nxe1 27.Rxe1 f6 28.Bd6 Re4 29.Rb1 Rf5+ 30.Ke2 Re8 31.c6 Rd5 32.c7 Rxd6 33.Rb8 Rde6 34.d5 Rxe3+ 35.Kd2 Re2+ 36.Kc3 Kf7 37.Rxe8 Rxe8 38.Kc4 Ke7 39.Kc5 Kd7 40.d6 f5 0-1

(27) Radaelli,Lucas (1411) - Sullivan,George Thomas (865) [B77]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.26), 03.03.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.0-0-0 Rb8 12.e5 Ne8 13.exd6 exd6 14.g4 Kh8 15.h4 f6 16.h5 gxh5 17.Rxh5 f5 18.Rdh1 Nf6 19.Bg5 Qd7 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 21.Qh6 Rb7 22.Qxf8# 1-0

(28) Ballantyne,Andrew (818) - Harris,Clarence (1400) [C54]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.27), 03.03.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 Nxe4 8.0-0 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Be7 10.d5 Na5 11.Bd3 0-0 12.Qc2 g6 13.Bb2 Bf6 14.Qa4 b6 15.Qe4 Re8 16.Qf4 d6 17.Rfe1 Bg7 18.Ng5 Bf6 19.Rxe8+ Qxe8 20.Qxf6 Qe5 21.Qxf7+ Kh8 22.Qxh7# 1-0

(29) Martin,Michael J (1387) - Hall,Diana [C41]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.28), 03.03.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 f5 4.exf5 Bxf5 5.d3 Nf6 6.g3 Qe7 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Nd5 Qe6 10.Nxc7+ Kd7 11.Nxe6 1-0

(30) Chambers,Don (1298) - Pagan Griso,Simone [B10]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.30), 03.03.2020

1.e4 c6 2.Bc4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 e5 5.Qe2 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd6 7.d4 e4 8.f3 Nf6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.fxe4 Nxe4 12.Qd3 Qh4+ 13.Kd1 Nf2+ 14.Kd2 Nxd3 15.Kxd3 Bf5+ 16.Kd2 Qxd4+ 17.Ke1 Rfe8+ 18.Nce2 Bb4+ 19.c3 Bxc3+ 20.bxc3 Qxc3+ 21.Kd1 Bc2# 0-1

(31) Belyavski,Laura - Revi,Frank (1298) [A34]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.31), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Be2 Bg4 6.0-0 e6 7.Qa4?! Be7 8.b3? This banishing the queen to the side of the board will quickly cost White. **8...0-0 9.Bb2 a6 10.Rfd1?**

10...Nd4! and Black is winning. **11.Re1 Nc2** [But Black is winning quite a bit more with 11...b5!] **12.Rec1 Nxa1 13.Rxa1 Qc7 14.b4 d5 15.Qd1 cxb4 16.Ng5 bxc3 17.h4 Bxe2 18.Qxe2 cxb2 19.Rb1 dxe4 20.Rxb2 Qc6 21.d3 exd3 22.Qxd3 h6 23.Nf3 Bd6 24.g3 Rad8 25.Qe3 Qxc4 26.Kh2 Ng4+ 27.Kh3 Nxe3 28.fxe3 Qf1+ 29.Kg4 f5+ 30.Kh5 Qxf3+ 31.Kg6 0-1**

(32) Cendejas,Jon Rodolfo (1268) - Polivyanenko,Stanislav [C50]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.32), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.0-0 d6 6.h3 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.d3 0-0 9.Be3 Bb6 10.Na4 Bxe3 11.fxe3 Qe7 12.c4 d5 13.exd5 exd5 14.cxd5 Nxd5 15.Qb3

[15.Qc1!?] **15...Qe6?** [15...Rad8! 16.e4 Na5! 17.Qb5 Qb4! 18.Qxb4 Nxb4 seems to keep a balance!] **16.e4?** Letting Black get away! [Either 16.Ng5 Qd6 17.Rxf8+ Rxf8 18.e4+-; Or 16.Nc5 Qd6 (16...Qf7 17.Nxe5 *(17.Ng5)*) 17.Nxb7+-] **16...Nf4!**

17.Qxb7? [17.Qxe6+ Nxe6 18.Nc3 sees Black on the high side of the balance.] **17...Qg6** [17...Rab8!? gets this move "for free" 18.Qa6 *(18.Qxc7? Rf7!)* 18...Qg6] **18.Nh4 Qg3 19.Qxc6?**

[19.Rxf4 Qxf4 20.Qxc6 Qxh4 21.Qe6+ Kh8 22.Qxe5 is materially pretty good for White, but the knight is out of play and the rooks are jumping in pretty fast. 22...Rae8 23.Qd4 *(23.Qxc7 Rc8)* 23...Qg3] **19...Qxh4?** [19...Nxh3+!-+ 20.Kh1 Nf2+ 21.Kg1 Qxh4 is crushing.] **20.Kh2!=** Now White keeps it together. **20...g5?** [20...Rad8] **21.Rf3** [21.Nc3!] **21...Kh8** [21...g4 22.Rg3 h5] **22.Raf1?** [22.Qxc7+/-] **22...Rg8??** [22...g4!-+ Black lands first.] **23.Qf6+ Rg7 24.Qxe5+- Rf8 25.Nc5** Finally! Back in the game! **25...Kg8 26.Ne6 Nxe6 27.Qxe6+ Rff7 28.Qe8+ 1-0**

(33) Dandurand,Daniel Rene - Ahrens,Richard William (1256) [D02]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.33), 03.03.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Nbd2 Bb4 6.c3 Ba5 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.0-0 a6 9.Bd3 0-0 10.h3 b5 11.b4 Bb6 12.Qe2 Ne7 13.a4 c6 14.a5 Bc7 15.Bxc7 Qxc7 16.Ne5 Ng6 17.f4 Nxe5 18.fxe5 Ne8 19.Qh5 g6 20.Qh6 Ng7 21.Rf6 Qd8 22.Nf3 Nf5 23.Bxf5 exf5 24.Ng5 1-0

(34) Morgan,Jacob (1227) - Skwerer,Sean [C50]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.34), 03.03.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nh6 4.d4 f6 5.0-0 exd4 6.Nxd4 f5 7.exf5 Ne5 8.Re1 d6 9.f4 c5 10.Nf3 Nhg4 11.fxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Bxf5 13.Nc6+ Kd7 14.Nxd8 Rxd8 15.Qd5 Rb8 16.Qxf5+ 1-0

(35) Le,Thu Anh - Frank,Robert H (1222) [B45]

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski TNM: u1600 San Francisco (1.35), 03.03.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.e4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 [6.Ndb5; 6.Nxc6] **6...Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Nxe4 9.Bd3 Nxc3 10.Qd2 Nd5 11.Bg5 Nf6 12.Nf3 h6 13.Be3 e5 14.Be2 d5 15.c4 d4 16.Rd1 dxe3 17.fxe3 Be6 18.Qxd8+ Rxd8 19.0-0 Ng4 20.Rb1 Nxe3 21.Rfc1 Na5 22.c5 0-0 23.Nxe5 Rc8 24.Bf3 Nd5 25.h3 Rc7 26.Bg4 Bxg4 27.hxg4 Re8 28.Nd3 Re3 29.Rd1 Nc3 30.Re1 Rxd3 31.Rb3 Nxb3 32.Re8+ Kh7 33.Ra8 a6 34.Re8 Nxc5 0-1**

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Newsletter #909

Mar 13, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- TNM
- MI Chess Room Closed - Join Our Online Tournaments
- MI Events Schedule
- Clean
- Paul Whitehead
- Tony's Teaser
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Ted & Ruby Yudacufski TNM Report

Yudacufski TNM Cancelled and Chess Room Due To COVID-19

Following on the advice of public and health officials regarding best practices surrounding COVID-19, Mechanics' Institute (MI) has closed the chess room, library, and meeting rooms to the public through March 31, 2020. Therefore, our current TNM is cancelled until further notice. The first round that was played last week has been submitted for rating to both USCF and FIDE, and we gave full refunds or credit to all players. Those who have registered online should see the credit on their account. If a player would like a refund rather than a credit, please email us at chessroom@milibrary.org, and we will process the request.

We intend to stay on the same timeline as our regularly scheduled TNM's. For example, if in three weeks we are able to reopen the chess room, and there would have been three rounds left in the TNM, we will fill those three weeks on Tuesday nights with chess programming until the regularly scheduled start of the next TNM. Because the TNM is FIDE-rated, there are certain event registration requirements that do not make it simple to reschedule or change dates. We may for example choose to hold in those three gap weeks a three-round mini tournament, a one-day rapid tournament, an evening of quads, etc. We will keep our players and club participants informed of any developments through our Facebook page, emails, and this newsletter, so please make sure you are connected to all platforms wherever possible. We also will continue our broadcasts on Tuesday evening to discuss developments and happenings in the chess community and chess world.

We want to thank all our players and our chess community for their very strong support in this time, as well as the leadership of the Mechanics' Institute for their support of the club.

For full standings from round 1, please follow the link here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924044519/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/ted-and-ruby-yudacufski-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-mar-apr-2020)

To follow our live stream on Tuesday Nights at 6:30, click this link (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924044519/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess/)

To join our email list, click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924044519/https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001livxg3X0Z0UU23D8HU-DJWZCQIa0fit2ve0_nG81Gkdxt0NYbzNq1nWYDYynJfEsCJbaK_vMxgBZxwdCAMKpX_iP4Z-2eC3qf7dzry22iZLSHNr_xoaXqTQjKFXuCUE4GnKE7duBzVaqsG0fbXN07KHno4h8xmwFvu5xmrpbytCZXDdqDS-3CmFFo7hd0KyB)

Follow our Facebook page here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924044519/https://www.facebook.com/mechanicschess)

Mechanics' Institute Chess Club Online Tournaments!

Since our MI chess room, along with our library and meeting rooms, has been closed due to COVID-19 concerns and public health recommendations, we are looking at the possibility of continuing our Tuesday night club activities online. During this time period, we are organizing online tournaments through Chess.com platform. Players would need to join the Mechanics' Institute chess club group on Chess.com, which can be done by following this link here. (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924044519/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Once you are part of the Mechanics' Institute Club on Chess.com, you will be able to register for online club tournaments that we organize. Next Tuesday, we will do a test run: we are planning for a four-round G/15 +2 tournament that would happen during next Tuesday, in one day. Please note that this will not be USCF rated at this time, and it will be a free event. It will start at 6:30pm, the usual TNM start time. For the first time, we will have have one open section, so anyone can register. We are capping the number of players at 60. Hopefully this will give everyone a chance to participate. The system will take player's Chess.com rating and pair using that rating. Unfortunately, we cannot adjust these ratings, so if you want to have higher rating opponent with whom to be paired, you have a few more days to play some games online.

To join the tournamnet, simply click on this link: https://www.chess.com/live#t=1157540 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924044519/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1157540) and once registration opens, please click on Join. We will provide more information to players via our Facebook page and email. After the first test tournament, our plan is to have these tournaments USCF quick-rated, as is the practice for USCF for online tournaments played on Chess.com. The details will be shared as we go forward.

For those players worried about fair-play concerns, Chess.com uses a very accurate and respected algorithm to detect possible fair play violations, and all games go through this algorithm. As you probably are aware, there have been many instances in which this algorithm caught cheaters and banned them from playing online again. As the organizers of the tournment, we will be notified if there are any issues, and both MI and Chess.com will address them accordingly. Please remember that these games would be USCF quick rated, and would not affect a player's standard rating. Our main goal is to bring our players together through chess in a creative way amidst these uncertain times. Please be patient with us as we attempt to organize this online tournament.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

We wanted to let the chess community know what the chess club, tournament, and classes will be closed through the end of March, set to re-open on April 1, 2020. Here is a quick summary of what is affected by the closure:

OFF

We have cancelled ALL tournaments through March, including the scheduled IM Vince McCambridge championship March 21, and the SF Scholastic Championship in Golden Gate Park March 28. Both events will be rescheduled later this year. As of now, events in April are on, though we will inform our chess community if there are any changes to this schedule.

All scheduled classes at MI are cancelled, including the weekday classes of GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead, as well as the weekend kids and women's classes.

We have cancelled all after-school classes, following the advice and directive of public health officals and the schools themselves.

Please let us know if you have any questions, email us: chessroom@milibrary.org.

Chess Club Sanitation Update

We wanted to let our players and parents know that we have done a complete cleaning of all the chess tables and put down new pieces for all the tables in the club. MI will also be conducting a thorough deep cleaning throughout our building. Therefore, when the club re-opens, everyone can rest assured they will be in a clean environment, ready to resume the great history of the Mechanics' Institute chess club!

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Friendly Rivalries, Part 19.

By FM Paul Whitehead

Draw, draw, draw… and a fishy win.

The years 1976 and 1977 were breakthrough years for me. I was starting to play stronger players with more confidence: they were only human after all. In '76 I beat a few weak masters, and my rating hovered just under 2200. My fighting spirit was strong, but my play was erratic and immature. By 1977 I was starting to hit my stride. I had gained more experience, and my rating crossed the 2300 mark.

The following 4 games showed that I could mix it up with some of the best in the country, even if the full point was still out of reach… most of the time.

I've written about IM John Grefe here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/873 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924044519/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/873)

And I've written about GM Larry Christiansen here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/871 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924044519/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/871

IM Kim Commons (1951 – 2015) had a great run in the 1970's, including team and individual gold medals for the U.S. team at the Olympiad in Haifa, 1976. More about Kim here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kim_Commons (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924044519/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kim_Commons)

IM Jack Peters has had a terrific career in chess, and I caught him on a really, really bad day. Our game was played at the Paul Masson vineyards, and it was either the heat or the grape that induced his horrible blunder… but these stories are what can give chess such enjoyment!

(1) Grefe,John - Whitehead,Paul A [E01]

LERA / Sunnyvale, 1976

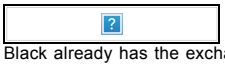
This is a cute little draw, my first against an International Master. Black's aggressive and positive play is what stands out. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.g3 d5**



This is transposing into a variation of the Catalan, **6.Bg2 e5 7.Nf3 d4 8.0-0 Nc6 9.e3 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3**



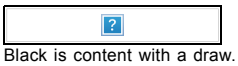
11.Bxf3 Be7 12.exd4 exd4 13.Qa4 Qd7 14.Rd1 0-0 15.Bg2 Rfd8



Black already has the exchange sacrifice in mind. **16.Nc3 Qf5 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.cxd5 Rxd5 19.Bxd5 Qxd5 20.Bf4 g5**



A nice move, allowing clearing the e5 square for the black knight. **21.Be3 Bf6 22.Rac1 Ne5** Impatient! 22...Rd8! applies more pressure and leaves white in a critical position. **23.Rc7 Nf3+ 24.Kf1 Nh2+ 25.Kg1 Nf3+**



Black is content with a draw. **26.Kf1 b5 27.Qc2 Nh2+ 28.Kg1 Nf3+ 29.Kf1 Nh2+ 30.Kg1 Nf3+ 31.Kf1 Nh2+**



1/2-1/2

(2) Whitehead,Paul A - Commons,Kim S [B01]

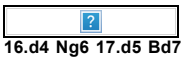
People's Tournament, Berkeley, 1976

A great see-saw battle! As usual white was at a loss in the opening, and invited a repetition (9.Bb5+ and 10.Bc4). Black, outrating his opponent by 400 points or so, plays for the win with 12...c6. However, this didn't work out so well, and white's energetic advance of the d and h pawns rocked black back on his heels. A desperate exhange sacrifice starting with 30...Na3+ was mistakenly accepted with 31.Ka1. After further ups and downs an exciting game ended in perpetual check. **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bc4 Bg4 5.f3 Bf5**

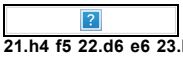


6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.g4 Nb6 8.d3 Bc8 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bc4 Bc8

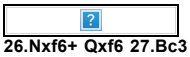
11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Bc4 c6 13.dxc6 Bxc6 14.g5 Nxc4 15.gxf6 Ne5



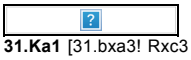
16.d4 Ng6 17.d5 Bd7 18.Qe2 gxf6 19.Bd2 Bg7 20.0-0-0 Rc8



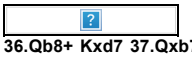
21.h4 f5 22.d6 e6 23.h5 Ne5 24.h6 Bf6 25.Nd5 Nc4



26.Nxf6+ Qxf6 27.Bc3 Qg5+ 28.Kb1 Rg8 29.Nh3 Qxh6 30.f4 Na3+



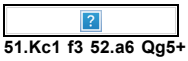
31.Ka1 [31.bxa3! Rxc3 32.Ng5 followed by 33.Rxh7, and white is winning.] **31...Rxc3 32.bxc3 Rg3 33.Rd3 Bb5 34.d7+ Kd8 35.Qe5 Bxd3**



36.Qb8+ Kxd7 37.Qxb7+ Kd6 38.Ng5 Rxg5 39.fxg5 Nxc2+ 40.Kb2 Qxg5

41.Rd1 Ne1 42.Qb8+ Ke7 43.Qxa7+ Kf6 44.Qf2 f4 45.Rxe1 Bf5

46.a4 Kg6 47.Rf1 Bh3 48.Rg1 Bg4 49.a5 h5 50.Ra1 Qb5+



51.Kc1 f3 52.a6 Qg5+ 53.Kb2 Qb5+



1/2-1/2

(3) Christiansen,Larry Mark - Whitehead,Paul A [E95]

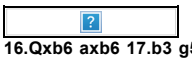
Golden Gate Open, S.F., 1977

Black gets a great opening, but gives it away on move 20. There follows 60 moves of relentless pressure, with black pulling off a miraculous save. It seems that white missed a clear win on the 57th move, but this was a defensive effort I'm still proud of. **1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0**

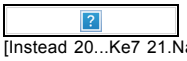
6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.Re1 c6 9.Bf1 Qb6 10.Rb1 exd4



11.Nxd4 Ng4 12.Qxg4 Bxd4 13.Be3 Ne5 14.Qg3 Bxe3 15.Qxe3 Be6



16.Qxb6 axb6 17.b3 g5 18.Red1 Rfd8 19.Rb2 Kf8 20.Rbd2 Ra3?!



[Instead 20...Ke7 21.Na4 Bg4! maintains equality, as 22.f3 is met by 22...Bxf3!] **21.Rxd6 Rxd6 22.Rxd6 Ke7 23.Rd2 g4 24.Na4 Nxc4 25.Bxc4 Bxc4**



26.f4 [White doesn't fall for 26.Nxb6 Bxb3!] **26...gxf3 27.Nxb6 f2+ 28.Kxf2 Be6 29.Ke3 Ra5 30.Kd4 Rh5**

Black now shows some remarkable resilience. **31.g3 Rg5 32.Na4 h5 33.Nc5 Bc8 34.Rf2 h4 35.gxh4 Rg4**

36.Nd3 Rxh4 37.Nf4 b6 38.b4 Rh8 39.Rc2 Bd7 40.a3 Ra8

41.Rc3 Rh8 42.h3 Rh4 43.Rf3 Kd6 44.e5+ Ke7 45.Ke3 Rh8

46.Rg3 Bf5 47.Rg1 Ra8 48.Ra1 Kd7 49.a4 Re8 50.Kd4 Kc7

51.Rg1 Rd8+ 52.Kc3 Re8 53.Rg7 Rxe5 54.Rxf7+ Kd6 55.Rf6+ Kc7

56.h4 Bg4 57.Rg6? [57.h5! Bxh5 58.Kd4+-] **57...Bd1 58.Kd4 Rf5 59.Ne6+ Kd7 60.a5 Rd5+**

61.Kc4 Be2+ 62.Kc3 bxa5 63.Nc5+ Kc7 64.Rg7+ Kc8 65.Re7 axb4+

66.Kxb4 Bb5 67.Rh7 Be2 68.Rg7 Rd4+ 69.Ka5 Rxh4 70.Kb6 Rb4+

71.Kxc6 Bf3+ 72.Kd6 Rb6+ 73.Ke5 Rh6 74.Ne6 Bd1 75.Rg1 Be2

76.Rc1+ Kb7 77.Rb1+ Ka7 78.Nd4 Ba6 79.Kd5 Rh5+ 80.Kd6 Rh6+

1/2-1/2

(4) Peters,Jack - Whitehead,Paul A [B40]

Paul Masson, Saratoga, 1977

This game is included only for the historic record. White's gift of a pawn on move 8 (after 11 minutes thought!) was amazing, but shows that we are all human. Black's technique was more than adequate. **1.e4 c5 2.b3 b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.Nc3 e6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.e5??**

8...Nxe5 9.Nh4 Bxg2 10.Nxg2 d5 11.0-0 0-0 12.d3 Nc6 13.Re1 Qd7 14.Nb1 Ne8 15.Nd2 Bf6 16.c3 Nc7 17.Qc2 Rac8 18.a3 e5 19.Re2 g6 20.Rae1 Bg7 21.Qb1 Rfe8 22.Ba1 a5 23.c4 d4 24.Bb2 Ne6 25.Bc1 Ne7 26.Ne4 f5 27.Nd2 Nc6 28.Nf3 Re7 29.Rf1 Rce8 30.Nge1 Nc7 31.Nd2 Rf8 32.f3 Ne8 33.Nc2 Nd6 34.Ne1 Rfe8 35.Ng2 Re6 36.Ne1 Bh6 37.Nc2 Bxd2 38.Bxd2 e4 39.Ne1 e3 40.Bc1 f4 41.g4 g5 42.b4 axb4 43.axb4 Nxb4 44.Ba3 Na6 45.h4 h6 46.Rb2 Nc8 47.h5 Nc7 48.Nc2 Qc6 49.Kg2 Re5 50.Rc1 Ne6 51.Ne1 Nd8 52.Kf1 Nf7 53.Ke2 R5e7 54.Rcc2 Ne5 55.Ra2 Rf7 56.Qb5 Qxb5 57.cxb5 Ra7 58.Bc1 Ree7 59.Ra6 Rxa6 60.bxa6 Ra7 61.Ba3 Nd7

0-1

Tony's Teasers

Last week's problem:

White to move and mate in 3. C.S. Kipping, 1911

Solution: 1. Bc8!! Qxa1 2. Rxa1 Nxb3 3. Bb7#

This week's problem:

White to move and mate in 3, J.A.W. Hunter, 1877

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Meet the Candidates!

This week: Alexander Grischuk

March 17 is the official opening of the long awaited Candidates Tournament. This promises to be a great event with top players of the last decade vying to challenge Magnus. They are all excellent players, but Fabiano Caruana and Ding Liren are regarded to be the favorites. The others certainly have a chance though. We will investigate a candidate weekly, and we start with Alexander Grischuk of Russia. He has been a top player for 15 years, and is one of the oldest participants now at 36 years old. He has already played 4 times in the Candidates Tournament and reached the finals in 2011. He is currently ranked #4 in the world, so it would not be too surprising to see him finally break through to gain a World Championship match.

His major problem is his time management, as he tends to think deeply yet leaving himself with a hard situation to make the time control. One wonders if his opponents in their 20's will make that a practical issue. The fact that Grischuk is an excellent blitz player mitigates this problem, but he will not win the event if he gives away even a couple of half points in time pressure. I car personally see him winning the Candidates if the winning score is not too high and he finds extra motivation this time.

(1) Baadur Aleksandrovich Jobava (2696) - Alexander Grischuk (2736) [C43]

World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (3.8), 29.11.2009

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 A sharp variation, but a well prepared player can handle it. **3...Nxe4 4.dxe5 d5 5.Be3!? Be7 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.c3 Bf5 8.Qb3** This aggressive move attacks a pawn, but neglects development. **8...Nxd2 9.Bxd2 Be4 10.Nd4** [10.Qxb7 Nd7 11.Qa6 f6 would open up the game with all Black's pieces developed. A pawn is a small price to pay for that.] **10...c5 11.Ne2?** White needed to play 11. f3 to counter the aggression. Now Grischuk makes White pay for his odd setup. **11...Nd7 12.Ng3 c4 13.Qxb7 Nc5 14.Qc6 Rc8 15.Qb5 Rb8** winning the queen by trapping it **16.Qc6 Rb6** Diagram



0-1

(2) Alexander Grischuk (2736) - Sanan Sjugirov (2612) [B90]

Russian Championship Superfinal Moscow RUS (6), 26.12.2009

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Qd2 Be7 9.f3 0-0 10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.g4 Rc8 12.g5 Nh5 13.Kb1 Nd7 A complicated Najdorf opening has arisen. Grischuk now trades the bishop pair for space and attacking chances. **14.f4!? exf4 15.Bxf4 Nxf4 16.Qxf4 Ne5 17.h4 Qb6?! 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.Rxd5 a5 20.Rb5! Qc7 21.Nd4!** White controls many white squares and central squares, which translates to a nice edge. **21...a4 22.a3 Ra5 23.h5 Bf8?** Diagram

This move is too passive in such a tense position, Najdorf players should be aggressive! **24.g6!** The breakthrough at an opportune moment. **24...Rxb5 25.Bxb5 Qb6** Black is in great trouble in any case, e.g. [25...fxg6 26.hxg6 h6 *(26...Nxg6 27.Qf5 Be7 28.Bd7 Rf8 29.Be6+ Kh8 30.Rxh7+ Kxh7 31.Qh5#)* 27.Bxa4] **26.gxf7+ Kh8** Diagram



[26...Nxf7 27.Rf1 Ne5 28.Bc4+! forces checkmate, e.g. 28...Nxc4 29.Qf7+ Kh8 30.Qxf8+] **27.h6! Qxd4 28.hxg7+ Bxg7 29.Qf5** there is no way out for Black **29...Ng6 30.Qxc8+ Nf8 31.Qc3 Qxe4** Diagram

32.Rg1! Black could only try to enter a hopeless endgame with 32...Qe5, so resigned instead. **1-0**

(3) Alexander Grischuk (2736) - Dmitry Jakovenko (2736) [C67]

Russian Championship Superfinal Moscow RUS (8), 28.12.2009

1.e4 e5 Jakovenko is a top Russian player and a very worthy opponent. **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8** This is the "dreaded" Berlin Defense endgame. In truth White has real chances for an edge with the kingside pawn majority if he plays very accurately. We see an example of Grischuk's endgame play here. **9.Nc3 h6 10.h3 Bd7 11.b3 Kc8 12.Bb2 b6 13.Rfd1 Ne7 14.Rd2 c5 15.Rad1 Be6 16.Ne2! Ng6 17.h4 Bg4?!** Diagram



18.Nh2! Bxe2 19.Rxe2 Nxh4 20.Ng4 White has given a pawn to activate his pieces. Black is on the defensive. **20...h5 21.Ne3 Ng6 22.Red2 c4?!** [22...Kb7 23.Rd7 Ne7 24.Nd5 Nxd5 25.R1xd5 Kc6 26.c4 f6 27.exf6 gxf6 28.Bxf6 Rh6 is better for White but would be a better defense.] **23.Rd7! cxb3 24.cxb3 Bc5 25.Rxf7** The White pieces are tremendously active. Black gets pushed around. **25...Bxe3 26.fxe3 Nf8 27.Rc1 Ne6 28.Re7 Nc5 29.b4 Kd8 30.Rxg7 Ne6 31.Rd1+ Ke8 32.Rg6 Ke7 33.b5! Rad8 34.Ba3+ Kf7** [34...Nc5 35.Rc1 Rd5 36.e4! breaks the defense since 36...Rxe5 37. Bb2 skewers] **35.Rf6+ Kg7 36.Rxd8 Nxd8 37.Be7 Re8 38.Bxd8 Rxd8 39.Rc6 Rd7 40.a4 Kf8 41.Kf2 Rf7+ 42.Rf6! Rxf6+ 43.exf6 Kf7 44.Kg3** Diagram

Black will gain the pawn back after 44...Kxf6, but easily loses the king ending (after 45. Kh4) since the two white queenside pawns hold back 3 black pawns. **1-0**

(4) Vugar Gashimov (2759) - Alexander Grischuk (2736) [B97]

World Team Championship Bursa TUR (4), 08.01.2010

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd3 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 Be7 11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Be2 Qa5 13.Bd2 Qc7 14.g4 h6 15.Qh3 Rh7 16.Rf1 Nc6 17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.e5 dxe5 19.Bd3 Diagram

This is a complicated Najdorf Poisoned Pawn Variation. Chances are equal and the position is wild. **19...e4 20.Nxe4 Nxe4 21.Qh5+?!** [21.Qe3! Nxd2 22.Bg6+! Kd8 23.Qxd2+ Bd7 24.Bxh7 Kc7 would be roughly equal] **21...Kd7 22.Rd1 Rh8 23.Bf4?** [23.Rf7] **23...Bb4+! 24.c3 Nxc3** great defense, not fearing the discovered check which can be answered with discovered check **25.Bd2 Qd5 26.Rf7+ Kc6 27.Rc1 Kb6 28.Be3+ Ka5 29.a3** Diagram

29...Ka4! The black king runs around the board but finds safety! **30.axb4 Qxd3 31.Qa5+ Kb3 32.Rxc3+ Qxc3+ 33.Bd2 b6! 34.Qxb6 Qe5+ 35.Kd1 Bb7 36.Qxb7 Rhd8 37.Rf3+ Ka2 38.Rf2 Kb1 39.Qf3 Rac8 40.Qb3+ Qb2 41.Qxb2+ Kxb2 0-1**

(5) Peter Svidler (2750) - Alexander Grischuk (2756) [D47]

Amber Tournament (Blindfold) Nice FRA (6), 19.03.2010

This is a blindfold game against one the 8 time Russian Champion **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.e4 b4 10.Na4 c5 11.e5 Nd5 12.0-0 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Be7 14.Qh5 g6 15.Qe2 0-0 16.Bb5 a6** This has been a complicated Slav Defense with chances for both sides. Svidler now plays an aggressive (but wrong) move. **17.Nc6?** Diagram

17...axb5! 18.Nxd8 Rfxd8 19.Qxb5 Ba6 20.Qc6 Bd3! Diagram



Black has only two pieces for the queen but is winning! The white knight on a4 is loose and the white queen is in danger of being trapped. **21.Re1** [Also losing is 21.b3 Nxe5 22.Qb7 Bxf1 23.Kxf1 Rdb8] **21...Rac8 22.Qb7 Rc7 23.Qxc7 Nxc7 24.a3 Ra8 25.axb4 Bxb4 26.Rd1 Bb5 27.b3 Nd5 28.Bb2 Rb8 29.Bd4 Kg7 30.g3 g5 31.Rac1 Be2 0-1**

(6) Igor Bjelobrk - Alexander Grischuk [E92]

World Cup Tromso NOR (1.4), 11.08.2013

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.h3 a lesser played line againsgt the King's Indian **6...e5 7.d5 a5 8.Be2 Na6 9.Bg5 Qe8 10.Nd2 Nd7 11.a3 f6 12.Bh4 Nb6 13.b3 Bd7 14.Rb1 Nc5 15.Qc2 f5 16.b4** White ould be sager to castle and achieve full mobility. **16...axb4 17.axb4 Nxe4 18.Ndxe4 fxe4 19.Bg5?** Diagram

Now 19. 0-0 was really needed. This move allows a surprising opportunity for Black to punish the slow development. Grishuk jumps on it. **19...e3! 20.Bxe3** [20.f3 Rf4!] **20...Bf5 21.Ne4** [21.Bd3 Nxc4] **21...Qa4!** Black has threats and White is one move short of defending everything. **22.Qd3 Qa2 23.Bxb6?!** Diagram

23...Ra3! 24.Be3 Rxd3 25.Bxd3 Bxe4 26.Bxe4 Bh6 27.0-0 Bxe3 28.fxe3 Rxf1+ 0-1

Submit your piece or feedback

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https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924044519/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #910

Mar 20, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Tuesday Night Online
- Mechanics' Institute-Charlotte Match
- Online Events Schedule
- Paul Whitehead
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online Tournament Kicks Off!

With the 'shelter in place' order in effect, the Mechanics' Institute (MI) building will be closed through at least April 7, 2020. This, of course, impacts our lives tremendously, and we are all learning to adjust to a temporary new normal. Uncertainty for many has settled in, and we are all coping to change. For many of us, chess provides an escape, allows us to engage with others in competition and sport, as well as social interaction. It has the potential to let us get a bit lost in something we enjoy and temporarily escape the challanges of our daily lives. The one thing that was most important for us at MI is that chess can continue on, not just for our club players, but for the entire chess community in the Bay Area. We see the Tuesday Night Marathon as something important in our history, and we saw an opportunity to keep the Tuesday night tradition, while keeping the chess community united and active in these sometimes isolating times.

We announced we would be experimenting with our Tuesday Night Online Mechanics' event through Chess.com, free to anyone, as a way to continue this MI tradition. We hoped we would get 30-40 players, we ended up with 118. These players were comprised not only of our club regulars (who showed up in full force), but also many players well known in the Bay Area and even some players across the country with local ties. The result was an amazing evening of chess that brought the chess community together and gave all of us three hours of action-packed entertainment. It was fun to watch the local players play each other online, and see some match ups that we would normally not get to see. When it was all over, three players finished with perfect scores of 4/4, including GM Dmitry Gordievsky, WFM Natalya Tsodikova, and Abhinav Penagalapati. Congratulations to those players, and everyone who participated to bring our community together through chess.

Full results can be found here:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/first-online-tuesday-night-rapid-1160573 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/first-online-tuesday-night-rapid-1160573)

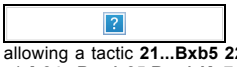
Here are a couple of games from our first Tuesday Night Online, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(4) Tejas Mahesh (ChessTX9) (1988) - WFM Natalya Tsodikova (natrost2000) (2204) [A57]
Live Chess Chess.com, 18.03.2020

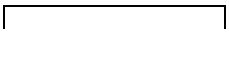
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.f3 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Nge2 axb5 10.Nxb5 Ba6 11.Nec3 Nbd7 12.0-0 Diagram



A fairly typical Benko Gambit stlye game. Black has fair compensation for the pawn. **12...h6?!** [12...Qb6 seems more active] **13.Be3 Ne5 14.Be2 g5 15.a4 Ng6 16.Qd2 Qb8 17.b3 Nh5 18.g3 Bc8 19.Kg2 Bd7 20.Rae1** [White has a nice edge here. He should play for activity with 20.f4! Bxb5 21.Nxb5 Bxa1 22.fxg5 hxg5 23.Bxh5 Bg7 24.Bxg5] **20...Qc8 21.Kh1?** Diagram

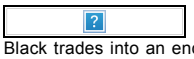


allowing a tactic **21...Bxb5 22.Bxb5 Nxg3+! 23.hxg3 Bxc3 24.Qh2?!** [More circumspect is 24.Qxc3 Qh3+ 25.Kg1 Qxg3+ 26.Kh1 since 26...Nh4?! 27.Re2 Nxf3 28.Bf4! Qh3+? 29.Rh2! would win] **24...Bxe1 25.Rxe1 Kg7 26.f4 f6 27.Qh5 Rb8 28.Kg2 Rxb5!? 29.axb5 Qe8 30.Rh1? Nh4+! 31.Rxh4 gxh4 32.Qxh4 Qxb5 33.Qg4+ Kh8 34.Qh5 Qe8! 35.Qxh6+ Kg8 36.f5 Qf7 37.g4?!** Diagram





taking a checking square away from the queen. More chances are with [37.Qh3] **37...Qh7! 38.Qf4 Rb8 39.g5** [39.Bxc5 Rxb3 40.Be3 Qh4] **39...fxg5 40.Qxg5+ Qg7** Diagram

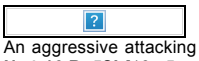


Black trades into an ending and efficently wraps it up. **41.f6 Qxg5+ 42.Bxg5 exf6 43.Bxf6 Kf7 44.e5 Rxb3 45.Kf2 Rd3 46.Bh8 Rxd5 47.exd6 Rxd6 48.Ke2 Ke6 49.Bg7 Kd7 50.Ke3 Kc6 51.Bf8 Rd7 52.Bg7 Kb5 0-1**

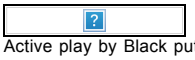
(5) Theo Biyiasas (TABiyiasas) (2164) - GM Cristian Chirila (TheCount) (2624) [D85]

Live Chess Chess.com, 17.03.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bb5+ c6 8.Ba4 0-0 9.Ne2 b5 10.Bb3 a5 11.Be3 a4 12.Bc2 Nd7 13.h4 Diagram



An aggressive attacking move in this Exchange Grunfeld. The question is if Black can put enough pressure on the white center before the attack gains full steam. **13...Nf6 14.Ng3 h5 15.Qd2 Ng4 16.Bg5?!** [16.e5 would hold the black squares better by blocking the fianchetoed bishop.] **16...c5** [16...b4! 17.cxb4 Qxd4] **17.Rd1 b4 18.Ne2?!** [18.cxb4] **18...bxc3 19.Qxc3 Ba6 20.Bd3 cxd4 21.Qb4 Bxd3 22.Rxd3 Rb8!** Black has clearly won the opening battle and White is on the defensive. **23.Qxa4 Rb1+ 24.Rd1 Rxd1+ 25.Qxd1 d3 26.Nc1 Bc3+ 27.Bd2 Qd4** Diagram



Active play by Black puts the pressure on, but Theo stays cool and keeps the disadvantage manageable. **28.0-0 Qd6** [28...Rc8! 29.Bg5 Rd8 30.Bxe7? Qe5] **29.g3 Bd4 30.Qf3 Ne5 31.Qf4 Rc8 32.Nb3 Bb6 33.Rc1 Rc2 34.Kg2 Qe6 35.Rxc2 dxc2 36.Bc3 f6?!** [36...Nc6] **37.Bxe5! fxe5 38.Qd2 Qc4 39.Kf3 Bd4 40.Nc1 Bb2 41.Ke3 Qd4+?** [41...Ba3!] **42.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 43.Ke2 Kf7 44.f3 Ke6 45.Nd3 Kd6?** [Black should keep the white king out with 45...Bc3 maintaining equality as Black is better after 46.Nc1 Kd6 47.Kd3?! Be1] **46.Kd2 Kc6 47.Kxc2 Kb5 48.Kb3 e6 49.a4+ Ka5 50.g4!** Diagram



Zugzwang. Black must either retreat with the king or allow the e-pawn to drop. **50...Be3 51.gxh5 gxh5 52.Nxe5 Bf2 53.Nc6+ Kb6 54.Nd8 e5 55.Ne6 Bxh4 56.Ng7** Corralling the dangerous h-pawn. There is no hope for Black now. **56...Kc5 57.Nxh5 Kd4 58.a5 Bd8 59.a6 Bb6 60.Nf6 Ba7 61.Kb4 Ke3 62.Kb5 Kxf3 63.Kc6 Kf4 64.Kb7 Bd4 65.Nd5+** The Count resigned as 66. Nb6 blocks the bishop and the pawn queens. **1-0**

Mechanics' Institute Defeats Charlotte 64.5-33.5 In Club Rematch

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club defeated the Charlotte Chess Club and Scholastic Academy decisively on Thursday night 64.5-33.5 in our second club match meeting. The format of the match was 2 rounds G/15 +2, and each team member played 2 games, white/black against the same opponent. Each side had 49 players participating.

The match was won by the collective firepower of MI players, as we had a rating advantage over Charlotte due to the high turnout of our stronger club-level players. Leading the Mechanics' team were FM Josiah Stearman, NM Eric Li, NM Ruiyang Yan, NM Henry Wang, IM Elliott Winslow, and Kristian Clemens. The match was decided by our strong "middle class" corp of club players like Cailen Melville, Cesar Tamondong, Erika Malykin, Alejandro Canales, Abhinav Pebagalapati, and Theo Biyiasas just to name a few. We want to thank all our players for coming out and representing their club. It was an hour of action-packed fun!

Tune in for our next club match next Thursday, as we get take on Marshall in a rematch of a tightly contested match. For information on joining, please see the online schedule announcement in this newsletter.

To see full results of the match, please follow this link:

https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/6802/games (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute chess-club-1/6802/games)

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

3/21 Saturday - Saturday Online Matinee
Format: 3 rounds of G/30 (Swiss)
Join from 1PM via www.chess.com/live#t=1161391 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?
t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Flive%23t%3D1161391)
Start: 2PM sharp!

3/23 Monday - Monday Online ARENA
Format: G/5+2 - as many as you can for an hour!
Learn about Arena tournaments HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?
t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fsupport.chess.com%2Farticle%2F335-what-are-arena-tournaments).
Join from 5:30PM via www.chess.com/live#r=170954 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?
t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Flive%23r%3D170954)
Start: 6:30PM sharp!

3/24 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Games
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM via www.chess.com/live#t=1161381 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?
t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Flive%23t%3D1161381)
Start: 6:30PM sharp!
Interested in past result? Check out last Tuesdays' tournament. (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?
t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Ftournament%2Flive%2Ffirst-online-tuesday-night-rapid-1160573)
Note: we have changed the time control for shorter wait time, and increased the rounds in hope for a clear winner:)

3/26 Thursday - Online Club Match against Marshall
Format: each Mechanics' player will be paired with a Marshall player
They'll play two games, with alternating colors.
Time control: G/15+2
Join the match from 4PM - link coming soon.
Save your spot by filling out: https://forms.gle/SaLW7L8tJHCSJVGa6 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?
t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FSaLW7L8tJHCSJVGa6)
Start 5PM sharp!
Interested in past results? Check out the 3/19 Club Match against Charlotte (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?
t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmatches%2Flive%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1%2F6802)!

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to:

1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)

2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club
https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200921114731/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
without being a member, you won't be able to play in our online tournaments!

3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events:
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Thank you,

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Early Chess Stories

In 1968 San Francisco, prior to an Atlantic crossing to Europe aboard the SS United States, my father Stanley taught my brother Jay and me how to play chess. I was eight, he was seven.

His thinking was (as he later stated) that it would "Give you both something to do." Perhaps it was intended to also bring us closer together, which it did, in consequences he might have been more savvy to: we found another reason to clobber each other.

Chess was clearly a competitive endeavor, and although I don't remember if we knew how the pieces properly moved, or what check or checkmate was exactly, there was a winner, worse yet a loser, and violence simmered below the surface of the chessboard.

Nevertheless, Jay and I may have found some refuge for a time there, in chess: here is photographic evidence of us playing during this trip. Both of us seem absorbed, and the largest ocean liner in the world, host to our game, seems nowhere in our thoughts.
So many years ago.

Jay Whitehead 1968

My father was fascinated by the game, but mostly on a visual level. In Spain he bought an out-sized and marvelous replica of the famous Lewis Chessmen, which accompanied us all over Europe and finally back to the States in 1972, where it moved about with my father from studio to house to apartment, until his passing in Berkeley, in 2006.

The Lewis Chessmen, in cream white and blood red, has been lost to me as well.

Paul Whitehead 1968

In 1972 we were still in Europe, and after much moving about my family had settled for a bit in Scotland, where my parents (civilians) taught Kindergarten and High School classes on an American base, a school my brother and I attended as well. We lived off-base, and apart from the ubiquitous Lewis Chessmen, the game of chess rarely entered my mind. I was 12 years old, interested in soccer and books. I loved the solitary Scottish countryside and took long walks down to the sea with the family dog.

But in the Summer all of that was to change.
I was given a choice: accompany the family to Morocco, or fly back solo to the States and spend my vacation with my maternal grandparents in upstate New York.
They lived in a small retirement community called Mountaindale, deep in the Catskills.

In choosing Mountaindale over Marrakesh, I think I made an interesting decision, like a homing pigeon choosing its target…

1972 was a huge year, a year of change and portent:

- Rod Stewart (the Scot, mind you) sang "Maggie Mae" all year long.
- Shirley Chisholm ran for President.
- Nixon went to China.
-The "Godfather" premiered.
- The Watergate complex was broken into.
- Jane Fonda went to Hanoi.
- M*A*S*H*
- The Baader-Meinhof Gang ran loose.
- Pong debuted.

In 1972 the worship of Norse gods was officially approved in Iceland,
and Iceland fought England in the 2nd Cod War.

And, in the Summer of 1972, Iceland hosted the Match of the Century, where chess exploded into the public consciousness.

And exploded into mine as well.

(To be continued).

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Meet the Candidates!

This week: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

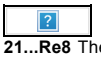
To become World Chess Champion is a herculean task. You must battle against great players to get into the Candidates Tournament, and there you must battle against the very best in the world to gain the sole right to become the challenger. Then there is the battle with the champion him/herself. It is often wondered what is the greater difficulty – to overcome the other challengers or to win the championship match. In the time of the great Soviet players winning the Candidates Tournament was an incredible feat. There was Keres, Smyslov, Bronstein, Tal, Spassky, Petrosian, Geller, Korchnoi, and others to surpass. After reaching the match against Botvinnik one could say the hardest work had been done. Botvinnik only managed to keep his title for some time with the help of rematches and a favorable system.

The group of contenders in the current Candidates Tournament is very impressive. Caruana and Ding Liren have been world beaters for years. Nepomniatchi and Giri have shown their great talent and Grischuk has been a serious contender for over a decade. To be champion requires incredible talent and dedication, but perhaps most important is the intense desire to compete and win. Radjabov had a place in this Candidates Tournament but withdrew due to the Corona Virus. In jumped Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (MVL), who barely had missed qualifying and was burning to play. Did he let the little issue of a pandemic bother him? Absolutely not! He is playing to become World Chess Champion. The obstacles he must overcome are even more severe than a life threatening disease. This is the right attitude of a true challenger. I count MVL as a very worthy candidate for his great fighting spirit and intense desire to win. This is similar to Lasker, Korchnoi, and Kramnik. We present now some games of MVL, starting with an epic battle against the current World Champion.

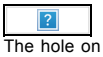
(1) Vachier Lagrave,Maxime (2722) - Carlsen,Magnus (2821) [B30]

Biel Accentus Biel (5), 23.07.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 This line in the Sicilian is a slower, closed positon where there is a lot of maneuvering. MVL decided not to take on Magnus's favorite Sveshnikov Sicilian with 3. d4. **4...Be7 5.d3 d6 6.Nd2 Bg5 7.Nf1 Bxc1 8.Rxc1 Nge7 9.Ne3 0-0 10.0-0 Ng6?!** [10...Be6] **11.Ncd5 Be6 12.c3 Na5 13.Nf5! Kh8 14.g3 Qd7 15.Nde3 Ne7 16.Nxe7 Nxc4 17.dxc4 Qxe7 18.Qd3 Rad8 19.Rcd1 b6 20.Rd2 Rd7 21.b3** Diagram



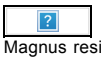
21...Re8 The opening phase is over and Black has everything defended, but a passive position. (In fact Magnus or Capablanca would be very happy with the White side.) It is very hard to make progress for White though, and requires great patience. Most players would be glad to agree a draw against the world #1 here. **22.Kg2 Qg5 23.Rfd1 Kg8 24.Qe2 Red8 25.Qf3 Qe7 26.h4 Qf8 27.h5 Qe7 28.h6 g6 29.Nd5 Bxd5 30.Rxd5 Qg5 31.Rh1 Kf8 32.Qd3 Qf6 33.Qe3 Qe6 34.Rf1 f6** Diagram



The hole on d5 and the backward black pawn on d6 give White the small edge. Black has very little counterplay. MVL gives an instructive strategic lesson on how to press this position. **35.b4 Ke8 36.Rfd1 Kf7 37.a4 Ke7 38.a5! Rc8 39.b5 Qg4 40.axb6 axb6 41.Ra1** White has not gotten too much on the queenside, but has taken control of the a-file. Black will have to worry about that, though there is breakthrough there yet. **41...Rb8 42.f3 Qe6 43.Qd2 Kf7 44.Rd1 Ke7 45.Ra1 Kf7 46.Ra6 Qe7 47.Qe3 Qe6 48.Qc1 g5 49.Qh1 Kg6 50.g4** Threatening mate! That is easily defended though. **50...Kf7 51.Kf2 Ke7 52.Qf1 Kf7 53.Ke3 Kg6 54.Qh1 Kf7 55.Kd3 Ke7 56.Kc2 Qg8 57.Qa1 Qf8 58.Rd1 Rdb7** [58...Qxh6 59.Rh1 Qg7 60.Ra8] **59.Rh1 Kf7 60.Kb3 Qe7 61.Qa2 Qd7 62.Ra1 Qe7 63.Qd2 Kg6 64.Qh2 Kf7 65.R1a2 Qd7 66.Qh5+ Kf8 67.Qh1 Kf7 68.Qd1 Kg6 69.Rd2 Rd8 70.Qh1 Kf7 71.Rda2 Rdb8 72.Ra1 Qe7 73.R6a2 Rd7 74.Qd1 Kg6 75.Qh1 Kf7 76.Qb1 Rdb7 77.Qd3 Kg6** Diagram



78.f4! White had been maneuvering back and forth for thirty moves and now courageously tries a breakthrough with this pawn sacrifice. The alternative was just to agree to a draw. **78...gxf4 79.Qh3 Kf7 80.Ra8 Qe6?** [finally a mistake from Magnus. He would defend better with 80...Rd8 81.Qh5+ Kg8 82.Qf5 Rbd7] **81.Qh5+ Kf8 82.Qf5** [82.Rxb8+ Rxb8 83.Ra7 Kg8 84.g5 f5 85.g6] **82...Qxf5 83.gxf5 Rxa8 84.Rxa8+ Kf7 85.Kc2!** stopping the passed f-pawn with the king **85...Re7 86.Kd3 Re8 87.Ra7+ Kg8** [87...Re7 88.Ra6 Rb7 89.Ra8 Re7 90.Rh8] **88.Rg7+ Kf8 89.Rxh7 Kg8 90.Ra7 Kh8 91.h7 Rb8 92.Ke2 Rd8 93.Kf3 Rc8 94.Kg4 Rd8 95.Kh5 f3 96.Kg6** Diagram



Magnus resigned as 96...f2 97. Ra1 gathers up the f-pawn and the white king dominates on the kingside. This was almost a hundred moves to beat Magnus - real determination from MVL! **1-0**

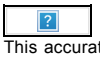
(2) Anish Giri - Maxime Vachier-Lagrave [B96]

Norway Chess Stavanger NOR (2), 20.04.2016

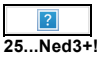
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 MVL is the current generation's Najdorf expert. He loves to play the complicated tactical positons that arise from the opening and he shows no fear of the long computer opening preparation of his opponents. **6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bh4 Qb6** Diagram



The Poisoned Pawn Variation. MVL likes this way to play the black side where 7...h6 8. Bh4 has been inserted. **9.a3 Be7** [9...Qxb2?? 10.Na4] **10.Bf2 Qc7 11.Qf3 Nbd7 12.0-0-0 b5 13.g4 g5!?** An interesting way to fight for the black squares on the kingside. **14.h4** [14.e5? Bb7] **14...gxf4 15.Be2** [15.g5 Ne5 16.Qxf4 would leave a roughly even complicated game.] **15...Rg8 16.Rdg1?** Looking for a knock out on the kingside. More circumspect would be. [16.g5 hxg5 17.hxg5 Rxg5 18.Rh8+ Rg8 19.Rxg8+ Nxg8 20.Qxf4] **16...d5!** Diagram



This accurately timed aggression in the center allows Black to take the initiative. **17.exd5 Ne5 18.Qh3 exd5 19.Re1 Kf8** A Najdorf player must get used to having his/her king in the center. Black's initiative is more than compensation for this. **20.Nf5 Bxf5 21.gxf5 Bc5!** White will be left with critical black squared weakenesses if he trades these bishops. Black has taken full control of the game. **22.Qf1 d4 23.Nb1 Ne4 24.Bf3?!** [24.Bd1 would hold out longer] **24...Nxf2 25.Bxa8** Diagram

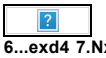


25...Ned3+! 26.Kd2 Nxe1 27.Qxf2 d3 28.Qxe1 Be3+ A crushing win as Black against one of the world's most solid players. **0-1**

(3) Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (2758) - Anatoli Vaisser (2531) [A04]

French Team Championship Saint-Quentin FRA (4.1), 27.05.2014

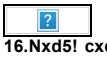
1.Nf3 f5 2.d3 d6 3.e4!? An interesting offbeat line against the Dutch Defense. **3...e5 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.exf5 Bxf5** Now White opens up the game with the black king a little exposed due to the missing f-pawn. **6.d4** Diagram



6...exd4 7.Nxd4 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Nf6 9.Bc4 c6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 d5 Diagram



12.0-0-0! Be7?! [12...Kf7] **13.Rhe1 0-0?!** Probably 13...Kf8 was necessary, though unpleasant. Now MVL sets up a tactical avalanche. [13...dxc4? 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Qxf6] **14.Qe5! Bg4?! 15.f3 Bd6** Diagram



16.Nxd5! cxd5 [16...Bxe5 17.Nxf6+ Kh8 18.Rxd8 Raxd8 19.Nxg4] **17.Rxd5! Bxe5 18.Rxd8+ Kh7 19.Bd3+ g6 20.Rxa8** There is no way out for Black. White picks up several pawns and his pieces swarm in. **20...Bf4+ 21.Kb1 Rxa8 22.Bxf6 1-0**

GM Nick de Firmians Column

2020 Candidates Match

The Candidates Tournament – Rounds 1-3

By GM Nick de Firmian

In the midst of this corona virus 2019 (COVID-19), we chess players have the one high-profile sporting event left in the world. No basketball, baseball, football or soccer to entertain you, but a high-stakes, bitterly-fought battle to become the one challenger. The players appear to be totally immersed in the tournament, with their nerves on edge for the seriousness of the event. So I suggest that you simply enjoy this event and put your worries aside for a while!

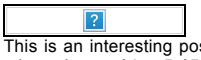
The first round began with surprising loses from two of the three most solid players in the world. Anish Giri went down with the white pieces against Ian Nepomniatchi and Ding Liren lost (also with White) against his countryman Wang Hao. (I must note that Paul Whitehead predicted a good result from the under-appreciated Wang Hao.)

Grischuk has drawn three favorable positions, but the game that has kept the tournament close was the third round matchup between the pre-tournament favorites Fabiano Caruana and Ding Liren. Ding was reeling after losing the first two games and a loss to Caruana may have ruined his chances. Fabiano went for the knock-out punch with an early pawn sacrifice, but this was like hunting a wounded tiger. I would have suggested to tread carefully with and give Ding his proper respect. A draw would have left Fabiano well ahead of his rival and not put him behind on the first tie-break (head to head).

(1) Vachier-Lagrave,Maxim - Ding,Liren [C88]

Candidates, 18.03.2020

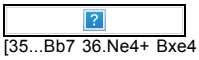
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.h3 One of the anti-Marshall lines. Nowadays players on the white side of the Ruy Lopez prefer now to allow Marshall's positional pawn sacrifice 8. c3 d5! **8...Bb7 9.d3 d6 10.a3 Qd7 11.Nc3 Rfe8 12.Bd2 Nd8 13.Nd5!? Nxd5 14.exd5** Diagram



This is an interesting position for the opening. MVL accepts the doubled pawn on d5, which blocks his light squared bishop. It has the powerful effect though of restraining Black's center and minor pieces. **14...c5 15.a4 f5?!** This aggressive move seems to weaken the kingside squares. Safer was a less commital move such as [15...Qc8 or; 15...f6] **16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Bxa8 18.c4 Nf7 19.cxb5! g5?!** once again this aggression causes weakenesses. **20.Nh2 Kg7 21.Bc4 Kg6 22.g4! Nh6 23.Qf3 Bd8 24.Qg2 f4?! 25.b4! Bb6 26.Qe4+ Kg7 27.bxc5 dxc5 28.Nf3 Nf7 29.Bc3** Diagram



White's pieces are a picture of activity. Both bishops are aimed at the kingside where Black has weakened himself. MVL continues to pile on the pressure. **29...Bc7 30.b6! Bb8 31.Qf5 Qxf5 32.gxf5 Kf6 33.Nd2! Rd8 34.d6! Rxd6 35.Rb1 Nd8?!** Diagram



[35...Bb7 36.Ne4+ Bxe4 37.dxe4 is better, but a miserable position] **36.b7! Bxb7 37.Ba5 1-0**

(2) Giri,Anish - Nepomniachti,Ian [A33]

Candidates, 17.03.2020

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6 6.g3 Qb6 An aggressive line against the English Opening, hitting White in the center immediately. This is risky though as it neglects development. **7.Ndb5 Ne5 8.Bf4 Nfg4 9.e3 a6 10.h3** Diagram



Both sides try to disrupt the opponent's plan with threats. **10...axb5 11.hxg4 Nxc4 12.Rc1** More usual is 12. Qb3. Giri tries something new. **12...d5 13.b3 Bb4! 14.bxc4 Ra3 15.Be5 f6 16.Bd4 Qa5** Black will win the piece back. **17.Be2 Bxc3+ 18.Rxc3 Rxc3 19.Kf1 b4!** the exchange is less important than king saftey and the initiative here **20.g5 e5 21.Bxc3 bxc3 22.gxf6 gxf6 23.Qb1?!** [Here White starts to go wrong. He could maintain equality with 23.cxd5 Bf5 24.Bd3!] **23...Qc7 24.Qd3 b5! 25.Qxc3 bxc4 26.e4 dxe4 27.Rh4 Be6 28.Rxe4 0-0 29.Bxc4 Kg7!** the pin on the c-file will cost White material **30.Qb3 Rb8** Diagram



31.Bxe6 the best try [31.Qa4 Rb1+ 32.Kg2 Bd7 33.Qc2 Qb7 will win Black the exchange] **31...Rxb3 32.Rg4+ Kf8 33.Bxb3** White is trying to hold the ending rook and bishop against queen. With three pawns each that's a difficult task. **33...Qc1+ 34.Kg2 Qc6+ 35.Kg1 h5 36.Rg8+ Ke7 37.Rg7+ Kd6 38.Rh7 Qf3 39.Rh8 e4 40.Rd8+ Ke7 41.Bd1 Qc3! 42.Rd5 h4 43.gxh4 f5** Diagram



44.Rxf5 Giri evaluates the ending as lost if Black keeps the pawn duo. He tries for a fortress by giving up the bishop **44...Qe1+ 45.Kg2 Qxd1 46.Rg5** [46.Re5+ Kf6 47.Rxe4 Qd5 48.f3 is a winning ending for Black. If the white f-pawn could remain on f2 he could make a fortress, but the small advance to f3 gives the queen enough room to maneuver.] **46...Qa1 47.Rg4 Qb1 48.Rg3 Qxa2 49.Rh3 Qd5 50.Kf1 Qd1+ 51.Kg2 Qg4+ 52.Rg3 Qh5** Black could take the h-pawn now, but it will fall for sure anyway. **53.Ra3 Qd5 54.Kg1 Kf6 55.Rg3 Qd1+ 56.Kg2 Kf5 57.Rg5+ Kf4 58.Rg3 Qd5 59.Kf1 Qd2 60.Kg2 Qd1 61.Re3 Kf5 62.Rg3 Kf6 63.Rh3 Kg6 64.Rg3+ Kh5 65.Rh3 Qb1 66.Re3 Kxh4 67.Rg3 Kh5 68.Rh3+ Kg4 69.Rg3+ Kf4 70.Re3 Qd1 71.Ra3 Ke5 72.Rg3 Kd4 73.Re3** Diagram

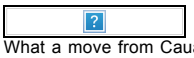


How does Black break the blockade on the third rank? **73...Qd3!** Black will get a winning king and pawn ending after either 74. Rxd3 exd3 or the threatened 74...Qxe3. Giri resigned. **0-1**

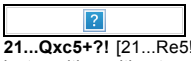
(3) Ding,Liren - Caruana,Fabiano [D17]

Candidates, 19.03.2020

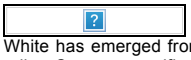
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 e6 7.f3 Bb4 8.Nxc4 0-0 9.Kf2 e5!? Diagram



What a move from Cauana! Sacrificing a pawn with Black early in the opening. This is clearly his preparation and thus backed up with heavy computer analysis. Yet it is a risky move where Black must play with great energy to justify to loss of the pawn. That is fine if you are feeling like Tal, but you must play with great energy. **10.Nxe5 Bc2 11.Qd2! c5 12.d5 Bb3 13.e4 Re8 14.Qf4 c4** sacrificing a second pawn to open lines against the white king. Fabi is putting pressure on Ding, yet he is up to the task. Just because Ding lost his first two games doesn't mean he isn't a great defender. **15.Nxc4 Nbd7 16.Be3 Nf8 17.Bd4 Ng6 18.Qf5 Bxc4 19.Bxc4 Qc7 20.Be2 Bc5 21.Bxc5** Diagram



21...Qxc5+?! [21...Re5! is a Tal like move that gives extra life to Black's position. These moves are necessary if one plays these on the edge positions. Two pawns down can easily drift to a lost position without really energetic follow-up. 22.Qh3 Nf4 23.Qh4 Ng6 24.Qg3 Nh5 hastles the white queen, which may provoke it to be sacrificed.] **22.Kf1 h6 23.Rd1 Qb6 24.Rd2 Qe3 25.Rc2 a6 26.Qh3 b5 27.Qg3 b4?!** [27...Rec8 gives Black more hope] **28.Nd1 Qb3 29.Rd2 Qxa4 30.Qf2 Qd7 31.g3 Qh3+ 32.Kg1 a5 33.Qd4 Nh5 34.Nf2 Qd7 35.f4** Diagram



White has emerged from the backward development and has gotten the central and kingside pawns rolling. Black has gotten one pawn back, but the situation is hopeless against the central roller. Caruana sacrifices a piece in desperation. **35...Nhxf4 36.gxf4 Nxf4 37.Kf1 Qd6 38.Rg1 f6 39.Bb5 Re7 40.b3 Rf8 41.Rc2 Ne6 42.Qe3 Ng5 43.h4 Nf7 44.Rc6 Qb8 45.Qc5 Qd8 46.Rxf6 Kh8 47.Rf5** Diagram



The position is more than hopeless, but the stakes are so high that Caruana plays to the bitter end. **47...Rc7 48.Bc6 a4 49.bxa4 b3 50.Rg3 b2 51.Rb3 Nd6 52.Rxf8+ Qxf8 53.Rxb2 Qf4 54.Rb8+ Kh7 55.Qc2 Re7 56.e5+ Nf5 57.Qe4 Qc1+ 58.Kg2 g6 59.Rb3** Caruana finally resigned. Just like that Ding is right back in the tournament. **1-0**

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Chess Room Newsletter #911

Gens Una Sumus!

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Newsletter #911

Mar 27, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Mechanics' - Marshall 2
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Mechanics' Institute Defeats Marshall Club In Online Rematch 63.5-42.5

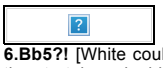
On Thursday March 26, Mechanics' Institute (MI) held a rematch with the Marshall Chess Club in New York. The match was played on Chess.com, and each team had 53 players! The format of this match was different in that anyone affiliated with the club in some way could participate, and there were no restrictions in rating. Players were paired with similarly Chess.com-rated opponents, and each player played the same opponent twice; playing one with white and one with black with a time control of G/15 +2. The Mechanics' lost a very close match in our first encounter, but we were decisive winners in the rematch, defeating Marshall by a score of 63.5-42.5.

As with our match with the Charlotte Chess Club last week, we had strength in numbers, as the middle part of our lineup was stacked with strong club players rated 1600-2000. This group of players, many of whom play our Tuesday Night Marathon, helped carry us to victory. Leading the charge for Mechanics' team was GM James Tarjan, who has also been recently playing our regular online events as well. Here is one of his games from the match, as he was paired against IM Jay Bonin from the Marshall Chess Club. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

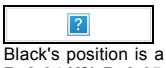
(1) IM Jay Bonin (Boninknights) (2322) - GM James Tarjan (Tirantes) (2463) [D00]

Live Chess Chess.com, 26.03.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Bg5 f6 3.Bf4 Nc6 4.e3 An unusual opening, but it can work our. Black now plays very energetically, looking to take the center. **4...e5 5.Bg3 Nge7!** Diagram



6.Bb5?! [White could maintain equality with 6.dxe5 fxe5 7.Nc3] **6...a6 7.Ba4 b5 8.Bb3 Be6 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 fxe5 11.e4 Qd6 12.Nc3?!** This causes White to lose time. Black uses that time to take valuable space on the queenside and center. [12.Nf3] **12...d4 13.Nce2 Ng6 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.Nf3 Be7 16.0-0 0-0 17.Ng3 c5 18.a4 c4** The black pawns are a strong force. White has the nice f5 square for the knight, but that's hardly compensation for the great control Black has over the rest of the board. **19.axb5 axb5 20.Nf5 Bf6 21.Qd2 Ne7 22.Qb4?** [22.Nxe7+ Bxe7 23.h3 is worse for White but he is still well in the game] **22...Rxa1 23.Rxa1 Nxf5 24.exf5 Qd5! 25.Ra5 Rb8 26.h4 h6?!** [26...e4! 27.Ng5 h6 28.Ne6 d3 would be a quick end] **27.h5?!** [White has a chance to stay in the game with 27.Ra6! e4 28.Rd6 Qxf5 29.Nxd4 Qh5] **27...e4 28.Nh2 d3 29.cxd3 exd3 30.Nf3** Diagram



Black's position is a pretty picture. He wraps things up efficiently. **30...Qxf5 31.Nd2 Bd4 32.Nf3** [32.Qxc4+ bxc4 33.Rxf5 Rxb2 34.Nxc4 Rc2 will win the knight for the d-pawn] **32...Bc5 33.Qc3 Re8 34.Kf1 Re2 35.Rxb5 Rxf2+ 36.Ke1 Qe4+ 0-1**

We want to thank Bryan Quick, the Director of the Marshall Chess Club for his work in helping organize this match. The club matches are a great deal of fun, and these types of matches are much needed right now in the chess community to bring people together. Special thanks to our GM of Youth Outreach and Events Judit Sztaray for organizing the match from our end. We are working hard to reach out to other clubs both in the U.S. and abroad to continue the club matches, more information will be coming soon.

If you belong to another chess club and would be interested in a club match, please reach out to us.

For full results, please click here (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/6846)

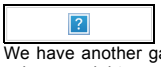
Mechanics' Institute Hosts Second Tuesday Night Online Tournament

The second edition of our Tuesday Night Online got a surprise visit from GM James Tarjan (Tirantes). A total of 79 players participated, with a lot of strength at the top. This 5-round G/10 +2 online event featured many of our club regulars, with the only perfect 5/5 score coming from goldenpuppy, who currently remains anonymous. Below is a fine win from goldenpuppy against last week's co-winner of the Tuesday Night Online Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29). Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

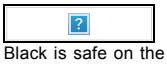
(2) Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) (2017) - goldenpuppy (2044) [A45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 24.03.2020

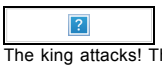
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nd2 e6 6.Ngf3 Bd6 7.Bg3 Diagram



We have another game from the London System, which has become a very popular opening. White's bishop retreat to g3 attempts to exchange the bishops in a favorable manor. If Black exhanges right now then the open h-file would help White. **7...0-0 8.Bd3 b6 9.e4** [9.Ne5 is an alternate plan, keeping things closed for now.] **9...Be7 10.e5 Nh5!** The knight can take the dark squared bishop at a safe time. **11.0-0 Bb7 12.a3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 a5 14.Kh2 g6 15.Qe2 h5 16.Qe3 Kg7 17.Ne1?** Going backward is the wrong direction. White should try [17.Rae1 Qc8 18.Rh1!? or 17. Rh1 immediately] **17...Ba6 18.f4 Bxd3 19.Nxd3 c4 20.Ne1 Rh8 21.Kg1 b5 22.Nef3 b4** Diagram



Black is safe on the king side and has a clear initiative on the queenside. A very enjoyable positon to play. **23.axb4 axb4 24.Rfb1 Qb6 25.Ne1 Rxa1 26.Rxa1 bxc3 27.bxc3 Qb2 28.Rb1 Qa2 29.Rb6 Rc8 30.Nef3 Bd8 31.Rb1?!** [31.Rb7] **31...Ba5?!** [31...Na5! leaves the bishop back for defense and keeeps control] **32.f5!** White is in trouble and siezes the right moment to get counterplay. For one pawn he gets chances against the black king. **32...exf5 33.e6 Qa3!** A fine defensive move! Black needs help around his king so the queen prepares to help on e7. **34.Rb7?** Unfortunately this active move just leads to the exchange of rooks, which lessen the attacking chances. Better was [34.exf7] **34...Rc7 35.Rxc7 Bxc7 36.exf7 Qe7! 37.f8Q+ Qxf8 38.Ng5 Nd8 39.Ne6+ Nxe6 40.Qxe6 Qf7** Careful defense has left Black with a winning endgame. **41.Qe3 f4 42.gxf4 Bxf4 43.Qe2 Bxd2 44.Qxd2 Qf5 45.Qe2 Kf6 46.Qb2 Kg5 47.Qd2+ Qf4 48.Qb2 Qe3+ 49.Kh2 h4 50.Qb4 Kg4 51.Qa5 Qf4+ 52.Kg1 Kg3!** Diagram



The king attacks! The game is over. **53.Qa3 Qe3+ 54.Kh1 Qe1# 0-1**

Starting soon we will also be giving out Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for the top 3 spots in our Tuesday Night Online. These medals carry substantial social value, is they are the only prize given out in any of our online events. Sign up for a chance to earn one of these fine pieces of hardware.

Lauren Goodkind also played the tournament and did her own streaming, click on this link (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/http://https//www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzyV6aWEAWI&feature=youtu.be) to see.

For full results from this event, please follow this link:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-games-1161381 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-games-1161381)

Thank you to all the participants!

Mechanics' Online Event Recap

In addition to the events already covered, the Friday Night Blitz on March 20 drew 85 players, and was won by FM Eric Li (wepkins) with 8.5/10. Tied for 2nd and 3rd spots were ChessyInstinct and FM Thijs (Thijs) Laarhoven with 8/10. Results can be found here:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-blitz---630pm-1162935 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night blitz---630pm-1162935)

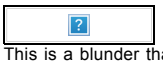
Our Wednesday Late Night Blitz Showdown on March 25 was won by GM Cristian Chirila (TheCount) with a score of 7.5/8. In sole 2nd place was NM Vinesh Ravuri (SoggyCheese12) and in 3rd was NM Ruiyang Yan (Jij2018) with 6/8. Chirila sealed the tournament with a win over FM Josiah Stearman in the final round.

Here is a fine win by Chirila over Ravuri from round 6, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(3) GM Cristian Chirila (TheCount) (2624) - NM Vinesh Ravuri (SoggyCheese12) (2307) [C60]

Live Chess Chess.com, 25.03.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 An offbeat line of the Ruy Lopez, but the Count knows how to react. **4.c3 g6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Bg7 9.Re1+ Be6 10.Bg5 Qd6 11.Nbd2 0-0 12.Ne4 Qb4 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Ne5!?** White goes right for the weakeness on c6. Safer would be [14.Qc1 as White is not worried about 14....Bxd4 15. Nxd4] **14...Qxb2 15.Nc5 Rfe8 16.h3 f6?!** [16...Nc3! should give Black an edge. e.g. 17.Qd3 Bf5 18.Qc4 Ne2+! 19.Qxe2 Qxd4! 20.Nxc6 Rxe2 21.Nxd4 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Bxd4] **17.Ned3 Qa3??** Diagram



This is a blunder that loses a piece. Black must have an attack on the g5 bishop when White takes the piece on e6. SoggyCheese lets the attacked bishop move with tempo. [better was 17...Qb5 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Nxe6] **18.Bc1 Qc3 19.Bb2 Qc4 20.Nxe6 Rab8 21.Nxg7 Kxg7 22.Rxe8 Rxe8 23.Qd2** An extra piece is plenty for the Count, who wraps up the game smoothly. **23...h5 24.Rc1 Qxa2 25.Rxc6 Qa4 26.Rc1 Qb5 27.Ba3 Re6 28.Nf4 Nxf4 29.Rxc7+ Kg8 30.Qxf4 Qb3 31.Bc5 Qd5 32.Kh2 g5 33.Qg3 h4 34.Qg4 Re4 35.Qh5 Qf5 36.Qf7+** Diagram



1-0

For full results from this tournament, follow this link:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1163882 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1163882)

To participate in our chess events, ask to join the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club Online by clicking on this link:

https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Mechanics' Institute - Online Offerings For Our Scholastic community

Online Classes for group of 4-8 students via Zoom/Skype

Online Chess Tournaments - Free

Weekly fun chess assignments via email - Free

Note on the in-person classes: ALL missed classes will be refunded!

We are on a holding pattern, waiting for a final decision on the status of our in-school programs, and if we will re-start our classes. If classes are not allowed to continue, we will process any refunds for all missed classes, prorated from the last class date. If your registration is through another organization (school/recreation center), they have reassured us that missed classes will be refunded to parents!

We thank you for your patience as we are waiting for updates in this very unusual situation.

Any questions? Please, email to chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org) and we'll respond very soon. Please, note that we are doing everything possible to offer alternative services to help keep the kids engaged with chess while we wait to learn how things will proceed.

1. Online Chess Classes for group of 4-8 students
Initial Trial Period: during March 23 - April 3 (two weeks)
$25/class for a 60 min class or $45/two 60min classes.

Coaches: Andrew Schley, Colin Shober, and David Flores Gomez
Time slots: Tuesday 3-4PM (Full), Wednesday 3-4PM, Thursday 3-4PM, Friday 1-2PM (Full)
Minimum 4 students to start the class, maximum 8 students in each class!

If the trial goes successfully as planned, we will add a regular class schedule for month of April.
Sign up via Jumbula: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tj59ggabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fmechanics-institute.jumbula.com%2F%23%2Fonline-chess-classes)
Pick your coach & pick the time slots. Information about the class, how to join, and details will be emailed to all who register. Registration closes 15 mins prior to class start time!

Coach Andy's first class on Tuesday, 3/24 was full with eight students online. Here are two pictures sent by Andrew's dad, showing us their setup and how he is participating in the class.

2. Online Chess Tournaments via chesskid.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/https://chesskid.com/) - FREE
Chesskid.com - Safe & Secure platform for kids playing chess!
Tournaments on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 4PM.

Format: 4 or 5 games each tournament.

We had more than 50 kids playing in our first four tournaments!

Congratulations to all players, who came online and participated in our fun scholastic online tournametns!
At every tournament, we are seeing new IDs, new kids playing, which makes us very happy!
There are some interesting and very exciting games! Keep up the great participation!

Upcoming schedule:

3/28 Saturday 4PM: Mechanics' Saturday Kids -- Click here to join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=16234)
3/29 Sunday 4PM: Mechanics' Sunday Kids -- Click here to join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=16235)
3/31 Tuesday 4PM: Mechanics' Tuesday Kids -- Click here to join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=16236)
4/3 Thursday 4PM: Mechanics' Thursday Kids -- Click here to join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=16237)

Time control: Two main format we are trying out:
Game in 5 minutes (5 min for each players) with 5 sec added with each move.
Game in 8 min (8 min for each players) with 2 sec added with each move.
Join (sign up) for the tournament: at 3:45PM - 15 minutes before the start time. First round starts 4PM sharp!
Look at upcoming tournaments:
https://www.chesskid.com/clubs/tournaments/mechanics-chess-club/fast (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tj59ggabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chesskid.com%2Fclubs%2Ftournaments%2Fmechanics-chess-club%2Ffast)

Joining is easy!
GROUP: https://www.chesskid.com/groups/sub/mechanics-institute (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tj59ggabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chesskid.com%2Fgroups%2Fsub%2Fmechanics-institute)

- If you are new: click on this link: https://www.chesskid.com/register/kid/group/QCJJNH (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tj59ggabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chesskid.com%2Fregister%2Fkid%2Fgroup%2FQCJJNH)
- If you already have an account: registration key: **QCJJNH**

- Find the 6-digit Registration Key on the "Info" tab page of your Group. Give this code to the Kid.
- Have the Kid log in to his own account & click the grey Settings icon. **They'll need to log in from a browser for access to this page.**
- Enter the Kid's first & last name, and parent/guardian email.
- Click "Do you have a Group Registration Key"
- Enter the 6 digit Registration Key & click Save. The kid will be added to your Group.

3.Weekly Chess Assignment via email by Coach Judit - FREE
Coach Judit is sending all those beginner students some fun chess assignments every Sunday. Print it out and have kids work through the pages during the week. Scan and send it back by Friday for individualized feedback! Be sure to sign up via google doc so that we can send you the assignment: https://forms.gle/F4Jg2cULYR4SBwAJ6 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tj59ggabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FF4Jg2cULYR4SBwAJ6)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

Thank you so much for your continued support. It is wonderful that students are engaging and continuing to join MI for new and exciting ways to stay connected with chess.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

3/28 Saturday - Saturday Online Matinee
Format: 3 rounds of G/30 (Swiss)
Join from 1PM viahttps://www.chess.com/live#t=1168851
Start: 2PM sharp! Approx. end 5PM.

3/29 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2 (Swiss)
Join from 8PM via https://www.chess.com/live#t=1165477
Start: 9PM sharp! Approx. end 10PM.

3/30 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM via -https://www.chess.com/live#r=174379
Start: 6:30PM

3/31 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM viahttps://www.chess.com/live#t=1168843
Start: 6:30PM sharp

4/1 Wednesday - Club Team Match Night
Format: Round robin with 3 other clubs
More info on our website: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/online-club-match-nights
In order to be selected to play, please sign up via Google form.

4/2 Thursday - Thursday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2 (Swiss)
Join from 8PM viahttps://www.chess.com/live#t=1169453
Start: 9PM sharp

4/3 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM via - link coming soon, please check back.
Start: 6:30PM sharp

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to:

1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
without being a member, you won't be able to play in our online tournaments!
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924045020/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Early Chess Stories, Part 2

In 1972, my family was living in Scotland. My parent, civilians, were teaching on an American military base, and I attended that same school along with my brother Jay. During that Summer my parents and Jay went down to Morocco, and I flew to New York to stay with my maternal grandparents.

Mountaindale was a sleepy hamlet in the Catskills – almost deserted, really. I spent the hot days riding around on a bike or exploring the woods behind the houses. There was an outdoor pool in the community, but it was empty most of the time. I wasn't big on swimming, anyway.

One day I was surprised to see another kid at the pool. He was about my age, maybe a bit older, and like me he had a bike and was staying with his grandparents. I don't think we really took to one another, but seeing each other was just enough of a novelty that he took it into his head to invite me over to his house.

To play chess.

It's funny what you remember and what you don't. I can't recall that boy's name or face or much else about him, but I remember his little wooden chessboard and pieces and the fact that he won effortlessly. He had chess books too, and talked about the Sicilian Defense and the Ruy Lopez. He told me about the Fischer vs. Spassky match going on in Iceland at that very moment, and switched the TV on. I saw players sitting around a chessboard in a studio, and using a demonstration board. They were getting the moves by telex from Reykjavik.

I was spellbound.

I don't remember if I ever saw that kid again. I know we never played again, and I never went back over to his house. But he had opened another world to me, the world-wide community of chess players, and for that I will always be grateful. Chess brings sorrow – losing is so painful! – but chess brings joy as well – the pleasures of friendship.

I continued watching the Match of the Century on WNET-TV, NY (Channel 13) that Summer in upstate New York. I doubt if my Grandparents could make head or tail of what had suddenly gotten into me.

Chess-mad, I returned to Scotland and infected my brother Jay with my enthusiasm.

Sometime later that Summer or early Fall my parents took my brother and I up to Aberdeen where a chess master was giving a simultaneous exhibition. It was our first experience of an organized chess event. My father took some pictures – I think you should be able to spot us quite easily. I remember losing (and I remember feeling the disappointment at losing, too!). But I cannot remember the chap giving the simul's name.

So, help me out here folks: is there a Chess Detective in the house?

The year is 1972. The place is Aberdeen, Scotland.

Who is that chess master in the white shirt and spectacles?

(To be continued)

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Meet the Candidates!

This week: Ian Nepomniatchi

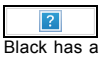
Ian Alexandrovich Nepomniachtchi is Russia's bright new hope. The great Vladimir Kramnik has retired, and Sergei Karjakin has lost some rating points since his world championship battle against Magnus in 2016. Nepo (as Nepomniachtchi is often called) is a relatively late bloomer into the world of the very elite. He was born in 1990, the same year as Carlsen, yet only in the last few years has he been thought of as a contender. Karjakin, Carlsen, Nakamura, So and others battled the world's best as teenagers or latest early 20's. Nepo made waves though when he won the strong 2016 Tal Memorial, and then firsts in the FIDE Grand Prix tournaments of Moscow and Jerusalem last year. That qualified him for the Candidates Tournament and he is again surging into the lead. Thirty years old (which Nepo will be in a few months) used to be considered the prime age for a chess player, before the current age where wunder kinder abound. Perhaps now we will see players in their thirties dominate the game again, instead of wondering when they will be over the hill.

Nepo has a pleasing, aggressive style which is evident in the game selection below. He plays actively and courageously, giving the chess fan a worthy show to watch. His favorite player was Tal, yet his style is not quite that crazy. He plays sharp but sound chess in the style of former Russian world champions Alekhine and Kasparov. This may be his time to reach the heights.

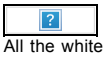
(1) Nempomniachtchi,Ian - Anand,Vishy [A23]

2019

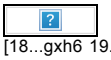
A game against Anand will show the true measure of a chess player. No other opponent of the last 25 years has had so much success. **1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Bc5 4.Nc3 c6 5.Nf3 e4 6.Nh4 d5** Diagram



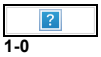
Black has a solid pawn wedge in the center, yet White has central pressure from his pieces. The knight on h4 looks funny, but as it can't be attacked now it is on a good square. **7.d4 Be7 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.0-0 0-0 10.f3** White needs to break up the pawn wedge. **10...exf3 11.Rxf3 Nc6 12.Nf5 Ne4?!** "moving the same piece twice" The standard opening principle should have been obeyed here. Of course top players are free to break the rules, especially in the modern world of engine assisted opening preparation. Nonetheless, White now takes the initiative with a stronger center. [12...Bxf5 13.Rxf5 Qd7 14.Rf1 h6 would be a more normal continuation with reasonable chances for Black] **13.Rf1 Bf6 14.e3!** Simple and strong - the white center is solid. **14...Nxc3 15.bxc3 Be6 16.Rb1 Qd7 17.e4!** Diagram



All the white pieces come to life and the black center pawn is removed. **17...Rfe8?** Black is under pressure, but this is weak. [17...dxe4 18.Bxe4 Bxa2 wins a pawn on the queenside at the cost of a greater white initiative. Either 19.Qh5 *(or 19.Rb2* is very promising.*)*] **18.Nh6+! Kh8** Diagram



[18...gxh6 19.Rxf6] **19.Rxf6! gxf6 20.Qf3** White is winning. Black will either lose a piece to 21. exd5 or get mated after 21. Qxf6 **20...Kg7 21.exd5 Bxd5 22.Nf5+** Diagram



1-0

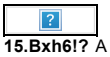
(2) Ian Nepomniachtchi (2749) - Li Chao (2720) [C42]

FIDE Grand Prix Sharjah Sharjah UAE (6.6), 24.02.2017

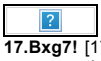
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 The solid Petrov's Defense. This is always an annoyance to the players of 1.e4, but Nepo just plows ahead, like Fischer in his heyday. **3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 dxc4 11.Bxc4** Diagram



11...Bf5 Black could also play 11...Bg4. In both cases Black is solid with just a small disadvantage. **12.Bg5 Qc7 13.Re1 h6 14.Nh4!? Bh7** Diagram



15.Bxh6!? A bold move! The sacrifice puts maximum pressure on Li Chao. **15...Bxh2+?** [It was better to calmly take the piece and defend. 15...gxh6 16.Qg4+ Kh8 17.Nf5 Bxf5 *(17...Rg8? 18.Re8!)* 18.Qxf5 f6 19.Re6 with good compensation for the piece, though Black is only slightly worse] **16.Kh1 Bf4** Diagram



17.Bxg7! [17.Bxf4 Qxf4 18.Qh5 Nd7 19.Re7 Nb6 is roughly equal] **17...Kxg7 18.Qg4+ Kh8 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.Qxf5** Black's open king and lagging development leave White with much more than compensation for the piece. **20...Qd6 21.g3 Bh6 22.Kg2** A strong attacking move - the rook is coming to the h-file. **22...b5** [22...Nd7 23.Rh1 Kg7 24.Rh4! will win] **23.Bb3 Qg6 24.Qxg6! fxg6 25.Re7** The attack is ferocious even in the endgame. The threat of 26. Rh1 forces the defense. **25...g5 26.Re6 Kg7 27.Rh1 Rh8 28.Re7+** Diagram



28...Kg6 [28...Kf6 29.Rhe1 g4 30.Bc2 Rg8 31.R1e6+ Kg5 32.Rf7 Kh5 33.f4 gxf3+ 34.Kh3 will checkmate in a few moves] **29.Bc2+** It's mate after 29...Kf6 30. Rhe1 and 31. R1e6. **1-0**

(3) Peter Leko (2712) - Ian Nepomniachtchi (2725) [B90]

Hainan Danzhou GM Danzhou CHN (4), 11.07.2016

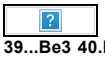
Peter Leko challenged for the World Championship in 2004. He has been one of the world's most solid players and a great opening theoretician. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 Be7 9.Qd2 h5 10.Be2 Nbd7** The sharp line in the Najdorf Variation offers winning chances for both sides. **11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 0-0 13.0-0 Qb8!? 14.Kh1 Bd8 15.f4?!** This opens up the king side. At first appearance that looks good for White, yet the black pieces are ready to post to good squares. Slower play with [15.a4 was better.] **15...Re8 16.c4 b5!** Playing to sieze the initiative like the great Najdorf players of old (Fischer, Kasparov, Tal). **17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.cxb5 axb5** Diagram



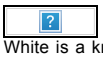
Note how every black piece is already involved in the struggle over the entire board. **19.Nd4 Nc4 20.Bxc4 bxc4 21.Bg1?!** Retreating is passive. Better to be aggressive with [21.Nf5] **21...Qb7 22.Qc2 Ne4 23.Rae1** [23.Qxc4? Nd2] **23...Qxd5 24.Rf5 Qb7** Black has a pawn for the moment and threatens 25...Ng3+ to win the exchange. Leko defends well now under pressure. **25.Rb5 Qe7 26.Rf1 g6 27.Nf3 Qe6 28.a4 h4 29.Nd4 Qd7 30.Qxc4 h3 31.Rf4 Nc5** Diagram



Nepo has given the pawn back to keep the initiative and open the white kingside. **32.b3?!** Now the Black initiative is hard to stop. White needed to try [32.gxh3 Rxa4] **32...hxg2+ 33.Kxg2 Rc8** Making sure all the black pieces are on active useful squares. This threatens 34...Ne6 to win the exchange. **34.Qf1 Bg5 35.Rf3 Ne4 36.Rd3 Qg4+ 37.Kh1 Rc1 38.Qg2 Qh4 39.Rf3** Diagram



39...Be3 40.Ne2 [40.Rxe3 Nf2+] **40...Nf2+ 41.Rxf2 Bxf2 42.Nxc1 Bxg1 43.Qg3 Qd4 44.Qxg1 Qd2!** Diagram



White is a knight ahead but he is lost as his pieces don't coordinate together. **45.Nd3 Qxd3 46.Rg5 Re2** White resigned as he will lose at least queen for rook, e.g. 47. Rg2 Qe4 and 48...Re1 **0-1**

Candidates Tournament Halted!

By GM Nick de Firmian

The impact of the coronavirus finally forced FIDE to stop the event at the midway point of the tournament. Russia will not allow flights for foreigners to return home after March 27, so FIDE president Dvorkovic ruled the players and arbiters will go home. The rest of the Candidates Tournament will continue at a later, unspecified date, likely several months in the future. The participants seemed unhappy at the event and as if they did not want to be there, but likely would have soldiered on if the tournament would have continued. The player who withdrew from the Candidates for fear of the virus, Teimour Radjabov, strongly expressed his criticism of FIDE and felt vindicated about his decision not to play. Nonetheless the event will likely continue with the results of the first half. Radjabov may get some compensation as the wild card entrant to the next Candidates tournament.

One can be certain the situation in Russia had a depressing influence on the players. Ding Liren and Wang Hao had to be there two weeks ahead of the start time, and this seems to have been particularly difficult for Ding Liren. Ding has been playing in poor form, affected more by the circumstances than the older Wang Hao. This is certainly not the first important chess event to be in the shadow of dark world events. St. Petersburg 1914 and the 1938 Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires are two memorable examples.

There has been great chess played despite the circumstances. The focused, determined players Nepomniachtchi and Vachier-Lagrave have taken the lead with 4.5 points out of the 7 rounds. Four players are a point behind in the middle of the field with 3.5/7 – Giri, Wang Hao, Grischuk and our Fabiano Caruana. Tied at the bottom with 2.5/7 is the out of form Ding Liren and the wild card entrant Alekseenko.

(1) Nepomniachtchi,Ian - Wang,Hao [C42]

22.03.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bf5 7.0-0 Be7 8.Re1 0-0 9.Nbd2 Nd6 10.Nf1 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 c6 12.Bf4 Na6 13.h4! Diagram



This pawn move takes a little space on the kingside. There is no quick way to crush the Petrov. To win on the white side you must plan for a slow squeeze. **13...Nc7** [13...Bxh4? 14.Nxh4 Qxh4 15.Bxd6] **14.Ng5 Bxg5 15.Bxg5 f6 16.Bf4 Qd7 17.Ng3 Rae8 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.Nf5 Qd7 20.Qh3 Kh8 21.h5 Rxe1+** Normally the player defending is happy to trade off pieces to decrease attacking chances. Here though a worthy alternative with the more active 21...Nb5. **22.Rxe1 Re8 23.Rxe8+ Nxe8 24.g4 a6 25.b3 Qe6 26.Ne3 Nd6 27.h6 g6 28.c4 dxc4 29.bxc4 Kg8?!** Getting the king away from back rank check mates. Better however was to anticipate the white queen coming to the h2-b8 diagonal [29...Nf7! 30.Qh2 Qd6 defends] **30.Qh2 Kf7 31.c5 Nb5 32.Qb8** The white queen has invaded and Black must be very careful not to lose his h-pawn. **32...Qd7?** [32...Qe7 33.Qh8 Ke6 forces White to slow down with 34. Nc2 as 34.f4? Nxd4 35.Qg8+ Kd7! would now be good for Black] **33.Qh8 Ke6** Diagram



34.f4! Proabably Wang missed this aggressive move. Black cannot capture on d4 with the queen as 37. Qe8 would be mate! **34...Nxd4** [Also 34...Qe7 35.f5+ Kd7 36.Kf2 g5 37.Nc4 is winning for White] **35.Qg8+ Qf7 36.Qc8+ Qd7 37.Qg8+ Qf7 38.Qd8! Qd7** This allows White to go into an ending with a knight for two pawns, yet Black had to stop 39. Qd6 mate. **39.f5+ gxf5 40.gxf5+ Nxf5 41.Qxd7+ Kxd7 42.Nxf5 Ke6 43.Ne3** Diagram

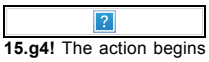


Wang now contemplated how to proceed, advancing his king or the f-pawn. He decided to resign as in both cases the white knight will win a critical pawn on h7 or b7, with the help of the white king advancing to contest the center. **1-0**

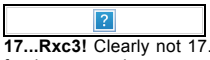
(2) Alekseenko,Kirill - Vachier-Lagrave,Maxim [B80]

Candidates, 23.03.2020

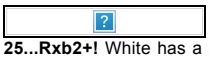
Kirill Alekseenko got his place in the Candidates as the organizer's choice. He is clearly the lowest rated of the participants but nonetheless a fine player who can fight with the other participants. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** MVL's favorite Najdorf **6.f3 e6 7.Be3 b5 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.a3 h5 10.0-0-0 Bb7 11.Kb1 Be7 12.Rg1 Rc8 13.Be2 Nb6 14.Qe1 Nfd7** Diagram



15.g4! The action begins in this complicated Sicilian position. Alekseenko shows his courage. **15...hxg4 16.Rxg4 g6 17.Rxg6!** Diagram



17...Rxc3! Clearly not 17...fxg6? 18. Nxe6 winning the queen. The players give us a display of fireworks. **18.Nxe6 Qc8** [18...fxe6? 19.Qxc3] **19.Ng7+ Kf8 20.Rh6 Rxh6 21.Bxh6 Rxc2** This fearless move is necessary. White has a dicovered check and a safer king for the sacrificed knight. **22.Nf5+ Ke8 23.Nxe7 Kxe7 24.Qh4+ f6 25.Bf4** Diagram

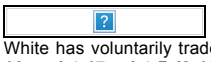


25...Rxb2+! White has a strong attack for the piece and MVL needs to counter attack to save the game. **26.Kxb2 Na4+ 27.Kb1 Nc3+ 28.Ka1** The only way to avoid the perpetual check. **28...Nxd1 29.Qh7+ Kd8 30.Qg8+ Ke7! 31.Qh7+** [31.Qxc8 Bxc8 32.Bxd1 Ne5 is just an even endgame.] **31...Kd8 32.Qg8+ Ke7 33.Qh7+ 1/2-1/2**

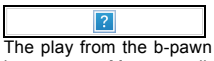
(3) Nepomniachtchi,Ian - Ding,Liren [C77]

23.03.2020

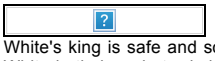
An important encounter. Nepomniachtchi has shown he is a serious threat to win the tournament. Ding needs to score against one of the leaders to get back in contention. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.Nc3 Na5 10.Ba2 Be6 11.b4 Bxa2 12.Rxa2 Nc6 13.Bg5 Qd7 14.Bxf6! Bxf6 15.Nd5** Diagram



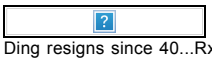
White has voluntarily traded his bishop for knight to get the powerful knight on d5. **15...a5! 16.Rb2** [16.Nxf6+ gxf6 17.bxa5 Rxa5 18.Nh4 Kh8 is fine for Black despite the doubled f-pawns.] **16...axb4 17.axb4 Bd8 18.c4 Nd4 19.Nxd4 exd4 20.Qc2 Re8 21.g3 bxc4 22.Qxc4 c6 23.Nf4 Bg5 24.Ne2 d5 25.exd5 cxd5 26.Qb3** [not 26.Qxd4? Bf6] **26...h5 27.b5 h4?!** This attack on the kingside turns out to be less important thatn the play that White gets from the advanced b-pawn. [27...Rab8 28.b6 Rb7 29.Rfb1 Bd8 30.Qa2 Re6 Keeps the passed b-pawn from becoming a problem.] **28.b6 h3 29.Kh1 Reb8** [29...Qb7!? is passive, but could be a better defense] **30.Rfb1 Bd8** [30...Qf5 31.Nxd4 Defends the mating threat and nets a pawn.] **31.Qb5!** Diagram



The play from the b-pawn takes the action to the queenside. White can defend with little effort (though great care) of the attack from the black queen and h-apwn. **31...Qg4?!** Black is in trouble in any case. More complicated is [31...Qf5 32.Nxd4 Qf6 33.b7 Ra3?! *(33...Ra7 34.Qxd5 Bb6 35.Nf3 Raxb7 36.Ng1!)* 34.Qe8+ Kh7 35.Qd7 Qxd4 36.Qxh3+ Kg6 *(36...Kg8 37.Re2!* wins e.g. *37...Qa4 38.Qc8)* 37.Qc8 Qa7 38.Qg4+ is a very strong, probably winning attack.] **32.Qxd5 Ra5 33.Qc6! Rc5 34.Qe8+ Kh7 35.Ng1** Diagram



White's king is safe and so White is in control. Ding has only bad options and tries a piece sacrifice. **35...Rxb6 36.Qxd8 Rxb2 37.Rxb2 Rc1 38.Qh4+** The safety of the endgame. It looks like White is tied up, but a knight is a knight and Nepo can slowly wiggle out to get the h3 pawn. **38...Qxh4 39.gxh4 Rd1 40.f3** Diagram

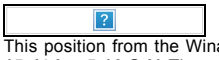


Ding resigns since 40...Rxd3 41.Nxh3 Rxf3 42. Ng5+ is a fork. He could play on with 40...f6 but the ending is quite lost. **1-0**

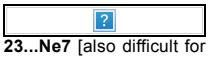
(4) Vachier-Lagrave,Maxime - Nepomniachtchi,Ian [C18]

Candidates, 25.03.2020

This 7th round matchup was already critical. Nepo had won 3 games with no losses. MVL was the only other plus score in the tournament. If Nepo could win he would be a full 2 points ahead of the field. **1.e4 e6!?** playing the French Defense against a Frenchman! Nepo chooses this instead of the Najdorf, which MVL knows extremely well. **2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.h4 Qc7 8.h5 h6 9.Rb1 b6 10.Qg4 Rg8 11.Bb5+ Kf8 12.Bd3 Ba6** Diagram



This position from the Winawer Variation is strategically complex. Theoretically White should have a small edge. In practice it is difficult to navigate the right path. **13.dxc5 Bxd3 14.cxd3 Nd7 15.d4 bxc5 16.Qd1** The retreat keeps some control of the queenside. **16...Qa5 17.Bd2 Rb8 18.Ne2 c4?!** This sets the pawn structure which leaves White with the strong central pawn chain and the attacking chances that go with that. [18...Nc6 is more flexible.] **19.0-0 Rb6** [19...Qxa3 20.Ra1 Qb3 21.Rxa7 Qxd1 22.Rxd1 is a good ending for White] **20.Qc2 Rh8** [20...Qxa3 21.Nf4 is fine compensation for the pawn since the black king is stuck in the center] **21.a4 Ke8 22.Rb4 Nc6 23.f4!** Diagram



23...Ne7 [also difficult for Black is 23...Nxb4 24.cxb4 Qa6 25.f5 Nf8 26.b5 Qb7 27.Ba5] **24.Rfb1 f5 25.Rb5 Qa6 26.Bc1 Kf7 27.Ba3 Rhb8 28.Bxe7 Kxe7 29.g4!** try to pry open the weak king side **29...Rxb5 30.axb5 Rxb5 31.gxf5 Rxb1+ 32.Qxb1 exf5 33.Ng3 Qb6 34.Nxf5+ Kf8 35.Qa1** Diagram



White has a big advantage with the strong e5 pawn and the h-pawn restraining the black g and h pawns. **35...Qe6 36.Ng3 Qg4** active defense, but White will get there first with his queen, knight and e-pawn helping in the attack **37.Kg2 Qxf4 38.Qxa7 Ke7 39.Qa3+ Kd8 40.Qd6!** Diagram



40...g5 desparation, but [40...Ke8 41.Qe6+ Kd8 42.Qxd5 is not better] **41.hxg6 h5 42.g7** Nepo resigned. With this important victory MVL ties for the lead and keeps the race close enough for Caruana and the others. **1-0**

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Chess Room Newsletter #912

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<< Previous (/web/20200924055636/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/911)

Next >> (/web/20200924055636/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/913)

Newsletter #912

Apr 3, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Club Round Robin
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Special Announcement! Collaboration For Online Match With St. Louis Chess Club Set For Wednesday April 15th! Stay Tuned For Details

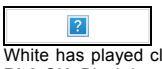
Historic Club Round Robin: Mechanics' Institute, Marshall, Charlotte, and Memphis Chess Clubs

A historic club round robin was played online on April 1st between the Mechanics' Institute, Marshall Chess Club, Charlotte Chess Center, and Memphis Chess Club. This collaboration was an effort to have our chess communities continue the spirit of friendship and competition, and expand the number of clubs participating in online competition. The match was structured as a club quad with 18 players on each team, dividds by rating categories with three players per category. Each match had a time control og G/8 +2, with each player playing their opponent two games, each player playing white/black. The match was streamed on the Mechanics' Chess Club Twitch channel, with commentary by FM Paul Whitehead, FM Jim Eade, Andy Schley, Judit Sztaray, and Abel Talamantez. The match featured some hard fought, action-packed games. In the end, the Charlotte Chess Center emerged victorious with a perfect 3-0 score, followed by Marshall (2 1), Mechanics' (1-2), and Memphis (0-3).

The Mechanics' scored their only win of the match in the first round against Memphis, winning by a score of 21-15. The second round opponent was Charlotte, and we lost that match 22.5-13.5. Though the result was a bit lopsided, the matches for the round were exciting. Many of the games could have gone either way, but the pieces fell in favor of Charlotte. Here are a couple of games from a thrilling round 2. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(8) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2257) - NM Tianqi Wang (NorthYardPrince) Charlotte (2571) [B06] Live Chess Chess.com, 01.04.2020

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Be3 d5 5.Qd2 Nf6 6.e5 Ng8?! Black is playing a provacative opening. Objectively it would be better to play [6...Ne4] **7.0-0-0 b5 8.f4 Nh6 9.h3 Nf5 10.Bf2 h5 11.Nf3 Nd7 12.Bd3 Qa5 13.g4 b4 14.Nb1** Diagram



White has played classically, advancing and taking territory. Black now decides to confuse matters. **14...Nb6?! 15.gxf5 Bxf5 16.Bxf5 Nc4 17.Qd3 gxf5 18.Nfd2 Qxa2 19.Qb3 Qxb3 20.Nxb3 Bh6** OK, Black is a piece down in the endgame and it's not objectively sound. It's blitz though and tricky. **21.Bg3 h4 22.Bh2 a5 23.Nc5 e6 24.Rd3?!** [24.b3!] **24...a4 25.b3?** Diagram

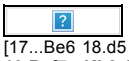


25...a3! Oh! that a-pawn is a terrible trouble maker, ready to queen in two moves. Black is now clearly better. **26.Nxa3 Nxa3 27.Kb2 Nb5 28.Rdd1 0-0 29.Nd3 Nxd4 30.Nxb4 c5 31.Nd3 Rfc8 32.Bg1 Ne2 33.Bxc5 Nxf4 34.Bd6 Ng6 35.Rhg1?** An unfortuante square for the rook. NorthYardPrince takes advantage with a double threat. **35...Be3! 36.c3** 36...Bd4+ was a terrible threat and had to be stopped. Now it is easy for Black after winning the exchange. **36...Bxg1 37.Rxg1 Kh7 38.b4 Rc6 39.Bc5 Kh6 40.b5 Rxc5** giving back the exchange makes the winning technique easy. **41.Nxc5 Ra5 42.Nd3 Rxb5+ 43.Kc2 Ra5 44.Kb3 Ra7 45.Kb2 f4 46.Rg4 f3 47.Rg1 Ra4 48.Rf1 Nf4 49.Nf2 Kg5 50.Re1 Kf5 51.Re3 Re4 52.Rxf3 Re2+ 53.Kb3 Kxe5 0-1**

(9) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2220) - NM Dominique Myers (northridgehawk) Charlotte (2281) [C78]

Live Chess Chess.com, 01.04.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.c3 d6 8.d4 Bb6 9.a4 Rb8 10.a5!? Ba7 [10...Nxa5 Complications arise after 11.Rxa5 Bxa5 12.dxe5 as 12...dxe5?! 13.Qxd8+ Kxd8 14.Nxe5 is very good for White] **11.h3 0-0 12.Be3 Re8** [12...Nxe4? 13.Bd5] **13.Nbd2 exd4 14.cxd4 d5?** Black tries to strike back in the center, but this advance backfires **15.e5 Ne4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Ng5 Re7** Diagram



[17...Be6 18.d5 Bxe3 19.dxe6 Bxg5 20.exf7+ Kh8 21.fxe8Q+ Qxe8 is Black's best choice now, though that should lose anyway.] **18.Qh5!** Blitkrieg. White has so many threats so quickly. **18...h6 19.Bxf7+ Kh8 20.Qg6** 20...hxg5 21. Qh5 is mate. **1-0**

The final round brought high hopes for us as we thought we were evenly matched and could pull off the victory against Marshall. However, they were the better team that day, winning 20.5-15.5.

It was an amazing evening of chess. We want to thank Bryan Quick, Director of the Marshall Chess Club, as well as Grant Oen and Peter Giannatos from Charlotte. Special thanks also to Alex King from the Memphis Chess Club and to Judit Sztaray for coordinating with everyone in getting the match together. We are looking for collaborations with more chess clubs across the country, and we look forward to bringing new matches very soon.

To view the replay of the stream of the event, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EomtPr0RGFM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EomtPr0RGFM)

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

The 3rd edition of the Tuesday Night Online brought 60 players competing for one of the prestigious medals; a gold, silver, or bronze given out for the top three finishers of the Tuesday Night Online of Friday evening blitz. The G/10 +2, 5-round event brought some top players, but it was FM Eric Li taking the gold medal with his final round win over FM Kyron Griffith. Taking the silver medal was Michael Lum and the bronze went to Kristian Clemens.

Here was the deciding final round win by FM Li. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) FM Eric Li (wepkins) (2380) - KyronGriffith (2284) [E90]

Live Chess Chess.com, 31.03.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 Na6 7.Be3 e5 8.d5 Nh5 9.Nd2 Nf4 10.g3 g5?! Diagram



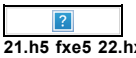
Aggressive play in the King's Indian. Webkins now finds the flaw in the plan. **11.h4!** Black's kingside becomes compromised. The knight on f4 is aggressive, but at some point it can be safely taken. **11...f6 12.Nf3 g4 13.gxf4** Trading pawns and pieces here leaves White strategically in control. **13...exf4 14.Bd4 gxf3 15.Qxf3 c5 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.Qxf4 c5 18.Be3 f5 19.Rg1 Kh8 20.0-0-0** [20.Rxg7!? Kxg7 21.0-0-0] **20...Be5 21.Qh6 f4 22.Bd2 Qf6 23.Qxf6+ Rxf6 24.Nd5** Black has traded to an endgame, but that doesn't solve the problems. **24...Rf7 25.Bc3 Be6 26.Bxe5+ dxe5 27.Rg5** The black pawns are weak. webkins wraps up with good technique. **27...Rg8 28.Rxe5 Bg4 29.Re1 Bf3 30.Bh3 Rg6 31.Re8+ Kg7 32.Ne7 Nc7 33.Rg8+ Kf6 34.Nxg6 hxg6 35.e5+** The only hope here is some blunders. Of course that happens in blitz. **35...Ke7 36.Rxg6 Rh7 37.Bg4! Bxg4 38.Rxg4 Ne6 39.Rd1 Rh5 40.Rd5 Rf5 41.Kd1 Rh5 42.a3 a5 43.Ke2 Rf5 44.Kf3 Rh5 45.Rxf4** This makes it easy to progress without much thought (or time). **45...Nxf4 46.Kxf4 Rxh4+ 47.Kf5 Rxc4 48.e6 Rc2 49.Rd7+ Ke8 50.f4 Rxb2 51.Kf6 Rf2 52.f5 c4 53.Rh7 Kd8 54.Rh8+ Kc7 55.e7 1-0**

Here is another game from the TNO in round 5.

(7) NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) (1621) - Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) (1749) [D30]

Live Chess Chess.com, 31.03.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.b3 Bd6 6.Bb2 Nbd7 7.Ne5?! It's always a little risky to move the same piece twice in the opening and neglect development. Safer is [7.Bd3] **7...Ne4 8.Bd3 Qa5+ 9.Ke2 Nef6?!** [9...Bxe5 10.dxe5 Nec5 is aggressive] **10.f4! Qc7 11.Nc3 dxc4 12.bxc4 a6 13.c5 Bxe5?!** [13...Be7] **14.fxe5 Nd5 15.Ne4** Now White has an aggressive position and control over the dark squares in the center. **15...0-0 16.Nd6 b6 17.Rc1?!** [Letting the pawn wedge get broken up. White can keep and edge with 17.cxb6 N7xb6 18.Rc1] **17...bxc5 18.dxc5 Rb8 19.Bd4 g6** [19...f6!] **20.h4 f6** Diagram



21.h5 fxe5 22.hxg6? Wonderfully brave, but it doesn't work well. White can keep chances by saving his bishop with [22.Ba1] **22...exd4! 23.Rxh7 Rb2+!** winning the queen, since **24.Bc2** [24.Ke1 Qa5+ is the end] **24...Nc3+ 25.Kd2 Nxd1 26.Rxd1 dxe3+ 27.Kc1 Rxc2+ 28.Kxc2 Qa5 29.Rdh1 Qxc5+ 30.Kb1 Qxd6! 0-1**

To see the full results for this event, please follow this link:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-rapid-1168843 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-rapid-1168843)

Mechanics' Online Event Recap

The Friday Night Blitz on March 27 drew 55 players, and the gold medal for that event was won by FM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) with a score of 8.5/10. Silver medal went to NM ChessInstinct with a score of 8/10, and the bronze went to Shaashwath Sivakumar (Dontmesswithme_2) with 7.5/10.

Here is a fine win by Josiah over IM Elliott Winslow from round 3. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(6) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2154) - FM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2468) [B33]

Live Chess Chess.com, 27.03.2020

Another meeting of these long time rivals. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3** [11.Bxb5; 11.Nxb5] **11...Be6** A classic position from the Sveshnikov Sicilian. **12.Nxb5?** Strange. This sacrifice doesn't make problems for Black as the sacrifices on move 11. **12...axb5 13.Bxb5 Rc8 14.exf5** Diagram



14...Qa5+! This precise move just leaves Black a piece ahead for insufficient compensation. **15.c3** [15.Nc3 Bxf5] **15...Qxb5 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.Qh5+ Kd8** The black king had to move, but he is safe in the center. The black center pawns control squares so White cannot mount a real attack. **18.Qg5+ Ne7 19.Nxe7 Bxe7 20.Qd2 Rg8 21.g3 Kd7 22.0-0-0 Rc6 23.Kb1 Rb8** Black goes on the offensive. The result is not in doubt. **24.Rhe1 Rcb6 25.Re2 Qa4 26.Qd3 Ra8 27.b4 e4! 28.Qd4 Bf6 29.Qd2 Bxc3 0-1**

Full results from that event can be found here:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-blitz-1163890 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-blitz-1163890)

The Thursday Night Late Showdown on April 2 was won by FM Andy Lee (falsenarwhal) with a score of 4/5. He took first on tiebreaks over FM Kyron Griffith and jackyripper. Below is the final round match between Andy Lee and Kyron Griffith.

(11) KyronGriffith (2500) - FM Andy Lee (falsenarwhal) (2190) [C47]

Live Chess Chess.com, 02.04.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 0-0!? Black tries to confuse matters offering a pawn instead of the well know recapture on d5. Kyron decides not to take the bait and transposes back to the main line. **9.0-0** [9.dxc6 Re8+ 10.Be3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Ng4 12.Qf3 Qd6 is probably better for White, but confusing.] **9...cxd5 10.Bg5 c6 11.Qf3 Be7 12.h3 h6 13.Bf4 Bd6 14.Ne2 c5 15.Rad1 Rb8 16.b3 Bb7 17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.Qf4 Qc6 19.Rfe1 Rfe8 20.Ng3** The position is roughly equal. Black has a nice pawn duo on c5 and d5 which offer dynamic posibilities. White has play on the kingside with the queen and knight. **20...c4?!** This uses up the potential of the pawns too early. [20...d4 is about equal as the pawns are strong and the black bishop active.] **21.Bf1** [Also good is 21.bxc4 dxc4 22.Bf1!] **21...cxb3 22.cxb3 Ne4?** The position is already difficult for Black to play. This move gets in serious trouble. He could try instead [22...Rxe1 23.Rxe1 Re8] **23.Nxe4 dxe4 24.Bc4!** Diagram



All of Whites pieces become very active. All are posted on excellent squares. **24...Qf6 25.Qxf6 gxf6 26.Rd7 Rf8 27.Re3** very nice. The endgame cannot be held. **27...a5 28.Rg3+ Kh7 29.Bxf7 Rfd8 30.Bg8+ Kh8 31.Rh7# 1-0**

Full results can be found here:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-late-night-showdown-1169453 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-late-night-showdown-1169453)

To participate in our chess events, ask to join the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club Online by clicking on this link:

https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Mechanics' Institute - Online Offerings For Our Scholastic community

We had more than 160 kids playing in our online scholastic tournaments!

We are excited to see new IDs and new kids playing in each tournment. There are some interesting and very exciting games, and we encourage everyone to keep up the great participation.

Upcoming schedule *(to join, click on the link under Join from 3:45PM)*

4/7 Tuesday 4PM: Mechanics' Tuesday Kids - Join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=17896)
4/9 Thursday 4PM: Mechanics' Thursday Kids - Join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=17897)
4/11 Saturday 4PM: Mechanics' Saturday Kids - Join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=17898)
4/12 Sunday 4PM: Mechanics' Sunday Kids - Join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=17899)

Time control: Two main format we are trying out:
Game in 5 minutes (5 min for each players) with 5 sec added with each move.
Game in 10 min (10 min for each players) with 2 sec added with each move.
Join (sign up) for the tournament: at 3:45PM - 15 minutes before the start time. First round starts 4PM sharp!

Look at upcoming tournaments: https://www.chesskid.com/clubs/tournaments/mechanics-chess-club/fast
(https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chesskid.com/clubs/tournaments/mechanics-chess-club/fast)

Joining is easy! Group: https://www.chesskid.com/groups/sub/mechanics-institute (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chesskid.com/groups/sub/mechanics-institute)

If you are new - https://www.chesskid.com/register/kid/group/QCJJNH (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chesskid.com/register/kid/group/QCJJNH)

If you already have an account - Registration Key: QCJJNH

- Find the 6-digit Registration Key on the "Info" tab page of your Group. Give this code to the Kid.

- Have the Kid log in to his own account & click the grey Settings icon. **They'll need to log in from a browser for access to this page.**
- Enter the Kid's first & last name, and parent/guardian email.
- Click "Do you have a Group Registration Key"
- Enter the 6 digit Registration Key & click Save. The kid will be added to your Group
- Note: If you do not see a place where you can add Registration Key, that means you need to add Mechanics' as a Secondary Guardian. Email us for further instructions.

The kids play some very interesting games online, and we thought we should showcase a few of our up and comers. Here are a few games from our scholastic tournaments, with annotations by our Grandmaster-in Residence, 3-time U.S. Champion Nick de Firmian.

(1) DarkCapableCharm (1353) - FairSafeInk (1349)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 The Smith-Morra Gambit is a practical choice, especially in Blitz chess. **4...d6 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.Nf3 g6?** Diagram

Not good here. 6...e6 holds the center squares. **7.e5! Nfd7** [7...dxe5? 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qxd8] **8.exd6 exd6 9.Qd5?** Too eager to checkmate on f7! With the simple developing move [9.0-0 Black would be in big trouble, e.g. 9...Nc6 *(9...Be7 10.Bh6)* 10.Re1+ Nde5 11.Qb3] **9...Qe7+ 10.Kf1 Bg7 11.Bg5 Nf6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Re1 Be6 14.Bb5+?!** [White could still have attacking chances after 14.Qb5+ Qd7 15.Qb3!] **14...Nd7 15.Bxd7+?! Qxd7 16.Qe4 0-0 17.Nd5?** Black has come back to take the advantage and now White blunders a piece. **17...Bxb2** [17...Qb5+!] **18.Ng5 Qb5+! 19.Kg1 Bxd5 20.Qh4** With an extra piece, the bishop pair, two extra pawns and a safer king Black has the game in the bag - except this is blitz chess. **20...Rae8?? 21.Qxh7# 1-0**

(2) rjchess (1229) - BentActiveTank (1089)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Nc3 Nh6?! Knight on the rim is grim! **5.d3 0-0 6.Bxh6 Qf6?** giving a piece. Better to take the medicine with [6...gxh6] **7.Nd5?** [7.Be3 is simple and strong] **7...Qxh6 8.0-0 d6 9.Nxc7 Qg6? 10.Nxa8** oops **10...Bh3 11.g3?** [11.Nh4! guarding mate and attacking the queen would be very good.] **11...Bxf1 12.Nh4 Qf6 13.Qd2?** [13.Qxf1! guards f2 and takes the piece] **13...Nb4?** [13...Bh3! saves the good bishop which can help for check mates] **14.Rxf1 Nxa2 15.Nc7 Bb4 16.Nd5 Qe6 17.c3 Bc5 18.Nb4 Qh3 19.Re1 d5 20.exd5 Bd6 21.Nxa2 e4 22.dxe4 Be5 23.Nf5 h5 24.Nb4 h4 25.Nd3 hxg3 26.Nxe5?!** [26.hxg3!] **26...Qxh2+ 27.Kf1 g2+ 28.Ke2 g1Q** Diagram

You must say these players provide real action! **29.Ne7+ Kh8 30.Rxg1 Qxg1 31.Nxf7+** [31.Qf4!] **31...Rxf7 32.d6? Qxf2+** [32...Rxf2+!] **33.Kd3 Qf3+ 34.Kd4 Qf6+ 35.Kd3** [35.e5!] **35...Qxd6+ 36.Nd5 Rf3+ 37.Ke2 Rf4** [37...Qh2+ 38.Kd1] **38.Ke3 Rh4 39.Qd4 Qg3+ 40.Ke2 Rh2+ 41.Kf1 Rh1+** [41...Qg2+ 42.Ke1 Rh1+ 43.Bf1 Rxf1#] **42.Ke2 Re1+? 43.Kd2 Qg2+? 44.Kd3? Qd2+??** [44...Qe2#] **45.Kxd2 1-0**

(3) dinosaurus333 (1186) - elizurfk (1267)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 A tricky opening! Particularly for blitz chess. **3.d3** [White has the advantage after 3.exd5 e4 4.Qe2!] **3...dxe4 4.dxe4 Qxd1+ 5.Kxd1 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Bc4** [It's always good to develop pieces if you can, so preferable is 7.Nc3] **7...Bg4 8.h3 0-0-0+ 9.Bd2 Bh5 10.g4 Bg6 11.Ng5?!** Diagram

11...Nf6! development! **12.Nxf7 Bxf7 13.Bxf7 Nxe4** Now White has lots of problems due to the active Black pieces. **14.Be6+ Kb8 15.Re1 Nxf2+ 16.Kc1 Nxh3 17.Re4?!** [17.Nc3!] **17...Nf2 18.Rf4? Nh3?** probably the score is mistaken here for these last moves **19.Ra4 Bc5 20.Nc3 Rhe8 21.Bf7 Re7! 22.Rc4 Rxf7 23.Rxc5 Rf1+** ouch! **24.Nd1 Nf2 25.c3 Rxd1+ 26.Kc2 R8xd2+ 27.Kb3 Rxa1 28.Rc4 Rb1 29.Ka3 Rbxb2 30.g5 Rxa2+ 31.Kb3 Rdb2# 0-1**

(4) DarkCapableCharm (1304) - zzng (1176)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 h6?! This doesn't help getting the pieces out. 4...d6 or 4...Nf6 is better. **5.d4 d6?** forgetting the threat **6.dxc5 Nf6 7.cxd6 cxd6 8.Qd3 0-0 9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Re8 12.Qg3?!** Threatening 13. Bxh6. but this is too eager! Bring out all the pieces and the attack is easy. **12...Nxe4 13.Qg4 Nf6 14.Qg3 Ne4 15.Qf3 Nf6 16.Nd2 d5 17.Bb5 a6 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.c4 Ra7 20.cxd5 cxd5 21.Rd1 Rd7 22.Nb3 a5** Black has done a good job after blundering a piece on move 5. The center pawns and centralized pieces provide chances. **23.Qg3 Ne4 24.Qg4 Nf6 25.Qh4 Ne4?!** You don't want to trade queens a piece down. **26.Qxd8 Rdxd8 27.Nxa5 f6 28.Nc6 Rd6 29.Nb4 d4 30.Re1 Nc5 31.f4?! e4** Now Black has powerful passed pawns. **32.Bd2 f5 33.Nc2 Ree6?** [After fighting back well, Black allows White to trade pieces and wrap up the point. With 33...Nd3! things would be uncertain.] **34.Bb4! Rd5 35.Nxd4! Rxd4 36.Bxc5 Rd2 37.a4 Rxb2 38.a5 Rb5 39.a6! Rxc5 40.a7 Rc8 41.a8Q Rxa8 42.Rxa8+ Kf7 43.Kf2 e3+ 44.Rxe3 Rb6 45.Ra7+ Kf6 46.g4 g6 47.h4 Rb2+ 48.Kg3 Rb1 49.g5+ hxg5 50.hxg5# 1-0**

If you have any problem connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you a step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

Online Chess Classes for Kids

Our chess coaches have transitioned their classes to online platforms. We have had two weeks with full classes of students for small group classes, learning, playing chess, connecting and having fun together. We encourage you to try one of our popular online classes. Our schedule is open for any student to join, and we are adding classes as demand grows.

Current schedule:
Monday - Coach Andy 4-5PM
Tuesday - Coach Andy 3-4PM
Wednesday - Coach Colin 3-4PM
Thursday - Coach David 3-4PM
Friday - Coach Andy 1-2PM

Class Fee: $25/single class, $45/2 classes, $80/4 classes

Sign up via Jumbula: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes)

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

4/3 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1173221 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1173221)
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

4/4 Saturday - Saturday Matinee
Format: 3 rounds of G/30+0
Join from 1PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1173222 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1173222)
Start: 2PM

4/5 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1173224 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1173224)
Start: 9PM

4/6 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=177856 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chess.com/live#r=177856)
Start: 6:30PM

4/7 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1176887 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1176887)
Start: 6:30PM

4/8 Wednesday - Club Team Match Night
Let's Do It Again Match with Charlotte
Format: 2 games G/15+2
Starting 4:30PM
Sign up via Google Form: https://forms.gle/3ZcGvBuCBzpYs3wXA (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://forms.gle/3ZcGvBuCBzpYs3wXA)

4/9 Thursday - Club Team Match Night
Club Match with Pittsburgh Chess Club
Format: 2 games G/15+10
Join the tournament from 4PM onward.
First game starts at 5PM.

4/10 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM via
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

4/11 Saturday - Saturday Online Matinee
Format: 3 rounds of G/30 (Swiss)
Join from 1PM via
Start: 2PM sharp, approx. end 5PM

4/12 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2 (Swiss)
Join from 8PM via
Start: 9PM sharp, approx. end 10PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Early Chess Stories, Part 3

In the Fall of 1972, my family returned to the States after a four-plus year hiatus, sailing back on the *S.S. France* this time. On our way back to San Francisco we stopped in New York City and visited the famous Manhattan Chess Club, located in a suite of offices in Mid-Town, I think.

I was in awe. This was the club Bobby Fischer had cut his teeth in.

In New York I bought my first chess book: *Paul Morphy and the Golden Age of Chess*, by William Ewart Napier. Chess was in my blood, and my brother's as well.

Back in the Bay Area my brother and I really hit our stride, joining the venerable and fabulous Mechanics' Institute. At the time membership dues were $5.00 yearly, and prospective members needed to be vouched for by 2 other MI members. I don't recall ever using the library in those early years, just the chess club. My brother and I were in the club at all hours, whenever we could get a ride down there or take the bus. I've written a fond memory of those early days in a previous newsletter, here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/863 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924055636/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/863)

In that first year or two Jay and I played in lots of tournaments in the Bay Area, as a whole world (or sub-culture, if you like) opened up. Chess books and magazines, rating points and cross-tables, organizers and players, the Masters and the Fish (the weak chess players), tournaments and skittles – what a world it was. My brother and I, precocious and intelligent, fit right in with the Bohemian *gestalt* of the times: long hair and drugs meets Chess Life & Review, *Think Like a Grandmaster* meets White Punks on Dope.

Paul Whitehead (seated) and Jay Whitehead, LERA 1973

Casual chess – blitz- was extremely popular in a whole succession of cafes in San Francisco, and very strong players were to be found first at the Blue Unicorn on Hayes Street in the Haight-Ashbury, and later at the Sacred Grounds (Hayes Street again), and the Meat Market Coffeehouse on 24th Street. For those older than Jay and me, there was Vesuvio Café in North Beach.

Chess tournaments were everywhere in the Bay Area: the Stamer and Capps Memorials at the Mechanics' Institute were major events at the time, attracting local GM's and IM's like Browne, Tarjan, Christiansen, de Firmian, Biyiasis, Grefe. These local giants were joined by visiting stars of the time, such as Seirawan and Shamkovitch, Shirazi and Lein.

There was the People's Tournament in Berkeley.

Although Raymond Conway ruled supreme as the Director of the MI, the 1970's also saw other organizers trying to muscle in. Benson and Goodall were busy carving out major territory in the East Bay, and Jim Hurt had Santa Clara sewn up with the LERA tournaments. Hans Poschmann was the Lord of Fremont, while Ted and Ruby Yudakufski kept the peace in Monterey.

And the players Jay and I met: just about everyone. It was still rare-ish to see kids at tournaments in those days, and Jay and I stood out. We were talented, and we had moxie. And we were getting good.

The influence and mentorship of a few great friends - and strong chess players- can be enormous, and I count Jeremy Silman, Joe Tracy and Steve Brandwein as especially important guides in those early days. Every time I make a move, I can imagine them telling me something … their laughter and wisdom have lasted a lifetime.

Bobby Fischer was World Champion, and chess was everywhere.

(To be continued)

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Meet the Candidates

This week: Ding Liren

Even though the Candidates Tournament has been halted mid-way, we continue our investigation of the participants as they are the best in the world and have many interesting things to show us from their games. This week we look at Ding Liren, China's number one player and 3rd in the world by rating. Ding is famous for his hundred game undefeated streak and for very solid, accurate play. We show here his earlier games when he played with great adventure. The first game (against Kamsky) is a gem where Ding plays marvelous, risky moves where you simply have to trust your intuition as the complications are too complex.

Ding has been at the top of the chess world and was favored (along with Caruana) to win the Candidates Tournament. He was stuck in Russia for two weeks before the event and was suffering with the circumstances there. Clearly we have not seen his good form, and now almost certainly he will have to wait until the next Candidates Tournament to become the challenger. This is rather like Tal in 1961 when he had to deal with health issues and the death of his father right before the return match with Botvinnik. Sometimes the events of the greater world have a

large influence on the world of the chess board.

(1) Gata Kamsky (2730) - Ding Liren (2628) [C11]

Aeroflot Open Moscow RUS (6), 13.02.2011

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Ne2!? Diagram

The players have entered the Steinitz Variation of the French Defense. The usual move for White is the developing 7. Be3. Kamsky chooses to bolster the defense of d4, which is logical but he must deal with lagging development. **7...Be7 8.c3 0-0 9.Be3 f6!** Trying to open the game to use the lead in development. **10.g3 Qb6 11.Qd2 fxe5 12.dxe5** This is the best recapture now, though the pawn structure is much more fluid than a typical French. Chances are roughly equal. **12...Rd8 13.Bh3** Diagram

13...d4! 14.Bf2 [14.Bxe6+ Kh8 Helps Black's developmengt and leaves the bishop on e6 open to a discovered attack.] **14...d3 15.Nc1 Nf8 16.b3 Qa6 17.a4 b5 18.0-0 Bb7 19.Ra2?!** Kamsky should have offered the exchange sacrifice with [19.axb5 Qxa1 20.bxc6 Bxc6] **19...b4 20.c4 Na5 21.Be3** Diagram

21...Nxc4!? Ding is playing like Tal this game! He gets pressure and two pawns for the knight, **22.bxc4 Qxc4 23.f5 exf5 24.Bxf5 Qd5 25.Bxd3 c4 26.Bb1 Qc6 27.Qe1 Ng6 28.Raf2?!** This logical move leads to the white pieces getting bottled up. White should have taken the night on g6 with his bishop to stay even. **28...Nxe5 29.Ne2 Rd3! 30.Ned4 Qd5** Diagram



Black's position is a picture of harmony. The queen and bishop on the long white diagonal pressure with mating possibilites, the other pieces are active and the b and c pawns are a potent duo. **31.Bxd3?! Nxd3 32.Qd2 Nxf2 33.Rxf2 Rf8 34.h4?! c3 35.Qd3 Bc5** The black bishops work in tandem. White is just barely holding on. **36.Bf4 Rd8 37.Be5?** It was necessary to play 37. Be3. The game move gives Black a tempo to come in on the e-file. **37...Re8 38.Bf4 Re1+ 39.Rf1** Diagram



39...Qxf3! 40.Qxf3 Bxd4+ Kamsky resigned as after 41. Kh2 Bxf3 42. Rxe1 b3 Black's monster pawns win easily. **0-1**

(2) Ding Liren (2654) - Alexander Areshchenko (2682) [E60]

World Chess Team Championship Ningbo CHN (2), 18.07.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 A reasonable move if White is happy to play the Saemisch Variation of the King's Indian. Areschenko goes another way with Black. **3...Nc6!? 4.d5 Ne5 5.e4 d6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.f4 Ned7 8.Nh3 0-0 9.Be2 Nc5 10.Nf2** The opening play has been a bit unorthodox but good. Chances are about even. **10...Re8** [10...c6] **11.0-0 e5** Diagram



12.f5! Ding gives a pawn to gain advantage in the pawn structur and blunt Black's activity. **12...gxf5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Ng4 Bxg4 15.Bxg4 Nxg4?!** After this exchange White is able to control the king side light squares. Better was [15...e4] **16.Qxg4 Qd7 17.Rf5! e4?!** [Black could prevent White's next move by 17...Kh8] **18.Bh6 f6 19.b4 Na6 20.Bxg7** [20.a3! may be even better as the black knight stays on the sidelines for a while.] **20...Qxg7 21.Qf4 Nxb4 22.Nxe4 Kh8 23.Rf1 Nd3?!** [The pressure is building so Black should try to exchange what he can. Best was 23...Re5 24.Nxf6 Rxf5 25.Qxf5 Rf8] **24.Qh4 Re5?** Too late! Now this doesn't lead to an exchange. Black stays in the game longer with [24...Rg8] **25.R5f3! f5** there is no way out now [25...Rg8 26.Rg3 forces 26...Rg5 27.Nxg5 fxg5 28.Qe4 should win; on 25...Nc5 26.Nxf6] **26.Nf6 Nc5 27.Rh3 Re7** Diagram

28.Nxh7! 1-0

(3) Ding Liren (2660) - Lu Shanglei (2514) [D24]

Chinese Chess Championship Xinghua CHN (5), 31.03.2012

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Diagram

Ding has played aggresively, sacrificing one pawn and now offering another. **8...Be7?!** [White will get good play in any case. Black may as well be gready here 8...Bxc3 9.Rb1 Nc6 10.Qb3 Bxd4 11.Rd1 0-0 12.Ba3 is a lot of pressure for White, but since Black is two pawns up he can give material back when he chooses.] **9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4!?** [13.Rad1 would be a normal plan for White. Instead Ding has something special in mind.] **13...g6?** Diagram

[13...Nc6 was needed.] **14.Bxg6! fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5** Ding has saced two pieces for this ferocious attack. The black king is open and half of his pieces are just sitting on the queenside. **17...Bxg5** opening the f-file for White. The alternative was to guard the bishop - [17...Rf8 18.Rf3 Bxg5 19.Rh3+ Bh4 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Rxh4 would force Black to sacrifice his queen with 21...Qxh4] **18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8?!** [21...Qf8 22.Rxf8+ Nxf8 23.Rf1 Bd7 24.h4 is winning for White, but Black could hold out for a while.] **22.Raf1 Nxg6** Diagram

23.Rg3! Rg7 24.Rxg6 Black resigns as 24...Qe7 25. R1f6 will win the queen. **1-0**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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Newsletter #913

Apr 10, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Mechanics'-St. Louis Club Match
- Mechanics' - Charlotte
- Mechanics' - Pittsburgh
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- US Chess Article
- Dr. Alexey Root
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Mechanics' Institute To Play St. Louis Chess Club Wednesday April 15th!



We are excited to announce we have scheduled a club match on Wednesday April 15th with the St. Louis Chess Club. This first match will be 18 players per side, with three players in each of the following categories; u/2400, u/2200, u/2000, u/1800, u/1600, u/1400. Each player will play the same opponent twice, once as white, once as black, with a time control of G/20 +2. We hope this will be the first of many online collaborations with St. Louis, and we would like to thank the St. Louis Chess Club Executive Director Tony Rich and Assistant Manager Mike Kummer for helping organize the tournament. The match will start at 5:30PM, and we will stream the match on our Twitch channel https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess). We look forward to a fun and competitive tournament!

Mechanics' Institute Loses Close Match To Charlotte Chess Center

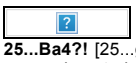
The Mechanics' narrowly lost a thrilling club match against the Charlotte Chess Center that came down to the last few games, 45-41. The match had 44 players a side and a time control of G/15 +2. This "Let's Do It Again" match was rematch of a previous 50-player-per-side match in which Mechanics' dominated the middle boards to cruise to victory. In this match, there was parity across all boards, and Charlotte pulled our victories in key games to pull them to victory. FM Paul Whitehead, FM Jim Eade, Judit Sztaray, and Abel Talamantez provided commentary for this match, which was streamed on the MI Chess Twitch channel. We want to thank Grant Oen and Peter Giannatos from the Charlotte Chess Center for helping organize this event.

We had some exciting matches, including this fine win by FM Josiah Stearman from Mechanics' against FM Peter Giannatos. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

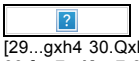
FM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2287) - FM Pete Giannatos (Giannatos) (2001) [B03]

Live Chess Chess.com, 08.04.2020

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 Many masters recapture with [5...exd6 which is a bit boring yet solid like Petov's Defense.] **6.Nc3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Rc1 0-0 9.b3** This is a very solid system which limits Black's counterplay. White has the more pleasant side to play. **9...Bf5 10.g3!?** [10.Nf3 is safer. White is playing originally but that gives opportunity to the second player.] **10...Nc6 11.Nge2?! d5?!** [11...Nb4! 12.Nf4 e5 is simply good for Black. White would have to suffer.] **12.c5 Nc8?!** [12...Nd7!] **13.Bg2 e6 14.Qd2 N8e7 15.a3 e5 16.0-0 Bg4 17.f3 Be6 18.dxe5 Nf5** [18...Bxe5 would be about equal] **19.Bf2 d4! 20.Nb5 Bxe5 21.f4 Bg7 22.g4 Nh4 23.f5?!** [23.Be4 Bxg4 24.Nd6 is a good alternative] **23...Bxb3 24.Be4 Re8 25.Qd3** Diagram



25...Ba4?! [25...gxf5 26.gxf5 Qg5+ 27.Kh1 Rxe4 28.Qxe4 Qxf5! 29.Qxf5 *(29.Qxh4 Bd5+ 30.Kg1 Qf3)* 29...Nxf5 would leave Black with a great endgame, having two pawns and excellent light-squared control. The white king could come under pressure even without the queens on.] **26.Nd6 Ne5?** 26...Qg5 to control the king side squares was needed. The game move loses control of that area. **27.Qh3! d3** [27...g5 28.Nxd4 is less damage, though White would have a firm grip and easy game to play.] **28.Bxh4 g5 29.f6** [29.Nc3 d2 30.Rb1 d1Q 31.Nxd1 gxh4 32.f6 Bxf6 33.g5 is also very good] **29...dxe2?!** Diagram



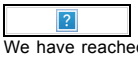
[29...gxh4 30.Qxh4 Ng6 31.Bxg6 hxg6 32.g5! would be a winning attack, though still complicated. Now it's over] **30.Bxh7+! Kf8** [30...Kxh7 31.Bxg5+ Kg8 32.fxg7] **31.Bxg5 exf1Q+ 32.Rxf1 Qa5 33.fxg7+ Kxg7 34.Qh6+ Kh8 35.Bf6#** Great attack by Josiah! **1-0**

FM Eric Li also delivered for Mechanics' Institute, winning both games against FM Benjamin Moon. Here is one of his victories.

(1) FM Benjamin Moon (JustKid) (2096) - FM Eric Li (wepkins) (2395) [A45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 08.04.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 c5 4.dxc5 Usually White keeps the position more closed in this London System instead of the pawn capture here. **4...Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.c3 e6 7.b4 a5 8.Qb3 Ne4** Black has compensation for the pawn, though 8...Nh5 would be simpler. **9.f3 g5! 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Be5 f6 12.Bd4 e5** Diagram



We have reached a complicated, unusual positon from this opening. This is where you have to make the right choices. **13.Bxe5?** [13.fxe4 exd4 14.cxd4 dxe4 15.b5! cxb5 16.Nc3 would give White active play and good control in the center.] **13...Nxc5! 14.bxc5 fxe5 15.Qa3 Qe7** Black will get his pawn back with the bishop pair and a strong center. He has a big advantage. **16.Ne2 Qxc5 17.Qc1** Staying in the middle game is a practical choice. Objectively there were more chances for White in the endgame. **17...Bg7 18.0-0 0-0 19.Kh1 g4!** Trading off the one misplaced black pawn and loosening the white kingside. **20.Ng3 gxf3 21.gxf3 Kh8 22.e4 Bh3 23.Rg1 Qf2** There is no hope here. **24.Qd1 Qxf3+ 25.Qxf3 Rxf3 26.Nd2 Rxc3 27.Rac1 Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Bh6 29.Rc2 Rb8 30.Kg1?! Be3+ 31.Kh1 Bxd2 0-1**

We wish to thank all our players who came out to represent Mechanics'. It is a pleasure for us to see our club regulars and new members coming together for an exciting evening of chess, in friendly competition with other clubs around the country.

For full results from this match, please follow this link: https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/7378 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/7378)

For the replay of the live stream, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFMrtJa5cf0 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFMrtJa5cf0)

Mechanics' Institute Dominates Pittsburgh Chess Club As Top Board Steals The Show

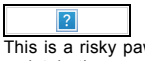
Team Mechanics' Institute turned in a dominant performance against our newest partner, the Pittsburgh Chess Club, 22-4 in a match that featured 13 players a side with a time control of G/15 +10. This was Pittsburgh's first collaboration in online club matches, which featured some strong players on the first few boards, with some lower-rated players making up the rest of the field. Mechanics' had several players looking to play, so the top 13 players who registered represented our club, which meant we had a big advantage in rating in the middle and bottom boards. The goal of this match was the engagement and friendly competition, and we definitley had that in the match as the chat was lively, and represented the spirit in which this match was organized.

The marquee matchup in this match was the top board, as GM James Tarjan represented Mechanics' against GM Alexander Shabalov for Pittsburgh. The matchup lived up to its billing, delivering this fine game in the first round, where Tarjan can out on top. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(4) GM James Tarjan (Tirantes) - GM Alexander Shabalov (superblysse)

Live Chess Chess.com

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 Bb4 4.e4!? 0-0 [4...Bxc3 5.bxc3 Nxe4 6.Qe2 gets the pawn back] **5.Nge2 c6 6.Bg2 d5!?** Diagram



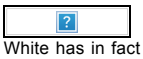
This is a risky pawn sacrifice to open the game. **7.cxd5 cxd5 8.exd5 Bf5 9.d4 e4 10.0-0 Na6 11.Qb3 Re8 12.Bf4 Qd7 13.Bg5 Be7 14.a3?!** [14.Nf4 Nxd5 15.Nfxd5 Bxg5 16.Rae1 would maintain the pawn advantage.] **14...h6** [14...Nxd5!] **15.Bf4 Bh3 16.f3 exf3 17.Rxf3 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Bd6?!** It would be better to develop and take the d-pawn with [18...Rad8 19.Raf1 Nxd5] **19.Bxh6! Ng4** [19...Nc7! pressures the d-pawn] **20.Bd2 b5!? 21.h3 Nf6 22.Raf1** [22.Bg5! eases pressure on the d-pawn] **22...b4 23.axb4 Nxb4 24.Nf4 Rab8 25.Qd1 Bc7 26.Kh2 Nbxd5?** finally taking the weak d-pawn, but at the wrong moment when f7 is loose. **27.Nfxd5 Nxd5 28.Rxf7! Nxc3 29.Bxc3 Qd6** [There is no hope in trading the queen for the rooks, e.g. 29...Qxf7 30.Rxf7 Kxf7 31.Qf3+ Kg8 32.Qd5+ Kh8 33.Qf7 Bb6 34.d5 Re2+ 35.Kh1] **30.Qg4 Re2+** may as well get a couple checks **31.Qxe2 Qxg3+ 32.Kh1 Qxh3+ 33.Kg1 Qg3+ 34.Qg2 Qe3+ 35.R1f2 Bg3 36.d5 Qc1+ 37.Qf1 1-0**

Here is a fine positional win from the match, by our board 2 FM Balaji Daguppati against FM Gabriel Petesch,

(3) FM Gabriel Petesch (nfds) - FM Balaji Daguppati (chess2thesun)

Live Chess Chess.com

1.Nf3 d5 2.Nc3 This two knights attack is unusual but has the disadvantage that the center doesn't get the immediate influence of the white pawns. **2...Nf6 3.b3 g6 4.Bb2 Bg7 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Na4 b6 9.c4** Better late than never! The white c-pawn joins the battle. **9...Bb7 10.d4 dxc4 11.dxc5 b5 12.Nc3?!** White needed to go tactical to solve the problems. With [12.Nd4! Nxd4 13.Bxb7 Ne6 14.Nc3 b4 15.Na4 c3 16.Bc1 he would at least keep it complicated.] **12...b4 13.Na4 c3 14.Bc1 Ne4** [14...Qxd1 15.Rxd1 Rad8 16.Be3 Ng4 is a big edge in the endgame.] **15.Qc2 f5 16.Be3 Qc7 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.Rc1 e5** Black has control of the board with pieces on their best developed squares and pawns advancing. Note the powerful pawns on b4 and c3 keep the white knight on a4 stranded. **19.Rfe1 f4! 20.Qxe4?!** Diving into the complications. The position was bad anyway. **20...Nd4 21.Qxb7 Nxe2+ 22.Rxe2 Qxb7** Diagram



White has in fact three pieces for a queen, but the black pawns cause too many problems. **23.c6** [23.gxf4 exf4 24.Bd4 Qb5 25.Re4 Bxd4 26.Nxd4 Qd3 27.Ne6 f3 is one line that illustrates White's problems. There are just too many loose pieces and lack of coordination for White.] **23...Qb5 24.c7 Qxe2! 25.cxd8Q Rxd8 26.gxf4 Rd1+ 27.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 28.Bf1 Qxf3 29.fxe5 Bxe5** Queen against two pieces and the powerful c3 pawn make it easy. **30.Nc5 c2 31.Nd3 Bd4 32.Bxd4 Qg4+ 33.Kh1 Qxd4 34.Kg2 Qxd3 35.Bxd3 c1Q 0-1**

We want to thank Pittsburgh club director Mark Jeromin for helping organize this match, and we look forward to future matches.

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

The Tuesday Night Online showcased youth dominance, as FM Eric Li finished first with a perfect 5-0 score, winning the evenings gold medal. NM Ruiyang Yan finished in 2nd place on tiebreakers with 4/5 for the silver, followed by bobbejaan also with 4/5 for the bronze. The event had 67 players with a time control of G/10 +2, played over 5 rounds.

FM Eric Li closed the show with this final round win over bobbejaan. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(6) FM Eric Li (wepkins) (2367) - bobbejaan (1997) [E61]

Live Chess Chess.com, 07.04.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 g6 4.e4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 e5 7.d5 Nbd7 8.Be3 Nc5 9.Nd2 [9.Bxc5?! dxc5 10.Nxe5?! Qe7 11.f4 Nh5 would not hold together.] **9...c6 10.g4 cxd5 11.cxd5 h5?!** It seems a bit early to hit with the h-pawn. If White castles it would be good. Here however the black king seems to get the worst of the king side opening. **12.Be2 hxg4 13.hxg4** Diagram



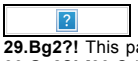
An interesting King's Indian position. White has grabbed space on the king side as well as the center. That's a nice plus, but where will the white king go? Perhaps it stays in the center. Black now would do best to try a "normal" King's Indian move such as 13...a5 or 13...Bd7. **13...Qd7?! 14.g5 Ne8 15.Rg1 a6?? 16.b4** oops. No where for the knight to go. **16...Nxe4 17.Ndxe4 f5?!** Often one feels the need to do something active and aggressive after making a blunder. The problem is that such moves usually make things worse, and here is no exception. **18.gxf6 Bxf6 19.Rxg6+ 1-0**

Here is another fine game from the tournament from two strong Bay Area players Kristian Clemens and Rohan Rajaram, with Rajaram coming out on top.

(5) kclemens (1833) - ninjatrick (1768) [D02]

Live Chess Chess.com, 07.04.2020

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 dxc4 8.Bxc4 c5 More usual is 8...b5. The problem with playing this way is that the c-pawn took two squares to come to c5, so White has an opening edge. **9.Qe2 b6 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.d5** [11.e4 cxd4 12.Nb5 Qb7 13.e5 Nd5 14.Nfxd4 would be very nice] **11...exd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Nc6 14.Bd2 Bg4 15.h3 Bh5 16.Bc3 Rad8 17.Qc2?!** [17.e4] **17...Bd6** [17...Nd4! 18.Bxd4 Rxd5] **18.a3 Ne7 19.Be4 f5 20.Bd3 Bxf3 21.gxf3 c4 22.Bf1 Ng6 23.Bb4?!** [23.Qa4! hitting the c-pawn would put White on top.] **23...b5 24.Bxd6 Rxd6 25.Rxd6 Qxd6 26.Rd1 Qc6 27.a4! a6 28.axb5 axb5** Diagram



29.Bg2?! This passive defense turns the game in Black's favor. With [29.Qd2! Qxf3 30.Qd5+ White has at least equality in the endgame despite temorarily being a pawn down.] **29...Nh4 30.Qe2?!** [30.Qd2!] **30...Qg6** Now Black wins a pawn cleanly. **31.Qf1 Nxf3+ 32.Kh1 Ne5 33.b3 f4 34.exf4 Rxf4?!** [34...Nd3!] **35.bxc4 Nxc4?** [35...bxc4 keeps the knight central and defending] **36.Rd8+ Kf7 37.Qe2?!** [37.Qe1! Kf6 38.Rf8+ Kg5 39.Qc1! is the subtle but winning difference that the queen can get to the c1-h6 diagonal] **37...Kf6 38.Rf8+ Kg5 39.Qe7+ Rf6** Now Black is safe and the game should be a draw. **40.Qc5+ Kh6 41.Rxf6 Qxf6 42.Qxb5 Ne5 43.Qe2 Ng6 44.Qe3+ Nf4** In a normal game this endgame would just be agreed drawn, but in blitz chess the games are decided by the clock. **45.Kh2 Qg5 46.Qg3 Qf5 47.Qh4+ Nh5 48.Kg1 Qb1+ 49.Kh2 Qb2 50.Bf3 Qe5+ 51.Kg2 Qg5+ 52.Qxg5+ Kxg5 53.Be4 Nf6 54.Bc2 g6 55.Kg3 Nh5+ 56.Kg2?** [56.Kh2] **56...Kh4 57.Bb3 Nf4+ 58.Kh2 Nxh3 59.Kg2 g5** It is still objectively drawn even after White losing a pawn, but in practical blitz play the position is very difficult. **60.Bc2 h5 61.Bf5 g4 62.Bc8 Nf4+ 63.Kh2 Nd3 64.Kg2 Kg5 65.Ba6 Ne1+ 66.Kf1 Nf3 67.Kg2 h4 68.Bb7 Kf4 69.Bc6 h3+ 70.Kh1 Ng5 71.Kh2 Ne4 72.Kg1 Nd2 73.Kh2 Kg5 74.Kg3?? Nf1# 0-1**

For full results, please follow this link: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-online-rapid-1176887 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-online-rapid-1176887)

To watch the stream for this tournament, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIij6kmdYF8&t=896s (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIij6kmdYF8&t=896s)

Mechanics' Online Event Recap

The Saturday matinee's top top spots in a tie for first with 3/3 went to dragonfish9127, vedoba, and twangbio. 37 players played in this tournament with a time control of G/30. Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1173222 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1173222).

The Sunday Night Late Showdown attracted 54 players for late evening blitz action, with Greg Lope dominating the night with the only perfect 5/5 score. IM Elliott Winslow finished 2nd on tiebreaks with 4/5, followed by Felix German also with 4/5. Full results for this event van be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1173224 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1173224).

The big Friday Night Blitz event featured some great action, with NM Ruiyang Yan capturing her first gold medal in clear first with 8.5/10! in 2nd place with the silver was our very own FM Pau Whitehead with 8/10, followed by Shaashwath Sivakumar with the bronze, also with 8/10. It is worth checking out some of the matchups and games from this event, and all can be found roght here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-evening-blitz-1173221 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-evening-blitz-1173221)

Thank you everyone for participating in our online events!

Going Online: Mechanics' Mention in US Chess Article!

Check out this article from US Chess on clubs and coaches going online, with a shout out to the Mechancis' Institute and our very own Dr. Judit Sztaray!

https://new.uschess.org/news/going-online-info-clubs-coaches/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://new.uschess.org/news/going-online-info-clubs-coaches/)

You Can Be the Hero Part 2 by WIM Dr. Alexey Root

Hey everyone, check out this article by Alexey Root on how to enjoy chess from home. She is front and center in writing about online resources for chess and maintaining fair play and integrity in online play. Thanks Alexey for your support of chess and Mechanics'!

Mechanics' Institute - Online Offerings For Our Scholastic community

We had record number of kids playing in our online scholastic tournaments past week!
Hope to see new players next week as well!

We are excited to see new IDs and new kids playing in each tournment. There are some interesting and very exciting games, and we encourage everyone to keep up the great participation.

Upcoming schedule *(to join, click on the link under Join from 3:45PM)*

4/14 Tuesday 4PM: Mechanics' Tuesday Kids - Join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=17896)
4/16 Thursday 4PM: Mechanics' Thursday Kids - Join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=20083)
4/18 Saturday 4PM: Mechanics' Saturday Kids - Join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=20084)
4/19 Sunday 4PM: Mechanics' Sunday Kids - Join from 3:45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=20085)

Time control: two different formats we use for our scholastic tournaments:
Game in 5 minutes (5 min for each players) with 5 sec added with each move.
Game in 10 min (10 min for each players) with 2 sec added with each move.
Join (sign up) for the tournament: at 3:45PM - 15 minutes before the start time. First round starts 4PM sharp.

Look at upcoming tournaments: https://www.chesskid.com/clubs/tournaments/mechanics-chess-club/fast
(https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chesskid.com/clubs/tournaments/mechanics-chess-club/fast)

Joining is easy! Group: https://www.chesskid.com/groups/sub/mechanics-institute (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chesskid.com/groups/sub/mechanics-institute)

If you are new - https://www.chesskid.com/register/kid/group/QCJJNH (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chesskid.com/register/kid/group/QCJJNH)

If you already have an account - Registration Key: QCJJNH

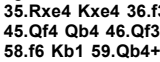
- Find the 6-digit Registration Key on the "Info" tab page of your Group. Give this code to the youth player.
- Have the youth player log in to his/her own account & click the grey settings icon. **They'll need to log in from a browser for access to this page.**
- Enter the player's first & last name, and parent/guardian email.
- Click "Do you have a Group Registration Key"
- Enter the 6 digit Registration Key & click Save. The youth participant will be added to your Group.
- Note: If you do not see a place where you can add Registration Key, that means you need to add Mechanics' as a Secondary Guardian. Email us for further instructions.

The kids play some very interesting games online, and we thought we should showcase a few of our up and comers.
Here are a few games from our scholastic tournaments, with **annotations by our Grandmaster-in Residence, 3-time U.S. Champion GM Nick de Firmian.**

(1) andrewschley (1682) - andrewaballantyne (1263) [C62]

Live Chess Chess.com, 07.04.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.0-0 Bd7 5.d4 a6 6.Ba4 exd4 7.Nxd4 Nf6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Bg5 d5? Too soon to open up the center! Black must develop first with 9...Be7. **10.exd5 cxd5 11.Re1+ Be7 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Qe2 0-0! 15.Nd2** not falling for [15.Qxe7?? Rfe8 16.Qxd7 Rxe1#] **15...Rfe8 16.Qh5 Bb4 17.c3 Bc5 18.Nf3 Re7 19.Nh4 Rae8 20.Rxe7 Rxe7 21.Nf5 Re5 22.Qg4+ Kf8 23.Qg7+ Ke8 24.Qg8+ Bf8** Diagram



25.Ng7+?! The knight is not well placed here. Better to centralize it with 25. Nd4, keeping an edge. **25...Ke7 26.Qxh7 Bxg7?!** [26...Qg4! would trap the knight!] **27.Qxg7** Now White is ahead again. **27...Qe6 28.Rf1 Qd6?!** [28...Re2!] **29.Qg4 Re4 30.Qd1 Ke6 31.Re1 Qe5 32.Kf1 d4?** This leads to a lost endgame. Better to be greedy with [32...Qxh2] **33.cxd4 Qb5+ 34.Kg1 Kd5 35.Rxe4 Kxe4 36.f3+ Ke3 37.Qc1+ Ke2 38.Qf1+ Ke3 39.Qf2+** [39.Qxb5 axb5 40.h4 Kf4 41.Kf2 is an easy way to win] **39...Kd3 40.h4 Qh5 41.g4 Qh6 42.Kg2 f5 43.Kg3 fxg4 44.fxg4 Qd6+ 45.Qf4 Qb4 46.Qf3+! Kxd4 47.Qf4+ Kc5 48.Qxb4+ Kxb4** Now it's very easy **49.h5 Kc5 50.h6 Kc4 51.h7 Kd3 52.h8Q Kc2 53.Qd8 c5 54.Qc7 a5 55.Qxc5+ Kxb2 56.Qxa5 f5 57.gxf5 Ka1 58.f6 Kb1 59.Qb4+ Ka1 60.f7 Kxa2 61.f8Q Ka1 62.Qa8# 1-0**

(2) TastyCelery (1279) - LateLoyalBagel (1525)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 d3 A practical way to deal with the gambit, though less abitious. **4.Bxd3 Bc5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bg5 0-0?!** [6...d6 is safer] **7.e5! h6** Diagram

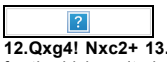


8.exf6?! This takes away Black's problems. [8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 leaves the black king side weak] **8...hxg5 9.fxg7 Re8+! 10.Be2 Qe7 11.0-0?** forgetting about the bishop. It would be about even after [11.Nbd2] **11...Qxe2 12.Qxe2 Rxe2 13.Nxg5 Rxb2 14.Re1?** eager for counterplay White loses more material. This is too much to come back from. **14...Bxf2+ 15.Kf1 Bxe1 16.Kxe1 Rxg2 17.Kf1? Rxg5 18.h4 Rh5 19.Nd2 Rxh4 20.Ke2 d6 21.Kd3 Bf5+ 22.Ke2 Nc6 23.Kd1 Rh1+ 24.Ke2 Rxa1 25.Kf3 Rxa2 26.Nc4 a5 27.Kf4 Be6 28.Ne3 a4 29.Ng4 Bxg4 30.Kxg4 Kxg7 31.Kf5 a3 32.Kg5 Rg2+ 33.Kf5 a2 34.Kf4 a1Q 35.Kf5 Qf1+ 36.Ke4 Re2+ 37.Kd5 Qd1+ 38.Kc4 d5+ 39.Kc5 Ra5# 0-1**

(3) BentActiveTank (1096) - shanlee (1184)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 Transposing into the Two Knights Defense. [3...Nxe4 4.Nc3 Nxc3 5.dxc3 Is a promising pawn sacrifice for White.] **4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5?! 6.Qh5?!** [Black allowed the Fried Liver Attack. 6.Nxf7! Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 8.Nc3 is fun for White.] **6...g6 7.Qf3 Qxg5! 8.Bxd5 Kd8?!** [8...Nd4! 9.Qxf7+ Kd8 10.0-0 Nxc2 is good for Black despite having the king in the center.] **9.Qxf7** [9.Bxc6!] **9...Qe7?!** [9...Nd4!] **10.Qf3 Nd4 11.Qd1 Bg4?!** Diagram

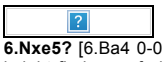


12.Qxg4! Nxc2+ 13.Kf1?! [13.Kd1! puts the king to work guarding the c2 square so that the knight gets trapped on a1.] **13...Nxa1 14.Qc4** [14.Bxb7!] **14...c6 15.Bg8?** This is too much of a trip for the bishop. It should stay closer to home where it would be safe. **15...Nc2!** making use of the poor square of the white bishop to use the trapped knight. **16.Qxc2 Rxg8 17.d3 Qc7** The exchange ahead should be enought to win for Black. **18.d4?! exd4 19.g3 b6 20.Bf4 Qb7 21.Bg5+ Be7 22.Bxe7+ Kxe7! 23.Qe2+ Kd6 24.Nd2 c5! 25.Ne4+ Kc7** Black is easily winning. It ends quickly though. **26.Nf6? Qxh1# 0-1**

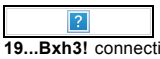
(4) zzng (1228) - charkwok456 (1585)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 The famous Berlin Defense, popularized by Vladimir Kramnik. **3...Nf6 4.Nc3** [4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 is the endgame played by so many grandmasters.] **4...Bb4** Now we have transposed into the Four Knights Game from the Ruy Lopez. **5.d3 Nd4!?** Diagram



6.Nxe5? [6.Ba4 0-0 7.0-0 d6 8.h3 would be a reasonable continuation. White forgot the knight on c3 was pinned!] **6...Nxb5! 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d6 9.Nf3 Nxc3 10.Qd2 Na4** Making sure the knight finds a safe home to retreat to. **11.c4 Nc5 12.d4? Nb3 13.Qb2 Nxa1 14.Qxa1 Nxe4** Why not? Black is a whole rook ahead, but it's always nice to grab a center pawn. **15.0-0 0-0 16.Re1 Re8 17.h3 d5 18.cxd5 Qxd5 19.Bg5** Diagram

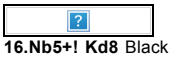


19...Bxh3! connecting the black rooks so that the knight on e4 can move. **20.gxh3 Nxg5 21.Nxg5 Qxg5+ 22.Kf1 Qd5 23.a4 Qh1# 0-1**

(5) DarkCapableCharm (1379) - TopWittyGem (1396)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 The Smith-Morra Gambit, which is tricky if you don't know it. **4...g6?!** Other moves such as 4....Nc6, 4...e6 or 4...d6 are safer. **5.Bc4 Bg7 6.Nf3 d6 7.Bf4** [7.Qb3! Would put Black under pressure immediately. There is no really nice way to guard the f7 pawn.] **7...Nf6 8.e5 dxe5?** [8...Nh5! 9.Be3 0-0 would get Black to even chances.] **9.Qxd8+! Kxd8 10.Nxe5** trouble **10...Nh5?!** [10...Ke8 is probably best, though not pleasant.] **11.Nxf7+ Kd7?! 12.Rd1+** A dream position for White in the Smith-Morra. The extra development leads to a large material gain. **12...Kc6 13.Bd5+ Kb6 14.Be3+ Kc7 15.Nxh8 Bxh8** Diagram



16.Nb5+! Kd8 Black must walk into the discovered check. **17.Bxb7+ Bd7 18.Bxa8** White now has two rooks for a knight - more than plenty. **18...Bxb2 19.Nxa7 Nf6 20.Rb1 Bc3+ 21.Ke2 Nd5 22.Rxb8+ Kc7 23.Rhb1 Nb4 24.Bf4+ e5 25.Rb7+ Kd8 26.Bg5+ Ke8 27.Rd1 Bf5 28.Rd8# 1-0**

If you have any problem connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you a step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

Online Chess Classes for Kids

Our chess coaches have transitioned their classes to online platforms. We have had two weeks with full classes of students for small group classes, learning, playing chess, connecting and having fun together. We encourage you to try one of our popular online classes. Our schedule is open for any student to join, and we are adding classes as demand grows.

Current schedule:

- Monday - Coach Andy 4-5PM
- Tuesday - Coach Andy 3-4PM
- Wednesday - Coach Colin 3-4PM
- Thursday - Coach David 3-4PM
- Friday - Coach Andy 1-2PM

Class Fee: $25/single class, $45/2 classes, $80/4 classes
Sign up via Jumbula: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes)

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

** updated on 4/13/20 ***

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

4/11 Saturday - Saturday Matinee
Format: 3 rounds of G/30+0
Join from 1PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1180085
Start: 2PM

4/12 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown

Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1181343
Start: 9PM

4/13 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=180730 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/live#r=180730)
Start: 6:30PM

4/14 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1183281 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1183281)
Start: 6:30PM

4/15 Wednesday - Club Team Match Night
Mechanics' vs. St. Louis
Format: 2 games G/20+2
Starting 5:30PM
Follow and root for your fellow club members:
https://www.chess.com/live#tm=8427 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=8427)
also live via twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

4/16 Thursday - Thursday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5 +2
Join the tournament from 8PM onward.
https://www.chess.com/live#t=1185566 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1185566)
First game starts at 9PM.

4/17 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
** NEW USCF Online rated - 2 sections:
1800+: https://www.chess.com/live#t=1189652 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1189652)
u1800: https://www.chess.com/live#t=1189655 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1189655)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20200924041048/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Paul will resume his column next week. Thank you for your patience.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Meet the Candidates

This week: Fabiano Caruana

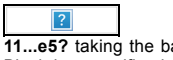
Fabiano is an Italian American and was in fact born in America – Miami in 1992. He grew up in Brooklyn (like another famous American GM – Bobby Fischer). He played for the United States until 2005, when he then moved to Italy with his parents and won three Italian Championships. He returned to the United States in 2015 to represent America again. This was encouraged by billionaire chess patron Rex Sinquefield. Fabiano had one of the greatest tournament performances in chess history at the 2014 Sinquefield Cup where he had an astounding 3103 performance rating. His peak ELO rating is 2844, third highest in history. He is of course currently the number 2 rated player in the world (behind Magnus) and was the challenger in the last World Championship.

With such credentials he was the favorite to win the Candidates Tournament and repeat as challenger to Magnus. There's no telling how much the strange conditions of this Corona Candidates have affected him, but he is one point behind at the halfway point (the tournament is to resume in the next six months). If Fabiano hits his greatest form again he will easily make up the deficit and return as the challenger.

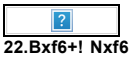
(1) Caruana,Fabiano - Sutovsky,Emil [A48]

London Chess Classic, 2012

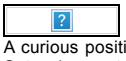
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 d6 4.h3 Fabiano plays the London System against Sutovsky's King's Indian. This would be a solid, closed type positon if Black just castles and plays normally, instead he plays to open things up. **4...c5 5.dxc5 Qa5+ 6.Qd2!** The staightforward developing move is best. Either in the endgame or middle game White should hold a little edge. **6...Qxc5 7.Nc3 Bf5?!** Sutovsky wants to prevent 8. e4 with a good set-up for White. This neglects king side development though, so better was [7...Bg7] **8.Nd4 Ne4 9.Nxe4 Bxe4 10.f3 Bc6 11.e4!** Diagram



11...e5? taking the bait and entering the complications. White would simply be better after the normal [11...Bg7 12.Be3] **12.Be3 exd4 13.Bxd4 Bh6! 14.Qf2! Qa5+ 15.Bc3 Qd8 16.Bxh8 f6** Black has sacrificed the exchange to trap the bishop on h8. Unfortunately for him White can cause trouble on the king side. **17.Qh4 Bg5 18.Qxh7 Qa5+ 19.c3 Nd7 20.Qxg6+ Ke7 21.h4 Be3** Diagram



22.Bxf6+! Nxf6 23.Qg7+ Ke6 24.g3! Diagram

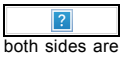


A curious position! White has nothing developed but the queen and is down two pieces for a rook (albeit with 3 extra pawns. Fabiano finds a deadly attack with the threat of 25. Bh3+, so Sutovsky must counter with checks. **24...Bf2+ 25.Kd2! Be3+ 26.Kc2 Bxe4+** As Fabiano didn't take the dark squared bishop this is all Black has left. The same position in the game would arise by [26...Qa4+ 27.b3 Bxe4+ 28.fxe4 Qxe4+ 29.Kb2] **27.fxe4 Qa4+ 28.b3 Qxe4+ 29.Kb2 Qf3** Black played this and resigned, seeing he loses the queen after **30.Bh3+ Ke5 31.Qe7+ Kd5 32.Qxb7+ 0-1**

(2) Caruana,Fabiano - Giri,Anish [D15]

Tata Steel, 2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 The solid slav from the super solid Giri. Fabiano is ready to battle. **4.e3 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.c5** Releaving the central tension but taking some space. **6...g6 7.Ne5 Bg7 8.f4 a5 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 h5** Diagram



both sides are taking territory inch by inch. This move could weaken the king side, but it stops White from taking that space. **11.h3 Bf5 12.Bd2 Nbd7 13.Bf3 h4 14.Qe1 Ne4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Be2 f6?!** Diagram



[16...a4 would keep the game closed. Giri forces the action and Fabiano responds with vigor.] **17.Bxa5! Rxa5 18.Nxc6 Ra8 19.Bxb5** White has three pawns for the piece. If he is given time they will roll down the board. **19...Be6 20.a4 f5?!** This sets the pawn structure too much. Better was [20...Kf7 21.Nb4] **21.Qd2 Bf6** [21...Bd5 little better was 22.Nb4 e6 23.Nxd5 exd5 24.b4] **22.d5 Bf7 23.Rac1 Kf8 24.b4 Qc8 25.d6!** The invasion is coming. **25...exd6 26.cxd6 Qe8 27.Ne7 Be6 28.Rc7 Rh7 29.Nd5 Bd8 30.Rb7 Rc8 31.a5!** The calm advance of the white pawns doom Giri. **31...Kg7 32.a6 Kh6 33.a7 Qf8 34.Ne7 Nb6 35.Qf2** Black has too many problems on both sides of the board. **35...Rf7 36.Qxh4+ Kg7 37.Qg5 Bd5 38.Qxg6+ Kh8 39.Qh5+ Kg7 40.Nxf5+ Kg8 41.Ne7+ ***

(3) Carlsen,Magnus - Caruana,Fabiano [C24]

Sinquefield Cup, 2014

To be in the Candiates Tournament is a great achievement, and to win it much more so. Still, the ultimate challenge is to beat the Champion in the match. The great World Champions have been almost invincible, and Magnus may be the greatest of them all. Yet Fabiano has shown he has the will and talent to challenge Magnus. This game, played in the tournament where Caruana was king, showed he has the potential to dethrown Magnus. **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4** The Bishop's Opening. Clearly Magnus wanted to get Fabiano into surprise territory. Yet Fabiano knows his openings and plays the best. **2...Nf6 3.d3 c6! 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+** [5...dxe4?! 6.Ng5!] **6.c3 Bd6 7.Bg5 dxe4 8.dxe4 h6 9.Bh4 Qe7 10.Nbd2 Nbd7 11.Bg3 Bc7 12.0-0 Nh5** Black has full equality from the opening and the easier game to play. Everyone now knows that Caruano works very hard on his opening preparation. **13.h3?!** [White should try to play safely with 13.Nc4] **13...Nxg3 14.fxg3 Nc5** Diagram



15.Bxf7+!? Credit to Magnus for making the game very interesting. Most players could not handle his tactical onslaught, so this becomes a major test for Fabiano. **15...Kxf7 16.Nxe5+ Kg8 17.Ng6 Qg5 18.Rf8+ Kh7 19.Nxh8** Diagram



19...Bg4! 20.Qf1 guarding the rook on f8 **20...Nd3!** Bringing the game to a superb level! The threat of 21...Bb6+ is lethal. **21.Qxd3 Rxf8 22.hxg4 Qxg4 23.Nf3** [23.Nb3!?] **23...Qxg3 24.e5+ Kxh8** After all the fireworks the game is materially equal. Black has a serious advantage though because of the open white king positon and the extra power of the black bishop over the white knight. **25.e6?!** [25.Qe2 Rf5 26.e6 Bb6+ 27.Nd4 Re5 28.Qf2 Qxf2+ 29.Kxf2 Rxe6 would be an extra pawn in the ending, but better than the text.] **25...Bb6+ 26.Kh1 Qg4 27.Qd6 Rd8 28.Qe5 Rd5! 29.Qb8+ Kh7 30.e7 Qh5+ 31.Nh2** Magnus is almost there, but Fabiano gets there first. **31...Rd1+ 32.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 33.Nf1 Qxf1+ 34.Kh2 Qg1+** Next move is 34...Qe3+ and then 35...Qe7 **0-1**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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  - Chess Tournaments

Chess Room Newsletter #914

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- << Previous
- Next >>

Newsletter #914

Apr 17, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Mechanics' Institute-St. Louis Club Match
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics Chess Social
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Special Announcement - Please join Mechanics' Institute, the Charlotte Chess Center, St. Louis Chess Club, and Marshall Chess Club

for a Round Robin Match on Thursday April 23 at 4:45pm

St. Louis Chess Club Defeats Mechanics' Institute 24-14 In Online Club Match

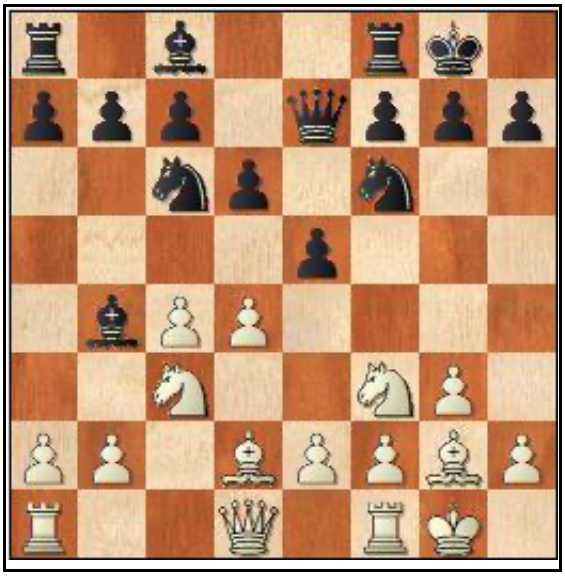


The St. Louis Chess Club got the better of Mechanics' Institute (MI) on Tuesday night 24-14. The games were fun, and there were some exciting time scrambles. The St. Louis team had strong balance across all sections, propelling them to victory. The matches were played on chess.com under the club match feature which pairs players accoring to their chess.com rapid rating. The time control for this match was G/20 +2, and each player faced the same opponent twice, once as white, once as black.

By chess.com rapid rating, FM Eric Li was our board 1, and he was paired against IM Aaron Grabinsky. Their two matches were exciting to follow, and in the first game Eric looked like he was defending, but was able to turn the tides and actually had a slight advantage in the endgame. Unfortunately, he could not convert the advantage for a win and settled for a draw. The second game however, provided dynamic and technical endgame play by Eric. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

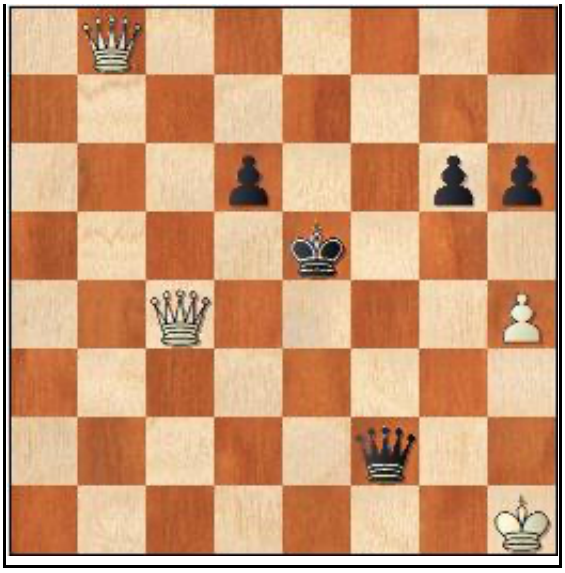
(6) FM Eric Li (wepkins) (2397) - IM Aaron Grabinsky (SketchyMoves) (2294) [A40] Live Chess Chess.com, 15.04.2020

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Bb4+ 3.Bd2 Qe7 4.g3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 We have gotten to a normal Bogo-indian position. **8...e5?!** Diagram



9.Nd5! Nxd5 10.cxd5 Bxd2 11.Qxd2 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 exd4 13.Rac1 Bf5 14.Qxd4! Qxe2 15.Rxc7 White is more active here. **15...Qa6 16.a3 Rac8 17.Rfc1 Rxc7 18.Rxc7 Re8 19.h4 h6 20.Qb4 Rb8 21.Bf1 Bd3?** giving up a pawn. Better was to hold on with [21...Qb6] **22.Bxd3 Qxd3 23.Rxb7 Rxb7 24.Qxb7 Qb1+ 25.Kh2 Qf5?! 26.Qxa7! Qxd5 27.b4** The white pawns march. **27...Kh7 28.a4 Qe4 29.b5 f5 30.Qe3! Qxa4 31.Qd3 g6 32.b6** The advanced b-pawn and safer white king (which avoids more checks) make the queen ending very difficult for Black. **32...Qa2 33.Qe3 Qb2 34.Qe7+ Kg8 35.Qd8+ Kf7 36.Qc7+ Ke6 37.Kg2 f4 38.b7 fxg3 39.Qc8+ Ke7 40.Kxg3 Qb3+ 41.Kg2 Qd5+ 42.Kg1 Qd1+ 43.Kh2 Qf3 44.Qc7+ Ke6 45.Qc4+ Ke5 46.b8Q!** The white king must run now. He is confident he can escape. **46...Qxf2+ 47.Kh1** Diagram



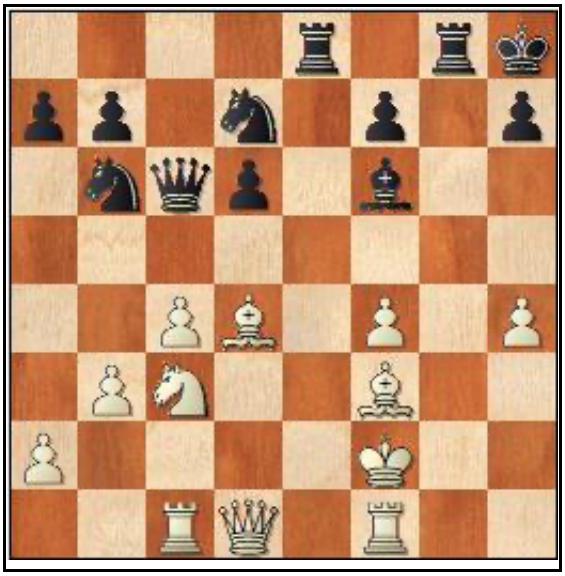


47...Qf3+ 48.Kg1 Qg3+ 49.Kf1 Qh3+ 50.Ke1 Qg3+ 51.Kd2 g5 52.Qe8+ Kf5 53.Qd3+ Qxd3+ 54.Kxd3 Kg4 55.hxg5 hxg5 56.Qd7+ Kg3 57.Qxd6+ Kh3 58.Ke3 g4 59.Kf2 Kh4 60.Kg2 [60.Qh6#] **60...Kh5 61.Kg3 Kg5 62.Qd4 Kf5 63.Qxg4+ Kf6 64.Kf4 Kf7 65.Ke5 Ke7 66.Qg7+ Kd8 67.Qf7 Kc8 68.Qe7 Kb8 69.Qd7 Ka8 70.Kd5 Kb8 71.Kc6 Ka8 72.Kb6 Kb8 73.Qd1 Ka8 74.Qe1 Kb8 75.Qf1 Ka8 76.Qg1 Kb8 77.Qg8#** A fine game and excellent technique by wepkins. **1-0**

FM Kyron Griffith also delivered a nice point for the Mechanics' team against Danny Machuca.

(5) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2205) - Danny Machuca (ChessPlayingWolf) (2076) [B03]
Live Chess Chess.com, 15.04.2020

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Rc1 0-0 9.b3 Bf5 10.Nf3 N8d7?! 11.Nh4! With this move White gains the advantage in the opening. **11...Kh8?!** [11...e5 12.Nxf5 gxf5 13.g3] **12.g4!?** [12.Nxf5 gxf5 13.Bd3 is very simple and strong] **12...e5 13.Nxf5 gxf5 14.gxf5 Rg8 15.h4 exd4 16.Bxd4 Ne5 17.Be2 Qd7 18.f6 Bxf6 19.f4** A very sharp position has arisen. White is objectivley better but must be careful with his king in the center. **19...Qc6 20.Rf1 Ned7 21.Bf3 Rae8+ 22.Kf2?!** Diagram



[22.Kd2! looks strange, yet the white king is safer on that square] **22...Qc7?** [22...Qc5! would even the

chances since 23.Bxc5?? Bxh4#] **23.Ne4** [23.Rg1! Rxg1 24.Kxg1 Bxd4+ 25.Qxd4+ Kg8 26.Nb5 Qc5 27.Qxc5 dxc5 28.Kf2 is a great endgame for White] **23...Re6?** Black allows himself to get into a deadly pin. Instead he had a very active and promising continuation - [23...Rxe4! 24.Bxe4 d5! 25.Bxf6+ Nxf6 26.Bf3 Qxf4 leaves Black in control] **24.Nxf6 Nxf6 25.Bd5! Nbd7 26.Qf3 Qa5 27.Rc2** [27.Qc3!] **27...Ree8 28.h5 Re6** [28...Kg7 looks ugly, but was probably necessary. Black must get out of the deadly pin.] **29.Qc3! Qxc3 30.Rxc3 Re7 31.Re3 Rxe3 32.Kxe3 Rg3+ 33.Rf3 Rxf3+ 34.Kxf3 b6 35.Bxf7** with an extra pawn and the two bishops the endgame is certainly winning. The quick time control means though that there are still chances for Black. **35...Kg7 36.Be6 Kh6 37.b4?!** [37.Bxd7! Nxd7 38.Kg4 is dominating] **37...Kxh5 38.a4 Kg6 39.a5 bxa5 40.bxa5 Nc5 41.Bh3?!** [41.f5+] **41...Kf7 42.Bf5 h5 43.Bc2 h4?!** this pawn becomes weaker with the advance **44.Bf2 h3 45.Bg1 a6 46.Bxc5! dxc5 47.Bf5 h2 48.Kg2 Nh5 49.Bc8 Nxf4+ 50.Kxh2 Ne6?** [The knight gets to an awkward square. Black is a pawn down but gets fair drawing chances after 50...Ke7 51.Bxa6 Kd6 52.Kg3 Ne2+ 53.Kf2 Nd4] **51.Bxa6 Nc7 52.Bb7 Ke6 53.a6 Ke5 54.a7 Kd4 55.Bd5!** The white bishop wins the fight against the black king and knight. **55...Kc3 56.Kg3 Kb4 57.Kf4 Kc3 58.Ke5 Kb4 59.Kd6 Na8 60.Bxa8 Ka5 61.Bd5 Ka6 62.a8Q+ 1-0**

One fast rising Mechanics' player is Alejandro Canales (Lilpix2). Here is his win in round 1.

(4) Aaron Lin (pvzlin2) (1627) - Alejandro Canales (Lilpix2) (1715) [E61]
Live Chess Chess.com, 15.04.2020

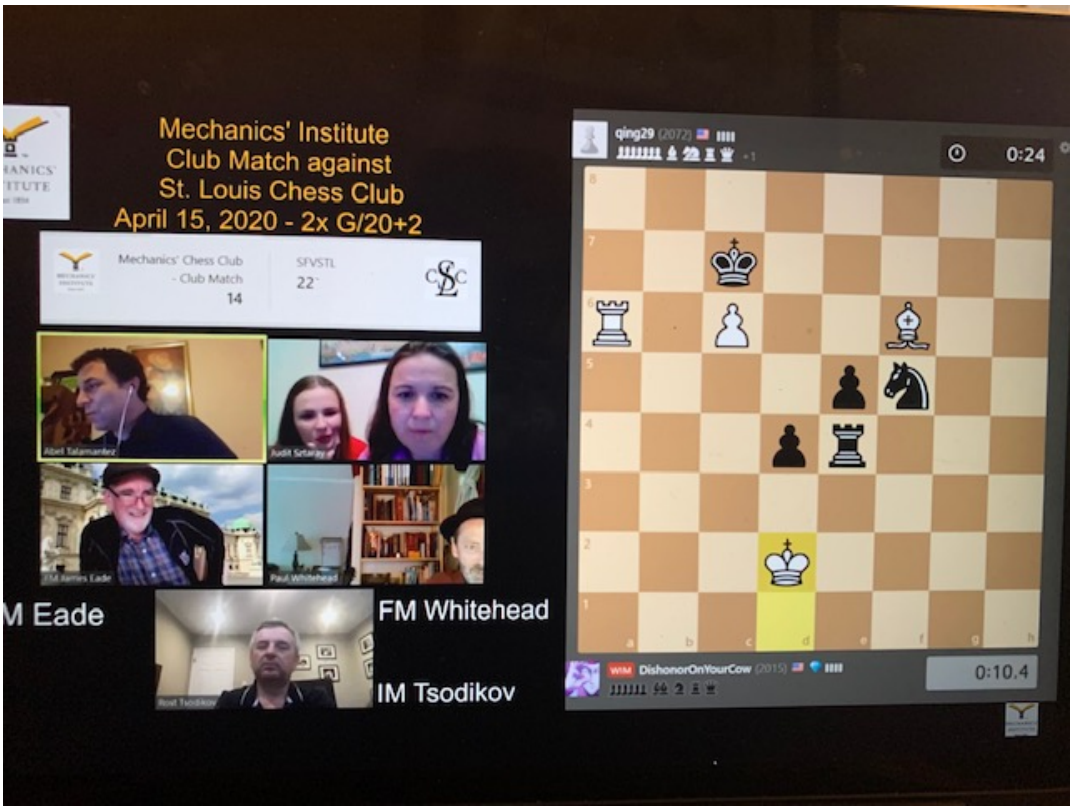
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.Bf4!? An unusual line against the King's indian. **5...d6 6.e3 Nh5 7.Bg3 c5! 8.Be2 a6 9.0-0 Nxg3 10.hxg3 cxd4 11.exd4?!** [11.Nxd4 is safer control over d4.] **11...Nc6** Black has gotten a nice active game out of the opening. White has more space but misses his dark squared bishop. **12.Rc1 Bg4 13.Ne1 Bxe2 14.Nxe2 Qb6 15.d5 Ne5 16.b3 Qa5 17.Qc2 Rfc8 18.Nf3 b5! 19.Nxe5 Bxe5** Diagram



20.f4?! It looks active, but this weakens White's king position. **20...Bg7 21.Rf3 bxc4 22.bxc4 Qc5+ 23.Kh2 e6?!** [23...Rab8! puts the last piece to work and avoids any weakenesses] **24.dxe6 fxe6 25.Qe4 Re8 26.Rd3 Rad8 27.Qb7??** [With 27.g4 White is back to a nearly level position. The game move is a blunder after a close fight.] **27...Qh5+ 28.Kg1 Qxe2 29.Rb3? Bd4+ 30.Kh1 Qh5# 0-1**

The match had some dramatic moments as well, none better than the last minute of this second round battle between Mechanics' Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) and WIM Thalia Cervantes (DishonorOnYourCow). For those who say chess doesnt have elements of sport, check this out. What is funny about this is Judit was following the game in real time, while the rest of the commentators were following the game on the

broadcast, which becomes self evident at the end. The lag was about 10 seconds. The action begins at 1:29:30 with the stunning moment coming at 1:31:00.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPVQd0SC5mA&t=2414s

This was a fabulous collaboration between our two clubs, and we want to thank Tony Rich and Mike Kummer from the St. Louis Chess Club for helping organize this event. Both teams streamed the match, and we want to thank all our players and viewers participating in the chat. Congratulations to St. Louis, and we look forward to our continuing partnership and collaborations on future matches. Thank you to our commentators FM Paul Whitehead and FM Jim Eade and IM Rost Tsodikov for providing entertaining and insightful commentary for our viewers and Dr. Judit Sztaray for a great job organizing and coordinating with St. Louis.

For full results, please follow this link: https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/8427

To watch the stream for this tournament, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPVQd0SC5mA

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

This week's Tuesday Night Online event drew 78 players, and we had a very special guest commentating team of IM Rost Tsodikov and WFM Natalya Tsodikova, along with FM Paul Whitehead and FM Jim Eade. Competion for the sought-after medal was fierce, but it was FM Eric Li who took the gold with a perfect 5/5 score. Taking the silver in his first medal performance was NM Michael Walder with 4.5 and the bronze went to Ruiyang Yan also with 4.5.

One of the games that caught the attention of the broadcast was this fine win by Anika Rajaram (dragontrap)

against Pranav Sairam (chesspilot01).

(7) Pranav Sairam (chesspilot01) (1879) - Anika Rajaram (dragontrap) (1723) [B49] Live Chess Chess.com, 14.04.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.f4 d6 10.Bf3 0-0 11.Nb3 Rd8 12.a4 Bd7 13.Qe2 A classical Scheveningen Sicilian. **13...Rdc8?! 14.g4! Na5 15.Nxa5 Qxa5 16.g5 Ne8 17.Kh1 Qb4 18.Rfb1?!** [18.Ra3! Qxb2 19.Rb3 Qxc3 20.Rxc3 Rxc3 21.Rb1 is advantage for White] **18...b5 19.a5 Qc4 20.Qg2 Rab8 21.f5 b4 22.Ne2?!** [22.Be2 Qc6 23.fxe6 fxe6 24.Na4! Qxc2 25.Nb6 gives White fine play for the pawn.] **22...Qxc2 23.g6?** charging ahead, yet this is done too soon to work right. **23...hxg6 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.Qxg6 Qb3! 26.Qg1 Bf6 27.Qf2?! Rc2 28.Rg1 Bb5** Black has invaded on the queen side. The pin on White's second rank causes great problems. **29.Bh5 Bxe2 30.Bxe8** trying to continue attacking. On [30.Bxe2 Qxb2 31.Rae1 b3 would win] **30...Rxe8 31.Qxf6** Diagram



31...Re7! 32.Rg2 [32.Qxe7 Bf3+ 33.Rg2 Bxg2+ 34.Kg1 Qxe3#] **32...Qxe3! 33.Qxe7 Rc1+ 34.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 35.Rg1 Bf3#** Very nice attack by dragontrap! **0-1**

For full results, please follow this link:https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1183281

To watch the stream for this tournament, please follow this link:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWUwEnr-v6E

Mechanics' Online Event Recap

The Friday Night Blitz on April 10 brought 58 players for a shot at a medal, and FM Jason Liang (Marty435) captured his first gold with a score of 9/10. Taking silver was NM Vinesh Ravuri (SoggyCheese12) with 8.5/10 and the bronze went to NM Ruiyang Yan with 8/10.

There were some good games in the blitz, and here is a nice win by the champion against NM Ravuri. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(3) FM Jason Liang (Marty435) (2328) - NM Vinesh Ravuri (SoggyCheese12) (2550)

[C60]
Live Chess Chess.com, 10.04.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.0-0 g6 5.c3 Bg7 6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Re1+ Be6 10.Ng5 Normally White would play 10. Bg5 with a slight edge. **10...0-0! 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nxe6 fxe6** Black has shattered pawns but a strong knight on d5 and better development. His chances are at least equal. **13.Nc3** [13.Rxe6?! Qh4 14.g3 Qxd4] **13...Qh4** [13...Rb8! 14.Ne4 Rb4 presses the initiave] **14.Ne4 Rf5 15.g3 Qe7 16.Be3** [16.Nc5] **16...Raf8 17.Qd2 e5?!** [17...Nxe3 18.Rxe3 *(18.fxe3 e5)* 18...Rd5] **18.dxe5 Qxe5 19.Bc5 Rd8?** Diagram



20.Nd6? [20.Nc3! Qf6 21.Be7 wins the exchange] **20...Qxb2 21.Qxb2 Bxb2 22.Nxf5 Bxa1 23.Nh6+ Kg7 24.Ng4 h5 25.Rxa1 hxg4** The dust has settled and we have an even ending. **26.Bxa7 Ra8 27.Bd4+ Kf7 28.a3 Ra4** despite the two sets of doubled pawns Black is ok if he stays active due to the white square control. **29.Bc5 Nc3 30.Re1 Ne4?!** [30...Rc4 31.Bb4 Nd5] **31.Bb4 Nd6 32.Rc1 Nb5?** looks like time induced errors from Black. [32...Ra6 keeps material even.] **33.Rxc6 Nxa3 34.Rxc7+ Ke6 35.Re7+ Kf6?!** [35...Kf5 avoids the bishop check] **36.Re4** Now White wins a second pawn and it's over. **36...Kf5 37.Rf4+ Kg5? 38.Be7+ 1-0**

In another game, Rui was able to capture the bronze after going on a tear in her last 3 games, defeating FM Eric Li, Anika Rajaram, and FM Thijs Laarhoven. Here is her win against the always tough Eric Li.

(2) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2310) - FM Eric Li (wepkins) (2289) [B92]
Live Chess Chess.com, 10.04.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a4 A practical move in this 6. Be2 Najdorf. White simply wishes to restrain Black and play the game, as Karpov used to do. **9...Be6 10.Bf3 Nbd7 11.Re1 Rc8 12.Nd2 h6 13.Nf1** heading for e3 to control the d5 square. **13...Nc5** [A more active plan is 13...Rc4! 14.Ne3 Rd4] **14.g3** [14.Ne3!?] **14...Qc7 15.Ne3 Rfd8 16.a5 Bf8 17.Ncd5 Nxd5 18.exd5!?** [18.Nxd5 is a simple advantage. White plays for a queenside pawn phalanx.] **18...Bd7 19.c4 e4! 20.Be2 Be8?** Too passive. More active is [20...b5! which keeps Black in the game. Now White takes complete controll.] **21.b4! Nd7 22.Bb2 Ne5** [22...Be7 23.Bg4 is also very unpleasant] **23.Bxe5! dxe5 24.c5** Diagram





24...g6 25.Bc4 White's monster pawns on the queenside and center control the game. Black should not be able to survive. **25...Bb5 26.Bxb5 axb5 27.Qg4 Bg7 28.Rad1 Qd7 29.Qxd7** [29.Qxe4 f5 30.Qh4 was a greedy and good alternative, but the text is a winning endgame that is easy to play.] **29...Rxd7 30.d6 f5 31.Nd5 Rf8** [31...Rc6 32.Ne7+ Kf7 33.Nxc6 bxc6 is a try for a blockade, but it can't really work] **32.Nb6 Rdd8 33.a6! bxa6 34.c6** crushing **34...Rb8 35.Nd7 Rf7 36.Nxb8 1-0**

For full results, please follow this link: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-blitz-1180084

Our new **Saturday Late Night Showdown** had 48 players competing in the 5-round G/5 +2 blitz event. The winner was FM Thijs Laarhoven, overcoming a very strong field to go 5/5. In second place with 4/5 was NM Michael "f-pawn" Aigner and in third on tiebreaks was FM Kyron Griffith.

Full results can be found here:

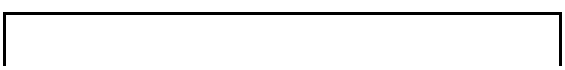
https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-new-saturday-late-night-showdown-1187106

The **Sunday Night Blitz** had 36 players, and Sathvik Singireddy went on a roll to win outright with 5/5. Second went to NM Ruiyang Yan with 4/5 and third to FM Thijs Laarohoven also with 4/5.

NM Vyom Vidyarthi took 4th place also with 4/5, and here is a fine win from him in the final round against Anthony Rozenvasser. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) NM Vyom Vidyarthi (2007checkmate) (2241) - Anthony Rozenvasser (Atrozen) (2071) [E61]
Live Chess Chess.com, 12.04.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 g6 4.e4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 e5 7.d5 Ne8 8.g4 anticipating Black's break on the king side. The game then opens up for both sides there. **8...f5 9.gxf5 gxf5 10.Rg1 f4** keeping the game more closed is sensible **11.Bd2 Kh8 12.Nh2 Nf6 13.Qf3 Na6 14.Be2 Nb4** [14...Bd7 15.0-0-0 Nc5 is a more promising set-up for Black] **15.0-0-0! a5 16.Rg2 Na6 17.Rdg1 Rf7 18.Ng4 Ng8 19.Ne3!?** [19.h4] **19...Qf8?!** [19...Ne7 stops the threatened Nf5.] **20.Nf5! Bxf5 21.exf5 Nc5 22.Bd1! Ne7 23.Bc2** getting the light-squared bishop to its best square **23...Bh6** [23...Nxf5 24.Bxf5 Rxf5 25.Rxg7 can't be played] **24.Qh5 Nxf5?** Diagram





25.Rg8+! Qxg8 26.Rxg8+ Kxg8 27.Bxf5 Bg7 28.Ne4? [28.Qxh7+ Kf8 29.Be6!] **28...Rxf5!** Atrozen finds a tactic to get back in the game. **29.Qxf5 Rf8 30.Qxf8+** [Objetively better is 30.Qg4 Nxe4 31.Bxa5 b6 32.Bd2 as 32...Nxf2? 33.Qf3 wins the knight.] **30...Kxf8 31.Nxc5 dxc5 32.Bxa5 b6 33.Bd2 Kf7 34.a4** Still the endgame is preferable for White. **34...Kg6?!** [34...f3! 35.a5 bxa5 36.Bxa5 e4 37.Kd2 *(37.Bxc7? e3 38.fxe3 f2)* 37...Bd4 38.Ke1 Be5 is equal] **35.a5! bxa5 36.Bxa5 e4 37.Bxc7 e3?** [37...Kf5 still gives Black hope] **38.fxe3 fxe3 39.d6?!** [39.b3!] **39...Bxb2+?!** [The last chance was to get to a pawn down ending with 39...Be5 40.Bb8! Bxb2+! 41.Kd1 Kf7 42.d7 Ke7 43.Bd6+ Kxd7 44.Bxc5 Bc3 45.Bxe3] **40.Kxb2 e2 41.Ba5 Kf6 42.d7 1-0**

Here is also a nice win by Sricharan Pullela in this tournament against yours truly. The finish was very nice, and yes, I came up on the wrong end of this result.

(8) Abel Talamantez (coachabel) (1603) - Sricharan Pullela (Sricharan_The_King) (1955) [E81]
Live Chess Chess.com, 12.04.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Bd3 A somewhat unusual but logical way to play the Saemisch King's Indian. **6...e5 7.d5 Nbd7 8.Nge2 Nc5 9.Bc2 Ne8 10.b4! Nd7 11.0-0** [I would prefer 11.Be3 so that 11...a5 is met by 12.a3 and White keeps the aggressive pawn formation on the queen side.] **11...f5** [11...a5!] **12.Bb2 f4 13.Rc1 g5 14.g3** White contests the king side squares so as not to let Black have a free hand with the pawn advances there. This at least lets White have more control of his fate. **14...h5 15.gxf4 gxf4** [15...exf4 would be a very reasonable alternative, opening the long dark diagonal.] **16.Qe1 Rf6 17.Kh1 Rg6 18.Rg1** Naturally both sides rush to occupy the only open file, leading to exchanges. **18...Qf6 19.Rxg6 Qxg6 20.Qg1 Qxg1+ 21.Rxg1 Kf7 22.Ba4 Nef6** Thus far a well played game by both players. The queen and rook trades means that there is no mating attack against the white king, yet this also reduces White's chances of a serious queen side invasion. **23.Bxd7?** This one move seems to be the source of White's troubles. The value of the light-squared bishop is clearly more than that of a knight in this position. [23.Bb3 leaves White with no problems and some spatial advantage.] **23...Bxd7 24.c5 Bf8 25.cxd6 cxd6 26.a3 Bh6 27.Nc1 Nh7 28.Kg2 Rg8+ 29.Kf2 Rxg1 30.Kxg1 Bg5 31.Kf2 Bh4+ 32.Ke2 Ng5 33.Nb3?** [Keeping the knight closer to the king side with 33.Nd3 would avoid the coming tactics and leave material equal. Black would be somewhat better with the bishop pair but it would be a lot of work to break through.] **33...Kg6?!** [33...Nxf3! would be the same as two moves from now] **34.Na5?!** [34.Nd2!] **34...b6 35.Nc6** Diagram





35...Nxf3! 36.Kxf3 Bg4+ The f-pawn runs easily through with the help of the two bishops. This was a sudden end to a tough fight. **37.Kg2 f3+ 0-1**

Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1181343

The **Monday Night Arena** had 50 players. The Arena format has a scoring system as follows:

Arena Scoring System:

- Loss: +0 points.
- Draw: +1 point.
- Win: +2 points.
- Second win in a row: +3 points.
- Third (or higher) win in a row: +4 points.

Players play with a time control of G/5 +2 over 90 minutes and try to win as many games as they can. Players get immediately paired upon completion of their game against the next available opponent in a sort of battle royale.

Winning Monday Night's arena was FM Kyron Griffith, who scored 41 points after going 11-0-0. Second place with 31 was BreatheChessAlways and in third with 30 was Felix German. Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-night-arena-180730

The Wednesday Night Blitz had only 18 players, but this is understandable given this was the evening of the Mechanics' Institute and St. Louis match. But it was strong players at the top as IM Elliott Winslow won the event with 5/6. Second and third place went to the sibling duo of NM Vyom Vidyarthi and WCM Omya Vidyarthi with 4.5/6.

Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-night-blitz-1192272

First Mechanics Chess Social with IM John Donaldson

We organized our first Mechanics Chess Social, which is slated to interview personalities in the chess world about the state of chess and things happening in our community and across the country. These interviews will be on Friday afternoons, and we will broadcast them live on our Twitch channel. Our inaugural guest was former MI Chess Director and Captain of the U.S. Chess Olympiad team John Donaldson. We discussed his current project on Bobby Fischer, and we asked him about how current events with the pandemic may impact chess over the next few years. We thank him for sharing his wisdom and discussing his current projects. To watch the interview please follow this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HC7jIVcn2I

Next week's guest will be U.S. Chess Executive Director Carol Meyer, followed by GM Rauf Mamedov. Tune in starting at at noon next Friday!

Mechanics' Institute - Online Offerings For Our Scholastic community

Upcoming schedule *(to join, click on the link under Join from 3:45PM)*

4/21 Tuesday 4PM: Mechanics' Tuesday Kids - Join from 3:45PM
4/23 Thursday 4PM: Mechanics' Thursday Kids - Join from 3:45PM
4/25 Saturday 4PM: Mechanics' Saturday Kids - Join from 3:45PM
4/26 Sunday 4PM: Mechanics' Sunday Kids - Join from 3:45PM

Time control: two different formats we use for our scholastic tournaments:
Game in 5 minutes (5 min for each players) with 5 sec added with each move.
Game in 10 min (10 min for each players) with 2 sec added with each move.

Join (sign up) for the tournament: at 3:45PM - 15 minutes before the start time. First round starts 4PM sharp.

Look at upcoming tournaments: https://www.chesskid.com/clubs/tournaments/mechanics-chess-club/fast

Joining is easy! Group: https://www.chesskid.com/groups/sub/mechanics-institute

If you are new - https://www.chesskid.com/register/kid/group/QCJJNH

If you already have an account - Registration Key: QCJJNH

- Find the 6-digit Registration Key on the "Info" tab page of your Group. Give this code to the youth player.
- Have the youth player log in to his/her own account & click the grey settings icon. **They'll need to log in from a browser for access to this page.**
- Enter the player's first & last name, and parent/guardian email.

- Click "Do you have a Group Registration Key"
- Enter the 6 digit Registration Key & click Save. The youth participant will be added to your Group.
- Note: If you do not see a place where you can add Registration Key, that means you need to add Mechanics' as a Secondary Guardian. Email us for further instructions.

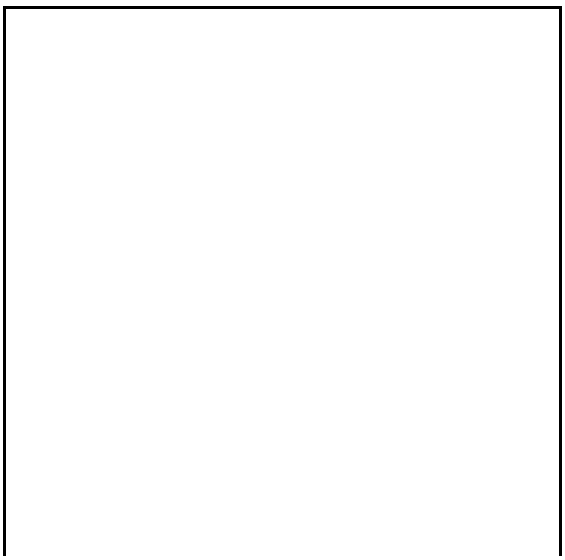
Here are some games from our scholastic online tournaments this past week!

(1) DarkCapableCharm (1334) - KeenUpbeatClock (1471)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nf3 White usually holds the central pawn wedge with 4. c3. His plan of just developing is also ok, but care should be given to the central squares. **4...Nc6** [4...cxd4!] **5.Nc3 Bd7 6.Be3 Qb6** [6...cxd4! 7.Nxd4 Nxe5 8.Be2 gives White development for the pawn, but Black should be happy here.] **7.Bb5 a6 8.Ba4?!** [8.Bxc6] **8...cxd4** [8...Qxb2! 9.Bd2 Qb6] **9.Nxd4 Nxd4?** This keeps the black king in the center. The alternatives were preferable [9...Qxb2; 9...Nxe5] **10.Bxd7+ Kxd7 11.Na4?** [11.Bxd4 Bc5 12.Bxc5 Qxc5 13.Qg4 Ne7 14.0-0-0] **11...Qc7?** [11...Qa5+! 12.c3 b5 wins a piece] **12.Bxd4 Ke8 13.0-0 Be7?!** [13...b5 14.Nc3 Ne7 is a more natural way to develop in the French Defense] **14.Qg4 g6 15.Qf3** [Aggressively opening the game would be good here - 15.c4! dxc4 16.Nb6 Rd8 17.Rac1 Nh6 18.Qd1 Bc5 19.Qa4+] **15...Nh6 16.Be3 Nf5 17.Nb6? Rd8!** getting out of trouble and leaving the Nb6 loose. **18.Na4 f6?** The key mistake of the game. Black is well ahead after [18...d4! 19.Bd2 b5] **19.Bb6! Qxc2 20.Bxd8 Bxd8 21.b3 Qc7?!** [21...fxe5 22.Rac1 Qd2 23.Rfd1 e4] **22.exf6 Qf7 23.Nc5! Bb6 24.Rac1 Bxc5 25.Rxc5 Kd7 26.Rfc1** The white rooks invade. **1-0**

(2) charkwok456 (1658) - TopWittyGem (1481)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 g6!? 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Bd2?! A strange place for the bishop. More natural is [8.Bg5] **8...h6 9.Be3 0-0 10.f3 Kh7 11.Bb3** We have reached an interesting Sicilian middle game with good play for both sides. **11...Nbd7 12.Nde2 b5 13.Nf4 Bb7 14.Qd2 Rc8 15.a4!** loosening up the queen side. **15...bxa4?!** [more solid is 15...b4 16.Ncd5 Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Nxd5 a5] **16.Nxa4 Qc7 17.Rfd1 Nc5?! 18.Nxc5 dxc5 19.Bc4 Rfd8 20.Nd3** The black pawns and squares on the queen side are weak. **20...Nd7 21.Bf4 Ne5 22.Qe2!** Avoiding any tricks of the black knight moving with check or queen attack. **22...f6?! 23.Nxe5 fxe5 24.Be3 Qb6 25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.Bb3 Rc8 27.Qc4 Bc6 28.Bxc5 Bb5** Diagram





29.Qg8+! Rxg8 30.Bxg8+ Kxg8 31.Bxb6 Kf7 32.Kf2 Ke6 33.b3 Kd7 34.c4 Bc6 35.Rxa6 Bb7 36.Ra7 Kc6 37.Ba5 Bf8 38.b4 Bc8?! 39.Rc7+ Kd6 40.Rxc8 Bg7 41.b5 e6 42.Rc7 Bf6 43.c5# 1-0

(3) BusySuddenOatmeal (1345) - ThinOvalPaw (1400)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Qf3 Diagram



[6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 is the famous Fried Liver Attack, and objectively the best way for White to play.]
6...Nd4? [6...Qxg5! 7.Bxd5 Nd4! Diagram





8.Qxf7+ Kd8 9.0-0 Nxc2 is actually very good for Black as he wins the rook on a1. It's not too much of a problem that the black king is on d8 as there are a lot of black pieces around to keep the monarch safe.] **7.Qxf7#** Oops. Sometimes one mistake is all it takes. Chess is a cruel game. **1-0**

(4) TopWittyGem (1497) - TastyCelery (1282)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.f4 The King's Gambit. A tricky opening that often confuses the second player. **2...Nc6 3.Nf3 exf4 4.d4 Bb4+?! 5.c3** White has been able to strenghten the center with tempo. **5...Ba5 6.Bxf4 Nf6 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Bc4** [8.Bd3! leaves White with a great center and almost full development.] **8...d6** [8...d5! 9.exd5 Nxd5 frees Black's position.] **9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Qe2 Re8 12.Rae1?** [12.Bd3] **12...d5!** making use of the pin on the e-pawn. **13.Bb3?** [13.g4! keeps material about even] **13...dxe4 14.Nxe4 Rxe4 15.Qc4? Rxf4 16.g4 Bg6 17.Nh4** Black is two pieces ahead and should win easily, but now gets confused. **17...Bh5??** [17...Rxf1+ 18.Rxf1 Qd6! 19.Nxg6 Qg3+ 20.Kh1 Qxh3+ 21.Kg1 Qxg4+ 22.Kh1 Qxg6 would be finished] **18.Rxf4 Kh8?!** [18...Qd6!] **19.gxh5 Nxh5 20.Rfe4 Nf6** Diagram



21.Qxf7! Nxe4 22.Rxe4 material is even, but the white attack is decisive. **22...Qg5+ 23.Rg4** [23.Kh2! Qd2+ 24.Ng2] **23...Qc1+ 24.Kh2 Qd2+ 25.Rg2 Qxg2+?!** Giving up the queen is definitely lost. Still losing, but more difficult is [25...Qh6 26.Nf5 Qf6 *(26...Qf4+ 27.Kg1 Qc1+ 28.Kf2 Qf4+ 29.Ke1 Qc1+ 30.Bd1!)* 27.Qxf6

gxf6 28.Nh6 Rf8 29.Nf7+ Rxf7 30.Bxf7] **26.Kxg2 Rd8 27.Nf5 Rd7 28.Qg8# 1-0**

If you have any problem connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you a step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

Online Chess Classes for Kids

Our chess coaches have transitioned their classes to online platforms. We have had two weeks with full classes of students for small group classes, learning, playing chess, connecting and having fun together. We encourage you to try one of our popular online classes. Our schedule is open for any student to join, and we are adding classes as demand grows.

Current schedule:
Monday - Coach Andy 4-5PM
Tuesday - Coach Andy 3-4PM
Wednesday - Coach Colin 3-4PM
Thursday - Coach David 3-4PM
Friday - Coach Andy 1-2PM

Class Fee: $25/single class, $45/2 classes, $80/4 classes
Sign up via Jumbula: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

4/18 Saturday - Saturday Matinee
Format: 3 rounds of G/30+0
Join from 1PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1180085
Start: 2PM

4/19 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1181343
Start: 9PM

4/20 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=180730
Start: 6:30PM

4/21 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1183281
Start: 6:30PM

4/22 Wednesday - Club Team Match Night
Format: 2 games G/20+2
Starting 5:30PM

4/23 Thursday - Club Match Round Robin (Mechanics', Marshall, Charlotte, St. Louis)
Format: 2 rounds of G/8 +2
Invitational only
First game starts at 4:45PM.

4/23 Thursday - Thursday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5 +2
Join the tournament from 8PM onward.
First game starts at 9PM.

4/24 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1. You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Early Chess Stories, Part 4

- A rambling account of my adolescent and pre-adolescent chess experiences –

Continuing from here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/912#paul

By the mid 1970's my brother Jay and I were on similar but different trajectories, both socially and in the world of chess. Jay had become a Master a few months before I had, and our "rivalry" (which gave people vast amusement) was for the most part a healthy one – with a few exceptions. More later, perhaps. We

played in the same tournaments, hung out with the same cast of chess characters. And of course, we lived in the same house.

Although we didn't study together, the constant playing, the buzz of ideas, the chess players (all older than Jay and I) who had become friends of the Whitehead family and who were coming over to visit us on Carl Street in the Haight Ashbury – Joe Tracy and Steve Brandwein, Walter Dorne, Phil Arnol, Mike Dyslin and Randy Feliciano, Jimmy Buff and Jeremy Silman - to name just a few. All of this mixed and swirled together, giving Jay and I not only a 1st Class Chess Education, but lasting friendships - and a different kind of schooling.

It was a time of rapid change for the both of us, and although both Jay and I had compelling interests that lay outside chess, we would stay focused on the Royal Game for some years to come.

Jay had a strong interest in the performing arts – he played the guitar, he loved to sing and act. He was in a few plays around town, including a lead role in *The Story*, put on by the Magic Theater. He sang and played guitar on a kid's TV show called *Git Box Tickle*.



Jay Whitehead, 1974

I was not a performer – unless it was on the chess stage. My friendships in Chess, oddly enough, were starting to lead me in directions away from the 64 squares, and that magical World.

School no longer interested me – all I wanted to do was play chess, and I began to cut classes unbeknownst to my parents. I would ride BART around in circles with a chess book and a pocket set, or would meet up with other like-minded long-haired boho misfits from Everett JHS. We'd wander around and make up wild stories about ourselves. In the later part of the day I'd be down at the MI playing blitz or seeking out Jeremy Silman at his flat on Fell Street.



Paul Whitehead, 1974

There I would find him sitting on the floor in the Lotus Position, chess board and chess books, deep in study. Blasting away on the stereo would be his favorite band, The Tubes.

This was far more interesting to me than Mrs. Williams English Class, I can tell you that.

I also started to hang out with those chess players – and there were lots of them – who took drugs. Before the game, during the game, and after the game.

I was smoking cigarettes too, a habit it took me over 40 years to break. To his credit, my brother seemed to follow our Dad's example and was not tempted in these ways. As I most certainly was.

I loved the MI Chess Club, and it seems I was there almost every day. It was Chess Central. But interesting things – apart from chess – were happening elsewhere.

The Meat Market Coffeehouse, on 24th Street in Noe Valley, was the place where those chess players who enjoyed eating and drinking, smoking, and carousing went to play. The chess was blitz, and the players might be quite strong, if unrated. Louis Ladow - cab-driver, life insurance salesman and Shodan Go player – held court all day and night. He later played in a few chess tournaments, becoming an expert on his 1st rating. Other chess playing cabbies, Alex and Chaz, also did double-time at the Mechanics'. Steve Brandwein hung out there, as did my great friends - and sometime housemates - Pam Ford and Joseph Ruggerio. Walter Dorne and Joe Tracy were there every day, as was I.

Apart from chess, people played Go and Bridge and Scrabble, there were guitarists and dancers, fortune-tellers, poets and scribblers. It was an incredible Bohemian Scene. There was a small patio in back where – surprise! – folks would smoke a joint or two before returning to their games. Later, it was a short walk to the corner and Buds Ice Cream Parlor, where there was always a line. Their Bittersweet Chocolate was to die for.

Another attraction of the café scene – as opposed to the chess club or chess tournaments – was the presence of women. Not a lot of girls or women played chess back then. But they were at the coffeehouses and

everywhere else.

(To be continued)

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Meet the Candidates

This Week: Wang Hao

This week we investigate Wang Hao, an extremely strong and talented player who is somewhat under the radar. This is perhaps because Chinese players get less attention in the West, perhaps because of his modest demeanor or perhaps because he is 30 years old (rather old for a player making a run for the title of World Champion). Yet he is a very interesting and aggressive player who plays wonderful games that should delight the chess fan. It is fortunate that he made the Candidates Tournament so that he gets a higher profile and thus we see the work he has done in the last 15 years.

Wang learned to play chess at age 6 when he went to a youth center with the hopes of learning Chinese chess. When the instructor failed to show up Wang learned classic chess instead, so a quirk of fate led to his international chess career. He became China's 20th grandmaster at the age of 16 in 2005, a year he won the strong Dubai Open. In 2008 he won the Reykjavik Open, in 2010 the Chinese Championship and in 2012 he won the Biel Grandmaster tournament ahead of Magnus Carlsen. He had not had many high profile tournament victories since then, but 2019 saw him win the FIDE Grand Swiss and thus qualify for the Candidates. He is a dark horse to win the event (when it resumes), but whatever his result he plays uncompromising battles. I believe the reader will enjoy his games below as much as I did.

(1) Wang Hao (2752) - Anish Giri (2734) [C41]
FIDE Grand Prix Beijing Beijing CHN (6), 10.07.2013

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 This is best, transposing into Philodor's Defense. [4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 optically looks like an advantage for White, but it is extremely difficult to gain any edge in this symetrical ending.] **4...Nbd7 5.Bc4 exd4!?** This is somewhat unusual, giving up the center. **6.Qxd4 Be7** Diagram





7.Bxf7+!? Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Ke8 9.Ne6 c5! making an escape route for the black queen. **10.Qd1 Qb6 11.Nxg7+ Kf7 12.Nf5** White has two pawns and a safer king for the pawn. Wang has done a true specualtive sacrifice - Black has as many chances as White. This gives the reader an insight into the style of Wang - he is in fact a very entertaining player. **12...Bf8** Black may have done a bit better going forward with 12...Ne5. **13.0-0 d5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5+ Ke8?!** [The more natural 15...Qe6 would have kept chances even.] **16.Bg5 Qg6?** Diagram



Giri really needed to challenge the white queen now with [16...Qc6 now the white initiative grows to a deadly level.] **17.Rad1!** Developing like Morphy! Black cannot capture the bishop on g5 as it would lose the queen to 18. Nd6+. **17...Rg8 18.f4 a5** This doesn't save Black, but Giri realized his planned attack with [18...h6 fails after 19.e5! e.g. 19...hxg5 *(19...Qxf5 20.Qxg8* would be winning *20...Qf7 21.Qxf7+ Kxf7 22.Bh4 c4 23.Rde1 Nc5 24.f5* and the white pawns roll*)* 20.e6 Qh7 21.exd7+ Bxd7 22.Rfe1+ Kd8 23.Ne7] **19.e5! Qxf5 20.Qxg8 Ra6 21.Rfe1 Rg6** Diagram





22.e6! Giri resigned. The threat of 23. exd7+ is crushing - 22...Rxg8 23. exd7+ Kf7 24. d8=Q with both material advantage and winning attack. **1-0**

(2) Magnus Carlsen - Wang Hao [A35]
Norway Chess Sandnes NOR (8), 17.05.2013

One way to judge the true strength of a player is how they do against the very best. Wang has beaten Magnus twice (he is only minus one in their lifetime record). Even more impressive is Wang's very plus score against Caruana. **1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5** A good system against the English Opening. Black takes a stake in the center at the cost of a weakening on d5. **4.d3 d6 5.a3 a5 6.g3 Nge7 7.Bg2 g6 8.Bg5 Bg7 9.Bxe7** White trades bishop for knight to increase control of d5 and the light squares. **9...Qxe7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nd2 Be6 12.Rb1 Rfc8 13.Nd5 Qd8 14.b4!?** Playing for the standard queenside break, but Wang makes problems. **14...axb4 15.axb4 Bxd5! 16.Bxd5 cxb4** It looks somewhat ugly for Black, but White must make some concession to regain his pawn. **17.Ne4 Rc7 18.Qd2 Kh8 19.Ra1 Rb8** [19...Rxa1 20.Rxa1 Nd4 was a reasonable alternative.] **20.Rfb1 h6 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Rxb4 d5** Magnus has regained his pawn, yet Black's central play gives at least equal chances. **23.Rxb8 Qxb8 24.Nd6 e4!?** Diagram



This is typical Wang - active and dynamic play. **25.Ra6 exd3 26.exd3 Kh7 27.Kg2 dxc4 28.dxc4 Rd7 29.c5** [29.Rxc6 Bf8 30.Qd5 Rxd6 31.Qxf7+ Bg7 32.Qf4 Rd8] **29...Bf8 30.Rb6** [30.Rxc6? Qa8 31.Qd5 Rc7 wins] **30...Qc7 31.Rb3 Qa7** [31...Bxd6 32.Rd3!] **32.Rc3? Bxd6! 33.cxd6 Qa5!** This pin wins a pawn. **34.h4** [34.Rd3 Qxd2 35.Rxd2 Kg7 36.Kf3 Kf6 will win the d-pawn] **34...Rxd6 35.Qe3** Now comes the technical phase. Most players could not convert this pawn up ending against Magnus. **35...Qd5+ 36.Qf3 h5 37.Qxd5 cxd5 38.Kf3 Kg7 39.Rc7 Kf6 40.Ke3 Ra6!** well done! To have winning chances the black rook must be active, ready to attack the white pawns and drive the white king. **41.Rd7 Ke6 42.Rb7 Ra3+ 43.Kf4 Ra4+ 44.Ke3 Re4+ 45.Kd3 Re1 46.Rb6+ Kf5 47.Rb7 f6 48.Rd7 Re5 49.f3 Ke6 50.Rg7 g5 51.Rh7 g4 52.fxg4 hxg4 53.Rg7 f5 54.Rg6+ Kf7 55.Ra6 Re1 56.Kd2?** [56.h5! Rg1 57.Kd4 Rxg3 58.Ke5! would be the active defense that has very good drawing chances. This was hard to see, even for Magnus.] **56...Rg1 57.Ra3 Rg2+ 58.Ke1 Kf6 59.Kf1 Rc2 60.Ra6+ Ke5 61.h5 Rh2 62.h6 d4 63.Kg1 Rh3 64.Kg2?!** [64.Kf2!] **64...d3! 65.Ra5+ Kd4** Wang is winning now. The d-pawn is too powerful. **66.Ra4+ Kc3 67.Ra6 d2 68.Rc6+ Kd3 69.Rd6+ Kc2 70.Rc6+ Kd1 71.Rd6 f4! 72.gxf4 Ke2 73.Re6+ Re3 74.Rxe3+ Kxe3 75.h7 d1Q 76.h8Q** Diagram



A queen and pawn each, but Wang has seen how to win the white queen. **76...Qf3+ 77.Kg1 Qf2+ 78.Kh1 Qf1+ 79.Kh2 g3+!** Magnus resigned. After 80. Kxg3 Qg1+ 81. Kh3 Qh1+ the queen on a8 falls. **0-1**

(3) Wang Hao - Hikaru Nakamura [B96]
Biel Chess Festival Biel SUI (3), 25.07.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 A Najdorf Sicilian and Wang plays the most aggressive line, 6. Bg5. **6...e6 7.f4 b5!?** Of course we expect from Nakamura uncompromising play. This Polugaevsky Variation is very sharp and risky. **8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Qc7 10.exf6 Qe5+ 11.Be2 Qxg5 12.0-0 Ra7 13.Qd3 Rd7 14.Ne4 Qe5 15.Nf3** Diagram





15...Qc7 [15...Qxb2 16.Qe3 is a sharp, known pawn sacrifice.] **16.Qe3 Bb7 17.Nfg5 h6 18.Qh3 g6 19.Bd3 Nc6 20.Kh1 Ne5 21.Rae1 Bb4 22.Re3 Bd5 23.Be2 Nc4** [Naka could consider the greedy pawn capture 23...Qxc2 which is not easy to refute] **24.Rd3 Qe5 25.a3 Ba5 26.Bg4 Nd6?** Diagram



Again, Naka should have been greedy, this time with 26...Nxb2! **27.Rxd5! Qxd5 28.Bxe6!** Wang in his element. He gives up a whole rook to unlease the potential of White's position. The f-pawn and knight forks leave Black in dire straights. **28...fxe6 29.f7+** Diagram





29...Kd8 [29...Ke7 30.Qxh6!; 29...Nxf7 30.Nf6+] **30.Nxe6+ Kc8 31.f8Q+ Rxf8 32.Rxf8+ Bd8 33.Nxd6+ Kb8** [33...Qxd6 34.Rxd8+ Rxd8 35.Nxd8+ Kxd8 36.Qd3 is a pawn up king ending.] **34.Rf1 Rxd6 35.Nxd8 Qc4 36.Rg1 Rxd8 37.Qg3+ Kb7 38.Qxg6** Two pawns up, Wang securely wraps it up. **38...Rd2 39.Qxh6 Rxc2 40.Qg7+ Kb6 41.b4 Qd3 42.Re1 Qe3 43.Qf6+ Kc7 44.Qf1 Rf2 45.Qg1 Qf4 46.h3 Qg3 47.Qh2 1-0**

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https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA

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Tue	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Wed	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Thu	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Fri	Closed	Closed	8 - 6

Sat	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun	Closed	Closed	Closed

Upcoming Events

Various Chess Classes
Monday, November 23, 2020 - 4:00pm to 5:30pm
The Diary of a Country Priest
Monday, November 23, 2020 - 7:00pm to 8:15pm
Knit Happens Online
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 - 5:30pm to 6:30pm
November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 - 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Mechanics' Institute
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San Francisco, CA 94104

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Newsletter #915

Apr 24, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Four-Club Round Robin
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics' Institute Chess Social
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

St. Louis Chess Club Wins Blitz Battle Of The Titans

The biggest club battle of the year took place on Thursday night, as four historic chess clubs took part in a 25-player-per-side round robin tournament. The Mechanics' Institute, St. Louis Chess Club, Marshall Chess Club, and Charlotte Chess Center took part in what was billed the "four corners" match by US Chess. The match featured a grandmaster on each side and 24 other players across several rating categories, making it a truly representative event. Time control was G/8 +2, with players playing the same opponent in each round twice, once as white, once as black. Players showed up ready and motivated, and the electricity was definitely in the air. The four teams entered the field of battle at 4:45pm, and St. Louis emerged victorious when it was all over with 92.5 game points. Charlotte finished in second place with 85 game points, followed by Mechanics' with 67 and Marshall with 55.5.

In the first round, Mechanics' took on St. Louis. GM Jeffery Xiong was supposed to be their top board, but he just missed joining the match so he would have to skip the round. However, St Louis was balanced across all sections, and they proved too formidable, winning that round 28-20. The bright point of the round for us came from our very own FM Paul Whitehead, who stepped in to play as a last minute replacement. He was worried he would be a little rusty, but he showed up ready to play this evening. Here is a win from this round, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(9) FM Paul Whitehead (chessmonster666) (2092) - Luke Ye (lukeye2008) (1943) [B52]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.04.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.a4 Chessmonster666 (our own Paul Whitehead) goes into unusual territory to get out of book. **4...a6 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7?!** [5...Nxd7] **6.0-0 Nc6 7.d3 e6 8.a5 Nf6 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.Nc4** the b6 square is a problem for Black. **10...Qc7 11.Re1 0-0 12.Bf4 e5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nb6 Rae8 16.Nd5** such a nice knight on d5 makes it enjoyable to play the white side. **16...Qd8 17.Qd2 Re6 18.h3 Ne7 19.c4 Nxd5 20.cxd5 Re7 21.b4!** White has a queenside initiative as the bishop on f6 is out of play. **21...Rc7 22.Reb1 c4 23.b5 axb5 24.Rxb5 Qd7 25.Rab1?!** [25.dxc4 Rxc4 26.Rab1!] **25...c3!** This pawn is annoying. **26.Qc2 Rfc8 27.Nh2 Bd8 28.Nf1 f5?** [Black should play 28...Bg5 to stop the knight from coming to help on the queenside.] **29.exf5 Qxf5 30.Ne3 Qd7 31.Nc4** Diagram



31...Qe7?! [The best chance was the tactical 31...e4! 32.R5b4 *(32.Nb6? Qxb5! 33.Rxb5 exd3 34.Qxd3 c2* would win for Black!*)* 32...exd3 33.Qxd3 Bg5 34.Qxc3 Qf5 with some activity for the pawn.] **32.Nb6 Rb8 33.R1b3 Qe8 34.R3b4 Qf7 35.Rc4?!** [35.Nc4 leaves White in full control] **35...Rxc4 36.dxc4 Bxb6?** [36...Bh4! was needed to give counterplay.] **37.Rxb6 Qc7 38.Qxc3 Rc8 39.Qb4 Qxc4 40.Qxc4 Rxc4 41.Rxb7** So White has a pawn up rook ending, which is always difficult to wrap up. **41...Ra4 42.Rb5 Kf7 43.Kf1 Ke8 44.Ke2 g6 45.g3 g5 46.Kf3 h5 47.Rb8+ Kf7 48.Rb5 g4+ 49.hxg4 hxg4+ 50.Ke3 Kf6 51.Rb6 Rxa5 52.Rxd6+ Kf5 53.Rd8 Ra3+ 54.Ke2 Ra2+ 55.Kf1 Rd2 56.d6 Rd5 57.d7 Ke6 58.Rg8 Rxd7 59.Rxg4** This position is a theoretical draw, but in practice, especially in blitz, it can be lost. **59...Kf5 60.Ra4 Rg7 61.Kg2 Rf7 62.Ra5 Ke4?** the black king should just stay back and defend. It is now traveling away from the passed white g-pawn. **63.f3+! Kd4** [63...Rxf3 64.Ra4+] **64.g4 Rf8 65.Kg3 Rg8 66.f4! e4** [66...exf4+ 67.Kxf4 Rf8+ 68.Rf5 is a winning postion for White with the black king cut off.] **67.f5 e3 68.Kf4 e2 69.Ra1 Kd5** [69...Kd3 70.f6 Ra8 71.Re1 Kd2 72.Rg1 Ra4+ 73.Kg5] **70.g5 Kd6 71.Re1! Re8 72.g6** now its easy **72...Re7 73.Kg5 Kd7 74.f6 Re5+ 75.Kf4 Re6 76.Kf5 Re3 77.g7 Rf3+ 78.Kg4 Rf1 79.Rxe2 Rxf6 80.g8Q Rd6 81.Qf7+ Kc6 82.Rc2+ Kb6 83.Qb3+ Ka7 84.Ra2+ Ra6 85.Rxa6+ Kxa6 86.Kf5 1-0**

In the second round, Mechanics' played Charlotte. We figured this would be a tough match, as Charlotte just edged us out in our last club match. In this round, Charlotte was just too strong, and they took round 2 by a score of 27.5-20.5. However, this round provided the game of the match for Mechanics'.

GM James Tarjan was our grandmaster and top board for this event. He shocked the chess world in 2017 when he defeated former world champion Vladimir Kramnik at the Isle of Man. We were wondering if Tarjan could bring a little of that magic to this online event, and it appeared in a fabulous win in round 2 against Charlotte GM Daniel Naroditsky. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(7) GM James Tarjan (Tirantes) (2525) - GM Daniel Naroditsky (DanielNaroditsky) (3084) [A20]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.04.2020

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 Bc5 4.Nc3 a6!? making sure the bishop has a safe retreat square. **5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 Ba7 7.e3 Nge7 8.b3 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.Bb2 f5 11.d3 0-0 12.Qd2 Ng6 13.Rae1 Qd7 14.Kh1** We have reached an interesting position from the English Opening where both players have gotten what they want. Tirantes (the great Jim Tarjan) has gotten with White a dynamic position with just a slight edge. Daniel, with Black, has a position he can easily play for a win with. Though there is tehnically a more than 500 rating point difference (and more thatn 40 years age difference) you should not be fooled. Tarjan is a dangerous opponent for anyone in the world (as Kramnik found out a couple years ago). **14...Rae8 15.Ng1!? Kh8 16.f3** White is carefully playing for squares on the kingside. **16...Nge7 17.f4 Rf6 18.Nf3 h6 19.Kh2!** slowly covering more territory on the kingside. **19...Bf7 20.Nh4 g5?** This aggressive move loosens Black on the kingside. **21.Nf3 Rg8** Diagram

22.Nd5! Suddenly the white pieces come to life. The bishop on b2 is eyeing the black king on h8. **22...Re6** [22...Nxd5 23.cxd5 Bxd5 24.fxe5 Nxe5 25.Nxe5 dxe5 26.Bxe5 would be winning for White.] **23.e4 gxf4 24.gxf4 Reg6 25.Bh1** The white king is safe on h2. The same cannot be said about the black king on h8. **25...fxe4 26.fxe5! dxe5?!** [The best hope to hold on was to lose the exchange with 26...R8g7 27.dxe4 Nxe5 28.Nxe5 dxe5 29.Bxe5] **27.Nxe5 Qd6 28.Qf4** crushing **28...Kh7 29.Bxe4 Be8** [29...Bxd5 30.cxd5 is also hopeless] **30.Nxg6 Bxg6 31.Qxd6 Bg1+** may as well get in a check! **32.Rxg1 cxd6 33.Nf6+ Kg7 34.Nxg8+ Kxg8 35.Bxg6 Kf8 36.Ref1+ Kg8 37.Bf7+ 1-0**

We were hoping the final round would be our round, and we felt we matche up well against Marshall. However, Marshall took that round 25.5-22.5. We did have some fine wins from our players in this round, here are a couple of games, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(10) NM Vyom Vidyarthy (2007checkmate) (2253) - FM Peter Giannatos (Giannatos) (2499) [D06]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.04.2020

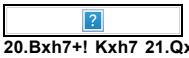
1.d4 d5 2.c4 Bf5!? A tricky move in the opening. **3.Nc3** [3.cxd5 Bxb1 4.Rxb1 Qxd5 5.e3 Qxa2 6.Bd2 is a prominsing pawn sacrifice.] **3...e6 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.e3 Nf6 6.Bd3?!** [6.Nf3] **6...dxc4** [6...Bxd3! 7.Qxd3 Nb4 8.Qe2 dxc4 is good for Black] **7.Bxc4 Bd6 8.Bxd6 cxd6 9.Nge2 0-0 10.0-0 Rc8 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3** We have ended up with a completely equal position. **12...d5 13.Rac1 a6 14.Na4 Ne4 15.Nc5 Nxc5 16.Rxc5 Qb6?!** [16...Ne5! 17.Qc3 Rxc5 18.dxc5 Qf6] **17.Qc3 Ne7 18.b4** Now White has a little more territory. **18...Rc6 19.Rc1 Rfc8 20.Nf4 Nf5 21.Nd3 Nd6 22.Ne5! Ne4?** Diagram

[22...Rxc5 23.bxc5 Qc7 is only slightly worse.] **23.Nxc6! Nxc3** [23...bxc6 24.Rxc6] **24.Ne7+ Kf8 25.Nxc8 Qxb4 26.R5xc3** With two rooks and a knight for the queen it is just a matter of technique. **26...g6 27.g3 h5 28.h4 b5 29.Na7!** getting the knight back to a safe, powerful square. **29...Qb2 30.R3c2 Qa3 31.Nc6 a5 32.Ne5** the invasion can't be stopped. **32...b4 33.Rc8+ Kg7 34.R1c7** Checkmate is coming in a few moves. A fine win by 2007checkmate over a strong opponent! **1-0**

(8) FM Eric Yuhan Li (wepkins) (2345) - NM Paris Prestia (1d31-0) (2406) [D11]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.04.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Be7 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 b5 9.Be2 a6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Rd1 0-0 12.e4 We have a complex Semi-Slav opening with chances for both sides **12...Qb6?!** [more active is 12...c5 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.e5 Nd5 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Ng5 g6] **13.e5 Nd5 14.Nxd5?!** [14.Bg5 would show the black weakeness on the dark squares.] **14...cxd5 15.Bg5 Rfc8! 16.Qd2 Bf8 17.Bd3 a5 18.h4!? Ba6?!** [18...h6!] **19.Qf4 b4?!** Diagram



20.Bxh7+! Kxh7 21.Qxf7 A promising sacrifice. Black has a hard time getting his pieces over to defend the king. **21...Be2 22.Bd8!** Inspired! Clearing the g5 square for the knight. **22...Qc6?!** It's hard to give good advice here, but Black should at least take the material and hope to give something back. [22...Qxd8 23.Ng5+ Kh6 24.Qg8 Nf6 25.exf6 Kg6 26.fxg7 Bxg7 27.Qf7+ Kh6 28.Qxe6+ Qf6 29.Qxe2 leaves White two pawns up, but at least pieces are equal and there is no quick checkmate.] **23.Ng5+ Kh6 24.Qg8 Qc2 25.Qh8+ Kg6 26.Rdc1** [26.Qh7# was also good **26...Qxc1+ 27.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 28.Kh2 Kf5 29.Qh7+ Kf4 30.Nxe6+ Kg4 31.f3+** Black resigned as 31... Bxf3 32. Qg6 is mate. A wonderful game from Wepkins! **1-0**
Since we had agreed that game points would be how we would score the match, St. Louis ended up winning the match with 92.5 total game points, despite losing the match round to Charlotte in the final round 25.5-24.5. Charlotte took second with 85 game points. Surprisingly, Mechanics' took third place with 67 points, and Marshall finished fourth with 55.5, despite winning the round against us. Mechanics' was able to rack up enough points in previous rounds even in losing that helped keep us in third place.

Regardless of the tournament results, everyone had fun, and it was exciting to play such a historic match. It was two and a half hours of action-packed entertainment, high level chess, exciting finishes, and dramatic moments. It was fun for our Mechancs' team to work together so closely on one event, as we had GM Nick de Firmian and FM Jim Eade did the commentary, FM Paul Whitehead played in the match, and Judit and I managed the tournament. It was a team effort, and we were happy that the chess community could come together. We want to thank Grant Oen and Peter Giannatos from Charlotte Chess Center, Tony Rich and Mike Kummer from St. Louis Chess Club and Bryan Quick from Marshall Chess Club. I especially want to thank all the players who participated as they all volunteered their time to make this happen, which we greatly appreciate. Here was our team roster:

GM James Tarjan	10991820	2469	Board 1
FM Paul Whitehead	10478936	2355	U2400
FM Eric Yuhan Li	15688436	2369	U2400
NM Vyom Vidyarthi	15107740	2247	U2400
NM Ruiyang Yan	15462690	2242	U2400
Pranav Sairam	15424820	2087	U2200
Theo Biyiasas	13989054	2175	U2200
Ethan Boldi	15088362	2120	U2200
Abhinav Penagalapati	15467440	2060	U2200
Omya Vidyarthi	15782318	1934	U2000
Anika Rajaram	15446678	1858	U2000
Lauren Goodkind	12778910	1856	U2000
Rohan Rajaram	15739716	1905	U2000
Barbara Goodkind	12778604	1791	U1800
David Rakonitz	12931024	1622	U1800
Juan Cendejas	12717746	1718	U1800
Erika Malykin	12910007	1693	U1800
Joseph Roberts	16864855	1448	U1600
Jahaan Ansari	21004356	1446	U1600
Reka Sztaray	14656444	1533	U1600
Matt LeForce	15808732	1547	U1600
Daniel Perlov	16465203	1364	U1400
Warren Tian	12906125	1380	U1400
Jon Cendejas	15121586	1220	U1400
Rhianna Lope	15793393	1057	U1400

To watch the stream of the match, please follow this link: https://www.twitch.tv/videos/600751893 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.twitch.tv/videos/600751893)

For full results, please click here:

R1 v St. Louis https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/9211
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/9211)

R2 v Charlotte https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/8973
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/8973)

R3 v Marshall https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/9210
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/9210)

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

The Tuesday Night Online drew 67 players for the premier 5-round G/5 +2 battle. The gold medalist this evening was NM Ruiyang Yan, who went a perfect 5/5 en route to her first TNO gold medal. The silver goes to Rohan Rajaram and the bronze to Lauren Goodkind, both with 4.5.

Below is her final round win against a very tough Abhinav Penagalapati. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(2) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2285) - Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) (2075) [B31]

Live Chess Chess.com, 21.04.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Qc7 8.Be3 b6 9.Qd2 0-0 10.Bf4 Qd7 11.Bh6 White has gotten a slight advantage from the opening. **11...a5 12.a4 Ba6** The bishop is not that active here. **13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.0-0 Rad8 15.Qe3 Qc7 16.Nd2 e5 17.f4 exf4 18.Rxf4 Nd7 19.Raf1 f6!** It is important to hold squares on the kingside. This keeps White's advantage to a minimum. **20.Qf2 Qd6 21.Ne2 Ne5 22.Nf3 Rd7** [22...Bxd3!? 23.cxd3 Nxd3 24.Qe3 Nxf4 25.Nxf4 would be a very reasonable material exchange.] **23.b3 Rdf7 24.h4 Bc8 25.Nxe5 Qxe5 26.Ng3 h5! 27.Qd2 Bg4 28.Kh1 Rd7 29.Qe1 Rd6 30.R1f2 Re8 31.Nf1 Bc8?! 32.Ne3 Rde6 33.Qf1** [33.Nc4! Qc7 34.e5] **33...Rf8 34.Nc4 Qc7 35.c3 Ba6 36.d4 cxd4 37.cxd4 Bxc4 38.bxc4 Qd6?! 39.Qd3** [39.e5 Qe7 40.Qb1] **39...Rd8 40.d5 cxd5 41.cxd5 Rf8 42.Qc3 Re5 43.Qd4 Rf7 44.Rc2 Qa3? 45.Rf3?** [45.Rxf6! Rxf6 46.Qxe5 would win] **45...Qe7 46.Re2 Rf8 47.Rc3! Rf7 48.Rc6 Qb4 49.Qxb4 axb4 50.Rxb6 f5 51.Rxb4 Rfe7** [51...fxe4 52.Rbxe4 Rxd5 is a pawn down but fair drawing chances] **52.d6 Rd7 53.Rd4 Kf6** [53...fxe4] **54.Kg1 fxe4 55.Kf2 Ke6?** Diagram



[55...Re6] **56.Rdxe4! Rxe4 57.Rxe4+** White now wins the ending. To recapture the d-pawn leads to a lost king and pawn ending. **57...Kd5 58.Re2 Kc6 59.Rd2 Rf7+ 60.Ke3 Kd7 61.Ke4 Rf5 62.g3 Ra5 63.Rd4 Rf5 64.Rd5 Rf1 65.Rg5 Rf6 66.Rd5 Rf1 67.a5 Ra1 68.Kf4 Ra4+ 69.Kf3 Ra3+ 70.Kf4 Ra4+ 71.Ke3 Ra3+ 72.Kf2 Ra2+ 73.Kf3 Ra3+ 74.Kg2 Ra2+ 75.Kh3** slow, but sure technique. **75...Ra3 76.Rg5 Kxd6 77.Rxg6+ Ke7 78.Rg5 Kf6 79.Rxh5 1-0**

WFM Natalya Tsodikova provided an entertaining game befitting her style with this beautiful attack.

(1) Brendyn Estolas (Brendyn33) (1735) - WFM Natalya Tsodikova (natrost2000) (2276) [A27]

Live Chess Chess.com, 21.04.2020

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Nge7 6.e4 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 f5 10.exf5 Nxf5 [10...Bxd4! 11.Bxd4 Nxf5 is a good way to win back the dark squared bishop and equalize the game.] **11.Nxf5 Bxf5 12.Qd2 Qd7 13.Rfd1 Bg4 14.f3 Be6 15.c5 Rad8 16.cxd6 cxd6 17.Nb5** [The centralizing 17.Ne4! would give White some edge.] **17...d5 18.Nd4 Bf7 19.Rac1 Ne5?! 20.Bb5! Qd6 21.Bf4** [21.b3!] **21...a6 22.Bf1 Qb6 23.Be3?!** [23.Qf2] **23...Qd6?!** [Black could have siezed the initiative with 23...Nc4! 24.Bxc4 dxc4 when everything is working well] **24.b3! Rfe8 25.a4 Rd7 26.h3 h5?! 27.f4! Nc6 28.Nxc6 bxc6 29.Bc5 Qf6 30.Bxa6** White has won a pawn, so Black needs to generate counterplay quickly. **30...Bh6 31.Rf1 Re4 32.g3 h4?!** [32...d4! would keep the game messy.] **33.Bd3 Re8 34.g4** Now White has a pawn and is clearly in control. **34...Bg7 35.g5 Qe6 36.f5! Qe5 37.Qf2 gxf5 38.Bxf5 Rb7 39.g6** [39.Qxh4! threatening Qh7 mate would finish the game.] **39...Be6 40.Rce1** Diagram



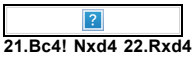
[40.Qxh4!] **40...Bxf5 41.Rxe5 Rxe5 42.Bd4 Re2 43.Qxe2 Bxd4+ 44.Kh2 Be4 45.Qh5 Re7 46.Rf5!? Bd3 47.Rg5?** White has been winning for some moves, but now errs. The easiest win here is [47.Rxd5 Re2+ 48.Qxe2 Bxe2 49.Rxd4] **47...Re2+ 48.Rg2 Be5+ 49.Kg1 Bd4+ 50.Kh1?** White now had to repeat moves and make a draw. Unwilling to accept that result leads to a loss **50...Re1+ 51.Kh2 Be5+ 52.Rg3 hxg3+** White resigns. Rather a tradgedy for Brendyn33. **0-1**

Another slugfest that caught the attention of the commentating team was this round 2 match.

(3) Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (1615) - Javier Silva (J3Chess24) (1758) [B12]

Live Chess Chess.com, 21.04.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 e6 [3...dxe4 4.fxe4 e5! is the usual response to this variation] **4.e5 Nd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 f6 7.Nf3 b6?! 8.Bd3** [8.f5! exf5 9.Bb5 would leave Black in difficulties.] **8...Bb7?! 9.0-0 f5 10.Ng5 Ke7 11.g4 h6 12.Nh3** [12.Nxe6! Kxe6 13.Bxf5+ Ke7 14.Qe1 would be an attack worth more than the piece.] **12...g6 13.Be3 Kf7 14.gxf5 exf5 15.c4 Ke6?!** this is really too brave of his majesty. **16.Nc3 Ne7 17.Qb3 cxd4 18.Bxd4 Nb8 19.Rad1 Nbc6 20.cxd5+ Nxd5** Diagram



21.Bc4! Nxd4 22.Rxd4 Bc5 23.Rfd1! Rc8 24.Kf1? [24.Bxd5+ Bxd5 25.Nxd5 is simply winning] **24...Bxd4 25.Rxd4 Rc5** [25...Rxc4! 26.Qxc4 Ba6 27.Qxa6 Ne3+ 28.Ke2 Qxd4] **26.Na4 Ra5** [26...Rxc4!] **27.Qd1?!** [27.Qg3] **27...b5?** [27...Ba6! would be much better for Black. The game move turns it around.] **28.Nc5+ Ke7 29.Nxb7 Ne3+! 30.Ke2 Nxd1 31.Rxd8 Rxd8 32.Nxd8?** [32.Nxa5! threatening Nc6 check instead would win] **32...Kxd8** now Black should win the ending. **33.Bf7 Nxb2 34.Bxg6 Nc4 35.Bxf5 Rxa2+ 36.Kf3 b4 37.Be6 Ra3+ 38.Ke4 b3! 39.Bxc4 b2 40.Bd3 Rxd3 41.Kxd3 b1Q+ 42.Kd4 Qb2+ 43.Kd5 Qxh2 0-1**

For full results of this event, please follow this link:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1191967 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1191967)

Mechanics’ Online Event Recap

The Mechanics' Institute played a club friendly against the Southern Arizona Chess Association on Monday, April 20. We put together a 13-player all scholastic team, except for me. I stepped in as a last minute replacement for someone, but this group was a strong bunch. At 1800, I was the lowest rated player of the whole group! Time control was G/30

Mechanics' ended up winning this match 15-11, and our team was led by NM Vyom Vidyarthi, NM Ruiyang Yan, NM Sriram Krishnakumar, Ethan Boldi and Pranav Sairam.

Here is a nice win by Pranav Sairam from the match:

(4) jacobsong1 (1904) - Pranav Sairam (chesspilot01) (2095) [D35]

Live Chess Chess.com, 20.04.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 [Of course not the old trap 6.Nxd5? Nxd5 7.Bxd8 Bb4+!] **6...Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 c6 9.Nf3 Re8 10.0-0 Nf8** We have a classic Queen's Gambit Declined, Exchange Variation. **11.h3 Ng6 12.Rab1 a5 13.a3 Ne4 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.b4 axb4 16.axb4** White proceeds with the minority attack, planning to weaken the black pawn structure with 17. b5. Black must create play on the kingside, and chesspilot does this energetically. **16...Ng5! 17.Nh2?!** [17.Nxg5 Qxg5 18.Kh2 Nh4 19.Rg1 is safer] **17...Nh4 18.Rfe1?!** Diagram



18...Nxh3+! 19.gxh3 Qg5+ 20.Ng4 Bxg4 21.hxg4 Qxg4+ 22.Kf1 Nf3! 23.Red1? [23.Bxh7+ Kh8 24.Red1 g6 is much better (in fact winning) for Black, but still better than the game move.] **23...Qg1+ 24.Ke2 Nxd4+ 25.Kd2 Qxf2+** that's all folks **26.Kc1 Nxc2 27.Bxc2 Qxe3+ 28.Kb2 d4 29.Na4 Rxa4 30.Bxa4 Qc3+ 31.Ka2 Re2+ 0-1**

We would like to thank Robby Adamson and Michelle Martinez for their help in organizing this match!

For full results, follow this link: https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/8873 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/8873)

The 24-player Sunday Late Night Showdown on April 19 went to NM Ruiyang Yan, who finished with 5/5, followed by Mephistotelian and Atrozen with 4/5. For full results, follow this link: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1191914 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1191914)

The 49-player G/5 +2 Wednesday Late Night Showdown on April 22 was won by Abhinav Penagalapati with 4.5/5. In 2nd place was Brendyn Estolas and 3rd was NM Vyom Vidyarthi, all with 4/5.

Here is a nice win from this event.

(5) David Askin (David_Askin) (1863) - Alan Finkelstein (stratus_junior) (2035) [D11]

Live Chess Chess.com, 22.04.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.e4 dxe4 More usual is 8...dxc4. White gets a little more freedom now is this Semi-Slav opening. **9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 h6 11.b3 e5 12.Bb2?!** [12.Bc2! would avoid the coming advance and keep a little edge for White.] **12...f5! 13.Bc2 e4 14.Ne5 Qc7 15.Nxd7 Bxh2+?!** [15...Bxd7 is very pleasant for Black. The game move is a bit greedy.] **16.Kh1 Bxd7 17.g3** Now Black must give up the bishop for 3 pawns. **17...Bxg3 18.fxg3 Qxg3 19.Qe2** [19.Qh5! keeps better control of the kingside squares.] **19...Rae8 20.Rae1 f4 21.Bxe4?** Diagram



This gets rid of one of the powerful central pawns, but at too high a cost. The calm [21.Qh2 would keep even chances.] **21...Bf5 22.Qf3 Bxe4!** Now White must lose either a rook or queen for rook. **23.Qxe4 Rxe4 24.Rxe4 f3 0-1**

For full results, follow this link: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1197846 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1197846)

Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

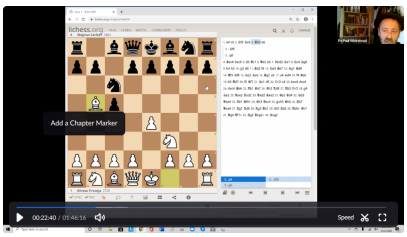
Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, it is not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champior and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)



Mechanics Chess Social #2

with

Carol Meyer, Executive Director of US Chess

and

GM Rauf Mamedov

This week we had two special guests:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwhnPeK299g&t=661s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwhnPeK299g&t=661s)

Next week's guest is: Elizabeth Shaughnessy from the Berkeley Chess School. Join us May 1st from 12PM on twitch.tv/mechanicschess. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

Chess and Twitch: Home Away From Home by WIM Dr. Alexey Root

Dr. Alexey Root wote a great article for Chess Life Online on how our chess community is expressing themselves digitally given the current state of the world, and she mentioned Mechanics' and our broadcast. Please check out the article here: https://new.uschess.org/news/chess-twitch-home-away-home/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://new.uschess.org/news/chess-twitch-home-away-home/)

We appreciate Alexey's support of Mechanics' and our broadcast!

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic offerigs

Tournaments - Club Matches - Classes

Upcoming Tournament/Club Match schedule

Saturday, April 25 - 3PM VIA CHESS.com! - join from 2PM https://www.chess.com/live#t=1203058 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1203058)
Saturday, April 25 - 4PM - join from 3:45PM https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=22073 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=22073)
Sunday, April 26 - 4PM - join from 3:45PM https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=22074 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=22074)
Tuesday, April 28 - 4:15PM - join from 4PM https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24086 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24086)
Thursday, April 30 - 4PM - join from 3:45PM https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24087 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24087)
Saturday, May 2 - 4PM - join from 3:45PM https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24090 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24090)
Sunday, May 3 - 4PM - join from 3:45PM https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24091 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24091)

If you have any problem connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you a step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

Scholastic Games Of The Week

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

1.e4 d5 2.f3?! This is not the pawn you want to move early in the opening. Better to just take the d-pawn - 2.exd5. **2...Nf6 3.c4?! dxe4** winning a nice central pawn **4.Nc3 exf3 5.Nxf3 Bg4 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.Re1 Bc5+ 9.Kh1 0-0 10.d3 Re8** Diagram



So far Black has played a model game. All the pieces are out on good squares, plus that extra pawn. **11.h3 Bh5 12.Nd5?! Nxd5 13.cxd5 Qxd5 14.Rf1 Rad8 15.Nd4?! Bxd4** [15...Bxe2 16.Nxe2 Qxd3 would be a winning position three pawns up and no worries at all] **16.Bxh5 g6 17.Bf3 Qb5 18.Bg5** Black is still well ahead, but must be careful here. **18...Rd7 19.Bxc6 Qxc6 20.Qd2 Qb5 21.Bf6 Qxb2??** [with 21...Re6 22.Qh6 Rxf6! 23.Rxf6 Qxb2 Black would still be well ahead] **22.Qh6** Oops. No way to stop checkmate. **22...Qxa1 23.Qg7# 1-0**

(2) KolbyR (1264) - TopWittyGem (1574)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c5 2.c4!? d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Qd1 Nf6 6.Nc3 g6 7.c5?! This just gives up a pawn. Much better to develop and castle! [7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0] **7...dxc5 8.Qxd8+ Nxd8 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bxd7+ Nxd7 11.Nf3 Nc6 12.Nd5 Rc8 13.0-0 Bg7** Black has done a nice job of taking the pawn and then getting the black pieces out. **14.Rb1 Nf6 15.Ng5?! h6 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Nf3 0-0?!** giving back the hard earned pawn **18.Be3** [18.Bxh6] **18...Ne5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.Bxh6 Rfd8 21.Bg5 f6 22.Be3 b6 23.Rbd1?!** [23.b3!] **23...Rd6?!** [23...Bxb2! would get the pawn back and leave Black with an excellent queenside pawn majority.] **24.Rxd6 exd6 25.b3 Rd8 26.Rd1 Kf7 27.f4 Bc3 28.e5?!** It looks like a great pin, but White forgot about the black bishop. **28...fxe5 29.fxe5 Bxe5 30.Bg5 Bf6?** Diagram



[30...Re8] **31.Bf4?** [31.Rf1! would just win the bishop! Now Black should be winning with the central and queenside pawns rolling.] **31...d5 32.Bc7 Rd7 33.Bb8 Ke6 34.Kf2 Be5?! 35.Bxe5?!** [look for those pins! 35.Re1! Rf7+ 36.Kg1 Rf5 37.g4 Rg5 38.Kf2 Kf6 39.h4! Bxb8 40.hxg5+ Kxg5] **35...Kxe5 36.Ke3 d4+ 37.Kd3 Rf7! 38.Re1+ Kd5 39.Re2 b5!** now the pawns are unstoppable **40.a4 c4+ 41.bxc4+ bxc4+ 42.Kd2 c3+ 43.Kc2 Kc4 44.Re4 Rf2+ 45.Kd1 Kd3 46.Rg4 Rf1# 0-1**

(3) BusyLargeMonster (955) - dinosaurus333 (1241)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Bb5+? Oops. This check is the wrong time. **3...Qxb5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qa6 6.Nd5** Nice try to get back in the game. Black responds precisely though. **6...Qa5! 7.0-0?** The lesson for this game is "hold on to your pieces!" [7.c4] **7...Qxd5** Two pieces up and no worries should be easy. **8.d3 Bg4 9.Bg5? Bxf3! 10.b4** Now White is being very generous, though he is already too much down for this game. **10...Bxd1 11.Raxd1 Qxg5 12.Rde1 Nf6 13.Re2 Ng4 14.Rfe1 Qh4 15.f3 Qxh2+ 16.Kf1 Qh1# 0-1**

(4) LateLoyalBagel (1322) - TopWittyGem (1575)

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1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.d3 [6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 would be a Sicilian Dragon. In the game White moves the pawn to d3 and keeps the game closed.] **6...0-0 7.Bf4 h6 8.Qd2 Kh7 9.Rad1 a6 10.Rfe1 b5 11.Bb3 Bb7 12.a4** [A good alternative is to open the game with White being fully developed - 12.e5 dxe5 13.Nxe5] **12...Nc6?!** giving up a pawn **13.axb5 axb5 14.Nxb5 Nh5 15.Be3 Bxb2?** wanting to get the pawn back Black allows a trap **16.Bxh6?!** not a bad move at all, but [16.c3! Qb6 17.Bc4 would just win the dark squared bishop on b2] **16...Re8?** [16...Bg7!] **17.c3 Ba6** Diagram



18.Bc4?! [18.Ng5+! Kxh6 19.Nxf7+ Kg7 20.Qh6+ would be crushing] **18...Na5 19.Be3** [19.Ng5+] **19...Nxc4 20.dxc4 Bxb5 21.cxb5 Ba3 22.Ra1 Qa5 23.Ra2** [23.Reb1 Reb8 24.Qd3 would still leave White well ahead as the bishop on a3 cannot escape] **23...Qxb5 24.Rea1 Qb3 25.g3?** Diagram



[25.Qd5!] **25...Bc1!** Black cleverly escapes the problems with this tactic. If 26. Qxc1 Rxa2 **26.Rxa8 Bxd2 27.Rxe8 Bxe3 28.fxe3 Qxc3 29.Ra7?** [White needed to play defense with 29.Re1] **29...Qxe3+ 30.Kg2 Qe2+! 31.Kh3 Qxf3 32.Rexe7 Nf4+ 33.Kh4 Qh5#** A great battle! **0-1**

(5) DarkCapableCharm (1327) - CKK0207SanRamon (1225)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 d6 4.0-0 Nf6? this allows White's next powerful move. If Black plays with this move order he must play first 4...Be7 and then 5...Nf6 so that he would be ready to castle and defend f7. **5.Ng5! d5 6.exd5 Nxd5** Diagram



7.Qf3 [7.Nxf7! Kxf7 8.Qf3+ Ke6 9.Nc3 Nce7 10.d4 would be a winning sacrifice here. The black king in the center wouldn't survive long.] **7...Be6?!** [7...Qxg5! 8.Bxd5 Qf6 would guard everything] **8.Nxe6 fxe6 9.Qg4 Qf6 10.Nc3 Nde7?!** This gives away an important pawn. The knight should have stayed at its post. **11.Bxe6 g6?!** [11...Nd4] **12.Nb5! Kd8 13.d3 h5 14.Qh3 a6 15.Nc3 Nd4 16.Nd5?** [16.Bb3 leaves White a pawn up with the black king in the middle] **16...Nxe6?** an oversight just as Black was finally getting a break. [16...Qxe6! is a piece ahead] **17.Nxf6 1-0**

Online Chess Classes for Kids

Do you have a child who is eager to learn or play some chess? We encourage you to try one of our popular online classes.
Our schedule is open for any student to join, and we are adding classes as demand grows.

Coaches are meeting students via a closed and secured zoom. Classes are supervised by coach and often one other staff member, and recorded. After 60 minutes of interactive class, the students are encouraged to log onto chesskid.com and join the upcoming tournament, or just play online a few games with fellow club members.

Class Fee: $25/single class, $45/2 classes, $80/4 classes
Sign up via Jumbula: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes)

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

4/25 Saturday - Club Match with Club 64 from Medona, Italy
Format: club match - everyone will be paired up with a player from the Italian club.
time contorl: G/15+10
https://www.chess.com/live#tm=8889 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=8889)

Saturday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1197856 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1197856)
Start: 9PM

4/26 Sunday - Sunday Afternoon Matinee
Format: 3 rounds of G/30+0
Join from 1PM https://www.chess.com/live#t=1197858 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1197858)
Start: 2PM

Saturday Late Night Showdown

Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1197859 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1197859)
Start: 9PM

4/27 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=189679 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/live#r=189679)
Start: 6:30PM

4/28 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1203049 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1203049)
Start: 6:30PM

4/29 Wednesday - Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament: 8PM: https://www.chess.com/live#t=1203054 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1203054)
Starts 9PM.

4/30 Thursday - First every Mechanics' FISHER RANDOM tournament
Format:
Join from https://www.chess.com/live#t=1203058 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1203058)
Start:

4/30 Thursday - Thursday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5 +2
Join from 5:30PM: https://www.chess.com/live#t=1203058 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1203058)
First game starts at 6:30PM

5/1 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161120/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Paul's column will resume next week

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Nick de Firmian’s Column

Magnus to the rescue!

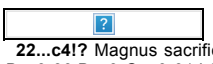
While almost the entire world is locked down with the coronavirus, there are no sporting events. So many billions of people staying at home, many terribly bored and wanting to see some action somewhere. In steps Magnus and the Norwegians with his Magnus Carlsen Invitational. This is an on-line single round robin tournament with an unusual and entertaining format. Instead of a single classical game between the opponents, they play a mini-match of four rapid games, each player getting 15 minutes for the game and 10 second increment per move. If the match is tied after the four games, then one Armageddon game is played to decide the match. Players are not eliminated – it is a round robin – and Magnus/sponsors have chosen an elite and entertaining field. The participants are Magnus himself. Fabiano Caruana. Ian Nepomniachtchi, Ding Liren, Maxim Vachier-Lagrave, Anish Giri, Hikaru Nakamura and young superstar Alireza Firouzja. The tournament takes place from April 18-30 during these challenging days of coronavirus closures.

The games are fast so there are mistakes, but still great moves. We have chosen entertaining games with tense positions and problems for both sides. We hope you enjoy these, and hope you tune into the tournament to avoid the corona blues.

(1) Firouzja,Alizera - Carlsen,Magnus [B30]

Magnus Invitational, 20.04.2020

A battle between the world's one teenage super talent and the (now) very seasoned veteran, the World Champion. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5** Most people are afraid to play 3. d4 and meet Magnus's Sveshnikov Sicilian. **3...e6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.d3 Qc7 6.Qe2 e5 7.Nbd2 Ne7 8.Nc4 Ng6 9.h4 h5 10.g3 d6 11.Bd2 f6 12.Ne3** We have a fairly closed position where Black has the two bishops at the expense of doubled pawns. Chances are equal. **12...Be7 13.Ng1 Bd8 14.Qf3 Nf8** There is a lot of maneuvering because time is not so important when things are closed and there are no good breakthroughs. **15.Ne2 Ne6 16.Qg2 a5 17.a4 Nd4 18.f4 Be6 19.b3 Qd7 20.f5 Bf7 21.Nc1 d5 22.0-0** Diagram



22...c4!? Magnus sacrifices a pawn to break open the position. More circumspect was [22...Rb8] **23.bxc4 dxc4 24.dxc4 Bb6 25.Rb1 Qa7 26.Kh2 Rd8 27.Rb2 0-0 28.g4** [28.c3 Nb5 29.cxb5 Bxe3 30.Bxe3 Qxe3 31.b6 Rd7 32.Qe2 Qxc3 33.Nb3 Rfd8 is about equal] **28...Ne2!?** Aggressive play! This leads to an exchange sacrifice for the bishop pair and play. **29.Qxe2 Rxd2 30.Qxd2**

Bxe3 31.Qe2 Qd4 32.Nd3 Qxe4 33.Re1 Bf4+ 34.Kh3 Qxc4 35.gxh5 Bh6 the game is still about level. The two bishops are very good here but the white rooks are also powerful with their open files. **36.Rb7 Qxa4 37.Rg1 Rd8 38.Rg3 Qa1 39.Nf2?! Rd2?** [39...a4 pushing the passed pawn would leave White struggling and on the defensive. Magnus gets too eager to finish the game, as often happens in rapid chess. This one mistake leads to a sudden turnaround.] **40.Rb8+ Kh7** Diagram

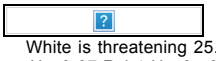


41.Qg4! The deadly threat of 42. Qg6+! is a mating attack for which there is no defense. **41...Qf1+ 42.Rg2 Qxg2+** and Black resigned. Thus young Firouzja won a game against the great World Champion. However, Magnus cruised to two victories in the other games and so won the match. **1-0**

(2) Ding,Liren - Caruana,Fabiano [D73]

Magnus Invitational, 21.04.2020

The battle between the number 2 and number 3 rated players in the world. Both have played half the Candidates Tournament where Fabiano is slightly disappointed and Ding Liren more so. Yet they are back at home, playing on-line and feeling better. **1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d4 Nf6 5.c4 c6 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Ne5** This is a solid opening for White, but Ding now plays aggressively. **8...e6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bf4 Nfd7 11.0-0 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Nc6 14.Qd2 Kg7 15.Rad1 b6** [15...Nxe5 16.e4! wins the pawn back with some initiative] **16.f4 Ba6 17.Rf3 Rc8 18.g4 Qh4!?** Ding is pushing aggressively on the kingside, so Fabi takes his queen over to interfere with the assault. This is definitely a dangerous assignment for her majesty as she is surrounded by the enemy. **19.Rg3 h5?! 20.g5?!** [20.gxh5! Qxh5 21.Rh3 Qg4 22.f5! is a very dangerous attack] **20...Rfd8 21.Rh3 Qg4 22.Rg3 Qh4 23.Rf1 Ne7 24.f5** Diagram



White is threatening 25. Rf4 to trap the queen and 25. f6+ to fork the knight and king. What to do? **24...gxf5?** [Black had the superb counter 24...Nxf5! 25.Rf4 d4! when 26.Rxh4? *(26.Nd5 Nxg3 27.Rxh4 Nxe2+ 28.Kf2 exd5* is only slightly better for Black*)* 26...dxc3 is winning for Black] **25.Rf4 d4 26.Nb1 Qxf4 27.Qxf4 Ng6 28.Qd2 Nxe5** Black has a rook and two pawns and initiative for the queen. It's not enough, but gives chances in rapid play. **29.Ra3 Bb5 30.Rxa7 Ng4 31.Na3 Bxe2 32.h3!** [32.Qxe2 Rc1+ 33.Bf1 Ne3] **32...d3 33.hxg4 hxg4 34.Nb1 e5 35.Qe3 Rc5 36.Nd2 Rd4 37.Qg3 Rc1+ 38.Kh2 f4** Diagram

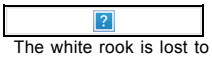


Black has total domination over the central squares, which looks very impressive. White however still has the queen and pieces that can press a speedy attack. **39.Qh4 g3+ 40.Kh3 Rd6 41.Bd5!** The bishop stops checkmate on h1 and provides the needed extra help to push through the white attack. **41...Re6 42.Rxf7+! Kxf7 43.Qh7+ Kf8 44.Qf5+** Caruana resigned this most entertaining game. Yet he had to fortitude to even the match in the next game and prevail in the armageddon game. **1-0**

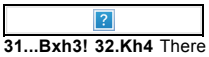
(3) Caruana,Fabiano - Carlsen,Magnus [B03]

Magnus Invitational, 22.04.2020

1.e4 Nf6 Alekhine's Defense. Rather a surprise from Magnus, but this is rapid chess so experimentation is in order. **2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 g6!?** Fabiano's aggressive Four Pawns' Attack is met by this unusual move. **6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 Be6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.b3 dxe5! 10.dxe5 Nc6** White has more space, but Black leads in development. The opening has turned out to give balanced chances. **11.Ne4?! f6 12.Nc5 Qc8** White's lack of development is a worry now. **13.exf6 Bxf6 14.Be2** [14.Rc1 Bg4 15.Be2 Rd8 also favors Black] **14...Rd8 15.Qc1 Bf5** Diagram



The white rook is lost to one of the bishops. Fabiano wishes to take the valuable dark squared bishop for it. Still it is a speculative exchange sacrifice. **16.0-0 Nd7 17.Nd3 Bxa1 18.Qxa1 Nf6 19.Nde5 Nxe5 20.Nxe5 Qe6** White has nicely placed pieces. If it were only a pawn sacrifice he would be happy. **21.Bd4 Nd7 22.h3 Nxe5 23.Bxe5 c6 24.Qc3** [24.Bh8 Qe3+ 25.Rf2 Kf7 26.Qg7+ Ke6 forces White to trade queens with 27.Qc3 Qxc3 28.Bxc3] **24...h5 25.Re1 Kf7 26.Qg3** [26.c5! Qd7 27.Bc4+ e6 28.Bd6 Would energize the white position.] **26...Rd2 27.Bf3 Rd3 28.Qg5 Rad8 29.Kf2?!** [29.Qh4] **29...Rd2+ 30.Kg3?!** Fabi wanted to leave his other pieces on their good squares and decided to "improve" his king's position. Sadly the white monarch has marched up to dangerous territory. **30...R8d3!** The black rooks radiate power on these central squares deep in the white camp. **31.Qh6** Diagram



31...Bxh3! 32.Kh4 There is no escape. No better is [32.gxh3 Rxf3+ 33.Kxf3 Qxh3+ 34.Ke4 Qd3#; or 32.Qg7+ Ke8 33.Qh8+ Kd7] **32...Rxg2** Fabiano resigns. There is no escape for the white king.**0-1**

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Newsletter #916

May 2, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Mechanics' v Club 64 Modena, Italy
- Mechanics' v Hampton Roads Chess Club (Virginia)
- 2020 Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial Online
- Kerry Lawless on the 1991 Pan-Pacific GM Tournament
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- FM Paul Whitehead's Online Class
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Mechanics' Institute Chess Social
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Mechanics' Institute Defeats Club 64 in Modena, Italy in International Club Match

The Mechanics' Institute (MI) engaged in an international tournament, with MI playing in a 34-player-per-side club match against Club 64 in Modena, Italy. The match was played on Chess.com with a time control of G/15 +5. Players had two games against the same opponent, once as white, once as black. The final score was Mechanics' 43, Club 64 at 25.

MI had representation across many skill levels for the match, and the top boards were intriguing. Our top board by chess.com rapid rating was FM Balaji Daggupati, who faceed off against FM Francesco Seresin. While both games ended in a draw, the first game had some intrigue worthy of analysis. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(6) FM Francesco Seresin (serefra99) (2432) - FM Balaji Daggupati (chess2thesun) (2524) [D20] Live Chess Chess.com, 25.04.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 b5 4.a4 c6 5.Nc3 a6!? 6.axb5 cxb5 7.Nxb5 axb5 8.Rxa8 Bb7 An interesting exchange sacrifice, especially in fast time control. **9.Ra1 e6** Black doesn't capture immediately on e4 and waits for a better to take the pawn. [9...Bxe4] **10.Nf3 Nf6 11.Be2** [Saving the pawn with 11.e5 Ne4 12.Be2 Bb4+ is asking for trouble.] **11...Bb4+ 12.Bd2 Bxd2+ 13.Qxd2 Nxe4 14.Qa5!?** White plays energetically instead of the normal looking 14. Qe3. **14...Qd5 15.Qc7 0-0 16.Ra7 Nd6 17.0-0?!** Diagram



[17.Qb6 Would avoid the game continuation.] **17...Nc6! 18.Raa1** [18.Rxb7 Nxb7 19.Qxb7? Nxd4 20.Qxd5 Nxe2+ 21.Kh1 exd5 would be two pawns ahead] **18...Nxd4 19.Rfe1 N6f5 20.Bd1 Rc8 21.Qb6** Black has two pawns and fine central control for the exchange. **21...e5 22.Ra7 Bc6 23.Rc7 Re8** [23...Rxc7?? 24.Qb8+] **24.h3 h6 25.Qa6 e4 26.Nxd4 Nxd4 27.Rc8 Rxc8 28.Qxc8+ Kh7 29.Qg4 g6 30.Qf4 Kg7 31.f3 Qc5! 32.Kh1 exf3 33.gxf3 Bd5?!** [33...g5 34.Qe5+ Qxe5 35.Rxe5 Kf6 is a very pleasant endgame] **34.Qe5+ Kh7 35.Kg2 Nf5 36.Qf4 b4?!** [36...c3! 37.bxc3

Qxc3 38.Kf2 b4 is good winning chances] **37.Bc2! Nd4** Diagram



38.Qf6! this active defense allows White to save the game **38...Nxc2 39.Re8 Ne3+ 40.Kh2 Nf1+ 41.Kg2 Ne3+ 42.Kh2 Ng4+** Not satisfied with the draw Black gives a knight back to play on. White is alright though. **43.fxg4 Qc7+ 44.Qe5 Qxe5+ 45.Rxe5 Be6 46.Rb5 b3 47.Kg3 g5 48.h4 Kg6 49.Rc5 gxh4+ 50.Kxh4 Kf6 51.Kh5 Ke7 52.Re5 Kd6 53.Re3 Kd5 54.Rg3 Kd4 55.Kxh6 f5 56.gxf5 Bxf5 57.Kg5 Bd3 58.Kf4 c3 59.bxc3+ Kxc3 60.Ke3 b2 61.Rg1 b1Q 62.Rxb1 Bxb1 1/2-1/2**

Our second board was none other than GM James Tarjan, who has been representing Mechanics' in several tournaments of late. He was paired against WGM Olga Zimina, who was also streaming her game. The first game was a fierce struggle, and was fun to follow.

(7) GM James Tarjan (Tirantes) (2473) - WGM Olga Zimina (Olghita64) (2311) [A11]

Live Chess Chess.com, 25.04.2020

1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Bg4 4.Bg2 Nd7 5.0-0 e6 [5...dxc4 is more ambitious but gives up the center.] **6.b3 Ngf6 7.Bb2 Bd6 8.d3 0-0 9.Nbd2 Qe7 10.a3 a5 11.h3 Bh5 12.Qc2 h6 13.Rfe1** White has played a slow double fianchetto and Black has developed solidly. The game is level. **13...Bg6 14.e4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4** giving up the bishop for knight. More usual is [15...Nxe4 16.dxe4 Rfd8] **16.dxe4 e5 17.Nh4 g6 18.Nf3 Bc5 19.Re2 Rfd8 20.Qc3 Re8 21.Qc1 Kh7 22.Qc3 Nh5 23.Kh2 Ng7 24.h4 Ne6 25.Qc2 Rad8 26.Rd2 f6?!** [26...Nf6! 27.Nxe5?! Nd4! would start tactics that favor Black] **27.h5! g5 28.Bh3** Now the light squared bishop finally becomes powerful. **28...Ng7 29.Bg4 Nf8 30.Kg2 b6 31.Rd3 Rxd3 32.Qxd3 Rd8 33.Qc2 Qd6 34.Ne1?!** [34.Rd1! is indirectly guarded by the bishop on g4 and so would push Black back.] **34...Qd2?!** [34...Nfe6! 35.Rd1 Nd4] **35.Rd1 Qxc2 36.Nxc2 Rxd1 37.Bxd1** The two bishops give White winning chances in this ending. **37...Nfe6 38.b4 axb4 39.axb4 Bd6 40.Bg4 Kg8 41.Bc3 Kf7 42.Kf3 Ke7 43.Ke2 Kd8 44.Ne3 Kc7?** [44...Nd4+] **45.Kd3** [45.Bxe6! Nxe6 46.Ng4 wins a pawn and should win the game. Nonetheless Black is still under pressure.] **45...Bf8 46.Bd2 Nd8 47.Nf5 Nxf5 48.Bxf5 Bd6 49.Ke2 Nf7 50.Be6 Nd8 51.Bg8 Kd7 52.Kf3 Ke7 53.Kg4 Kf8 54.Bh7 Kg7 55.Bf5 Kf7 56.Bd7 Ne6?** [56...c5] **57.Bxc6 Nd4 58.Bd5+ Ke7 59.f4 exf4 60.gxf4 Nb3 61.Be3 Bxb4 62.Bxb6 Bc5 63.Bxc5+ Nxc5 64.fxg5 fxg5 65.e5 Nd3 66.Kf5 Nf4 67.Bf3 Nd3 68.Bg4 Kf7 69.Be2 Nf4 70.Bf3 Nd3 71.Ke4 Nf2+ 72.Ke3 Nh3 73.c5 Nf4 74.Bg4 Ke7 75.c6 Kd8 76.Kd4 Kc7** Diagram

77.Bf3 [77.e6! would win as one of the pawns go through unless Black gives up the knight. Yet after 77...Nxe6+ 78.Bxe6 Kxc6 79.Ke5 White wins despite the wrong color rook pawn as the black king gets boxed out.] **77...Ne6+ 78.Kc4 Nf4 79.Kb5 Ne6 80.Kc4 Nf4 81.Kd4 Ne6+ 82.Ke4 Kxc6 83.Kf5+ Kd7 84.Kg6 Nf4+ 85.Kxh6 Ke6 86.Kxg5 Nxh5 87.Bxh5 Kxe5 1/2-1/2**

It was a fun collaboration with Club 64, and we are already planning a rematch in May. We want to thank Adriano, Damiano, Francesco, Mattia and Riccardo from Club 64 for their hard work ir organizing their club members to participate.

To watch the broadcast of this event, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO2YNFUj8Sg (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO2YNFUj8Sg)

Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/8889 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/8889)

Hampton Roads Chess Club (Virginia) Beats Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Players 23.5-10.5

Our scholastic players tried their hand at club match play, as we scheduled a 17-player-per-side friendly match against the 2017 USCF Chess Club of the Year, Hampton Roads Chess Club. What is special about their club is that the scholastic players are all home-grown, and train and learn within the club. They had strong players representing their club, and it showed in the outcome of the match. It was a great experience for both sides, and an opportunity for scholastic chess communities to come together to socialize and compete. We are already planning a future rematch, with Mechanics' reaching out to our scholastic players. We want to thank Tina Schweiss from Hampton Roads for her dedication to her club and the kids. We look forward to doing it again soon. In the meantime, here is a game from the match, annotation by GM Nick de Firmian.

(10) imcharlene (1446) - exceptionalfork (1622) [B31]

Live Chess Chess.com, 25.04.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.e5?! This pawn is too eager to give itself up. It does double Black's pawns but that is not enough. **6...dxe5 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Qe1 Qc7 9.Nbd2 Rb8** [9...Nh6 10.Nc4 f6 holds the center and kingside squares. The black knight can jump to good squares in the center.] **10.Nc4 f6 11.b3 Ba6 12.Ba3 Bxc4 13.dxc4 f5?** This creates weakenesses and the Black position begins to crumble. [13...Nh6! 14.Bxc5 0-0 is fine for Black.] **14.Bb2 Qb6?!** [14...Rd8] **15.Nxe5 Nf6 16.Nd3!** One must admire the fine strategic play of imcharlene. White plays for control of the squares. **16...Rb7 17.Qe6** Diagram

17...Nd7? This loses a bishop and the exchange afterward. It was hard to play the black side but he could hold on for a while with [17...Rf8 18.Rad1 Rc7 19.Rfe1 Nh5 20.Bxg7 Nxg7 21.Qe5 Kf7 22.Nxc5] **18.Bxg7 Rf8 19.Bxf8 Kxf8 20.Rfe1 Nf6 21.Ne5 Kg7 22.Qf7+ Kh6 23.Qf8+ Kg5 24.Nf7+! Kh5 25.Qh6+ Kg4 26.h3# 1-0**

To watch a replay of the live broadcast, click here: https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-scholastic/9227 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-scholastic/9227)

Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-scholastic/9227 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-scholastic/9227)

2020 Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz Online

Join us online as we get ready for the 14th Annual Ray Schutt/Steve Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz Championship Online. This free tournament will be held on chess.com.

REGISTRATION: no pre-registration necessary. Join the tournament online up to 1 hour prior to start time.

https://www.chess.com/live#t=1208746 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1208746)

Format: One open section, 12 rounds, G/3+2

Start time: 11AM

Join the tournament from 10 AM online.

Fee: FREE

Chess.com - all players must be a part of Mechanics' Institute Online Chess Club on chess.com. To join, please follow this link:

https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

No prizes, just the honor and glory of participating in this great blitz event in remembrance of three great individuals from our Mechanics' community and coming together through chess.

Kerry Lawless on the 1991 Pan-Pacific GM Tournament in San Francisco

Kerry Lawless was kind enough to send this to us, and with his permission, we will pass it along to our readers. We encourage our readers to visit the Chess Dryad for a rich collection of California chess history: http://www.chessdryad.com/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/http://www.chessdryad.com/)

One of the strongest tournaments ever held in San Francisco was the 1991 Pan-Pacific GM Chess Tournament, played at the Kearny Street Holiday Inn. Eugenio Torre (2535) won the tournament; follow by Patrick Wolff (2520) in 2nd place. Mikhail Tal (2565), who was in a 4-way tie for 3rd place, missed the first two rounds of the tournament. So, he played in a make-up game, from the 2nd round at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club on March 13th! (MI Trustee, Neil Falconer - on right - watches as GM Wolff plays GM Tal 1-0.)

Kerry Lawless

MI Life Member



Former World Champion Mikhail Tal takes on GM Patrick Wolff



Neil Falconer looks on



GM Patrick Wolff scores a victory over Tal

Here is the game, Annotation by GM Nick de Firmian

(11) Patrick Wolff - Mikhail Tal [C78]

Pan-Pacific GM Tournament San Francisco, CA USA (2), 03.1991

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.c3 Nxe4 8.d4 Na5 [perhaps 8...Be7 would be a better try than the knight move] **9.Nxe5 Nxb3 10.Qxb3 Qf6 11.f3** With this White gains an opening edge. The long diagonal is blocked and the black king is still in the center. **11...Nc5 12.Ng4 Nxb3 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.Re1+ Be7 15.axb3 d6** After the tactics of the opening we reach an equal endgame. The doubled black pawns are compensated by the bishop pair. **16.Bf4 Kd7 17.Nd2 a5 18.Nf1 Bd5?!** [18...a4 would maintain the balance] **19.c4!** Now Black must go backward and has little compensation for the weak kingside pawns. **19...Bc6** [19...bxc4 20.Ne3 Bc6 21.bxc4 is very nice for White, with also control of the f5 square] **20.Ne3 a4 21.d5 Bb7 22.Ra3?!** [22.Nf5 Rhe8 23.Ra3 would keep the advantage] **22...Rhb8 23.cxb5 axb3 24.Rxb3 Ra4 25.g3 Ba6 26.Nf5 Bd8 27.Re4 Ra1+ 28.Kf2 Rxb5 29.Rxb5 Bxb5** The game is equal again. Black's light squared bishop is a good piece even if the dark squared one is doing little now. **30.Rb4 Bd3 31.Nd4 Ra5 32.Ke3 Bb1 33.Nb5 f5 34.Nc3 Ba2 35.b3 Bf6?!** [35...Ra3 36.Nxa2 Rxa2 is no problems] **36.Kd3 Bxc3?** [simply waiting with 36...Kc8 makes it hard for White to progress. The exchange of the bishop for knight leaves the bishop on a2 in trouble] **37.Kxc3 Bb1**
Diagram





[37...Rxd5 38.Kb2 traps the bishop] **38.Rd4!** The black bishop can't get out! **38...Ra2 39.Rd1 Rc2+ 40.Kb4 Rb2 41.Rc1 Ba2** [41...Bd3 42.Kc3] **42.Ka3 Rxh2 43.Ra1 Bxb3 44.Kxb3** Black gets two pawns for the bishop, but it's hopeless due to the shattered black kingside pawns. **44...Rf2 45.Rh1 Rxf3+ 46.Kc4 Ke7 47.Rxh7 Kf6 48.Rh8 Rf2 49.Rc8 Rc2+ 50.Kd3 Rc5 51.Kd4 Ke7 52.Bg5+ f6 53.Bf4 Rc2 54.Rh8 Kf7 55.Rh1** Black resigned. Rc1 is coming to exchange the rooks and then it's hopeless. **1-0**

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

This week's Tuesday Night Online brought together 59 players in pursuit of the gold medal. NM Ruiyang Yan was looking to repeat as champion, but the competition this week would be fierce, as FM Kyron Griffith, FM Eric Li, FM Jason Liang, and FM Anish Vivekananthan were all part of this strong field. However, Rui tore through the field with some impressive play and was the beneficiary of some upsets and a draw in the final round between Eric Li and Abhinav Penagalapati to become a back-to-back champion of the TNO with a perfect 5/5. Eric Li took the silver and Abhinav Penagalapati took the bronze, both with 4.5.

This tournament had action, dramatic moments, and players who succumbed to time pressure. This is part of the theater of online rapid and blitz events, in which players feel the pressure of a dwindling clock while spectators see the emotions come to life over the online board. Such was the case in a few key games, where players were on the verge of monumental upsets, only to be done in by time pressure, and the other player's ability to come up with the right moves at the right time. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

Here is one game in round 3 between Felix German and FM Kyron Griffith, in which German had what looked like an insurmountable attack. Griffith's experience and perseverance kept him above water, and at the right time, he struck back quickly. You can see the dramatic finale from the broadcast by clicking here at the 1:16:30 mark: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LoxXk5L6pU&t=796s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LoxXk5L6pU&t=796s)

(4) FelixGerman (1715) - KyronGriffith (2048) [A41]

Live Chess Chess.com, 28.04.2020

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nf6 5.Be2 0-0 6.h4!? h5 7.Bg5 c5 8.d5 Nbd7 9.Nf3 a6 10.a4 Qa5 11.0-0 Rb8 12.Nd2 Re8 13.f4 Felix is in an aggressive mood! He just charges forward. **13...Nh7 14.e5 dxe5 15.f5 Nxg5?!** Safer is [15...gxf5!] **16.hxg5 e4 17.fxg6 fxg6** Diagram



18.Bxh5! Ne5?! [18...gxh5 19.Qxh5 Rf8 20.Ndxe4 Qd8 21.g6 is a very powerful attack; 18...Bd4+ 19.Kh1 Ne5 20.Bxg6? *(20.Nb3* keeps the advantage*)* 20...Bg4!] **19.Bxg6! Nxg6** [19...Bg4 20.Bf7+ now wins for White as the black king does not have the g7 square to hide on.] **20.Qh5 Qb6 21.a5 Bd4+ 22.Kh1 Qd6 23.Ndxe4** Now White is clearly winning. However Kyron refuses to go down without a fight. **23...Bg4!** the only move in a terrible situation **24.Qxg4 Qe5** Diagram



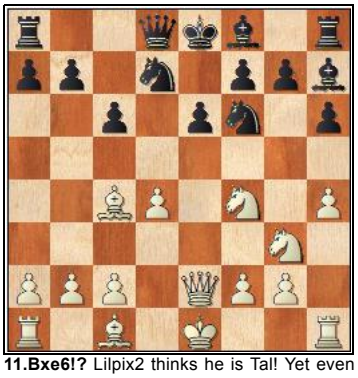
25.Qe6+? giving up the attack. White wins with [25.Nf6+! exf6 26.gxf6 Kf7 27.Qd7+ Ne7 28.fxe7+ Kg8 29.Qg4+ Qg7 30.Qe6+] **25...Qxe6 26.dxe6 Ne5 27.Nd5 Kg7 28.g3 Ng4?** [28...Kg6] **29.Kg2?!** [29.Rf7+ Kh8 *(29...Kg6 30.Nf4#)* 30.Kg2 and White has his winning attack again.] **29...Kg6 30.Rf7 Be5?!** [30...Ne3+] **31.Nxe7+** [31.Rh1! would do it] **31...Rxe7 32.Rxe7 Rh8 33.Kf3 Nh2+ 34.Ke3 Ng4+ 35.Kd3 Rh2 36.Rxb7 Bd4 37.Nc3 Nf2+ 38.Ke2 Ne4+ 39.Kf3 Nxg5+ 40.Kg4 Nh7** Now 41. Ne4 among other moves would easily win. **41.e7?? Nf6+** Oh no! There is no way out. **42.Kf4 Rf2# 0-1**

In another game, Alejandro Canales had FM Jason Liang on the ropes and looked like he was in a position to close the show in a fantastic upset. But time became a factor, and under time pressure, his precision was not there when he needed it the most, giving Liang the opening he needed.

(2) Alejandro Canales (Lilpix2) (1713) - FM Jason Liang (Marty435) (2172) [B18]

Live Chess Chess.com, 28.04.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 The old, classic variation of the Caro-Kann. Black is very solid, so White tries a somewhat unusual line. **7.N1e2 Nd7 8.Nf4 Bh7 9.Bc4 Ngf6 10.Qe2 e6** Diagram



11.Bxe6!? Lilpix2 thinks he is Tal! Yet even Tal had trouble against Botvinnik's Caro-Kann. **11...fxe6 12.Nxe6 Qa5+! 13.Bd2 Bb4 14.c3** [14.Nc7+ Kd8 15.Nxa8? Re8 wins the queen.] **14...Be7?!** [14...Bd6! 15.b4 Qa3 looks risky but is actually an edge for Black.] **15.Nxg7+ Kd8** [15...Kf7! 16.Qe6+ Kxg7 17.Qxe7+ Kg8 18.c4 Qd8] **16.0-0 Rg8 17.Bxh6 Qd5 18.Rfe1 Qf7 19.Ne6+ Kc8** White has emerged well from the complications, with 4 pawns and enough squares so that Black has trouble counter attacking with the extra piece. **20.Ng5 Qg6 21.Qxe7 Qxh6 22.Nf5??** Sad, White has played an inspired game and now just forgets this square is covered. Instead [22.Nxh7 Qxh7 23.Qxh7 Nxh7 24.Nf5 Kc7 25.Re7 Nhf6 26.Rae1 would have left White with the winning chances in the endgame.] **22...Bxf5 23.Nf7 Qg6 24.g3?! Nd5** White resigns as he loses another piece. **0-1**

The story of the tournament was the repeat perfect performance by NM Ruiyang Yang, who plays phenomenal chess under time pressure to best her opponents. This was evident in the final round, where she methodically built an attack on her opponent Alex Chin to win her game, and as a result of a draw in the other match of perfect scores, propelled her to capture sole first, and another gold medal.

(3) Alex Chin (achingolf) (1840) - NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2206) [B90]

Live Chess Chess.com, 28.04.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 h5 This is probably the safest way to play against the 6. Be3 Najdorf with the f3 English type attack. Black's 8th move holds back the advance of White's kingside pawns for a minor positional concession. **9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Be2 Qc7 12.Kb1 b5 13.a3 Nb6 14.Na5 Nc4?!** This rushes the exchange while Black is undeveloped. The simple [14...Be7 was logical and would give even chances.] **15.Nxc4 bxc4 16.Bg5 Nd7 17.Ka1 Qb7 18.f4 Rb8 19.Rb1 f6 20.f5! Bf7 21.Be3 Rc8 22.h3 Nc5 23.Bxc5** [23.Bf3 would be a simple clear edge.] **23...Rxc5 24.g4 Be7 25.Rhd1** [25.gxh5! is good because if Black recaptures the h-pawn the bishops will be exchanged and there will be serious light-square weaknesses.] **25...Kd7 26.Bf3 Qc6 27.Nd5?!** giving up the advantage. Still good was [27.gxh5!] **27...Bxd5 28.exd5 Qb7?!** [28...Qa4! threatens 29...c3 so there is no time for White to capture on h5.] **29.gxh5 c3 30.bxc3! Qc7 31.Rb3 Rc8 32.Rdb1?!** better to guard the pawn with [32.Kb2] **32...Ke8?!** [32...Rxc3] **33.h6! gxh6 34.Qxh6 Rxc3 35.Bh5+ Kd8** Diagram



36.Qh8+? [36.Bf7! Rxb3 37.Qh8+ Kd7 38.Be6#] **36...Kd7 37.Bf7??** Tragic. White finds the right idea at the wrong time. The white queen had to retreat and chances were even. **37...Rxh8** Chess is cruel. White went from completely winning to dead lost in two moves. **38.Be6+ Ke8 39.Rb8+ Bd8 40.R1b7 Rxa3+ 41.Kb2 Qc3+ 42.Kb1 Ra1# 0-1**

To watch the full broadcast with commentary by FM Paul Whitehead, FM Jim Eade, Abel Talamantez and Dr. Judit Sztaray, please follow this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LoxXk5L6pU (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LoxXk5L6pU)

For full results of this event, please follow this link:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1203049 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1203049)

Mechanics' Online Event Recap

On Saturday night, we had 25 players for the Late Night (9pm) Blitz Showdown, and it was won by NM Vyom Vidyarthi (2007checkmate), who won on tie-breakers over Abhishek Mallela (mephistotelian) both with 4/5. Third place went to FM Kyron Griffith, who got third place on tiebreaks over 2 others.

Here is Vyom's win over Kyron, annotation by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) NM Vyom Vidyarthi (2007checkmate) (2227) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2411) [A41]

Live Chess Chess.com, 25.04.2020

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.e4 0-0 Kyron's usual King's Indian Defense. **6.h3 c6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Be3 Na6?! 9.Be2 Nc7 10.Qd2** White has a classic centralized position and holds the opening advantage. **10...Kh7 11.g4?!** [Aggressive, but 11.0-0 is simple and strong] **11...d5 12.e5 Ne4 13.Qc2 Nxc3 14.bxc3 dxc4 15.Bxc4 Nd5** now Black has squares and piece play to compensate for the spatial disadvantage. **16.Bd3 Be6 17.Nh4!? Qe8?!** Black gets boxed in somewhat after this [safer is 17...Kg8] **18.Bd2 a5?!** [18...c5 trying to open the queenside gives counter play.] **19.f4! Kg8 20.f5 g5 21.Nf3 Bd7 22.h4 f6** White has a dominating position with the advanced kingside and center pawns. **23.hxg5 fxg5 24.0-0-0 c5** [24...Qd8 25.Bxg5! hxg5 26.Nxg5 e6 27.f6] **25.Bc4! e6 26.f6 Bxf6** Diagram



[26...Nxf6 27.exf6 Ba4 28.fxg7! Bxc2 29.gxf8Q+ Qxf8 30.Kxc2 Qxf3 31.Rxh6 would also not survive.] **27.Rxh6! Qe7 28.exf6 Rxf6 29.Rxf6 Qxf6 30.Ne5 Be8 31.Rh1 Qg7 32.Bd3 cxd4 33.Bh7+ Kf8 34.cxd4** White has the extra piece and the attack. This is too much even for Kyron. **34...Qc7 35.Qxc7 Nxc7 36.Bxg5 Nd5 37.Rf1+ Kg7 38.Be4 Rc8+ 39.Kd2 Rc7 40.Bxd5 exd5 41.Bf6+ Kg8 42.Rh1 Rh7 43.Rxh7 Kxh7 44.Bd8 a4 45.Kc3 Kg7 46.Kb4 Kf8 47.Kc5 a3 48.Kxd5 Ba4 49.Bb6 Bb3+ 50.Ke4 Bxa2 51.Bc5+ Kg7 52.Bxa3 b5 53.d5 Kf6 54.d6 Bb1+ 55.Kd4 Bf5 56.gxf5 1-0**

Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1197856 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1197856)

The Sunday Late Night Showdown had 37 players, with NM Michael "fpawn" Aigner taking clear first with 4.5/5. In second was Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) and in third Rudolph Breedt (Bobbejaan) both with 4/5. Full results found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1197859 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1197859)

The Monday Night Arena had 44 players in this wild free-for-all, with games continuously played for over 90 minutes. The winner of this evening's edition was Nicholas Boldi (nicarmt) with 35 points, followed by Abhinav Penagalapati (qing 29) with 31 and in third was Game-6_Klay and Ako Heidari (oka_ako) with 27. Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-night-arena-189679 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-night-arena-189679)

The Wednesday Late Night Showdown featured 36 players, and it was NM Vyom Vidyarthi and FM Kyron Griffith tying for first with 4.5/5 and Omya Vidyarthi taking third on tiebreaks with 4/5. Full results found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdowwn-1203054 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdowwn-1203054)

The Mechanics' first Fischer Random Thursday night event took place, and 20 players participated in the chaos that is Fischer Random. In this tournament, the pawns for both players are positioned the same as in normal chess, but the back pieces are positioned randomly by the computer, with both players having the same random setup. This leads to a disruption of normal conventions out of the opening, and leads to fun tactical chess.

FM Kyron Griffith won this inaugural event with 5/5. In second was FM Jason Liang (Marty 435) with 4/5 and in third was yours truly, Abel Talamantez (MechanicsChess) with 3/5, winning on tiebreakers over 4 other players.

To view a sample, click this link: https://www.chess.com/live/game/4794427534 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/live/game/4794427534)

It is FM Kyron Griffith's win over Mannansh Nayyar in round 2.

For full results, follow this link: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-fischer-random-thursday-night-1203058 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-fischer-random-thursday-night-1203058)

The Friday Night Online 10-round Blitz medal tournament was particulalry strong, with 55 players participating. The gold medalist this week was NM Vyom Vidyarthi, who took the top spot over Abhinav Penagalapati on tiebreaks, both with 8.5/10. CM Ethan Boldi took the bronze with 7.5/10, and IM Ladia Jirasek and Sam Schenk rounding out the top 5 with 7/10. Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online-1205615 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online-1205615)

Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

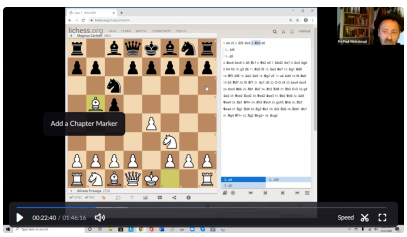
Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champion and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)



Mechanics Chess Social #3

with WGM Sabina Foisor



We had the honor and pleasure of having WGM Sabina Foisor as our guest for the third Mechanics' Chess Social. The 2017 U.S. Women's champion discussed her experience in winning the championship, coping with the passing of her mother, and her many philanthropic activities in support of promoting chess to women and children. To watch the interview, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBPaimSXlbA (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBPaimSXlbA)

Follow Sabina here: https://lichess.org/streamer/sabinafoisor (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://lichess.org/streamer/sabinafoisor)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Tournaments - Club Matches - Classes

Upcoming Tournament Schedule

New to tournamnts? Need a quick guide how to navigate on chesskid and through the tournaments?
Join Judit for a **webinar on Tuesday, May 5th at 3:30PM** right before the 4:15PM tournament:
Registration URL
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y1R9IBy-SU2PSfMAFyVGxQ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y1R9IBy-SU2PSfMAFyVGxQ)

Saturday, May 2 - 4PM - join from 3:45PM
1000+ section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24556 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24556)
u/1000 section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24555 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24555)

Sunday, May 3 - 4PM - join from 3:45PM
https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24557 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=24557)

Tuesday, May 5 - 4:15PM - join from 4PM
1000+ section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=25948 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=25948)
u/1000 section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=25949 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=25949)

Thursday, May 7 - 4PM - join from 3:45PM
https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26445 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26445)

Saturday, May 9 - 4PM - join from 3:45PM
1000+ section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26447 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26447)
u1000 section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26446 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26446)

Sunday, May 10 - 4PM - join from 3:45PM
https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26448 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26448)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

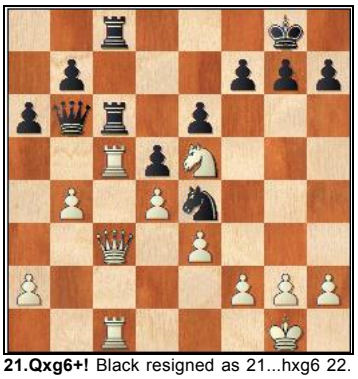
Scholastic Games Of The Week (games from our scholastic online tournaments)

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) adichi (1320) - FCM008 (1074) [D00]

Live Chess Chess.com, 20.04.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.c3 Bf5! The light-squared bishop is often a problem child on the black side of the London System. Here black finds a nice spot for it. **5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Nbd2 0-0** Both sides have their pieces out and the game is equal. **9.Ne5 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nd7 11.0-0-0!?** I should really give this an ! as it is so aggressive and unexpected in this opening. Objectively it's not better than castling kingside, but it is certainly more entertaining. **11...f6 12.Nf3?! fxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Rxf2 15.g3** Black has scored a pawn for dubios compensation. Now 15...Bd6 or 15...Bf6 would start to trade pieces. **15...Rf8 16.Rdf1 Re8?!** giving up the file. 16...Qd7! is better. **17.h4 b6 18.h5 c5?** [18...Rf8! bringing pieces over to defend the king was desperately needed.] **19.h6! c4 20.Qc2 g6** Diagram



21.Qxg6+! Black resigned as 21...hxg6 22. h7 is checkmate! **1-0**

(8) jimmykids (1260) - DarkCapableCharm (1366)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.Ng5?! This is often played by young players when they first have this position. **5...0-0** That's the problem. Black defends the f7 square with a very useful developing move. **6.Nf3** [6.Nxf7 Rxf7 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 is very nice for Black. So White is justified in retreating the knight to f3 even though that admits to losing two tempi.] **6...d6 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bxf6?!** This lets Black increase the lead of development. Better was to retreat with [9.Be3] **9...Qxf6 10.h3 Bd7** [10...Bxf3! 11.Qxf3 Qxf3 12.gxf3 Nd4 wins a pawn with a nice position.] **11.Nc3 Qg6 12.g3?** This move really gets into trouble. [White could escape the worst of it with the clever counter attack on the black queen - 12.Nh4!] **12...Bxh3 13.Re1?** Diagram



13...Bg4 This is still winning for Black, but mate in 2 was to be had with [13...Qxg3+! 14.Kh1 Qg2#] **14.Nd5 Qh5! 15.Kg2 Nd4 16.Ne7+ Kh8 0-1**

(9) isabellag48 (966) - Nightimeninja (908)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Bb4 5.d3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 0-0 Thus far both sides have developed logically. **7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5?!** this is a challenging move, but Black must be careful with the weakening of the kingside. Safer was the simple developing move 8...d6. **9.Bxg5?!** [9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 would give White the very annoying pin on the f6 knight.] **9...hxg5 10.Nxg5** Diagram



10...Nd5? [Black is objectively doing fine but needs to defend precisely. He must not move now the key defender - the knight on f6. One good plan is to chase the bishop down with 10...Na5; Also good is to take more of the kingside squares with 10...Kg7] **11.Qh5 Nf4** [11...Nf6 12.Qg6+! Kh8 13.Bxf7 d6 14.Qh6+ Nh7 15.Qxh7#] **12.Qh7# 1-0**

Online Chess Classes for Kids

Mechanics' Institute is proud to offer online chess classes!

During our interactive online classes coaches are sharing their computer screen and use a chess program to demonstrate positions, puzzles and go over games. Occasionally short and fun videos will be used to introduce new topics and paused intermittently to reassure understanding of the material. All kids will join chesskid.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://chesskid.com/) - a safe and secure platform for kids - to play games against each other and will have the ability to participate in scholastic online tournaments organized by the Mechanics' Institute through chesskid.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://chesskid.com/). Classes are coached by a live lead coach and monitored by additional staff, so students are never alone in a meeting. Classes are also recorded so if any child misses a class, the recording can be shared. Classes are safe, interactive, and convenient alternative way without sacrificing quality in chess instruction.

To see available classes and register:

https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes)

Day	Time	Coach	Link
Monday	4-5PM	Coach Colin	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinMonday45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinMonday45PM)
Tuesday	2-3PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays23PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays23PM)
Tuesday	3:15-4:15PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays315415PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays315415PM)
Wednesday	3-4PM	Coach Colin	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinWednesdays34PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinWednesdays34PM)
Friday	1-2PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays12PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays12PM)
Friday	2:15-3:15PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays215315PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays215315PM)

Class Fee: $25 for single class, $45 for two classes (10% off), $80 for 4 classes (20% off)

Note: MI needs a minimum of four (4) students to book the class, with a maximum of eight (8) students in each class.

Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration.
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

5/2 Saturday - Saturday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM -
Start: 9PM
https://www.chess.com/live#t=1205621 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1205621)

5/3 Sunday - 2020 Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz
Format: 12 rounds of G/3+2
Join from 10am -
Start: 11am
https://www.chess.com/live#t=1208746 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1208746)

5/3 Sunday - Sunday Afternoon Matinee
Format: 3 rounds of G/30+0
Join from 1PM
Start: 2PM
https://www.chess.com/live#t=1206887 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1206887)

5/4 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM
https://www.chess.com/live#r=192792 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/live#r=192792)

5/5 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM
https://www.chess.com/live#t=1209661 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1209661)

5/6 Wednesday - Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament: 8PM:
Starts 9PM.
https://www.chess.com/live#t=1210975 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1210975)

5/7 Thursday - Mechanics' Fischer Random tournament
Format: G/5 +2
Join from 5:30
Start: 6:30
https://www.chess.com/live#t=1211766 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1211766)

5/8 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

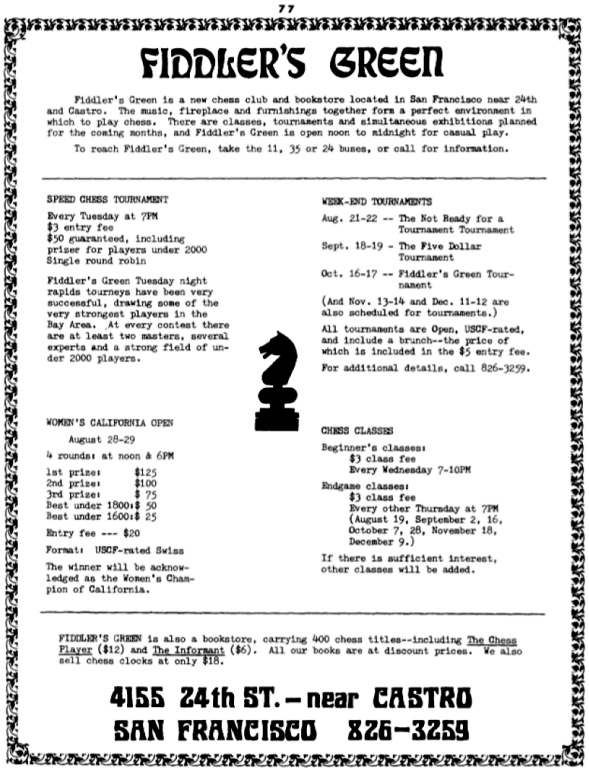
FM Paul Whitehead's Column

FM Paul Whitehead

Early Chess Stories, Part 5

- A rambling account of my adolescent and pre-adolescent chess experiences –

Continuing from here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/914#paul (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170438/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/914#paul)



77

FIDDLER'S GREEN

Fiddler's Green is a new chess club and bookstore located in San Francisco near 24th and Castro. The music, fireplace and furnishings together form a perfect environment in which to play chess. There are classes, tournaments and simultaneous exhibitions planned for the coming months, and Fiddler's Green is open noon to midnight for casual play.

To reach Fiddler's Green, take the 11, 35 or 24 buses, or call for information.

SPEED CHESS TOURNAMENT

Every Tuesday at 7PM
$3 entry fee
$50 guaranteed, including prizes for players under 2000
Single round robin

Fiddler's Green Tuesday night rapids tourneys have been very successful, drawing some of the very strongest players in the Bay Area. At every contest there are at least two masters, several experts and a strong field of under 2000 players.

WEEK-END TOURNAMENTS

Aug. 21-22 -- The Not Ready for a Tournament Tournament
Sept. 18-19 - The Five Dollar Tournament
Oct. 16-17 -- Fiddler's Green Tournament

(And Nov. 13-14 and Dec. 11-12 are also scheduled for tournaments.)

All tournaments are Open, USCF-rated, and include a brunch--the price of which is included in the $5 entry fee.

For additional details, call 826-3259.

WOMEN'S CALIFORNIA OPEN

August 28-29

4 rounds: at noon & 6PM

1st prize: $125
2nd prize: $100
3rd prize: $ 75
Best under 1800:$ 50
Best under 1600:$ 25

Entry fee --- $20

Format: USCF-rated Swiss

The winner will be acknowledged as the Women's Champion of California.

CHESS CLASSES

Beginner's classes:
$3 class fee
Every Wednesday 7-10PM

Endgame classes:
$3 class fee
Every other Thursday at 7PM
(August 19, September 2, 16, October 7, 28, November 18, December 9.)

If there is sufficient interest, other classes will be added.

FIDDLER'S GREEN is also a bookstore, carrying 400 chess titles--including The Chess Player ($12) and The Informant ($6). All our books are at discount prices. We also sell chess clocks at only $18.

4155 24th ST. – near CASTRO
SAN FRANCISCO 826-3259

Sometime in the Summer of 1976 a remarkable fellow named Peter Andrews opened up a “Chess Salon” just a few doors up from the Meat Market Coffeehouse on 24th Street. Coming out of nowhere, Fiddler’s Green was a unique addition to the already thriving San Francisco Bay Area chess scene. One of the “Founding Fathers” of Cal-Chess, Andrew’s goals were ambitious. This newly minted “Czar of San Francisco Chess” ran tournaments, organized classes and simuls, all the while selling books and coffee from “noon to midnight” out of the coziest place to push wood on the West Coast. There was a fireplace!

I remember Peter Andrews with much fondness. A classic intellectual bon-vivant with a twinkly smile, he always had a glass of white wine and a cigarette in one hand. On his other arm would be a beautiful woman (or two).

During the short time of its existence – less than a year - Fiddler’s Green ended up playing an outsize role in my life. My first job was there, as Peter hired me as the “chess-pro”. I learned how to keep the coffee-pot going while selling an occasional book or giving lessons. Offering regular blitz tournaments and nice prizes (as well as a Women’s Invitational!), Fiddler’s Green attracted the top players in the Bay Area, giving me fabulous opportunity to improve. Ex-Soviet Grandmasters Anatoly Lein and Leonid Shamkovitch played there on their 1st West Coast Tour. Walter Browne and Roy Ervin, Elliott Winslow and Michael Walder, John Grefe and Jeremy Silman, Jay Whitehead and Steve Brandwein – all of these players, and many more besides, passed through its doors. One of the more outstanding events held there was a San Francisco vs Berkeley match, won by San Francisco, 38 – 26.

My day would begin waking up in the empty house on Carl Street in the Haight (my brother at school, my parents at work). After walking the family dog, I'd then take a much longer walk up over Ashbury Heights and Upper Market Street, dipping down eventually into Noe Valley. I had friends there, many of whom I had met at the Meat Market Coffeehouse, and there was a lot of cross-pollination between there and Fiddler's Green. The same characters showed up in both places (and the Mechanics' Institute). There was nowhere else I'd rather have been at the time. I had ditched school altogether, I had just turned 16, I was working and hanging out with my friends playing chess– I felt free.

The things I remember now, with a rueful laugh:

- At Fiddler's Green a pretty woman pointed out that the "tan" on my arm was actually… dirt.

- At Fiddler's Green I had a terrible knock-down fight with my brother Jay – a bookshelf was toppled over, chairs thrown – yes that's right, over a chess game.

Finally, this is a bit of chess history, yes. But this is also my story, and a story of Love in one of its many forms - and very much of its time.

I suppose my commitment to full-time employment had waned, and after a time I no longer worked at Fiddler's Green, though still making it a regular and important destination.

Peter had hired in my place a lovely woman, 29 years old, who knew the ropes of running a business – even if she wasn't the chess player I was.

I will make this short but for me, very sweet.

One evening she asked me to stay after she'd shut up the shop.

We conversed, but only at first…

An unlikely romance blossomed, which brought strange looks and lasted quite a while.

This was all long ago, at a place called Fiddler's Green.

(Included here are some games played at Fiddler's Green Chess Salon)

Jay Whitehead – **James Tarjan**

Fiddler's Green Tuesday Speed 9/14/1976

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. c3 Nf6

5. e5 Ne4 6. cxd4 d5 7. Nbd2 Bg4 8. Bb5 Be7

9. Qc2 O-O 10. Bxc6 Nxd2 11. Bxb7 Bxf3 12. Bxa8 Bxg2

13. Bxd2 Bxh1 14. Bc6 Bf3 15. Qd3 Bh5 16. Qb5 Bg5

17. Bb4 Be7 18. Ba5 Bf3 19. Rc1 f6 20. Bxc7 Qc8

21. Bxd5+ Bxd5 22. Qxd5+ Kh8 23. e6 Bd8 24. Qd7 Qxd7

25. exd7 Be7 26. Bd6 Bxd6 27. Rc8 Bb4+ 28. Kf1. 1-0.

Peter Cleghorn – **Paul Whitehead**

Berkeley vs. San Francisco Match.

Fiddler's Green 10/6/1976

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 cxd4

5. Qxd4 e6 6. Bc4 Nc6 7. Qe4 d6 8. Nf3 dxe5

9. Nxe5 Nxe5 10. Qxe5 Qd6 11. Bb5+ Bd7 12. Bxd7+ Qxd7

13. O-O Bd6 14. Qxg7 O-O-O 15. Qd4 Rhg8 16. Qxa7 Qc6

17. g3 Bc5 18. Qa5 Rg4 19. Na3 Rdg8 20. Nb5 Rxg3+

21. hxg3 Rxg3+ 22. Kh2 Rg2+ 23. Kh3 Rg6 24. f3 e5

25. c4 Rh6+ 26. Bxh6 Qxh6+ 27. Kg4 Qg6+ 28. Kh4 Be7+

29. Kh3 Nf4+ 30. Kh2 Qg2#

Jeremy Silman – **Peter Cleghorn**

Berkeley vs. San Francisco Match.

Fiddler's Green 10/6/1976

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6

5. O-O Nxe4 6. d4 b5 7. Bb3 d5 8. dxe5 Be6

9. Qe2 Be7 10. Rd1 Na5 11. Nd4 O-O 12. f3 Nc5

13. f4 Ncxb3 14. axb3 c5 15. Nxe6 fxe6 16. Qg4 Rf5

17. Nc3 h5 18. Qh3 g6 19. Ne4 Qb6 20. Ng3 c4+

21. Kh1 Rf7 22. Rxa5 Qxa5 23. Qxe6 cxb3 24. Qxg6+ Rg7

25. Qe6+ Kh8 26. Nf5 bxc2 27. Rf1 Bf8 28. Nxg7 Bxg7

29. f5 d4 30. f6 Bf8 31. Qf7. 1-0.

Pamela Ford – Ruth Herstein

Fiddler's Green Women's Invitational

San Francisco, 8/29/1976

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Nf3 Bd6

5. c4 dxc4 6. Bxc4 Nf6 7. O-O O-O 8. Bg5 Bg4

9. Qb3 Nc6 10. Nbd2 Na5 11. Qc3 Nxc4 12. Nxc4 Ne4

13. Bxd8 Nxc3 14. bxc3 Raxd8 15. Nfe5 Be6 16. Rfb1 Bd5

17. f3 b6 18. a4 Be7 19. Ne3 Ba8 20. a5 f6

21. Nf5 Rfe8 22. axb6 axb6 23. Nd3 Bf8 24. Ra7 Rd7

25. Rxb6 Rxd4 26. Nxd4 cxb6 27. Ne6 Bd5 28. Nxf8 Kxf8

29. Rc7 b5 30. Nf4 Bc4 31. Nh5 Re1+ 32. Kf2 Re2+

33. Kg1 Bf7 34. Ng3 Rc2 35. Ne4 Bc4 36. Rb7 Bd3

37. Nc5 Bc4 38. Ne4 Rc1+ 39. Kf2 Rc2+ 40. Kg1 Rc1+

41. Kf2 Rd1 42. Nc5 Rd2+ 43. Kg1 Re2 44. Ne4 Re1+

45. Kf2 Rd1 46. Nc5 Rd6 47. Kg1 Kg8 48. Rd7 Rxd7

49. Nxd7 Kf7 50. Nc5 f5 51. Kf2 Ke7 52. Ke3 Kd6

53. Kd4 g5 54. g4 Be2 55. gxf5 Bxf3 56. Ne4+ Bxe4

57. Kxe4 h6 58. Kd4 h5 59. Ke4 Ke7 60. Ke5 g4

61. f6+ Ke8 62. Kf5 Kf7 63. Kg5 h4 64. Kxh4 Kxf6

65. Kxg4 Ke5 66. Kf3 Kd5 67. Ke3. 1-0.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Magnus Invitational, Part II

The second week of the Magnus Carlsen Invitational provided a lot of action-packed chess games to a world waiting for entertainment. The eight most entertaining players in the world (according to the Norwegian organizers) played rapid (and Armageddon) games to fill your empty hours of the coronavirus lock-down. In this second week, the players were fighting to qualify for the top four spots which will then be the semi-finals and finals of the matches. It turned out to be a quite clear divide between the qualifiers and the nots.

Naturally Magnus was one of the top four, and Ding Liren (world #3) showed that he is clearly one of the very best. Ding had a very bad first half of the Candidates Tournament. Fabiano Caruana, world #2, also showed the world he is as dangerous as ever. Fabi showed that he has improved his game in the rapid and blitz time controls. He used to be considered not as strong (for a 2800) in fast chess, but now he has believers that he can win the rapid playoffs against anyone. The fourth qualifier was America's own Hikaru Nakamura. Now everyone knows that Hikaru is fantastic in quick time controls and internet chess. In a way Hikaru is your ultimate coffee house player. (I say that with respect – he is highly entertaining.) Hikaru is no longer in the top ten of classical chess, but in this kind of tournament he is as dangerous as anyone.

We hope you enjoy these entertaining games. Thanks to Magnus and Co. for putting on the show!

(1) Nakamura,Hikaru - Firouzja,Alireza [B01]

Magnus Invitational, 28.04.2020

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.b4!? Diagram



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Newsletter #917

May 9, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- 2020 Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial Online
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Sacramento Chess Club News
- FM Paul Whitehead's Online Class
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Tony's Teasers
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz Online

The 14th annual Ray Schutt/Steve Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz was moved online to Chess.com this year due to the shelter-in-place order, but we were very excited to see 104 players show up to keep the tradition going. We had two GM's in the field - GM Rauf Mamedov, the former European Blitz Champion who has been ranked as high as #4 in the world in blitz, and GM Steven Zierk, a local prodigy known for his endgame prowess. We also had many top scholastic players like IM Christopher Yoo, FM Jason Liang, and NM Ruiyang Yan. We also had some of our top Mechanics' club players like FM Kyron Griffith, IM Elliott Winslow, and the always entertaining NM Jules Jelinek. Add to that our loyal crop of Mechanics' Institute regulars, and it made for a fantastic blitz event.

GM Steven Zierk, winner of the 14th annual Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial

The tournament was a 12-round G/3 +2 battle that would test the stamina of the players. The games were exciting and the matchups interesting. The best players shined, and when it was over, GM Steven Zierk captured the gold medal with 10.5/12. GM Rauf Mamedov took silver with 10/12, and FM Kyron Griffith took the bronze with 9/12 on tiebreaks over Abhinav Penagalapati.

Former European Blitz Champion GM Rauf Mamedov finished in 2nd

At first it looked like the story of this tournament would be IM Elliott Winslow. All who know him are aware he can be a dangerous opponent for any player, and he was having a tremendous run, winning his first 5 rounds. He was paired against GM Steven Zierk in round 6, and produced this phenomenal upset. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) ecwinslow (2257) - Zkid (2787) [C07]

Live Chess Chess.com, 03.05.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 Qc7 9.0-0 Ne7 [9...Bd6 10.Nf3 Nf6 would test White's set-up. Perhaps White needs to sac a pawn with 11. e5 to get play.] **10.Nf3 Ng6 11.Re1 Be7 12.c4!** Using the c-pawn to get more control of the center. **12...dxe4 13.Bxe4 0-0 14.Be3?!** This bishop is now a targer for the black pawns and could get pushed back by the coming advance. **14...f5 15.Bc2 c5 16.Qe2 Bf6 17.Rab1 e5 18.Bg5** This actually saves the piece by tactics. **18...e4! 19.Bxf6 Rxf6** [19...exf3 20.Be5!] **20.Nd2 Nf4 21.Qe3 Nxg2?** too eager! [21...Rh6 22.g3 Nh3+ 23.Kf1 *(23.Kg2 f4!)* 23...Rf8 leaves Black in great shape with the coming attack after ...f4.] **22.Kxg2 f4 23.Qc3 f3+** Diagram

24.Kh1! The only good move. It looks scary to move the white king far away from help, but the white knight is coming to the rescue. **24...Rh6 25.Nf1 Bh3 26.Ng3 Bg2+ 27.Kg1** surprisingly the black attack cannot get through (at long as White plays very accurately). **27...Qd7 28.Qe5!** [28.Rbd1? Qh3] **28...Qh3 29.Qd5+** This is excellently greedy. White needs to defend the mate on h2, but he rightfully decides to take material with checks first. **29...Re6** [29...Kf8 30.Qxa8+ Kf7 31.Qxa7+ Kf8 32.Qb8+ Kf7 33.Nxe4 does it as h2 is guarded.] **30.Qxa8+ Kf7 31.Bxe4 Rh6 32.Qd5+ Kf8 33.Qf5+ 1-0**

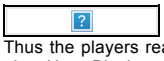
The incredible run would be halted in round 7 by GM Rauf Mamedov. Mamedov and Zierk would meet in round 9, and this would be the game that could put one player in the driver's seat. The match was decisive, with Zierk getting the win with endgame technique.

(1) Muisback26 (3023) - Zkid (2805) [C07]

Live Chess Chess.com, 03.05.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 The most active, open continuation against the Tarrasch French. **4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Bc4 Qd7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Nb3 Nf6 9.Nbxd4** White has recaptured the pawn and is active, but Black has no weakenesses. **9...Nxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 11.Re1 Bc5 12.Be3 0-0** Diagram

13.Nxe6?! Courageous and interesting, but is it good? White had many other slower continuations but decided to start the action right away. **13...Qxd1 14.Raxd1 Bxe6 15.Bxc5 Bxc4 16.Bxf8 Kxf8** Diagram



Thus the players reach this endgame after the forced captures. Sometimes a rook and pawn is worth a bishop and knight in an endgame, but that requires the rook to have great freedom of play. Here Black covers the entry squares and simple holds the edge. **17.b3 Be6 18.c4 Ke7 19.f3 a5 20.Re5 Nd7 21.Re3 a4 22.h4 axb3 23.axb3 Ra2** It's not easy to find a good plan for White. Black meanwhile can bring his king to c7 and then activate the knight. **24.Rde1 Kd6! 25.Rd1+ Kc6** [25...Kc5? 26.Rxe6 fxe6 27.Rxd7] **26.h5 Rb2 27.h6?!** White's b3 pawn may fall, so he hits on the kingside. It doubles the black h-pawns, yet even doubled pawns can be useful. **27...gxh6 28.Ra1 Nc5 29.Ra3 h5! 30.f4 h4 31.Re5** Passive defence won't hold so White goes for activity. That's a good practical choice, but his opponent is not perturbed. **31...Nxb3 32.Rh5 h3 33.gxh3 Nd4 34.Rxh7 Bxc4 35.h4 Bd5** The centralized bishop and knight, combined with the rook on the seventh mean trouble for the white king. This will cost White the exchange. **36.Kf1 Bg2+ 37.Kg1 Nf3+ 38.Rxf3 Bxf3 39.Rxf7 Rg2+ 40.Kf1 Rh2 41.f5 Kd6 42.f6 Ke6 43.Rf8 Rxh4**

44.Kf2 Rf4 45.Ke3 Rxf6! Trading all the material except one pawn! This is of course a winning king and pawn ending. **46.Rxf6+ Kxf6 47.Kxf3 Ke5 48.Ke3 Kd5 49.Kd3 Kc5 50.Kc3 Kb5! 51.Kc2** [51.Kb3 b6 52.Ka3 Kc4] **51...Kb4 52.Kb2 b5 53.Kc2 Ka3 54.Kb1 b4 55.Ka1 b3 56.Kb1 b2** White resigns. A very high quality game from Zkid, as good as many games of classic time control. **0-1**

Heading into the final round, Zierk held a full point lead and needed only a draw to win the tournament. He was paired against his former coach Michael "fpawn" Aigner, while Mamedov took on Rohan Rajaram (ninjatrick). Mamedov won his game, and Aigner managed a nice sacrifice to force a perpetual check, which was all Zierk needed to clinch the victory in the tournament.

This online event was a big success, and Mechanics' Institute Chess Club is proud to have organized it in remembrance of Ray Schutt, Steve Brandwein, and Jay Whitehead, all of whom share a special place in Mechanics' history and who made an impact on chess in the Bay Area.

Ray Schutt

Ray Schutt was one of the founding members of the Hayward Chess Club and in 1995, won the U.S. Senior Open Championship. A write up on his passing can be found in the Mechanics' Institute Newsletter from 2007: http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/mi/article_339.htm (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/mi/article_339.htm)

Steve Brandwein

Steve Brandwein was the Chess Room Coordinator of the Mechanics' Institute and a regular player there, who was famous in the chess community for his blitz play and playing Miguel Najdorf to a 6-game draw in a friendly blitz match at the Mechanics Institute. He roomed with Jim Buff and Bobby Fischer and John Donaldson tells great tales of those encounters. IM Donaldson's write up on Brandwein's passing in Chess Life Online can be found here: https://new.uschess.org/news/stephen-brandwein-1942-2015/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://new.uschess.org/news/stephen-brandwein-1942-2015/)

Jay Whitehead

Jay Whitehead is the brother of current Chess Room Coordinator Paul Whitehead, and was an International Master who holds the distinction of being the only American player to ever finish ahead of Garry Kasparov in a tournament (World Cadet, 1977). Jay was a former US Junior Champion and played twice in the US Championship.

I want to thank the Mechanics' team - Dr. Judit Sztaray, GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead, and FM Jim Eade. We all participated in the broadcast and helped keep this great event going, even under extraordinary circumstances. We have phenomenal teamwork within the Institute and support from our leadership in our online events. I also want to thank our chess community for supporting us and our events, as the community is what helps make our building and online community such a special place. Your support is very much appreciated by Mechanics' Institute.

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

The Tuesday Night Online was intersting this week, as the back-to-back champion NM Ruiyang Yan skipped this week's edition. With many of the usual top players taking the day off, the medals were really up for the taking. There was a surprise entry this week from a new player to our events, JasonRBT. He went on to take clear first with 4.5/5. We learned later during the broadcast that this player is none other than IM Rost Tsodikov, the husband of WFM Natalya Tsodikova. A few players finished with 4/5, but Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) took the silver on tiebreaks and Daniel Lin (SmilyFace4) took the bronze.

In a surprise move, FM Eric Li (wepkins) withdrew for th last round after going 4/4. We had anticipated an epic finale between wepkins and JasonRBT but it will have to wait for a future tournament. Here is Eric's 4th round victory over Michael Walder (FlightsoOfFancy).

(3) wepkins (2400) - FlightsOfFancy (1956) [E90]

Live Chess Chess.com, 05.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Bd3 exd5 9.exd5 Re8+ 10.Be3 Bh6 Diagram



11.0-0! An excellent pawn sacrifice. White gets a lead in development to go with his space advantage. The other useful point is that Black trades off his important dark-squared bishop which is very useful for defense. **11...Bxe3 12.fxe3 Rxe3?!** [If Black wants to play this line I would recommend not taking the pawn and instead covering the dark squares - 12...Kg7 13.Qd2 *(13.b3)* 13...Nbd7 14.Rf2 Ng8! 15.Raf1 f6 with the idea of Nh6-f7] **13.Qd2 Re8 14.Qh6 Nbd7 15.Ng5 Nf8?** [Already the position is very difficult. The best chance is to sacrifice the exchange with 15...Re7 16.Nce4 Rxe4 17.Bxe4 Qf8 when at least the black king is safe and the position solid.] **16.Nce4 Bf5** Diagram



[16...Rxe4 17.Bxe4 just delays the invasion on the f-file for a couple moves] **17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Rxf5! Qd4+ 19.Rf2 Qxd3 20.Rxf7 Qd4+ 21.Kh1** material is even but White has a death grip around the black king. **21...Qh8 22.Raf1 Rad8 23.Nxh7 Nxh7 24.Qxg6+** Nice tour de force by Wepkins. **1-0**

Tsodikov would have finished with a perfect score, as he had his final round game in hand after a long battle. However, one of the craziest finishes we have witnessed at the TNO saved a half point for Penagalapati and stunned the commentators during the broadcast. To fully appreciate the madness, watch the video starting at the 2:28:00 mark https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUd4gxC6hmk (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUd4gxC6hmk). The game itself is instructive and here, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) qing29 (2098) - jasonRBT (2011) [A45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 05.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 e6 4.Nd2 Bd6 5.Bg3 c5 6.c3 Qc7 7.Ngf3 We are seeing a lot of London Systems these days. MI Trustee Jim Eade will be happy. **7...Nbd7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Bxg3 10.hxg3 b6 11.Qe2 Bb7** Black has played a very principled opening and has gotten a fully equal position. White is solid and without weaknesses, yet so is Black. **12.e4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Bxe4 Bxe4 15.Qxe4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Rac8 17.Qe2 Rfd8** In the old days this would be the kind of position for the infamous "grandmaster draw." **18.a4 Nf6 19.Rfd1 h6 20.Nb5 Qb8 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Rd1 a6 23.Na3 Rxd1+ 24.Qxd1 Qc7 25.Qd4 Qd7 26.Qxd7 Nxd7 27.Nc4 Kf8 28.Kf1 Ke7 29.Ke2 e5 30.Ke3 Ke6 31.g4!** put this pawn to work! **31...g6 32.a5!? b5 33.Nb6!?** White is trying an interesting invasion. Now if Black takes the bait he loses - **33...Nf6!** [33...Nxb6? 34.axb6 Kd6 35.Ke4 f6 36.b7 Kc7 37.Kd5 Kxb7 38.Ke6] **34.f3 Ne8 35.Na8 Kd6 36.Nb6 Nc7 37.Ke4 Ke6 38.b3 f5+ 39.gxf5+ gxf5+ 40.Kd3 h5 41.c4 h4 42.c5 b4!?** Now it is Black's turn to try an aggressive plan **43.Kc4 f4!** Diagram

44.Kd3! [44.Kxb4? e4! 45.fxe4 f3 46.gxf3 h3 wins] **44...Nb5 45.c6 Kd6 46.c7 Nxc7 47.Ke4 Ke6 48.Nc4 Nd5 49.Nxe5 Ne3 50.Nd3 Nxg2 51.Nxf4+ Nxf4 52.Kxf4** This endgame is still very interesting. Who can queen a pawn first? **52...Kd5 53.Kg4 Ke5! 54.f4+** [54.Kxh4? Kf4 wins] **54...Ke4 55.f5 Ke5 56.Kg5 h3 57.f6 h2 58.f7 h1Q 59.f8Q Qg2+ 60.Kh4 Qe4+ 61.Kg5 Qe3+ 62.Kg6 Qd3+ 63.Kg7?** [63.Kg5 is a draw] **63...Qg3+ 64.Kh7 Qh4+ 65.Kg6 Qg4+ 66.Kh6 Qf4+! 67.Qxf4+ Kxf4** Now Black is winning the king ending. **68.Kg6 Ke5 69.Kf7 Kd6 70.Ke8 Kc5 71.Kd7 Kb5?** [71...Kd4! 72.Kc6 Kc3 73.Kb6 Kxb3 74.Kxa6 Kc4 75.Kb7 b3 76.a6 b2 77.a7 b1Q+ 78.Kc8 Qf5+ 79.Kb7 Qf7+ 80.Kb8 Kc5! 81.a8Q Kb6! wins] **72.Kd6 Kxa5 73.Kc5** stalemate **1/2-1/2**

In another wild game from this tournament, Clarence Lehman (FrankJamesMarshall) took advantage by a blunder from Lauren Goodkind (laurengoodkindchess) to win a game that had some moments where good calculation was needed to close the show. This was a fine win by Lehman, especially considering that Lauren has been playing especially well lately.

(4) FrankJamesMarshall (1479) - laurengoodkindchess (1764) [D00]

Live Chess Chess.com, 05.05.2020

1.e4 d5 2.d4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 The Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. Tricky in quick chess. **4...exf3 5.Qxf3!?** Normal is for White to recapture 5. Nxf3 with development and open lines for the pawn. Taking with the queen does not look as good, but puts the opponent on unfamiliar ground. **5...c6** [5...Qxd4 6.Be3 Qe5 7.0-0-0 is complicated and tricky.] **6.h3?!** this is slow for a gambit (or here now a double pawn gambit). **6...Qxd4 7.Be3 Qd8** [7...Qd6] **8.Bc4 e6 9.Nge2 Be7 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.0-0 Nd5??** Just forgetting that f7 is not protected! Instead Black could have played 11...Nbd7 or 11...0-0 with the extra pawns and a solid game. White would still have extra development to try things, but the onus would be on White to prove value for the sacrificed material. **12.Qxf7+ Kd8 13.Qxg7 Re8 14.Rf7 Nd7 15.Bxd5 exd5 16.Nd4 Qe5** Diagram

17.Qg3! Bc5 [17...Qxg3 18.Ne6#] **18.Bg5+ Be7 19.Bf4!** Now White wins the queen or checkmates with the knight on e6. **19...Bc5 20.Rxd7+ Bxd7 21.Bxe5 Rxe5 22.Qxe5 Rc8 23.Nce2 Bb6 24.Rf1 Rc7 25.Rf8+ Be8 26.Qxe8# 1-0**

A special thanks to the people that make the broadcast and commentary happen so we can bring the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club online for people to watch and follow. Judit Sztaray runs the broadcast and FM Paul Whitehead and FM Jim Eade provide commentary each and every week that help bring the games to life.

For full results from this event, please click here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1209661 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1209661)

To watch the broadcast and commentary, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUd4gxC6hmk (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUd4gxC6hmk)

Mechanics' Online Events Recap

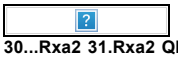
The Saturday Late Night Showdown on May 2 was won by FM Kyron Griffith with 4.5/5, winning on tiebreaks over NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018). WCM Omya Vidyarthi (harkerchess) finished in third on tiebreaks with 4/5.

Omya was on the verge of pulling out an exciting upset against Griffith in round 3. Blitz chess provides plenty of opportunities for blunders and momentum swings, and this game was an exciting one in that spirit. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

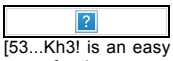
(2) harkerchess (1998) - KyronGriffith (2372) [A45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 02.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.e4 h6 This a a very reasonable line against White's system. Black will gain the bishop pair at a cost of space. It helps Black that one set of minor pieces get exchanged to ease the spatial cramp. **4.Bxf6 Qxf6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nc3 Nd7 7.Bd3 g6 8.Qe2 Bg7 9.Nb5?!** No real harm done here, but this is a cheap threat. **9...Qd8 10.Qd2 a6 11.Na3 0-0 12.c3 b5 13.Nc2 c5 14.0-0 Bb7 15.Rfe1 Rc8 16.a4 Qb6** Black is just a little better due to the bishops. White's pawn center is not a threat here. **17.axb5 axb5 18.Na3 c4 19.Bf1 e5 20.b3?!** Active but giving Black chances too. Safer was 12. Nc2 [20.Nc2] **20...cxb3 21.Bxb5 Nf6 22.d5 Rc5?!** [22...Qc5! 23.c4 Ra8 24.Qb2 Ra5 25.Qxb3 Rfa8 26.Nc2 Rxa1 27.Nxa1 Nxe4 would be very good.] **23.Bc4?!** [23.c4!] **23...Rfc8 24.Qe2 b2 25.Ra2 Qa7?!** [Black can get two pieces for a rook with 25...Rxc4! 26.Rxb2 Qc5! 27.Nxc4 *(27.Qxc4 Qxa3)* 27...Ba6] **26.Qxb2 Ra5 27.Rea1?** Too worried about the action on the a-file, White gives up the e-pawn. Much better was [27.Raa1] **27...Nxe4 28.Qb3 Nc5** [28...Nxc3! 29.Qxc3 e4! wins] **29.Qc2 Ra8 30.Nb5** Diagram



30...Rxa2 31.Rxa2 Qb8 32.Rxa8 Bxa8 33.Qa2 Bxd5? [This leads to big trouble. Black is still better after the patient 33...Bb7] **34.Bxd5 Qxb5 35.Bxf7+** Now Black has a lot of problems on the light squares. **35...Kh7 36.h3** [36.Nh4! is very strong] **36...Qb7 37.Qc2??** Having a big advantage after a hard fought battle, harkerchess just blunders the important bishop. Yet the game is never over in quick time control chess. **37...Qxf7 38.Nh4 Bf6 39.Nf3 e4 40.Nd2 Qd5 41.c4 Qd3 42.Qa2!** fighting hard **42...Bg7 43.Nf1 h5 44.Ne3 Bd4 45.Qa7+ Kh6 46.Qf7 Bg7 47.g4 Qd4 48.h4 hxg4 49.Nxg4+ Kh5!** brave and good **50.Ne3 Qf6 51.Qd5+ Kxh4 52.Ng2+ Kg4 53.Ne3+ Kf3??** Diagram



[53...Kh3! is an easy win] **54.Qd1+! Kf4 55.Nd5+ Ke5 56.Qa1+ Ke6 57.Nxf6 Bxf6** Black has blundered the queen for a knight. Still there are fair chances in blitz mode with knight, bishop and pawn for the queen. **58.Qe1 Kf5 59.Qe3 Be5 60.Kf1 Nd3 61.Ke2 g5 62.Qh3+ Kf6 63.Qg4 Nc5 64.f3 exf3+ 65.Kxf3 Bf4 66.Qg1 Ke5 67.Qd1 Kf5 68.Qd5+ Be5 69.Qf7+ Bf6 70.Qh7+ Ke6 71.Kg4 Nd7 72.Qe4+ Ne5+ 73.Kg3 g4 74.Qf5+??** Maybe White first thought about 74. Qd5+ where it is guarded. A tragic finish. **74...Kxf5 75.Kg2 Nxc4 76.Kf2 Ne5 77.Kg2 Kf4 0-1**

Full results for this tournament can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1205621 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1205621)

In the Sunday matinee, Imcharlene took clear first with 3/3, making a successful transition from our scholastic tournaments to our regular events. Talenuf and rainwind finished 2nd and 3rd with 2.5/3. Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-matinee-1206887 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-matinee-1206887)

The Sunday Late Night Showdown had 34 players and was won by NM Vyom Vidyarthi (2007checkmate) with a perfect 5/5 score. FM Kyron Griffith and Game-6_Klay and Sricharan_The_King rounded the top 4 with 4/5. In a very gentlemanly shout out, Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) gave props to Clarence Lehman (FrankJamesMarshall) for a nice victory seen here: https://www.chess.com/live/game/4808275525 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/live/game/4808275525).

Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1206889 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1206889)

The Monday Night Arena was a fight to the finish, as NM Vyom Vidyarthi nudged out FM Jason Liang (Marty435) 34-33. Nitish Nathan (BreatheChessAlways) took third with 25. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-night-arena-192792 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-night-arena-192792)

The Wednesday Late Night Showdown on May 6 saw an appearance from our friend GM Cristian Chirila (TheCount). However, an upset by NM Bela Kis left the tournament open, and it was Abhinav Penagalapati who emerged victorious with 4.5/5. NM Vyom Vidyarthi took 2nd on tiebreaks over TNM regular David Askin, both with 4/5. Full results are here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1210975?&players=1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1210975?&players=1)

Fischer Random Thursday drew 30 players for our second edition of this chess variant. Two late second round entries spiced up the field, with FM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) and FM Kyron Griffith joining the fray. Both players won all their games to get 4/5, but Ako Heidari won the tiebreaker and first place with 4/5 because he played all 5 games. Full results are here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-fischer-random-thursday-1211766 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-fischer-random-thursday-1211766)

Thank you to all our players participating!

Sacramento Chess Club News

by Michael "fpawn" Aigner

The Sacramento Pawns club on Chess.com hosts weekly tournaments for chess players in the Sacramento region to compete while sheltering-in-place at home. While neither as strong nor as large as the Mechanics' Institute, these Pawn Storm events on Saturdays typically draw a crowd of up to 20 players, roughly evenly split between adults and juniors. The strength of the over-the-board Sacramento club is well reflected in the field of competition - more than half of the participants are rated between 1600 and 2000.

Currently there are two events each Saturday afternoon, both at the time control of G/10 with a 3 second increment.

* 1:30 PM - Sac Kids & Amateurs - for juniors and amateur adults under 1400 Chess.com rapid rating
* 3:00 PM - Sac Pawn Storm - open to all online club members (five rounds take about two hours)

Check out the post tournament reports (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/club/sacramento-pawns/news) which include a selection of lightly annotated games. While there are no prizes, anyone rated under 2000 USCF who beats or draws a master shall have the game published in the subsequent news.

The following positions arose in games played during a Pawn Storm. White to move.
Puzzle A

Puzzle B

Puzzle C

Solutions will be posted next week.

Bay Area players interested in playing rapid games on Saturday afternoons are welcome to join the Sacramento Pawns club (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/club/sacramento-pawns) and play in the tournaments. The more, the merrier! If you have any questions or comments, please send a message to fpawn on Chess.com.

Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champior and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Mechanics Chess Social #4

The Mechanics' Chess Social showcased MI leadership on the Friday May 8 edition. MI Executive Director Kimberly Scrafano joined the broadcast, along with MI Trustee GM Patrick Wolff, who is also the MI Chess Commitee Chair and Board CFO, as well as Trustees FM Mark Pinto and FM Jim Eade. We discussed the Mechanics' Institute as an institution dedicated to giving access to educational materials and the arts to working people and how we continue that mission to this day. We also delved a bit into MI chess history and the evolution of the Institute. It was a fun and informative hour, and you can watch the broadcast by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dN1BuEu3muk (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dN1BuEu3muk)

Tony's Teaser's Returns!

Paul managed to run into Tony in the neighborhood studying a position, so he thought he would take a picture and share it with our readers. Tony's teasers returns!

White to play and mate in 2. Frederick Gamage, 1940

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Upcoming Tournament Schedule

Saturday, May 9: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
1000+ section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26446 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26446)
u/1000 section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26447 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26447)

Sunday, May 10: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26448 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=26448)

Tuesday, May 12: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM
1000+ section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28147 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28147)
u/1000 section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28148 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28148)

Thursday, May 14: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
Open: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28150 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28150)

Saturday, May 16: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
1000+ section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28152 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28152)
u1000 section: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28153 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28153)

Sunday, May 17: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
Open: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28183 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28183)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

Save the Date - May 23, Saturday @ 11AM

San Francisco Scholastic Championship Online via chesskid.com

Registration:
Players can register by clicking here. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001nkDqE-gsygb0OXWVrrVIONBs25A1SzrMLKiXQw7Fqrd\
kF7N_VcFAbzsAD_7EDPKVSHmC7N29uMw0ZQyq6kgJmstME3OSxkBgWNRdOSiaVJFKMLQhFc0BFOIJ5EYSBDsQuv72N-BUaiSlt3bAJhpESA6uIMm5LAK1Gxhu5zO9OtRxAkTBz9R
IqV9TDf80hOFPa5XKtxJp0yXgt4KX7plq8rSkyZt7DPGdojlrnAoyvnjVB9dTf028Mz7&c=Ws5dUks2ERn7O1BmSiuyM0cY8go0E1bXKOIcgtj75586yKUCbarxvw==&ch=rpvEr0wB0iy
Deadline: Friday 6PM. Instructions on how to join the tournament is being sent to all who registered.
Bonus: If you register by Thursday noon, you will be invited to be part of a practice tournament on Thursday at 4PM.

Time Control: G/15+5 : Game in 15 minutes with five (5) second increment
Each player has 15 minutes for their whole game, and five (5) seconds are added to their time after each move.

Platform: Games in all sections will be played on ChessKid.com except for the K-12 1000+ Championship section, which will be played on Chess.com.

Prizes: Trophies to top six players in each sections.
Trophies will be available for pickup at the club after Mechanics' Institute reopens. Trophies cannot be delivered or mailed.

Sections:

Section	USCF online rated	Time Control	# of Rounds	Start Time	Trophy/Medal Prizes
K-2	no	G/15 +5	5	11am	Yes
Grade 3-5	no	G/15 +5	5	11am	Yes
Grade 6-12	no	G/15 +5	5	11am	Yes
K-12 u/1000 championship	yes	G/15 +5	5	11am	Yes
K-12 1000+ championship	yes	G/15 +5	5	11am	Yes

Entry Fee: FREE!
USCF membership is required in the championship sections.

Scholastic Games Of The Week (games from our scholastic online tournaments)

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(6) Nightimeninja (921) - jimmykids (1266)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 A somewhat less usual line in Petrov's Defense than the usual capture of the e-pawn, 3. Nxe5. **3...Nxe4 4.dxe5!?** This is definitely unusual though. The standard continuation is [4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5] **4...d6** [4...Bc5! 5.Qd5?! Bxf2+ 6.Ke2 f5 wins a pawn since 7.exf6 Nxf6 8.Qe5+ Kf7 would make a knight fork on g4 if White takes the bishop on f2.] **5.exd6 Bxd6 6.Bd3 Qe7 7.Bxe4?!** [7.0-0 Nf6 8.Re1 Be6 9.Nd4 is a little more comfortable for White.] **7...Qxe4+ 8.Qe2 Qxe2+ 9.Kxe2 0-0 10.Bh6?** This move is hard to understand. White develops a piece, but it is just taken! **10...gxh6 11.Nc3 Nc6 12.Ke1** [White is in trouble being a piece down in this ending. It would be better now to get a safe place for the white king with 12.Rhd1 so that the king heads to f1, g1 with the white rook out and developed.] **12...Nb4 13.Rd1 Nxc2+ 14.Kf1 b6!** Black brings the light-squared bishop out with effect. **15.Ne4 Ba6+ 16.Kg1 Be7 17.Rd2 Nb4 18.a3 Nc6 19.b4 f5 20.Ng3 f4 21.Nf1 Bf6 22.Rc2 Nd4** Black has played very well, getting all the pieces out. The white rook on h1 is stuck for a while and Black can use that time for an invasion. Needed now is 23. Nxd4 to continue the game., even though it would be difficult. **23.Rxc7 Ne2#!** Diagram

0-1

(7) ThinOvalPaw (1411) - giganotosaurus (1170)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 Looking for the Four Move checkmate with 4. Qxf7. Gigantosaurus has seen this before and doesn't fall for it. **3.Qh5 g6 4.Qd1** [Most players give it one more chance at checkmate with 4.Qf3 which Black can block with 4...Nf6] **4...d6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 a6 7.h3 b5** Black has done nicely using the pawns in the opening to take squares. **8.Bd5 Nxd5 9.exd5 Ne7 10.d4 exd4?!** safer would be to develop with [10...Bg7 and keep control of the long dark-squared diagonal] **11.Nxd4** [11.Qxd4! Rg8 12.0-0 is a very pleasant position for White] **11...Nf5? 12.Qe2+?** missing the great post for the knight [12.Nc6! Qh4 13.0-0 and the black king is in trouble] **12...Be7?** [12...Qe7! escapes all problems for Black. The game move though allows White to create a serious bind.] **13.Nc6! Qd7 14.Bg5** Diagram

Black is in trouble. If **14...f6** [14...Kf8 15.Nxe7 Nxe7 16.Bh6+ the game might continue 16...Kg8 17.Ne4 Nxd5 18.Qd3 Bb7 19.Qxd5 Bxd5 20.Nf6#] **15.Bxf6 b4 16.Bxh8 bxc3 17.Bxc3 Bb7** White is in command, and here he chooses to follow the rule that you trade down when you are ahead material. **18.Nxe7 Nxe7 19.0-0-0 0-0-0 20.Bf6 Re8 21.Bxe7 Rxe7 22.Qd2** White has the exchange and 3 extra pawns. That is winning if White plays accurately. **22...Qe8 23.Rde1 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Qf7 25.c4 Qg7 26.Re8+! Kd7 27.Qe2!** White uses the power of the rook and queen well. The lethal threat is 28. Qe6 mate. **27...Qh6+ 28.Kb1 Qg7** there was no way out. **29.Qe6# 1-0**

(8) TopWittyGem (1653) - UltimateGuitar (1554)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 The Dragon Variation! UltimateGuitar is going for a fighting game. **6.Be3 Bg7 7.Qd2?! h5?!** [It's better to disturb the white bishop on e3 with 7...Ng4 White usually prevents that move with 7. f3] **8.Bc4 a6 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Rad1 b5 11.Bb3 Bb7 12.f3 Rc8** Diagram

This position is well done by both sides. The pieces are developed to good squares in classic Sicilian fashion. **13.h3 Ne5 14.Qc1 Qc7 15.a4 b4 16.Na2 a5 17.Nb5 Qc6?** overlooking a fork. Black could just retreat with [17...Qd8 and have a fine position. Probably White would continue with 18. c3 to start action on the queenside.] **18.Na7!** Here Black resigned as the exchange is lost. I must say to UltimateGuiter - next time fight on! There is so much material left that one can often come back from that loss, particularly in a Sicilian which is unbalanced to start with. **1-0**

Online Chess Classes for Kids

To see available classes and register:

https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes)

Day	Time	Coach	Link
Monday	4-5PM	Coach Colin	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinMonday45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinMonday45PM)
Tuesday	2-3PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays23PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays23PM)
Tuesday	3:15-4:15PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays315415PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays315415PM)
Wednesday	3-4PM	Coach Colin	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinWednesdays34PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinWednesdays34PM)
Friday	1-2PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays12PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays12PM)
Friday	2:15-3:15PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays215315PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays215315PM)

Class Fee: $25 for single class, $45 for two classes (10% off), $80 for 4 classes (20% off)
More details: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#OnlineScholastic (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#OnlineScholastic)

Weekend Clubs Online Via zoom

1.5 hours of fun and educational chess club with our amazing coaches.

To see available clubs and register:
https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes)

Day	Time	Coach	Link
Saturday	10-11:30AM	TBA	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineWeekendClubSaturdays101130AM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineWeekendClubSaturdays101130AM)
Sunday	5:30-7PM	TBA	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineWeekendClubSundays5307PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineWeekendClubSundays5307PM)

Class Fee: $30 for single class, $54 for two club classes (10% off), $96 for 4 club classes (20% off)
More details: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#OnlineScholastic (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#OnlineScholastic)

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

5/9 Saturday - Saturday Afternoon Matinee
Format: 3SS G/30+0
Join from 1PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1215785
Starts at 2PM

Saturday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1215670
Start: 9PM

5/10 Sunday - Sunday Afternoon Matinee
Format: 3 rounds of G/30+0
Join from 1PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1206887
Start: 2PM

5/11 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=197819
Start: 6:30PM

5/12 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1220307
Start: 6:30PM

5/13 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1220334
Start at 4PM

Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament: 8PM: https://www.chess.com/live#t=1220335
Starts 9PM.

5/14 Thursday - Mechanics' Fischer Random tournament
Format: 5SS G/5 +2
Join from 5:30 - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1220314
Start: 6:30PM

5/15 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160752/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
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Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

FM Paul Whitehead

Paul' column will return next week. Thank you for your patience

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GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Magnus Invitational Finals

FIDE Nations Cup

We start with the finals of the Magnus Carlsen Invitational, which rescued the world from the doldrums of the vacant sports times due to coronavirus. The elite level online chess event was won by Magnus himself (not that we are surprised). Magnus had a struggle in the semi-finals against Ding Liren, when Ding won the second game of the match to take the lead. This put Magnus in the hole and forced him to really fight, which is when he is at his best. Winning two game in a row put the World Champion into the finals. In the other semi-final match our two American heroes, Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura faced off. Though Fabi had won their individual match encounter in the regulation part of the tournament, he went down to Naka when it counted in the playoff. Though Naka is not as good now in classical (he is “only” 18th in the world) he is still at the very top of rapid and blitz chess. The encounter with Magnus was great entertainment and Naka won the second game to show his prowess. In the end though it was Magnus again, showing he is alone at the top.

The FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup started on Tuesday to provide us further entertainment. This has 5 elite teams of 4 men and 2 women players playing 2 rapid games a day in a double round robin. The teams are China (the rating favorite), Russia, India, the USA and a team comprised of the Rest of the World. Our American team includes the top three of Caruana, Wesley So and Nakamura. Most important though is that the captain of the USA team is again the MI’s very own John Donaldson! The USA has started well and we hope they and John cruise to a victory by Sunday’s final round.

(1) Nakamura,Hikaru - Carlsen,Magnus [D37]

Magnus Inviational, 02.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.c5 Nh5 winning the bishop pair, but White gets a firm grip on e5. **8.Bd3 Nxf4 9.exf4 b6 10.b4 a5 11.a3 c6 12.0-0 Ba6** Diagram

Black has developed the "problem" bishop of the Queen's Gambit Declined. In principle Black is OK in the opening, yet White has a space advantage. **13.Qe2 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 g6 15.Rfc1 Qc7 16.g3 axb4 17.axb4 Qb7 18.Rab1 Ra3 19.Qc2 Rfa8 20.Kg2 Bf6 21.Ne2 Ra2 22.Qd1 bxc5?!** Black is only a tad worse in the position, but this move takes away options. Better would be [22...b5; or 22...Qc7] **23.bxc5 Qa6 24.Rc2 Rxc2 25.Qxc2 Rb8 26.Rxb8+ Nxb8 27.Nc1 Nd7 28.Nd3** White is the only one with winning chances. The black pawn on c6 is a permanent target. **28...Qb5 29.Qc3 h5?!** [29...Kg7 30.Qa3 h6 gives Black an extra option of playing for ...g5] **30.Qa3! Kg7 31.Nde5 Bxe5 32.fxe5 Qe2 33.Ng5 Qg4?!** [33...h4! 34.gxh4 Qg4+ 35.Qg3 Qxd4 36.Qf3 Nxe5 37.Qxf7+! Nxf7 38.Nxe6+ Kf6 39.Nxd4 Ne5] **34.h4! Nf8** [34...Qxd4? 35.Qa7! Nxe5 36.Nxe6+ wins the queen] **35.Qd3 Qf5 36.Qxf5 exf5** [36...gxf5!? 37.Nh3 f6] **37.Kf3 f6 38.exf6+ Kxf6 39.Ke3** Diagram

This closely fought game is in White's favor. Both the king ending and the knight ending are a struggle for Black due to the weak c6 pawn and the threat of a white king invasion. **39...Nd7** [39...Ne6 40.Nxe6 Kxe6 41.Kf4 Kf6 42.f3 g5+ 43.hxg5+ Kg6 44.Ke5 Kxg5 45.Kd6 f4 46.gxf4+ Kxf4 47.Kxc6 h4 48.Kd6 h3 49.c6 h2 50.c7 h1Q 51.c8Q Kxf3 52.Qe6] **40.Nf3 Ke6 41.Ne1! Nb8?** [41...Kf6 42.Nd3 g5 43.hxg5+ Kxg5 44.Ne5 Nb8 *(44...Nxe5? 45.f4+!)* 45.f4+] **42.Nd3 Kf6 43.f4 Nd7 44.Ne5** Now White is winning. If Black exchanges knights White gets a protected passed pawn. **44...Nf8** [44...Nb8 45.Kd3 Kg7 46.Kc3 and the white king marches in.] **45.Nxc6 Ke6 46.Ne5 Ke7 47.Kd3 Kd8 48.Kc3 Kc7 49.Nd3 Nd7 50.Nb4 Nf6 51.Kb3 Kb7 52.Ka4 Ne4 53.Nxd5** Naka wraps it up efficiently. **53...Nxg3 54.Kb5 Ne4 55.c6+ Kc8 56.Kb6 Nd6 57.Ne7+** Magnus resigned. A great game by Naka! **1-0**

(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Nakamura,Hikaru [D37]

Magnus Invitational, 02.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Be2 Magnus prefers an open game rather than closing the queenside with c5. **7...dxc4 8.0-0 c5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Bxc4 a6 11.Ng5!?** A rather new opening idea which has a lot of tactical points. Naturally Magnus is up on the latest theory, but Naka slowed down indicating he was not as sure what to do. **11...b5 12.Bxe6! fxe6 13.Nxe6 Qe7 14.Nxf8 Qxf8 15.Ne4!** Diagram



with this move White gets an opening edge. If the white knight is captured Qd5+ wins. **15...Bb7** [15...Be7 16.Qb3+ *(16.a4)* 16...Kh8 17.Ng5 Nc5 18.Nf7+ Kg8 19.Nh6+ Kh8 20.Nf7+] **16.Nxc5 Qxc5 17.Rc1 Qd5 18.f3!** [Also reasonable was the endgame with 18.Qxd5+ Bxd5 19.b3 a5 20.Rc2 a4 yet Magnus plays the game like Capablanca - preferring control of the squares to the worth of a pawn.] **18...Qxa2 19.e4 Nf8** [19...Qxb2? 20.Rc7 wins] **20.Rf2 Rc8?!** [20...Ne6 21.Be5 Rd8 22.Rd2 is also difficult for Black.; perhaps best is 20...Re8] **21.Rxc8 Bxc8 22.Qd8 Qe6 23.Bd6 Qe8 24.Qxe8 Nxe8 25.Bb4!** Diagram



White has only a rook and pawn for the two knight, but the black queenside pawns are immobile and the white e and f pawns will march. **25...Ne6 26.Rd2 Kf7 27.Kf2 Nf6 28.Ke3 g5 29.Rd6 Nd7 30.g3 Ne5 31.b3! h5 32.h4 gxh4 33.gxh4 Ng6 34.Be1 a5?!** [The position is difficult. Naka could have tried 34...Nef4 35.Bg3 Ng2+ 36.Kf2 N2f4 37.b4] **35.Rd5! a4 36.Rxh5 Nef4 37.Rg5** [Also possible is 37.Rxb5 Ng2+ 38.Kf2 Nxe1 39.Kxe1 axb3 40.Rxb3 Nxh4 41.Kf2] **37...axb3 38.h5! Nf8 39.Bc3 b4 40.Bb2** Well controlled by Magnus. He stops the black b-pawns and focuses on his winning position on the kingside. **40...N8e6 41.Rf5+ Kg8 42.Rxf4 Nxf4 43.Kxf4 Ba6?!** It seems the opposite colored bishop ending is lost, yet Black could make more trouble with [43...Kh7 hoping for 44.Kg5?! *(44.Ke5! Kh6 45.f4 Kxh5 46.f5 Bb7 47.Kf4! Kh6 48.e5 Kg7 49.e6+ Kf8 50.f6)* 44...Bb7 45.Kf5 Kh6 46.f4 Kxh5 47.e5 Ba6 48.e6 Bd3+ 49.Kf6 Kg4 50.e7 Bb5 51.f5 Bd7 52.Be5 Be8 53.Ke6 Kg5] **44.Kg5 Bd3 45.Kg6 Bb5** [45...Be2 46.h6] **46.f4 Be8+ 47.Kg5 Bc6 48.e5 Bd5 49.f5 Kh7 50.e6 Bc4 51.Kf6 Be2 52.Ke7** the f-pawn queens. **1-0**

(3) Caruana,Fabiano - Vidit,Santosh [C65]

FIDE Online Nations Cup, 05.05.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Ba4 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.c3 Ne7 8.Re1 Ng6 9.Nbd2 c6 10.Nf1 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Ng3 Re8 13.h3 Bb6 14.Bc2 h6 15.Bd2 Bc7 16.d4 exd4 17.Rxe8+ Qxe8 18.Nxd4 Bd7 19.Qf3 Qe5 20.Re1 Qd6 21.Kf1 Ne5 22.Qe2 Re8 23.Ndf5 Qf8 24.Qh5 Bxf5 25.Nxf5 Ng6 26.Rxe8 Qxe8 27.g3 Nf6 28.Qf3 Qd8 29.Bc1 Qd5 30.Qxd5 Nxd5 31.Ke2 Kf8 32.h4 Ne5 33.Bb3 Ne7 34.Nxe7 Kxe7 35.h5 Nd7 36.Bd1 Nf6 37.Kd3 Bb6 38.f4 g6 39.hxg6 fxg6 40.Ke2 Nd5 41.Kf3 h5 42.Bd2 Kf6 43.c4 Ne7 44.Bc3+ Ke6 45.b4 Nf5 46.c5 Bc7 47.Bb3+ Ke7 48.Bc4 b6 49.a4 bxc5 50.bxc5 Ke8 51.a5 Bd8 52.Bd3 Be7 53.Bb4 Bf6 54.a6 Be7 55.g4 hxg4+ 56.Kxg4 Ne3+ 57.Kf3 Nd5 58.Bxg6+ Kf8 59.Ba3 Nc7 60.Bd3 Ne6 61.Bc4 Nxc5 62.Bc1 Nd7 63.Ke4 Bc5 64.Kf5 Ke7 65.Bb2 Be3 66.Be2 Nb6 67.Bf3 c5 68.Bf6+ Kf7 69.Bh5+ Kf8 70.Be5 c4 71.Ke4 Bc5 72.f5 Nd7 73.Bc3 Be7 74.Be2 Nc5+ 75.Ke5 Nxa6 76.Bxc4 Nc5 77.Bd2 Nd7+ 78.Ke6 Nc5+ 79.Kd5 Kg7 80.Be2 Diagram



We start our investigation here on move 80! The game has been pretty normal thus far, with Fabiano trying to press a small advantage and Vidit defending well. Now we have reached a position with even material and just one pawn each. "Must be a draw" one says, but the one difference is that Fabiano has the bishop pair. **80...Kf6 81.Bg4 Nd7?!** [Black could play the active 81...Nb7! 82.Bc3+ Kg5 83.Bh3 Nd6 84.Ke6 Nxf5 85.Bxf5 Bc5 and secure the draw. With no pawns two bishops cannot win against one bishop.] **82.Bc3+ Kg5 83.Bh3 Bf6 84.Bd2+ Kh4 85.Bf1** It's still a draw, but the black king has been pushed away from the white f-pawn. Yet Vidit probably thought there was no danger. **85...Bg5 86.Bb4 Nf6+?!** [86...Kg4 87.Bd3 Kf3 88.Ke6 a5! 89.Bd6 Nf6 90.Be7 Nh7 would hold, even though there are still tricks White could try.] **87.Ke6 Ne4 88.Bd3 Ng3?** The f-pawn has become very dangerous and active defense was needed - [88...Bd2! 89.Be7+ Ng5+ 90.Kf6 Kh5 91.Kg7 Bc3+ 92.f6 Ne6+ 93.Kg8 Ng5] **89.f6** Now this pawn costs Black the bishop. **89...Bxf6 90.Kxf6** We have reached the rare ending of two bishops against a knight (the black a-pawn will easily be rounded up). The ending is winning for White as the knight gets restricted and the black king is checked to the side lines. See how Fabiano finishes. **90...Kg4 91.Ke5 Kf3 92.Ba6 Ne2 93.Bd2 Ng3 94.Bg5 Ne4 95.Bb7 Kg4 96.Be3 Ng3 97.Bf2 a5 98.Bc6 a4 99.Bxa4 Kf3 100.Bd4 Kg4 101.Bd1+ Kg5 102.Be3+ Kg6 103.Bc2+ Kf7 104.Bd1 Kg6 105.Ke6 Nh5 106.Bc2+ Kg7 107.Ke7 Ng3 108.Bd3! Nh5 109.Bg5 Ng3 110.Ke6 Nh5 111.Kf5 Kf7 112.Bc4+ Kg7** Diagram



113.Bh4! Kh6 114.Bf7 Ng7+ 115.Kg4! now the black knight is trapped, even though it is close to the black king and protected. **115...Kh7 116.Kg5 Kh8 117.Kg6 Ne6 118.Bf6+ Ng7 119.Bxg7#**
*

(4) Artemiev,Vladislav - Wei,Yi [A34]

FIDE Online Nations Cup, 06.05.2020

An encounter between two young and very talented players from Russia and China. **1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 0-0 5.Nf3 c5 6.0-0 d5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3 e6 9.d3 Nc6 10.Qb5!?** An aggressive move from Atemiev. Usually you don't want to move the queen so often in the opening, but here there is a threat at least. **10...Qb6 11.Qc4 Qb4 12.Ne4 Qxc4 13.dxc4 Nb6 14.Rb1!?** both sides will have the c-pawn taken by a knight, White prepares for that. **14...Nxc4 15.b3 N4e5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.Bh6 Rd8 18.Rfd1!** better than just taking the c-pawn. Black is now under pressure for lack of development even though we are in and ending. **18...Rb8 19.Nxc5 Bc7 20.Bg5 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Kg7 22.Ne4 Be5 23.Nd6 h6 24.Be3 Nb4?** Diagram

25.Bxh6+! losing a pawn as well as the other problems. Wei Yi resigned. 25....Kxh6 26. Nxf7+ wins too much. **1-0**

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We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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- << Previous
- Next >>

Newsletter #918

May 16, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- US Chess Podcast
- 2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid and Blitz Championship Online
- 2020 Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial Article on CLO
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- FM Paul Whitehead's Online Class
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Mechanics' Institute Chess Club Featured on US Chess Podcast One Move at a Time

Judit and I sat in with US Chess Senior Director of Strategic Communication Dan Lucas for his monthly podcast One Move at a Time. In that interview, we discussed the Mechanics' Institute and how our programs align with the US Chess mission of empowering people, enriching lives, and enhancing communities through chess. You can listen to the podcast by following this link: https://new.uschess.org/podcast/may-edition-talamantez-sztaray/

2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid and Blitz Championship Will Be Held Online May 30 - 31st

GM Fabiano Caruana faces GM Cristian Chirila and GM Alexander Donchenko takes on GM Sam Shankland in the 4th round of last year's Mechanics' Institute Rapid Championship

2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid & Blitz Online Championship
Rapid - Saturday, May 30th
Blitz - Sunday, May 31st
Prize fund: $1600 over the weekend
USCF Online rated event
Play for the fun, play for the challenge, play to be a Mechanics' Rapid and Blitz Champion!

Rapid Championship: Format: One open section, Time Control: 6SS G/15+2inc
Prize fund: $800 total prize fund b/50 paid entries: 1st Place: $250, 2nd Place: $200, 3rd Place: $100, u2000: $100, u1800: $75, u1600: $75

Blitz Championship Format: One open section Time Control: 12SS G/3+2inc
Prize fund: $800 total prize fund b/50 paid entries: 1st Place: $250, 2nd Place: $200, 3rd Place: $100, u2000: $100, u1800: $75, u1600: $75

* Class prize are based on OTB standard USCF rating. Unrated (OTB, chess.com) players are not eligible for class prizes. Organizers reserve the right to determine class prize eligibility based on OTB and online activity in certain cases.

USCF Online Rated - Tournament will affect both chess.com and USCF online ratings. Tournaments will be submitted to US chess for rating 4-7 days after the tournament to allow time for fair play screening.

Start time: 3PM PST on both days

- First round is paired at 3PM sharp by chess.com.
- Consecutive rounds are paired as soon as all games are finished in previous rounds.
- No bye requests are possible.
- Late joins are okay, they will be added by the system with 0 point for each missed round.

Registration Fee: $20 for MI members, $25 for non-members, 10% discount if registering for both tournaments, GM's free, first 10 IM's free by 5/27.

Rules: Standard USCF rules apply. Pairings are based on chess.com rapid/blitz rating.

- Mouse slips count, no takebacks.

- No rejoin: once a player withdraws/withdrawn from the tournament, no rejoin is possible.
- if player is not logged in to live chess when pairings occur, the system will assign a 0-point bye for that round.
- Section prizes will be awarded based on USCF standard rating

Fair play screening: all games will be screened by both Chess.com and by Dr. Kenneth W. Regan, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University at Buffalo.
Prize distributions and rating submission will not take place until AFTER all games have been screened.

How to join?
1. Register online via jumbula: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/2020MechanicsInstituteRapidBlitzOnline
2. Join the specific Mechanics' club on Chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated
Note that only those, who registered at least for one tournament through jumbula, and provided their full name, chess.com user ID (handle) and their USCF ID will be accepted to the club. Please, allow us time for this process to take place, 24 hours at least a day ahead of the tournament, and min 2 hours on the same day of the tournament. Tentative registration close time is 1PM PST on 5/30 and 5/31, respectively.
3. Join the tournament an hour prior to the start (2PM PST).

For more information and questions, email: chessroom@milibrary.org

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Article on 2020 Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial on Chess Life Online

Our wrap-up of the 2020 Memorial Blitz has just been released on Chess Life Online, and you can view the article by following this link: https://new.uschess.org/news/mechanics-institute-memorial-blitz-moves-online/

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

The Tuesday Night Online this week had 63 players competing in our largest weekly event. Last week's winner IM Rost Tsodikov (JasonRBT) was back to defend his title, but the 5-round G/10+2 war makes back to back wins difficult. Last week, Tsodikov managed to avoid a final round battle with FM Eric Li when he surprisingly withdrew from the final round after going 4/4. This week, Eric joined the tournament, and again, both Rost and Eric were left as the only undefeated players headed into the final round. We all thought we would finally get the matchup we were waiting to see. However, a misclick by Li on the 4th move of the game, outright hanging a bishop, brought an anti-climatic end to the showdown. While Li fought bravely to try to make the most of any opportunities he saw, the early advantage was too much to overcome, and Tsodikov finished the night with a perfect 5/5, and a back-to-back TNO title. Despite the tough final round loss, Li took 2nd on toebreaks with 4/5 and NM Michael Walder made his first medal showing with 3rd.

There was a surprising matchup in round 2, as Tsodikov was paired against IM Elliott Winslow. Winslow is a dangerous player, having recently defeated GM Steven Zierk at the Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Blitz Memorial, but on this night, it was Tsodikov that delivered the quick win. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) IM Rost Tsodikov (jasonRBT) (2049) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1753) [B23]
Live Chess Chess.com, 12.05.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 g6 4.d3 Bg7 5.Be3 Nc6 6.Qd2 e5 7.Bg2 Nge7 8.f4 exf4 9.Bxf4 0-0 10.Nf3 a6?! Thus far we have a classic Closed Sicilian, which Boris Spassky used to love on the White side. Theoretically there is no advantage for White as Black gets equal control of the center squares. Just now Black has done a slight inaccuracy with 10...a6 because the "book" 10...Rb8 also plans to advance 11...b5 yet at the same time gets the rook off the long white diagonal in case of a discovered attack from the bishop on g2. **11.0-0 b5 12.Bh6 Rb8** Thus White is one tempo faster to reach this position (...a6 being a waste) and so holds a small edge. **13.Rf2 Nd4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5** Black's position is just a little looser. **17...f6 18.Re1!** The right file for the rook. There are weak squares on the e-file and it is hard to guard those along with the weak d4 pawn. **18...Bd7?** [18...Rb7 19.Rf4 Re7 20.Rxe7+ Qxe7 21.Rxd4 f5 gives Black some play for the pawn since the white rook is somewhat misplaced on the fourth rank.] **19.Qf4** Now White just win a pawn. Black should not defend the d-pawn but cannot resist temptation. **19...Qc7? 20.Re7+!** Diagram

Black resigns as 20...Re7 21. Qf6+ or 20...Kg8 21. Qh6 are crushing. **1-0**

Though Li had an unfortunate final round, his play in the tournament was spot on, including this fine win against NM Michel Walder.

(3) FM Eric Yuhan Li (wepkins) (2407) - NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) (1909) [A60] Live Chess Chess.com, 12.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 One of several reasonable lines against the Benoni. **7...Bg7?!** [Black should play 7...a6 8.a4 Bg7 and get a normal decent Benoni position.] **8.Qa4+! Bd7 9.Qb3** Now Black has some trouble as the d6 pawn is undefended. FlightsOfFancy can take comfort that Bobby Fischer once played the same as Black and had to struggle in this position. **9...Qc7 10.e4 0-0 11.Nd2 Re8** [11...Nh5 12.Be3 f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.Be2 f4 15.Bxc5 favors White.] **12.Be2 a6 13.a4 Bg4 14.f3 Bc8 15.Nc4 Bf8 16.0-0** [16.Qb6 Qxb6 17.Nxb6 Ra7 18.Nc4 would be a serious bind in the endgame.] **16...Nbd7 17.a5 Rb8 18.Na4?!** [18.Qc2 b5 19.axb6 Nxb6 20.Na5 is the standard way to keep control. Instead White offers a pawn sacrifice.] **18...Nh5?!** [18...Nxd5! 19.exd5 Rxe2 20.Nc3 heads back to e5 to win the d6 pawn, but Black should make a typical Benoni exchange sacrifice with 20...Re5! to mix things up.] **19.Be3 Ne5 20.Nab6 Bd7?!** [20...Nxc4] **21.Nxe5 Rxe5** Diagram

22.Nxd7 Qxd7 23.Bxa6! This wins a pawn and squares on the queenside for a coming invasion. White is winning here so Black lashes out. **23...b5?! 24.axb6 f5!** You may as well throw everything at your opponent when your position is busted. **25.exf5 gxf5 26.b7 c4 27.Qc3 Bg7 28.Bd4 Re7 29.Bxg7 Rxg7 30.Qxc4 f4** Diagram

31.Qc8+! Rxc8 32.bxc8Q+ Qxc8 33.Bxc8 Rc7 1-0

For full results from this event, please click here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1220307

To watch the broadcast and commentary, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8WmZTPhLj4

Mechanics' Online Events Recap

Game annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

The 48-player Friday Night Blitz was won by Sam Schenk (PlasterhippyTwitch), winning on tiebreaks with 8/10 over NM Vyom Vidyarthi. Pranav Sairam (chesspilot01) took third with 7.5, winning a tiebreak over TitanChess666. It was a strong field of club players, so this win was impressive for Schenk. Here is a nice win over Shawnak Shivakumar (alphaunlimited).

(5) Shawnak Shivakumar (alphaunlimited) (2368) - Sam Schenk (PlasterhippyTwitch) (2213) [A10] Live Chess Chess.com, 08.05.2020

1.c4 d6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 f5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.d3 g6 6.e4 White plays a Botvinnik set-up which is a little more aggressive in the center than the more natural 6.Nf3. **6...Bg7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 f4!?** This is objectively a dubious pawn sacrifice, but in quick chess it has a lot of practical value. **9.gxf4 Nh5 10.f5!** [10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Be3 Nf4 gives Black the kind of play he was looking for.] **10...gxf5 11.Ng3 Nf4** [11...Nxg3 12.fxg3 Nc6 13.Qh5!] **12.Bxf4 exf4 13.Nxf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Nc6 15.Qg4 Nd4 16.Be4 Kh8** Thus far White has handled the opening complications very well. He could just tuck his king into the corner with 17. Kh1 and be safely ahead. **17.Nd5?! c6! 18.Nxf4 Be5 19.Kh1 Qf6?!** [19...Rg8 20.Qh5 Rg5 *(20...Bxf4 21.f6 Qd7 22.Rg1 d5 23.cxd5 cxd5 24.Rxg8+ Rxg8 25.f7! dxe4 26.fxg8Q+ Kxg8 27.dxe4)* 21.Ng6+ Kg8 22.Qh3 hxg6 23.fxg6 Bg7 24.f4 Ra5 may still favor White a bit, but makes trouble.] **20.Nh5 Qh6 21.f4! Bf6 22.Nxf6 Qxf6 23.Qg5 Qf7 24.Rae1 Rg8 25.Qh6 Nc2 26.Re2** [26.Rc1 Ne3 27.Rg1 Nxf5 28.Bxf5 Qxf5 29.Rxg8+ Rxg8 30.Qxd6 would be very good] **26...Nd4 27.Ref2 d5?!** [Too

fast. Black is not so bad after the calm 27...Rad8] **28.cxd5 cxd5** Diagram

29.Qd6! Rad8 30.Qe5+ Qg7 31.f6 Qf7 32.Bxh7! Kxh7 33.Qxd4 Rd6 34.f5 Rxf6 With two pawns up and the safer king White is simply winner. Yet converting under time constraints is always a problem. **35.Qh4+** [35.Rf4!] **35...Rh6 36.Qf4 Qf6 37.Qc7+ Rg7 38.Qf4 d4 39.Re2 Rh4 40.Qf3 Rgg4 41.Re6 Qg5 42.Rg6?** Diagram

looks strong, but allows a tactic [42.Qxb7+ Qg7 43.Qxg7+ would be an easy ending with the extra pawns.] **42...Rxh2+! 43.Kxh2 Rh4+ 44.Qh3 Qd2+ 45.Rg2?** compounding the error. There was still a draw to be had with [45.Kg3! Rxh3+ 46.Kxh3 Qxd3+ 47.Kg2 Qe4+ 48.Kg3] **45...Rxh3+ 46.Kxh3 Qxd3+ 47.Kh2 Qxf1 48.f6 0-1**

Here is another game from the tournament, a nice win by WFM Mugi Tsegmed over Kritin Goplalakrishnan (chessboi2010).

(7) Kritin Goplalakrishnan (chessboi2010) (1492) - WFM Mugi Tsegmed (mugi_tsegmed) (1989) [C01]
Live Chess Chess.com, 08.05.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.c3 Bd6 6.Nf3 The Exchange French. Long reputed to be drawish, but in practice many games are decisive - there are a lot of pieces left on the board. **6...0-0 7.Bg5?! Bg4** [7...Re8+! would cause some trouble. e.g. 8.Be2 Qe7 and White has trouble castling.] **8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Nbd2 c6 10.Bxf6** There is nothing much wrong with this yet it makes things easy for Black. There is no reason to give away the bishop for knight right now, especially as the knight is pinned and cannot move. **10...Nxf6 11.h3 Bh5 12.Qc2 Qc7 13.Ng5 Bg6 14.Bxg6 hxg6 15.Ndf3 Rfe8 16.Rae1 Bf4** Everything is even materially and symmetrical pawn structure, but just a little easier for Black to move. **17.Rxe8+ Rxe8 18.g3 Bxg5 19.Nxg5 Ne4 20.Nxe4?!** This gives Black control of the only open file. [20.Re1 f5 21.Kg2 is fine for White] **20...Rxe4 21.Rd1 Qe7 22.Qd2?** White needed to be ready for the rook invasion. [22.Kg2! Re2 23.Rd2 Re1 24.Rd1 would avoid any major damage.] **22...Re2 23.Qc1 Qe4** Now Black's queen and rook are posted on powerful squares. White cannot oppose on the e-file and must worry also about his king. 24. Qb1 would keep the game going though it would be a tough road. **24.Kf1?** Diagram

24...Rc2! 25.Qe3 Qh1# 0-1

Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-blitz-1215669

The Saturday matinee on May 9th was won by rainwind with 2.5/3. In second with 2/3 was IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) on tiebreaks over Jeffery Wang (twangbio). Full results can be found here:https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1215785

The 26-player Saturday Late Night Showdown was won by Nitish Nathan (BreatheChessAlways), who won on tiebreaks with 4.5/5 over Sricharan Pullela (Sricharan_The_King). Mechanics' regular Adam Mercado) A-Boy415 took 3rd with 4/5 in a fine performance. Full results are here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1215670

We held a Sunday Afternoon Rapid in order to clear the evening for Michael "fpawn" Aigner's birthday bash. This event was won by Game-6_Klay with 4.5/5. Twanbio and rainwind took 2nd and 3rd respectively on tiebreaks with 4/5. Full results and games can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-afternoon-rapid-1215835

The Monday Night Arena had 34 players and wan won by FM Kyron Griffith with 37 points. In 2nd was Nitish Nathan (BreathChessAlways) with 32 and vish1080 was in 3rd with 24. Full results are here:https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-197819

The 35-player Wednesday Late Night Showdown was a family affair, as NM Vyom Vidyarthi (2007checkmate) took clear first with 4.5/5. Dylan Trinh (dyltrinh) took 2nd on tiebreaks with 4/5, ahead of WCM Omya Vidyarthi (harkerchess). Here

is a victory from Vidyarthi en route to first place versus the very solid Kristian Clemens.

(6) NM Vyom Vidyarthi (2007checkmate) (2414) - Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1901) [D00] Live Chess Chess.com, 13.05.2020

1.Nc3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bf4 c6 4.f3 g6 [4...Qb6 is a sharp alternative] **5.e4 dxe4** opting for an open position. The danger is if White is able to solidly control the center with the d and e pawns. **6.fxe4 Bg7 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Be2 Qb6 9.Rb1** [9.Qd2!? Qxb2?! 10.Rb1 Qa3 11.Rxb7] **9...0-0 10.0-0 Nh5?!** "Knight on the rim is grim." Of course Black plays this with a plan in mind, unfortunately there is a flaw. [10...Nbd7 11.Qd2 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 e5! would bring Black's pieces to life.] **11.Be3 e5?** This fails tactically. If the black knight on b8 were developed to d7 already then Black could do this. **12.Nxe5!** Diagram

12...Bxe2 [12...Bxe5 13.Bxg4] **13.Qxe2 Qc7** [13...Bxe5 14.dxe5 Qc7 15.e6! fxe6 16.Rxf8+ Kxf8 17.Qc4 Ng7 18.Nb5 Qd7 19.Nd6! is very strong.] **14.Nf3 Nd7 15.Qc4** White has and extra center pawn, so has material and positional advantage. **15...Nb6 16.Qb3 Rae8 17.a4 Kh8 18.a5 Nd7 19.Ng5! Ndf6 20.e5 Nd5 21.Nxd5 cxd5 22.Qxd5 f5** [22...f6 23.Nf3 Qxc2 24.Qxb7 offers a little more hope, but not much.] **23.Ne6** [23.g4! would be a quicker win] **23...Qf7 24.Nf4 Nxf4 25.Qxf7 Ne2+ 26.Kf2 Rxf7 27.Kxe2** the two passed center pawns should will win unless there is a blunder. **27...Rc7 28.Kd3 Rd7 29.Kc3 Rc8+ 30.Kb3 Rd5 31.c3 a6** [31...Rxa5 32.c4 Kg8 33.Ra1 Rxa1 34.Rxa1 a6 35.e6 f4 36.Bf2 f3 37.d5 fxg2 38.d6 is also an easy win for White] **32.Ra1 Rb5+ 33.Kc2 Kg8 34.Ra3 Bf8 35.Rb3 Bb4 36.Ra1 Rxa5 37.Rxa5 Bxa5 38.Rxb7 Bc7 39.Bf4 a5 40.h4 Bb8 41.d5 h5 42.d6 Kf8 43.e6 Re8 44.d7 1-0**

Full results are here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1220335

Fischer Random Thursday featured the first appearance of IM Rost Tsodikov, who navigated the rules of Fischer Random just enough to finish with a perfect score of 5/5. Nathan Fong (nathanf314) finished in 2nd with 4/5 and in 3rd was Jonah Busch (Kondsaga), who finished 3rd on tiebreaks. We thought we would give readers a taste of what Fischer Random looks like for those who may not be aware. Here is a game from last week's event.

(4) FM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2550) - Rudolph Breedt (bobbejaan) (1840) Live Chess - Chess960 Chess.com, 07.05.2020

1.Ng3 d5 2.d4 Ng6 3.h4 0-0?! usually castling is good, but here White makes better use of the h rook by leaving it on the original square and battering with the h-pawn. **4.h5 Nh8 5.e4 e6 6.Bf3 Nb6 7.h6 g6** The black knight on h8 looks strange but has a future if it can get to f7. **8.b3 c6 9.Bb2?!** [9.Ba3 Be7 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.e5 would leave Black with dark square troubles in the middle game.] **9...f5! 10.e5 Nd7 11.c4 b6 12.Nc2 Ba6 13.Qd2 Nf7 14.a4 dxc4?** opening up the game when White is better placed for it. Black would be doing well with 14...Bg5! **15.bxc4 Bxc4 16.Bxc6 Bd5?** [16...Rc8 17.Bb5 Bd5 18.Nb4 is good for White but Black keeps material equality.] **17.Bxd5 exd5** Diagram

18.Ba3! Black loses either the exchange or a knight for a pawn. **18...Be7 19.e6! Bb4 20.exf7+ 1-0**

Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-fischer-random-thursday-1220314

Michael "fpawn" Aigner's Sacramento Pawn Storm Puzzles

fpawn threw down the challenge last week to our readers, here are the solutions, all are from games from the Sacramento Pawn Storm: White move and win

Solution: 1.Ng5 Qg6 2.Bh5 Qh6 3. Nf7

Solution: 1. Ne4 Qf4 (or Qd8) 2. Nxf6 Qxf6 3. Rf1

Solution: 1. Bg5 Qxg4 2. h3 Qh5 3. Ng3

Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champion and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Upcoming Tournament Schedule - NOW daily on chesskid.com!

Saturday, May 16: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28856

Sunday, May 17: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/10+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=28855

Monday, May 18: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=29970

Tuesday, May 19: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=29966

Wednesday, May 20: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=29969

Thursday, May 21: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=30277

Friday, May 22: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/10+5:https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=30278

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

LAST CALL - May 23, Saturday @ 11AM

San Francisco Scholastic Championship Online
via chesskid.com
Approaching 200 signups! Save your spot NOW!

Registration: Players can register by clicking here.

Deadline: Friday 6PM. Instructions on how to join the tournament is being sent to all who registered.

Bonus: If you register by Thursday noon, you will be invited to be part of a practice tournament on Thursday at 4PM.

Time Control: G/15+5 : Game in 15 minutes with five (5) second increment
Each player has 15 minutes for their whole game, and five (5) seconds are added to their time after each move.

Platform: Games in all sections will be played on ChessKid.com except for the K-12 1000+ Championship section, which will be played on Chess.com.

Prizes: Trophies to top six players in each sections.

Trophies will be available for pickup at the club after Mechanics' Institute reopens. Trophies cannot be delivered or mailed.

Sections:

Section	USCF online rated	Time Control	# of Rounds	Start Time	Trophy/Medal Prizes
K-2	no	G/15 +5	5	11am	Yes
Grade 3-5	no	G/15 +5	5	11am	Yes
Grade 6-12	no	G/15 +5	5	11am	Yes
K-12 u/1000 championship	yes	G/15 +5	5	11am	Yes
K-12 1000+ championship	yes	G/15 +5	5	11am	Yes

Entry Fee: FREE!
USCF membership is required in the championship sections.

Scholastic Games Of The Week (games from our scholastic online tournaments)

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(8) elizurfk (1385) - TastyCelery (1451)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 d3 A simple way to avoid complications from this attempted Goring (or Danish) Gambit. White may get a bit of an edge, but Black will stay out of trouble. **4.Bxd3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bc5 6.e5!?** Elizurfk is a player who pushes the position! Safer play was to castle, but there is nothing wrong with the game move. **6...Ng4 7.0-0 Nxf2?** This trade of bishop and knight for rook and pawn is really not too good. Note that Black is trading off the two developed pieces. **8.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 9.Kxf2 h6 10.Qe2 0-0 11.Qe4** Black is in trouble, yet at least defends courageously. **11...f5! 12.exf6 Rxf6 13.Qh7+ Kf7** Diagram



14.Bc4+? [14.Bg6+! would win with a decisive attack against the Black king, e.g. 14...Rxg6 15.Ne5+ Ke6 16.Qxg6+ Kxe5 17.Bf4+! Kxf4 18.Nd2 Qf6 19.Qe4+ Kg5+ 20.Nf3+ Kh5 21.g4#] **14...d5 15.Bd3 Qg8 16.Qxg8+ Kxg8 17.Kg1 b6** The game is close to even again, though White still has an edge. The biggest difference from a few moves earlier is that the Black king is safe after the queen trade. **18.Bf4? Ba6?** [18...Rxf4! just gathers a free bishop.] **19.Bxa6 Nxa6 20.Be3 Re6 21.Bf2 Nc5 22.Nbd2 Nd3 23.Bd4?!** giving away a free pawn. 23. b4 would save it. **23...Nxb2 24.Rb1 Nd3 25.c4 dxc4 26.Nxc4 Re4 27.Ncd2 Re6 28.Nh4 c5 29.Bc3 a6 30.Nf5 b5?!** [30...Ra7! guards the g7 pawn] **31.Nxg7 Rg6 32.Nf5 Re8 33.Nf3 b4 34.Ba1?!** [34.Bd2! holds up the advance of the black queenside pawns.] **34...c4! 35.N3h4?!** [35.N3d4 stays closer to the dangerous black pawns] **35...Rge6 36.Nf3 c3!** Diagram

37.Bxc3?! [Last good chance was 37.N5d4 though after 37...Re2! 38.Nxe2 Rxe2 39.Nd4 Rxa2 40.h3 c2 Black should win anyway.] **37...bxc3 38.Rb3 c2 39.Rc3 Re1+!** a nice finish! **40.Nxe1 Rxe1# 0-1**

(9) charkwok456 (1720) - thechessmaster1 (1427)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nc6 The Accelerated Dragon. A good defense and a favorite opening of long time MI Chess Director John Donaldson. **6.Be3 d6** Now we are back in the regular Dragon. 6...Nf6 would keep the possibility of playing d7-d5 in one move. **7.Bc4 Nf6 8.h3** Most popular is 8. f3 - the Yugoslav Attack. White's 8. h3 is a slower but principled system. **8...0-0 9.0-0** [9.Bb3! avoids the chance Black has next move.] **9...Qc7?!** [9...Nxe4! 10.Nxe4 d5 would win the piece back with full activity in the center.] **10.Bb3 b6 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Qd3 a5?!** Diagram

Planning to make a skewer with 13...Ba6, but White beats him to the punch. **13.Nd5!** suddenly White is in control. The threatened knight fork on e7 plus the possibility of a skewer with Bd5 coming cause a lot of problems for Black. **13...Re8?** The only decent defense for Black was the strange looking 13...Ra7! which guards e7 and gets out of the white bishop's coming skewer. White would still be better after 13...Ra7 but Black would not lose material. **14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Bd5** Ouch. That's a whole rook Black loses. **15...Qc7 16.Bxa8 Qa7 17.Bc6 Ba6 18.Bb5 Bxb5 19.Qxb5 Rd8** This doesn't help, but a whole rook down was quite lost in any case. **20.Bxb6 Rb8 21.Bxa7 Rxb5 22.Rab1 Rb7 23.Be3 Rxb2 24.Rxb2 Bxb2 25.Rb1 Bg7 26.Rb8+ Bf8 27.Bh6** Excellent game by charkwok456! **1-0**

(10) BCSabarishree (1131) - RareThirdDessert (1553)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 This is a good developing move though experienced tournament players try 4. c3 or 4. d3 with an opening plan in mind. **4...Nf6 5.d3 h6 6.h3 d6 7.Nc3 g5!?** A very aggressive advance on the kingside! **8.Be3 g4 9.hxg4 Bxg4 10.Bxc5?!** Trading the dark-squared bishops means that White will not have it around to take a black knight hopping in to d4. This loses a defensive option in this position. **10...dxc5 11.Qd2?** White needed to play [11.Bb5! (to control the black knight) 11...Rg8 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qe2 Nh5 14.Qe3! to get out of the pin and still control kingside square. The position would then be equal - White has better pawn structure but needs to be careful defending his king.] **11...Bxf3 12.gxf3 Rg8+** suddenly Black has an overwhelming attack. **13.Kh1** Diagram

13...Nh5! 14.Qxh6 Qh4# 0-1

(11) rjchess (1252) - BentActiveTank (1062)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Bc5?! A bold offer of the e-pawn. **3.Bc4?!** [3.Nxe5! would simply be a pawn ahead for White. Coming quickly is d2-d4 which would attack the black bishop.] **3...Nf6 4.Nc3** [4.Nxe5! 0-0 5.d4!] **4...Ng4** Attacking f2, but White has a great way to defend that square. **5.0-0! Nxf2?!** This isn't a good trade for Black. The two developed pieces - the bishop and knight - are traded for a rook and pawn. In the opening that is a poor trade. **6.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 7.Kxf2 c6?! 8.Nxe5!** Finally White takes this pawn. **8...Qb6+ 9.Kf1 0-0 10.Nxf7?** Diagram

[10.Qh5 or ; 10.d3 would leave White with material and positional advantage. The game move gives Black a great opportunity.] **10...Rxf7+?** [10...d5! 11.exd5 Rxf7+ would be a winning game for Black. Suddenly the White king is exposed and cannot be properly defended. In the game Black trades off the black rook and so gets no attack.] **11.Bxf7+ Kxf7 12.Qf3+ Ke8?!** [12...Kg8] **13.Qh5+! g6 14.Qxh7 Qa6+ 15.d3** Black has all pieces except the queen undeveloped and so cannot protect the king. **15...Kd8 16.Bg5+ Kc7 17.Bf4+ Kb6 18.Be3+ c5 19.Qxg6+ Nc6 20.Nd5+ Kb5 21.c4+ Ka5 22.Bd2+ Ka4 23.b3+ Ka3 24.Bc1#** Diagram

1-0

Online Chess Classes for Kids

To see available classes and register:
https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes

Day	Time	Coach	Link
Monday	4-5PM	Coach Colin	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinMonday45PM
Tuesday	2-3PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays23PM
Tuesday	3:15-4:15PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays315415PM
Wednesday	3-4PM	Coach Colin	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinWednesdays34PM
Friday	1-2PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays12PM
Friday	2:15-3:15PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays215315PM

Class Fee: $25 for single class, $45 for two classes (10% off), $80 for 4 classes (20% off)
More details: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#OnlineScholastic

Weekend Clubs Online Via zoom

1.5 hours of fun and educational chess club with our amazing coaches.

To see available clubs and register:
https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes

Day	Time	Coach	Link
Saturday	10-11:30AM	TBA	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineWeekendClubSaturdays101130AM
Sunday	5:30-7PM	TBA	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineWeekendClubSundays5307PM

Class Fee: $30 for single class, $54 for two club classes (10% off), $96 for 4 club classes (20% off)
More details: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#OnlineScholastic

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

5/16 Saturday - Saturday Afternoon Matinee
Format: 3SS G/30+0

Join from 1PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1227081
Starts at 2PM

Saturday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1227082
Start: 9PM

5/17 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 7PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1224486
Start: 8PM

5/18 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=201112
Start: 6:30PM

5/19 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1227094
Start: 6:30PM

5/20 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1227095
Start at 4PM

Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1227100
Starts 9PM.

5/21 Thursday - Mechanics' Fischer Random tournament
Format: 5SS G/5 +2
Join from 5:30 -
Start: 6:30PM

5/22 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1. You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

FM Paul Whitehead

Early Chess Stories, Part 6

- A rambling account of my adolescent and pre-adolescent chess experiences –

Continuing from here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/916#paul

By the mid-1970's my brother Jay and I were "out of the house" so to speak, making our way independently by bus (or walking) to the cafes, the Mechanics' Institute – anywhere chess was being played. We'd catch rides and go with friends to tournaments, for although our folks played a strong supporting role, neither had much interest in the Royal Game outside of the fact that their sons were crazy about it.

Our friends were not exactly our parent's friends, but some became somewhat more than acquaintances: Steve Brandwein became my mother's housemate later on, and Joe Tracy, Randall Feliciano and Pamela Ford, among others, were regular visitors.

My father Stanley was a photographer, and some of his pictures of my brother and I are in earlier episodes of this column. He always had his camera on hand, but as Jay and me "moved on", pictures of us become increasingly rare. Those that remain, I cherish fondly, and I am including some more here, their exact dates unknown.

- Two wonderful pictures of Jay and Dr. Benjamin Gross (a long-time Mechanics' member and player) giving a tandem simul somewhere…

- Me with a hat on at a chess board, at a birthday party, either Jay's or mine…

- Me again, quite young-looking, playing in what looks to be one of my first tournaments…

- Jay once more, pensive at the board…

Finally, there I am again, a bit older, at the Mechanics' Institute.

In this final picture I am not playing, and my father takes the picture. Perhaps he's telling my fortune: a time away from chess is on the horizon, distant but drawing nearer.

My parents were great supporters of me and my brother entering the Chess World, as all parents must be - to give their kids a chance of success, to have some fun. The Chess World was quite different then: much more adult-oriented. Smoky rooms, eccentric (and sometimes dodgy) personalities – my parents were brave to let Jay and I loose in that World.

I'd like to thank them for that.

FIDE Nations Cup

The FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup finished Sunday, with the two leading teams playing a match to decide the champions. We started with six teams - China, Russia, India, USA, and a team comprised of the Rest of the World. The Final came down to China against the USA, with China having the tiebreak edge in case of a drawn match, as they had more points during regulation play. After a tense battle, the match was drawn and so China was first and America second.

We have an exclusive treat for our MI newsletter readers as we get an inside scoop on the US performance from the valiant Captain of the US team, our one and only John Donaldson:

"The United States was seeded fourth out of the six teams competing in the FIDE Chess.Com Online Nations Cup, so finishing second was a good result ...but we were so close to winning it all. Fabiano Caruana was the MVP of the event scoring 7 1/2 out of 9 for a performance rating over 3000. This result included 3-0 against Chinese players. Fabiano is the number two player in the world at classical chess but until recently his rapid play was not quite as good. His performances in the Magnus Carlsen Invitational and the FIDE Chess.Com Online Nations Cup are evidence this is no longer the case.

The other star for the US team was Irina Krush. Looking at her performance, 4 out of 9, one might not initially grasp this was great, until they noticed she was the second lowest rated player in the competition, ahead of only her teammate Anna Zatonskih. That didn't stop Irina from competing successfully against players rated over 125 points above her round after round. Making this doubly impressive Irina was recovering from Covid-19 (you can read about her experiences at https://www.inlandchess.org/news_krush_covid19.htm).

This was a completely new type of competition (rapid play, team event and online) and the organizers had to devise regulations on the fly as this event was put together on short notice. Like the Pro Chess League players could see their teammates game live, but unlike Olympiads there was no communication between players and captains during games. Attendance was over 30,000 viewers for the playoff, which was good considering it started early in the morning on the West Coast."

(1) Caruana,Fabiano - Wang,Hao [C42]
FIDE Nations Cup, 08.05.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 Wang Hao plays the solid Petrov's defense, as he would be happy to make a draw for the team match (and certainly happy to draw with black against Fabiano). It's a tough assignment to score against this defense with a solid opponent. **3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3** Currently the most popular line with White for top GMs against the Petrov. **5...Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nd7 9.0-0-0 Nf6 10.Bd3 c5 11.Rhe1 Be6 12.Bf4** Diagram

An interesting practical choice by Caruana, because after the game he stated that this isn't such a good move. It shows the now improved rapid/blitz approach by Fabi - he plays moves that make his opponent err rather than simply the best move (a la Fischer). In this way he has followed the style of Nakamura who wins more often in rapid/blitz with this approach. **12...d5 13.Ng5 Bg4?** [13...c4! 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Bf1 Qb6 would put Black in good shape and White's light-squared bishop is restricted. Perhaps Wang Hao would have found this continuation in classical chess, but he didn't want to lose the bishop pair as his first intuitive thought.] **14.f3 Bd7?** This allows a tactic, but Fabi doesn't see it now. **15.c4?!** [15.Bxh7+! Nxh7 16.Nxh7 Kxh7 17.Qxd5 wins the piece back with an extra pawn, since if the bishop on d7 moves the Qh5+ lets the rook on d1 take the black queen.] **15...d4 16.h4 Re8 17.g4 Bc6 18.Qh2!** The white position begins to look very threatening with the kingside pawn advance. **18...Qa5 19.a3 Bf8 20.Bd2 Qb6 21.Qf4 Bd7?** Diagram

[21...h6 22.Nxf7 Kxf7 23.g5 is good for White but Black is still in the game] **22.Bxh7+!** This time Fabi sees the winning idea. **22...Kh8** [22...Nxh7 23.Qxf7+ Kh8 24.Qh5 is over 24...Qh6 25.Nf7+] **23.Bf5 Bxf5 24.Qxf5 Kg8** [24...g6 25.Qd3 Kg8 26.h5!] **25.h5 Qc6** Diagram

26.Nxf7! Kxf7 27.g5 Qd7 28.Qg6+ Wang Hao resigned. Agter 28....Kg8 29. gxf6 is two pawns ahead with the attack. A great show by Fabi! **1-0**

(2) Yu,Yangyi - So,Wesley [D38]
FIDE Nations Cup, 10.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 d5 5.Qb3 c5 6.dxc5 Na6 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.c6 This pawn was doomed anyway. Yu Yangyi figures he can at least split the black queenside pawns. **8...Qa5!? 9.Bd2** [9.cxb7 Bxb7 10.Bd2 0-0 leave Black fully developed with fine compensation for the pawn.] **9...bxc6 10.g3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Be7 12.Bg2 0-0 13.0-0 e5** Black opens the diagonal for the light-squared bishop to complete development. Things are just slightly less compact for Black so White has an initiative. **14.Qc2 Qc7 15.Qe4 f6 16.Qc4+ Kh8 17.Be3 Nb8 18.Rfd1!?** This is a pawn sacrifice. Yu is playing aggressively for the win. **18...Ba6 19.Qe6 Bxe2 20.Rd2 Ba6 21.Nh4 Bc8 22.Qc4 f5 23.Nf3 h6 24.Rad1** Diagram

The position is an interesting picture where White has full development and rooks doubled on the open file. Morphy surely would like White's position. It's not so easy to break in though and Black still has the extra pawn. **24...Kh7 25.h4 Rf6** Played so Black can complete development with either the knight or light-squared bishop coming out. [If 25...Nd7 26.Qe6 Nf6 27.Qxe5] **26.Ng5+!?** Yu goes for it!. The knight sacrifice starts the action. **26...hxg5 27.hxg5 Rg6?** Diagram

This is the natural, but wrong square for the rook. Wesley needed to play either 27...Re6 or 27...Ba6 when the position is unclear. Now White has an odd looking move which sweeps into Black's position. **28.Bd5!** The bishop is powerful here and White vacates the g2 square for the king so that a rook can come to the h-file. **28...f4** [28...Rxg5 29.Kg2! Rh5 30.Bf3 wins.] **29.Be4 Bxg5 30.Rd6 Bf6 31.Kg2** The end. The threat of Rh1 is lethal. **31...f3+ 32.Kxf3! Bg4+ 33.Kg2 Bxd1 34.Rxd1** Diagram

1-0

(3) Anand,Vishy - Radjabov,Teimour [E97]
FIDE Nations Cup, 07.05.2020

Vishy Anand is an "old man" in the chess world, but at 50 years old he still packs a punch. Here he plays Radjabov, who qualified for the Candidates Tournament but then declined to go the Russia at the onset of the coronavirus. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4** Diagram

Black has played the King's Indian in classical style, just as Fischer did. Anand has played Kranmnik's favorite 9. b4 which makes life difficult for KID players. **9...a5 10.bxa5 Nh5 11.Nd2 Rxa5?!** An aggressive pawn sacrifice, but the usual 11...Nf4 is better. **12.Nb3 Ra8 13.Bxh5 gxh5 14.Qxh5 b6 15.a4 Ng6 16.a5 Nf4 17.Bxf4 exf4 18.Qf3 bxa5 19.Rxa5 Rxa5 20.Nxa5 Qg5** Black has two bishops against two knights and an active looking position. Anand stops the threats. **21.Ne2! Be5 22.h3 Bd7 23.Nb3** coming back where the action is happening. **23...Ra8 24.Nbd4 Kh8 25.Rb1** It's hard for Black to do anything to the solid White position. White is just a pawn up. **25...h6 26.Kh1 Kh7 27.Nc6 Bxc6 28.dxc6 Ra2** Diagram

29.g3! fxg3 30.Qxf7+ Qg7 31.Qf5+ Qg6 32.Nxg3 Now White gets a winning ending. If the c7 pawn goes White gets a passer two squares from queening. **32...Qxf5 33.Nxf5 Ra6 34.Ne7! Kg7 35.Rb7 Kf7 36.Rxc7 d5 37.Rd7! 1-0**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA

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Hours

	Library	Chess	Building
Mon	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Tue	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Wed	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Thu	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Fri	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Sat	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun	Closed	Closed	Closed

Upcoming Events

Various Chess Classes
Monday, November 30, 2020 - 4:00pm to 5:30pm
The Money Plot: A History of Currency's Power to Enchant, Control, and Manipulate, on Zoom
Wednesday, December 02, 2020 - 5:30pm
Write If You Dare!
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 11:00am
Bi-Annual Members' Meeting on Zoom
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 5:30pm

Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

[parking map]

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20201130164546/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/919

Chess Room Newsletter #919

Gens Una Sumus!

Newsletter #919

May 23, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- San Francisco Scholastic Championship
- MI Club Matches
- 2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid and Blitz Championship Online
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Chess.com Clubs League
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- FM Paul Whitehead's Online Class
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship Online This Weekend, with over 250 Kids Participating!

This Saturday May 23rd we will have what might be the largest scholastic event hosted by Mechanics' Institute. The annual San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship, a free event, is normally held in Golden Gate Park. We had to postpone the live event, originally scheduled in March, due to COVID-19. As we have honed our skills in virtual programming over the last two months, we are proud to be able to organize the 2020 championship online. We expect nearly 300 kids to participate. The championship USCF online rated section will be played on chess.com, and the non-rated sections will take place on chesskid.com.

We will also have special guests coming to join our broadcast throughout the event. We are scheduled to have GM Susan Polgar, GM Sam Shankland, GM Patrick Wolff, WIM Ivette Garcia Morales, WFM Alexandra Botez, FM Jim Eade, Coach Jay Stallings, and Adisa Banjoko among others in support of scholastic chess and the spirit and importance of friendship, competition and sportsmanship in these times. Tune in starting at 10:45AM to our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess. The tournament begins at 11AM.

The link to follow the championship section of the tournament is here: https://www.chess.com/live#t=1235749.

For information about the event, follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online.

We hope to see many of you follow, watch and support the games and broadcast. A special thank you to Dr. Judit Sztaray for organizing this large event!

Mechanics' Institute Defeats White Knights Chess Team In Dramatic Final Game

Club 64 Modena, Italy Avenges Loss With Convincing Victory

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club played in two matches last Saturday with very different results. In the afternoon match, we played against the White Knights Chess Team of GM Elshan Moradiabadi and WGM Sabina Foisor. We coordinated to have an 18-player match with players of similar skill. We ended up being one player short, so chess.com just takes the number of players present and matches them up, resulting in a 17-player match. The other full disclosure is that I had to play in the match so we wouldn't be two players short. Since my chess.com rating is low due to inactivity, I got paired lower than my actual rating.

Now that the diclosures are out of the way, the match went according to plan in terms of equal skill. The match played down to a 16.5-16.5 tie with one game left. After an exciting time scramble, Andy Schley pulled off an amazing comeback with to deliver the match 17.5-16.5.

FM Paul Whitehead jumped into action as our first board. Our chessmonster666 showed he still has the will and skill to deliver top quality chess for the Mechanics' team.

(3) FM Paul Whitehead (chessmonster666) (2282) - 1e41-O (2240) [B52]
Live Chess Chess.com, 17.05.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.a4 Nf6 5.d3 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2 a6 9.Bxd7 Nfxd7!? This time for development but has logic to it to place the black knights on useful squares. **10.Nc4 Nc6 11.a5! b5 12.axb6 Nxb6 13.Nfd2 Nxc4 14.Nxc4 Qc7 15.c3** White has a small edge since he has one long pawn chain and Black has the isolated a-pawn. **15...Rfb8 16.Bf4 Ne5 17.Bxe5! Bxe5 18.Ra2?! e6?!** [18...Bxh2+! 19.Kxh2 d5+ 20.Kg1 dxc4 21.dxc4 Leaves Whie pawns as damaged as Black's.] **19.Qf3 Bg7 20.Rea1 Qc6 21.h4 h5 22.g3** White has an annoying little edge. **22...d5?** this break weakens the white squares in the center. Patient defense was needed instead. **23.exd5 exd5 24.Ne3 Rd8** Diagram

25.c4! The white knight gains the central d5 square and White wins a pawn. **25...Rd6 26.Nxd5 Re8 27.Kg2 Qc8 28.Rb1 Bd4 29.b4 cxb4 30.Rxb4 Kg7 31.Rb3 Re1 32.Qf4! Be5 33.Qd2 Ra1 34.Rxa1 Bxa1 35.Qf4 Re6 36.Qb8 Qc5 37.Qc7 Qd4?** [37...Bd4 38.Qxc5 Bxc5 39.Kf1 is a winning ending for White but it would take some technique.] **38.Rb7!** There is no good way to guard f7.**1-0**

As the match progressed, the White Knights seemed to dominate early, with results looking like we would head for an early defeat. The Mechanics' team started to mount a strong comeback, particularly in the second games. As the match and broadcast neared the end, Mechanics' needed to win two out of three remaining games, and one game, needed a bit of a miracle. Prayers were answered, as our very own Coach Andy Schley delivered the victory. He was aware during the match that his game would be deciding it all, and played for the win despite being worse in the game. The magic of rapid chess and time trouble, combined with a relentless will to survive, produced this amazing result.

(1) Andrew Schley (andrewschley) (1693) - CruiseShip (1647) [C70]
Live Chess Chess.com, 17.05.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Bc5 5.c3 b5 6.Bc2 d6 7.0-0 Bg4 8.d3 Nf6 9.Be3 Ba7 10.Nbd2 A classically played Ruy Lopez opening. Both sides have placed their pieces well. **10...Ne7 11.Bxa7 Rxa7 12.Re1 Ng6 13.h3 Be6 14.Nf1 0-0 15.Ne3 Nf4 16.Nh2** [16.d4! Leaves White a little more aggressive in the center.] **16...Qd7 17.Neg4 Nxg4 18.Nxg4 Bxg4 19.hxg4 c6 20.g3 Ng6 21.Kg2 d5 22.exd5** [22.d4 exd4 23.Qxd4 dxe4 24.Qxe4 gets an open position where the white bishop is doing well.] **22...cxd5 23.d4 e4 24.a4 Rfa8 25.Qe2 Ne7?!** [25...Qb7] **26.f3! exf3+ 27.Kxf3!? Rb8?!** [27...b4! 28.cxb4 Nc6 29.Qd2 Qd6 30.Rac1 Nxb4 would give Black equal chances.] **28.axb5! Qxb5 29.Qd3?!** [29.Qxb5 Rxb5 30.b4 puts Black under pressure in the ending.] **29...Qxd3+ 30.Bxd3 Rxb2 31.Rxa6 Rxa6 32.Bxa6 Kf8 33.c4 Rb4 34.Rc1 dxc4 35.Bxc4** Now the game is equal and would likely end in a draw in a longer time control. **35...Nc6 36.Ke4 Ke7 37.Kd5 Na5 38.Re1+ Kf6 39.Rf1+ Ke7 40.Ba2 Rb5+ 41.Ke4 Nb3?!** Diagram

[This knight move starts to get in trouble. Equal chances were there with 41...f6] **42.Kd3! f6?** saves the f-pawn but loses a piece **43.Re1+ Kf8 44.Kc4 Nxd4 45.Kxd4 Rb4+ 46.Bc4** The position is winning for White but requires some technique. **46...g6 47.Re3 Kg7 48.Kc3 Rb7 49.Bd5 Rc7+ 50.Kd4 Kh6 51.Re4 Kg5 52.Be6 Re7 53.Kd5 f5?** [Black could make things very difficult with 53...Ra7] **54.gxf5 gxf5 55.Rf4** Black has exchanged one pawn but loses the f-pawn. **55...Rg7 56.Bxf5 h5 57.Ke5 Re7+ 58.Be6 Rh7 59.Rf8 Rg7 60.Rf5+ Kh6 61.Rf6+ Kg5 62.Rf4 Ra7 63.Rf5+ Kh6 64.Kf6** The white king joins the attack and the game is decided. **64...Ra4** [64...Ra3 65.Rg5] **65.Bf7 Ra6+ 66.Be6 Ra3 67.Rg5 Rf3+ 68.Bf5 Rf2 69.Rg8 Rxf5+ 70.Kxf5 h4 71.gxh4 Kh7 72.Rg1 Kh6 73.h5 Kh7 74.Kf6 Kh8 75.Kg6 Kg8 76.Rf1 Kh8 77.Rf8# 1-0**

You can experience the drama as we experienced it by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWrAo8Zvqto. It all begins at the 1:20:30 mark.

The match was a training friendly for their club players, and it was fun to collaborate a match with Elshan and Sabina. We thank them and their players for the competition and sportsmanship, and we look forward to another match with them soon.

Full broadcast can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWrAo8Zvqto.

In our other team match, Club 64 from Modena, Italy soundly defeated our Mechanics' team 32.5-17.5. Many of our top players were not available, and their team played great chess and came out in full numbers to avenge their match loss just about a month ago.

The bright spot of this match was the play of FM Kyron Griffith, who put on an amazing show in saving a draw in his first match, and producing a technical win in the second against a very tough WGM Olga Zimina. Here are the games from the Kyron Griffith show.

(5) WGM Olga Zimina (Olghita64) (2281) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2054) [A15]
Live Chess Chess.com, 16.05.2020

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.Be3 The Gligoric System against the King's Indian. **7...Na6 8.0-0 Ng4 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bh4 Nh6 11.Rc1 Nf7 12.a3 c6 13.b4 Nc7 14.d5 cxd5 15.cxd5 Bd7 16.Nd2 Bh6 17.Rc2** A typical King's Indian. White has more space and probably a small edge, but the position is dynamic giving Black many winning chances. **17...Rc8 18.Nb3 Na8?!** This knight manuver to the corner allows White time for action. **19.Na5 b6?** [19...Rc7 was needed. Black must save the b-pawn

without losing control of the c6 square.] **20.Nc6! Bxc6 21.dxc6 g5** [21...Rxc6 22.Bxf6! Qxf6 23.Nd5 wins] **22.Bg3 Rxc6 23.Bb5 Rc8 24.Ba6 Rc7 25.Nd5 Rxc2 26.Qxc2** White has terrific compensation for the pawn. The black pieces are all passive and the white pieces on powerful posts. **26...Bg7 27.Qc6 Qe8 28.Rc1** [28.Qb7 Qb8 29.Qd7 is even stronger. It's nice for White to have queens on the board.] **28...Qxc6 29.Rxc6 Rd8 30.f3 Nh8** Diagram

It's not often you see two knights in the corner! **31.Bf2 Ng6 32.g3?!** White misses winning the knight on a8 with [32.Rc8! Rxc8 33.Bxc8 Nf4 34.Bb7! Nxd5 35.Bxd5+ Kf8 36.Bxa8] **32...Kf8 33.a4 Ne7** Slowly Kyron is unravelling the mess he got into. Black is still worse but not nearly as much as some moves ago. **34.Nxe7 Kxe7 35.a5 g4?!** impatient [35...Kd7! 36.Rc2 Nc7 37.Bf1 Rb8] **36.fxg4 Bh6 37.Rc2! d5 38.exd5 Rxd5 39.Bb7 Rd8 40.a6?!** [40.Be4 hits the h-pawn and would cause an overload of problems for Black.] **40...Kd7 41.Kg2 Nc7 42.Kf3** [42.Be4! Nxa6 43.Ra2 Nxb4 44.Rxa7+] **42...Ne6 43.Ke4 Ke7?!** [43...Bf8] **44.h4?** missing [44.Bxb6! axb6 45.a7 and the a-pawn costs a rook.] **44...Rd2! 45.Rxd2 Bxd2 46.b5 Nd4! 47.Bxd4 exd4 48.Kxd4 Be1** Now Black has reached the sanctuary of a bishops of opposite color ending. He is safe now for the draw. **49.Be4 Bxg3 50.h5 h6 51.Kd5 Kd7 52.Bf5+ Kc7 53.Ke6 Bh4 54.Be4 Bg5 55.Kf5 Bh4 56.Bd5 Bg5 57.Bc6 Bh4 58.Ke6 Bg5 59.Kf7 Bh4 60.Kg7 Bg5 61.Kg6 Kd6 62.Kf7 Kc7 63.Ke8 Bh4 1/2-1/2**

(4) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2089) - WGM Olga Zimina (Olghita64) (2136) [B18]
Live Chess Chess.com, 16.05.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nh3!? e6 7.Nf4 Qh4 This provacative move is probably not better than the usual 7...Nf6, but it confuses things. **8.Nge2** [8.Be2 Bd6 9.Ngh5 is more ambitious] **8...Bd6 9.g3 Qe7 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Bg2 Nf6 12.0-0 Nbd7 13.Re1** This is a double edged positon with attacking chances for both sides if Black castles queenside. **13...Ng4?! 14.h3 Nh6** This knight maneuver lost time. **15.c4 Nf5 16.d5 cxd5 17.cxd5 e5 18.Bd2 0-0 19.Rc1** White has a little more control of the center. **19...Rfc8 20.Rc3?!** [20.Nc3] **20...Qd8 21.a3 Qb6 22.b4 Rxc3 23.Bxc3 Nxg3??** Sadly an oversight. Black sees the f-pawn is pinned, but the white knight is there. **24.Nxg3 Rc8** Black bravely fights on, but a full piece down offers little hope. **25.Qd2 Qa6 26.Bb2 Nb6 27.Bf1! Qa4 28.Rc1 Rd8** [28...Rxc1 29.Bxc1 Qb3 30.Ne4 wins easily] **29.Ne4 Bb8 30.d6 Qd7 31.Bxe5 Qe6 32.f4 f6 33.Nc5 Qf7** Diagram

34.Na4 fxe5 35.Nxb6 Kh7 36.Qf2 Qxf4 37.Qxf4 exf4 38.Rc8 Rxd6 39.Rxb8 Rxb6 40.b5! Black has two pawns for the bishop but is helpless on the queenside. **40...Kh6 41.a4 Kg5 42.a5 Rd6 43.Rxb7 Kh4 44.Kf2 Rd2+ 45.Be2 Kxh3 46.Rxg7 Kh4 47.Rxg6 Ra2 48.Ra6 1-0**

Congratulations to Club 64 for a great play and great sportsmanship throughout our collaborations. We look forward to a third and deciding match later in the summer!

2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid and Blitz Championship Will Be Held Online Next Weekend, May 30 - 31st!

GM Fabiano Caruana faces GM Jon Ludvig Hammer in the 5th round of last year's Mechanics' Institute Rapid Championship

2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid & Blitz Online Championship
Rapid - Saturday, May 30th
Blitz - Sunday, May 31st
Prize fund: $1600 over the weekend
USCF Online rated event
Play for the fun, play for the challenge, play to be a Mechanics' Rapid and Blitz Champion!

Rapid Championship: Format: One open section, Time Control: 6SS G/15+2inc
Prize fund: $800 total prize fund b/50 paid entries: 1st Place: $250, 2nd Place: $200, 3rd Place: $100, u2000: $100, u1800: $75, u1600: $75

Blitz Championship Format: One open section Time Control: 12SS G/3+2inc
Prize fund: $800 total prize fund b/50 paid entries: 1st Place: $250, 2nd Place: $200, 3rd Place: $100, u2000: $100, u1800: $75, u1600: $75

* Class prize are based on OTB standard USCF rating. Unrated (OTB, chess.com) players are not eligible for class prizes. Organizers reserve the right to determine class prize eligibility based on OTB and online activity in certain cases.

USCF Online Rated - Tournament will affect both chess.com and USCF online ratings. Tournaments will be submitted to US chess for rating 4-7 days after the tournament to allow time for fair play screening.

Start time: 3PM PST on both days

- First round is paired at 3PM sharp by chess.com.
- Consecutive rounds are paired as soon as all games are finished in previous rounds.

- No bye requests are possible.
- Late joins are okay, they will be added by the system with 0 point for each missed round.

Registration Fee: $20 for MI members, $25 for non-members, 10% discount if registering for both tournaments, GM's free, first 10 IM's free by 5/27.

Rules: Standard USCF rules apply. Pairings are based on chess.com rapid/blitz rating.

- Mouse slips count, no takebacks.
- No rejoin: once a player withdraws/withdrawn from the tournament, no rejoin is possible.
- if player is not logged in to live chess when pairings occur, the system will assign a 0-point bye for that round.
- Section prizes will be awarded based on USCF standard rating

Fair play screening: All games will be screened by both Chess.com.
Prize distributions and rating submission will not take place until AFTER all games have been screened.

How to join?
1. Register online via jumbula: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/2020MechanicsInstituteRapidBlitzOnline
2. Join the specific Mechanics' club on Chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated
Note that only those, who registered at least for one tournament through jumbula, and provided their full name, chess.com user ID (handle) and their USCF ID will be accepted to the club. Please, allow us time for this process to take place, 24 hours at least a day ahead of the tournament, and min 2 hours on the same day of the tournament. Tentative registration close time is 1PM PST on 5/30 and 5/31, respectively.
3. Join the tournament an hour prior to the start (2PM PST).

For more information and questions, email: chessroom@milibrary.org

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Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

The Tuesday Night Online this week was completely up for grabs, as work obligations kept IM Rost Tsodikov out of action in his attempt to become the first 3-peat champion. FM Eric Li was in the field, as were other contenders like John Canessa and Abhinav Penagalapati. Eric was definitley the favorite. I picked Canessa, while special guest WFM Natalya Tsodikova thought Abhi would be the one who would break through the field. As it turned out, none of them would place in the top three. Seven players tied for 1st with 4/5, but it was Mechanics' regulars Kristian Clemens (kclemens) and Cailen Melville (Mangonel) who would finish in the top two spots, with newcomer Nathaniel Balam (hypernathanism) from Modesto finishing in 3rd. It was a dramatic final round that saw WCM Omya Vidyarthi with a chance to win the tournament outright, but a crucial blunder in time trouble led to the 7-way tie.

Kristian Clemens playing at the Mechanics' Tuesday Night Marathon

We were very happy to see Kristian come out on top of the TNO. This is not too surprising as he is a strong expert level player, capable of holding hos own against anyone. Here is a nice win from Clemens against Stewart Katz. Game annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(11) Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1839) - Stewart Katz (knvsback) (1628) [D02]
Live Chess Chess.com, 19.05.2020

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 Modern players often play 5. e3 to avoid the complications of Black capturing the pawn with 5...dxc4. Yet Kristian is brave and plays the most aggressive move. **5...Nbd7** Avoiding the complications of 5...dxc4 6. e4 leaves White with a nice little edge. **6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 Be7 8.Rc1 0-0 9.Qc2 Re8 10.Bd3 dxc4**

11.Bxc4 b6 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Rfd1 Qc8 White is completely developed with pieces posted on useful squares. **14.Bg3 b5 15.Bd3 Nh5?! 16.Bh4 Bxh4 17.Nxh4 e5 18.Ne4** The dark squares are vulnerable now so the white knight eyes them. **18...Qc7 19.Qe2** [19.d5! Rac8 20.Bxb5 would net a very nice pawn] **19...Ndf6 20.Nxf6+ Nxf6 21.dxe5?!** [21.Bxb5!] **21...Qxe5 22.Nf3 Qh5 23.Nd4!** White is still completely mobilized and can pressure the c6 pawn. It is very correct to offer the trade of queens as the ending is at least as good as the middle game. **23...Qxe2 24.Bxe2 Rac8 25.Bf3 Nd5 26.g3** [26.Bxd5 cxd5 27.Nxb5 is very good] **26...a6 27.Bxd5 cxd5 28.Nf5 Rxc1 29.Rxc1 Kf8?!** Black is in real trouble and needs to try something active such as 29...Re5 30. g4 g6. **30.Rc7!** This ending is like something Capablanca would have against his opponents in the 1920s. **30...Ba8 31.Nd6** Diagram

31...Rd8 32.Nxf7 Re8 33.Nd6 Rd8 34.Rc8?! [34.Nf5 would keep complete control. This move offers Black an opportunity.] **34...Ke7?** [34...Rxc8 35.Nxc8 Kf7! keeps the white knight somewhat trapped as it cannot escape via d6. White is still better but there would have been a lot of work to do to win the game.] **35.Nf5+! Kd7 36.Rxd8+ Kxd8 37.Nxg7** Now with two pawns ahead and the better minor piece White has an easy win. **37...Kd7 38.Nf5 b4 39.Nd4 Kd6 40.Kf1 Kc5 41.b3 a5 42.Ke2 Bb7 43.Kd3 Ba6+ 44.Kd2 Bc8 45.f4 Bd7 46.f5 a4 47.f6 Be8 48.bxa4** too many white pawns. **48...Kb6 49.Kc2 Bxa4+ 50.Kb2 Be8 51.Kb3 Kc5 52.h3 h5 53.g4 hxg4 54.hxg4 Kd6 55.g5 Ke5 56.Kxb4 Ke4 57.Kc5 Bf7 58.a4 Kxe3 59.a5 Kf4 60.a6 Kxg5 61.a7 Kxf6 62.a8Q 1-0**

Eric Li drew his 4th round game against Omya, and took an easy draw in the final round againsr Clemens. However, the fighting positional chess of Li was in full display in round 2 against Sricharan Pullela.

(8) FM Eric Li (wepkins) (2377) - Sricharan Pullela (Sricharan_The_King) (1748) [E61]
Live Chess Chess.com, 19.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 c5 7.d5 a6 8.a4 Nbd7 It is probably best for Black to play 8...e6 to open the center a little. Then the game would be classic Benoni/King's Indian play. **9.Bd3 Rb8 10.0-0 e5 11.Re1 h6 12.Bd2** White has more space and so the opening advantage. **12...Nh7 13.Qc1! h5 14.Qc2 f6 15.a5** [15.Nh4! Qe8 16.f4 exf4?! 17.e5! would be a direct invasion] **15...Rf7 16.Na4 Ndf8?!** [16...Ng5] **17.Nb6 f5 18.Nxc8 Qxc8 19.b4!** The black queenside is under pressure. **19...f4 20.bxc5 Qxc5 21.Rab1 Rc8 22.Rb6 Rd7 23.Nh2 g5 24.Bb4 Qc7 25.f3 Ng6 26.Ba3 Bf8 27.Reb1 Rb8?!** Diagram

27...Rg6 would have held out longer **28.c5! Qc8** [28...dxc5 29.Rxg6+] **29.c6 Rc7 30.Bxa6!** complete victory of the queenside attack. An ideal King's Indian from the white side. **30...Qd8 31.Bxb7 Ne7 32.a6 Nc8 33.Bxc8 Rxb6 34.Be6+ 1-0**

John Canessa (right) playing the 2019 John Donaldson Championship in December

My dark horse pic was John Canessa, a freshman at Santa Clara University that recently played at Mechanics' and had a stron tournament showing, including wins against FM Jason Liang and NM Derek Wu. He was held to a draw in the final round by Cailen Melville, preventing him from winnning clear first. Here is a fine win from this tournament by Canessa.

(9) maturner (1672) - John Canessa (wacj) (1965) [C58]
Live Chess Chess.com, 19.05.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 The Two Knights' Defense. An opening which takes courage from both sides. **4...d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Qf3** [8.Bd3 has been popular of late] **8...Be7 9.Nc3** [9.Bxc6+ Nxc6 10.Qxc6+ Bd7 11.Qf3 0-0 is compensation for the pawns] **9...0-0 10.Bxc6 Bg4** Diagram

11.Bxa8 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 White is technically ahead material with rook, bishop and two pawns for the queen. Black's extra development and open lines make up for the pawn at least. **12...h6 13.Nge4 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 f5 15.Bd5+ Kh7 16.a3 Qb6 17.Ba2 Nc6 18.Nd5 Qd4 19.Nxe7?** This one move ruins the white position. 19. 0-0 was close to even. **19...Qe4+!** This surprise must have been very unpleasant. If wacj has just recaptured White would be fine. It pays to be alert in chess. **20.Kf1 Nd4!** Diagram

21.Bc4 This stops the threatened mate with 21...Qe2+. There are just too many threats though. **21...Nxc2 22.Be2 Nxa1 23.d3 Qb7** The white knight is trapped and that is the end. **24.Nxf5 Rxf5 25.Bf3 Qc7 26.Be3 Rxf3 27.gxf3 Nc2 28.Bd2 Qf7 29.Kg2 Nd4 30.Re1 Qxf3+ 31.Kg1 Ne2+ 0-1**

While the action was lively fighting for the top spots, this tournament produced great club matchups in every round. Here was a great matchup that would be fun to watch in any tournament, but brought to us via our online event.

(10) Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (1645) - Anika Rajaram (Kirotori) (1591) [B22]
Live Chess Chess.com, 19.05.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 White goes his own way in this Sicilian. Black reacts with direct play in the center. **4...Nc6 5.0-0 d5 6.exd5 exd5 7.Re1+ Be7 8.Bc2 0-0 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4?!** This brings the white queen to a good square. Black had played the opening very well and would have had a small edge with [10...Re8] **11.Qxd4 b6 12.Bg5 Bb7 13.Qd3!** Threatening to take the knight on f6 followed by checkmate on h7. This forces Black into a passive position. **13...Ne4 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Nd2 Qc5 16.Re3! f5 17.Nb3 Qd6 18.Nd4 Qg6 19.Bb3** [19.f3 Nc5 20.Nxf5! Nxd3 21.Ne7+ would win a pawn] **19...f4 20.Rxe4?!** It looks very tempting to take the pinned knight, but this backfires and loses the exchange for a pawn. Simply retreating the rook would have kept the edge. **20...Kh8! 21.Re3 fxe3 22.Qxg6?** [22.Qxe3!] **22...exf2+! 23.Kf1** Diagram

23...hxg6?! [23...Ba6+! 24.Nb5 Bxb5+ 25.c4 Bxc4+ 26.Bxc4 hxg6 27.Bxd5 Rad8 would be a straightforward win in the endgame.] **24.Nf3 Rae8** [24...d4! 25.cxd4 Rad8] **25.Kxf2 Rf5 26.Rd1 g5 27.Kg3 Re4?** [27...Re2 is still a big advantage. Black walked into a skewer and gives back the exchange.] **28.Bc2 Kh7 29.Bxe4 dxe4 30.Nd4 Rd5 31.Re1 Re5 32.Kf2!** The white king moves in front of the passed pawn and so White starts to take control of the endgame. **32...Kg6 33.Ke3 Ra5 34.a3 Re5 35.Rf1 Re8 36.Rf2 a5 37.Nb5 Rd8 38.Rd2! Rxd2 39.Kxd2 Bc6 40.Nd4?!** [40.Nd6! threatening both Nc4 and Ke3 would win a pawn] **40...Bb7 41.Ke3 Kf6 42.Nb5 Ke5 43.Nd4 g6 44.b4 axb4 45.axb4 Bd5 46.Nb5 Bc6?!** Black drifts into a passive position in the next moves. Here he could get more activity with [46...Bc4!] **47.Na3 Bd5 48.c4 Bb7?!** [48...Be6!] **49.Nb1 Bc6 50.Nc3 Bb7 51.b5** [51.Na4!] **51...Kd6 52.Nxe4+ Bxe4?** This trades into a pawn down king and pawn ending. That is lost as almost all pawn down king ending are. Black should have kept the bishop to keep chances in the game. **53.Kxe4 Kc5 54.Kd3 g4 55.h3 g3 56.h4 Kb4 57.Kd4 Kb3 58.Kd5 Kb4 59.Kc6 Ka5 60.Kb7** efficient by Kondsaga **60...Kb4 61.Kxb6 Kxc4 62.Ka6 Kc5 63.b6 Kd4 64.b7 Ke3 65.b8Q Kf2 66.Qb7 Kf1 67.Qf3+ Kg1 68.Qxg3 Kh1 69.Qxg6 Kh2 70.g4 Kh1 71.g5 Kh2 1-0**

Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-rapid-1227094

To watch the broadcast, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0ZSst0wx-o

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Mechanics' Online Events Recap

Game annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

The Friday Night Blitz on May 15 saw an impressive 10/10 performance from IM Rost Tsodikov, a first for this event. This was especially impressive given the competition, as he defeated FM Eric Li, NM Vyom Vidyarthi, and many other Expert and A players. The matchup with Li was particularly exciting for chess fans following the Mechanics' Institute's online chess community. The two were headed to a final round Tuesday Night Online (TNO) battle a few weeks ago, but Li withdrew from the final round with a perfect score. Then they faced each other in the final round of the TNO the following week, but a clear mouseslip by Li on move 4 prevented a true matchup. The matchup would finally come here on this evening, with experience prevailing over youth.

(7) IM Rost Tsodikov (jasonRBT) (2441) - FM Eric Li (wepkins) (2353) [B23]
Live Chess Chess.com, 15.05.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 Nc6 4.d3 g6 5.Be3 Bg7 6.Qd2 e6 7.Bg2 Rb8 8.Nge2 b5 9.0-0 Nge7 This allows the exchange of dark-squared bishops right away and gives White a clear plan. Still, it is a principled move. Black could also have tried [9...b4 10.Nd1 a5] **10.Bh6 0-0 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.d4?!** [12.Nd1 Bd7 13.Ne3 is more in keeping with the Closed Sicilian.] **12...b4 13.Nd1 cxd4?!** [13...Qb6! 14.dxc5 dxc5 15.Ne3 Rd8 16.Qc1 Ba6 17.Ng4 Ng8! is very nice for Black] **14.Nxd4 Ba6 15.Re1 Qc7 16.Ne3 Nxd4 17.Qxd4+ e5 18.Qd2 h5?!** [18...Bc8] **19.a3! bxa3 20.Rxa3 Bc8 21.b3** Now White has a solid game and Black has the pawn targets of a7 and d6 to defend. **21...Be6 22.f4 exf4 23.gxf4 Qc5 24.Ra5 Qb6 25.Kh1 Nc6 26.Ra4 Nb4?! 27.f5!** The attack begins. **27...Bd7 28.f6+! Kh7** Diagram

[28...Kxf6? 29.Rxb4 Qxb4 30.Nd5+] **29.Nf5! Bxf5** [29...gxf5 30.Qg5 is a quick mate] **30.exf5 a5 31.Be4 d5 32.fxg6+** [32.Rg1! dxe4 33.fxg6+ fxg6 34.Qd7+] **32...fxg6 33.Bxg6+ Kxg6 34.Rg1+ Kxf6** [34...Kf7 holds on longer] **35.Qg5+ Ke6 36.Re1+ Kd6 37.Qe7+ Kc6 38.Re6+ Kb5 39.Rxb6+ Kxb6** Black has a rook and knight for the queen yet he cannot defend well as White still has the attack. **40.Qd6+ Kb5 41.c4+! dxc4 42.Qd7+ Kb6 43.bxc4 Nc6 44.Ra1 Rf6 45.Rb1+ Nb4 46.Qd4+ Kb7 47.Qxf6 Rc8 48.Qe7+ Ka6 49.Rxb4 axb4 50.Qxb4 Rxc4 51.Qxc4+** A very entertaining attack by jasonRBT! **1-0**

NM Vyom Vidyarthi finished in 2nd on tiebreaks with 7.5, ahead of Abhinav Penagalapati. Vyom is a very strong and still improvong player, but even he was no match for the steamroller performance of Rost.

1.Nc3 This avoids any serious opening theory! **1...e6 2.d4 d5 3.Bf4 Bd6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.Bxd6 Qxd6** Logical opening play by Black has produced an even game. **8.e4** Wasting no time in making the center break. **8...Qe7!?** [8...dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 c6 11.0-0 *(11.Bxh7+ Kxh7 12.Ng5+ Kg6!)* 11...Ba6 12.Re1 Nd7 would be a "normal" type of game that could easily arise from a French Defense.] **9.e5 Nfd7 10.0-0 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Ne2 c5 13.c3 Nab8 14.Qd2 Nc6** We name have a French Defense pawn structure with both bishops exchanged. White has just a small edge due to more kingside space. **15.Ne1?!** going backwards [15.Rfe1] **15...Rac8 16.f4 f5 17.exf6 Nxf6 18.Nf3 Ne4 19.Qe3 Na5 20.Ne5 cxd4 21.Nxd4 Nc4 22.Nxc4 Rxc4 23.Nf3** [23.f5! would give White activity.] **23...Qc5 24.Qxc5 bxc5 25.Ne5 Ra4 26.g3 Rb8 27.b3 Ra3 28.c4 d4 29.Rfe1 Nc3?** [Active but losing a pawn. Simple and safe was 29...Nf6] **30.Nd7 Rd8 31.Nxc5 d3 32.Nxe6! Re8** Diagram

33.f5? This costs the exchange and puts Black ahead. White could maintain the advantage with the accurate [33.Re3! when he remains a pawn ahead. e.g. 33...d2 34.Rxc3 Rxe6 35.Kf2 Rxa2 36.Rd1 Kf7 37.Rd3 Rb6 38.Ke3 Rb2 39.R1xd2 R2xb3 40.Rxb3 Rxb3+ 41.Ke4] **33...d2 34.Red1?!** [34.Rf1 had more chances for White] **34...Nxd1 35.Rxd1 Rxa2 36.c5 g6 37.g4 gxf5 38.gxf5 Kf7!** with the black king controlling the f-pawn the ending is won for Black. **39.c6 Kf6 40.c7 Rc8 41.Kf2 Kxf5 42.Nd4+ Ke4 43.Nb5 Kd3 0-1**

Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-blitz-1224480

The Saturday Matinee was won by IM Elliott Winslow with a perfect 3/3, winning on tiebreaks over Crazykid777. SunnyCountry took 3rd with 2/5/3.

Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1227081

The Saturday Late Night Showdown was won by FM Kyron Griffith with a perfect 5/5. Advay Bansal (chessforme17), Sricharan Pullela (Sricharan_The_King) and NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) finished with 4/5. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1227082

The Sunday Evening Blitz was won by Advay Bansal with a perfect 5/5, ahead of Vishva Nanugonda (vish1080) and Niko Pompe (kralj8). Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-evening-blitz-1224486

The Monday Night Arena was won by Mechanics' regular Felix German with a score of 42. In second was Advay Bansal with 34, just ahead of Jonah Busch (kondsaga) with 33. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-201112

The Wednesday Late Night Blitz saw a strong showing from Austin Mei (TitanChess666) with 7/8. In 2nd was Jeremy Cawthon (Karmas_Revenge) with 6.5/8, followed by Kristian Clemens with 6/8. Full results are here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-blitz-1227100.

Mechanics' Institute Chess Club Playing in the Chess.Com Clubs League Starting Saturday May 23rd

The Mechanics' Institute Online Chess Club in one of the nearly 100 participants in the Chess.com Clubs League, which begins this Saturday May 23rd. This is a league composed of chess clubs from around the world, both those with ab online presence as well as more traditional brick and mortar chess clubs. The Mechanics' Institute will compete in Division A, which will require a minimum of 10 players. Some of the over 60 chess clubs in Division A, it will prove to be an exciting competition, with interactions from people and clubs from around the world.

Our first match will take place this Saturday at 10am against Southern Arizona Chess Association/Eastside Chess Club. Any Mechanics' Institute Online Chess Club member may play and represent Mechanics' Institute, but please be aware that the number of players eligible is limited to the number of player both teams bring. For example, if we bring 20 players and the other team has 10, only our top 10 players by Chess.com rating will be eligible. Teams must have a minimum of 10 players.

To participate or to follow the match, you may go to this link starting at 9am on Saturday: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=11713. Match begins at 10am. Go Mechanics' Institute Chess!

Mechanics' Chess Social

The Mechanics' Chess Social on Friday May 15th featured GM Melikset Khachiyan and WGM Tatev Abrahamyan. During our talk, we discussed their roles as coaches and players for the US Women's Team, coaching chess players at various skill levels, and what they are up to now.

To watch the interview, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbwiWQRZyFg&t=154s

This week's guest for May 22nd will by WIM Alexey Root. Woman International Master Alexey Root won the U.S. Women's Chess Championship in 1989. She earned her Ph.D. in education from UCLA in 1999. Since the fall of 1999, Root has been a lecturer at The University of Texas atDallas, teaching online courses about chess in education. She has written seven books, including her most recent, *Prepare With Chess Strategy* (2016).

Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champion and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead

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Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Upcoming Tournament Schedule - NOW daily on chesskid.com!

Saturday- **San Francisco Scholastic Championship**

Sunday, May 24: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/10+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=31113

Monday, May 25: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=32245

Tuesday, May 26: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=32248

Wednesday, May 27: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=32250

Thursday, May 28: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=32252

Friday, May 29: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=32253

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

Scholastic Games Of The Week (games from our scholastic online tournaments)

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(12) BentActiveTank (1197) - BlueFlower (1050)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nf3 Bc5?! This is risky. Best is 3..Nc6 to guard the e-pawn. If [3...Nxe4 Black could grab the e-pawn, but after 4.Nc3 Nxc3 5.dxc3 there is great danger, such as 5...d6? 6.Ng5! Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Qf3 Qd7 9.Qxb7 and White is winning.] **4.Nxe5! Nxe4?** Best was to be safe with the king - 4...0-0. **5.0-0?** This safeguards the white king and is very good for that reason. Yet after [5.Bxf7+! Kf8 6.d4 White is a pawn ahead with a much safer king.] **5...0-0 6.Nf3 Nd6?!** This knight gets in the way of advancing the d-pawn which allows the other bishop to develop. Simply 6...d5! was very good. **7.Bd3 Ne8** Diagram

8.Bxh7+? White remebers this plan to sacrifice the bishop, check with the knight and bring the queen out for checkmate. This doesn't work here - you always need to check the exact moves. **8...Kxh7 9.Ng5+?** according to plan, but **9...Qxg5!** now Black is ahead and should win the game, however **10.d4 Bd6??** Oh no! Forgetting your queen is attacked shoudl lose the game. **11.Bxg5 f6** Now White is winning and wraps up without trouble. **12.Qh5+ Kg8 13.Bxf6?** retreating the bishop would save it. **13...gxf6 14.Qg4+ Ng7 15.h4 f5 16.Qg5 Nc6 17.h5! Be7 18.Qg6 d6 19.h6 Be6?** [19...Bf6 would well ahead for White but there would be a lot left to play. White ends the battle] **20.Qxg7# 1-0**

(13) Filtercometj (1338) - RareThirdDessert (1595)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.0-0 d6 6.d3 h6 7.h3 All is well and calm and even so far. Black now plays an aggressive move which provokes White. **7...g5 8.g4?!** [8.Nh2] **8...Nxg4!?** Diagram

9.hxg4 Bxg4 Black has sacrificed a piece for two kingside pawns. This is a dangerous sacrifice, but not objectively good (at least not good if you are playing Magnus). **10.Qe1??** this simply loses the battle. Black was threatening to use the pin with 11...Nd4, but White could play [10.Be3 Nd4 11.Bxd4 and defend the kingside.] **10...Bxf3 11.Be3 g4! 12.Bxc5 Qh4!** the black bishop on f3 dooms the white king. **13.Qe2 Qh1# 0-1**

(14) DarkCapableCharm (1465) - SuperBigMonkey (1250)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 The Smith-Morra Gambit. This is a very practical way to play against the Sicilian Defense. White gets a lead in development for the pawn. **4...Nc6 5.Nf3 e5?!** This weakens the a2-g8 diagonal, where White now places the light-squared bishop. Safer is 5...e6. **6.Bc4 Bc5 7.Qd5 Qe7 8.Ng5 Nf6!** The best defense. Giving back the pawn to develop the black pieces. **9.Qxf7+ Qxf7 10.Nxf7 Rf8 11.Ng5 h6 12.Nf3 Ng4?! 13.0-0 Nxf2?!** This trade of knight and bishop for rook and pawn is simply not good. **14.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2 g5 16.Nd5 Kd8** Diagram

17.h4! With many more pieces out and a safer king, White finds a great attacking idea. **17...g4 18.Bxh6! Rf7** [18...gxf3 19.Bg5+ Ke8 20.Nc7#] **19.Bg5+ Ke8 20.Nc7+ Kf8 21.Bxf7** The best. White just ends up well ahead in material. **21...Rb8 22.Bg6 gxf3 23.Kxf3 Nd4+ 24.Kg4 d5+ 25.Kh5 dxe4 26.Rf1+ Kg8 27.Bh6 Bd7 28.Bf7+ Kh7 29.Bd5 e3 30.Rf7+ Kh8 31.Bg7+ Kh7 32.Rxd7 e2 33.Bxe5#** A great game by DarkCapableCharm! **1-0**

(15) Filtercometj (1326) - MagicJoshua (1736)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 The players are following a complicated variation of the Sicilian, which Magnus has also played. Now 8. Ne4! is the normal move to leave Black's pawn structure insecure. White now exchanges knights and solidifies the black center. **7...Nd5 8.Nxd5?! cxd5 9.Be2 Qc7 10.Bf4 Bb4+ 11.c3 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Bd3 a5 14.Qh5 g6 15.Qh3 Ba6!** This is a fine move to trade off the bishop on c8, which was not doing much, for the good white bishop on d3. **16.Bxa6 Rxa6 17.Qd3 Rfa8 18.Rfe1 Rb6 19.g3?** Black's position is more comfortable, but this just gives away an impotant pawn. [19.b3 holds things up on the queenside.] **19...Rxb2 20.Bc1 Rb7 21.a4 Rb3 22.Bf4?** giving away a second pawn is too much in this postion. **22...Rxc3 23.Qb5 Rb8 24.Qe2 Bb4 25.Rac1 Rc4! 26.Rxc4 dxc4 27.Rc1 c3 28.Rc2 Ba3 29.Bd2** Diagram

29...cxd2! 30.Rxc7 Rb1+! 31.Kg2 d1Q Black has made a fine combination to be a bishop and pawn ahead. **32.Rc8+ Kg7 33.Qf3?!** The postion is lost anyway. **33...Qf1# 0-1**

Online Chess Classes for Kids

To see available classes and register:
https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes

Day	Time	Coach	Link
Monday	4-5PM	Coach Colin	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinMonday45PM
Tuesday	2-3PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays23PM
Tuesday	3:15-4:15PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays315415PM
Wednesday	3-4PM	Coach Colin	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinWednesdays34PM
Friday	1-2PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays12PM
Friday	2:15-3:15PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays215315PM

Class Fee: $25 for single class, $45 for two classes (10% off), $80 for 4 classes (20% off)
More details: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#OnlineScholastic

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

5/23 Saturday - Saturday Afternoon Matinee
Format: 3SS G/30+0
Join from 2PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1232957
Starts at 3PM

Saturday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1232956
Start: 9PM

5/24 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 7PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1232962
Start: 8PM

5/25 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=205752
Start: 6:30PM

5/26 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1236084
Start: 6:30PM

5/27 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1236097
Start at 4PM

Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1236087
Starts 9PM.

5/28 Thursday - Mechanics' Fischer Random tournament
Format: 5SS G/5 +2
Join from 5:30 - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1236652
Start: 6:30PM

Thursday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1236655
Starts 9PM.

5/29 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1. You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

FM Paul Whitehead

I am chessmonster666.

I like playing blitz online – it's great for pattern-recognition, and for keeping myself from getting rusty. I am no longer a serious competitive player, but I am competitive when playing casually – if that makes any sense. I feel more relaxed playing anonymously, there's nothing at stake, and I can really let the moves fly out without being too hard on myself.

Yet recently I've found myself conscripted, kicking and screaming, into the "official" online chess world. The Mechanics' Institute needed a few good men for a couple of matches recently, and I heeded the call. I guess it is payback time: now my games, in all their horror, are out there to be ruthlessly torn apart, just as I have been picking apart everyone else's during our broadcasts.

But a funny thing happened in what's left of my brain: I found myself enjoying the challenge, and while my play hasn't been perfect, it hasn't been too bad either.

So here are a few games, the first from a blitz tournament last month, the next two from the match with the White Knights Chess Team. And if you're online and see chessmonster666 on your travels – stop and say hello before your flag falls.

This game has an amusing finish.

championps (1863) - chessmonster666 (2122)

Live Chess (Chess.com) A04 2020.04.10

1.Nf3 d6 2.c4 e5 3.Nc3 f5 4.e4 Nf6 5.exf5 Bxf5 6.d4 e4 7.Nd2 c6 8.Qe2 d5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.f3 Nc6 11.fxe4 Nxd4 12.Qd1 dxe4 13.Nb5 e3 14.Nxd4 Qxd4 15.Nf3 Bb4+ 16.Ke2 Qc
0-1

Final position after 17…Ng4#.

A hard-fought game. Kudos to my opponent for his fighting spirit. Black should have exchanged queens on the 37th move with a dynamically equal position.

1e41-O (2264) - chessmonster666 (2103)

Live Chess (Chess.com) E70 2020.05.17

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3 O-O 6.Nge2 Nc6 7.O-
O Nd7 8.Be3 e5 9.d5 Nd4 10.f3 c5 11.Qd2 a6 12.Rae1 Rb8 13.a4 Qa5 14.Ng3 Qb4 15.Rb1 Nb3 16.Qd1 Nd4 17.Qd2 Nb3 18.Qd1 Nd4 19.Nge2 f5 20.exf5 gxf5 21.b3 Nf6 22.Bd2

1-0

Final position after 73.Kb7.

Revenge is sweet. After the game my opponent texted that he had no idea where he went wrong, and I congratulated him on his fine win in our first game. Texting has taken the place of a handshake in this virtual world!

chessmonster666 (2282) - 1e41-O (2240)

Live Chess (Chess.com) B52 2020.05.17

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.a4 Nf6 5.d3 g6 6.O-O Bg7 7.Re1 O-O 8.Nbd2 a6 9.Bxd7 Nfxd7 10.Nc4 Nc6 11.a5 b5 12.axb6 e.p. Nxb6 13.Nfd2 Nxc4 14.Nxc4 Qc7 15.c3 Rfb8 16.Bf4 Ne5 17.Bxe5 Bxe5 18.Ra2 e6 19.Qf3 Bg7 20.Rea1 Qc6 21.h4 h5 22.g3 d5 23.exd5 exd5 24.Ne3 Rd8 25.c4 Rd6 26.Nxd

1-0

Final Position after 38.Rb7.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Steinitz Online Memorial

The Chess world continues to live online with entertaining events. Our Mechanics' Institute chess club is very active in cyberspace now, but the rest of the world is too. This week's most interesting international tournament was the Steinitz Memorial. Played online, this would be a world Steinitz would not have dreamed of in the nineteenth century. The event was a rapid play, with a fairly mixed field. That field did include the World Champion who made the event more interesting, and Magnus duly won the tournament. He

never seems to fail to win anymore – quite a historical record.

Among the participants was our young American Jeffery Xiong, who had a memorable battle with Magnus. We present this game so the reader can place him/herself in Jeffery's shoes and imagine the thrill of getting to play the champ.

In homage to Steinitz, we include one of his wonderful games. The world has changed drastically since his time, but the world of the chess board is still mostly the same. It has been intriguing enough to captivate us for centuries.

(1) Xiong,Jeffery - Carlsen,Magnus [B07]
17.05.2020

We include this game as it is great excitement for our young American player Jeffery Xiong to get a chance to play against the great World Champion. **1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 d6 3.e4 Nf6 4.Bd3 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c3** A good solid system against the Pirc Defense. **6...c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qe2 Nc6 9.h3 Qc7 10.Re1 b6 11.Na3 Nd7 12.Nc4 Bb7 13.Bg5** This is fine, but Jeffery may have considered 13. a4 just to hold Black on the queenside. **13...b5 14.Ne3 c4 15.Bc2 e6 16.Ng4 h5 17.Ngh2** The knight is a little out of play on h2. 17. Ne3 was a bit better. **17...b4! 18.Qxc4 bxc3 19.bxc3 Rac8 20.Rab1 Nce5?!** [20...Na5 21.Qxc7 Rxc7 wins the c-pawn back with good play.] **21.Qxc7 Rxc7 22.Be7 Rfc8 23.Bd6 Rxc3 24.Rxb7 Rxc2 25.Rxa7 Rc1** Black has a little play for the pawn, but White is clearly for choice in this endgame. **26.Ba3 Rxe1+ 27.Nxe1 Nc5** [More activity would have been gained by hopping with the knights - 27...Nf6! 28.f3 Nc4 29.Kf1 Ne8 30.Ke2 Nc7 31.Bb4 Nb5] **28.Bxc5 Rxc5 29.Ra8+ Kh7 30.Nhf3 Rc1 31.Kh2 Bf6 32.g3 Nxf3+ 33.Nxf3 Rc2 34.Kg2** Diagram

So we have an endgame where young Jeffery is just a pawn up against the champ. Can he win it? **34...Kg7 35.Ra7 g5?! 36.e5! Bd8 37.Rd7?!** [37.Nd4! threatens the rook and Nxe6+ so Magnus would have been forced to trade the rooks - 37...Rc7 38.Rxc7 Bxc7 39.a4! would good winning chances] **37...Bb6 38.Rd2 Rc5 39.Nxg5 Rxe5 40.h4 Kg6 41.Rd7 f6?!** [41...Ra5 42.Rxf7 Rxa2 gets all the pawns on one side which is better for the defense.] **42.Nh3! Ra5 43.Nf4+ Kf5 44.Rd2 Bc7 45.Nxh5 Kg6** Now Jeffery is two pawns up, but the white knight is stuck on the side for now. **46.g4 f5 47.f3 fxg4 48.fxg4 Ra4 49.Kf3 Ra3+** Diagram

50.Ke2?! [50.Ke4! Ra4+ 51.Rd4 Rxa2 52.Nf4+ would be good winning chances as Black would be lost if he takes the knight and enters the rook ending against White's two passers.] **50...Ra4 51.Rd7?!** [51.Kf3 Ra3+ 52.Ke4!] **51...Rxg4! 52.Rxc7 Kxh5** Now Magnus is just a tad worse and draws easily. **53.Kd3 Ra4 54.Rc2 e5 55.Re2 Ra5 56.Kc4 Kxh4 57.Kb4 Rd5 58.Kc4 Ra5 59.Kb4 Ra8 60.a4 Re8 61.a5 e4 62.a6 Kg3 63.Kc5 Kf3 64.Ra2 e3 65.a7 e2 66.Ra1 Ra8 67.Kb6 Kf2 68.Kb7 Rxa7+ 69.Kxa7 e1Q 70.Rxe1 Kxe1** Not bad Jeffery! A draw, and a probably winning endgame against the great Magnus. **1/2-1/2**

(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Mamedyarov,Shakhiyar [D02]
Steinitz Memorial Online, 19.05.2020

Magnus did win the tournament (as usual). Some games he was a bit off and some games he was his usual brilliant self. **1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3** The London System. Magnus has used this a lot lately. **4...Bd6 5.Nbd2 0-0** [5...Bxf4 6.exf4 is possible but it gives White a firm grip on the e5 square.] **6.c3 b6 7.Ne5 c5 8.Bd3 Bb7** Diagram

9.h4!? Usually White plays 9. h3 in the London system. Magnus changes up White's strategy using the h-pawn to charge up and disrupt Black's kingside. Mamedyarov would have been surprised by this. **9...Nc6 10.Qf3 Rc8 11.h5** The opening strategy is working. White's has a solid center and play on the kingside. **11...h6?!** Better to have left this pawn back. It is now a target. **12.Qg3! Ne8** [12...Kh8? 13.Nxf7+ Rxf7 14.Bxd6] **13.Bxh6 cxd4** Diagram

14.Bxg7! Nxg7 15.h6 Qf6 [15...Bxe5 runs into 16.Bh7+! Kh8 17.hxg7+ Bxg7 18.Bd3+ Kg8 19.Rh8+! Kxh8 20.Qh3+ Kg8 21.Qh7#] **16.hxg7 Qxg7 17.Bh7+ Kh8** Diagram

18.Nxf7+! Rxf7 19.Bg6+ Kg8 20.Bxf7+ Kxf7 21.Qxd6 After all the complications White has ended up the exchange ahead. Shakh tries for complications now. **21...dxc3 22.bxc3 Ne5 23.0-0** [23.Rh4!] **23...d4! 24.f3?!** [24.e4! dxc3 25.f4!] **24...dxe3 25.Ne4 e2?!** [25...Bd5 26.Rae1 Kg8 Would make it tough for White to progress.] **26.Rf2! Kg8?** [26...Rf8 27.Qc7+ Kg8 28.Qxg7+ Kxg7 29.Rxe2 Would win anyway, but the game move is hopeless.] **27.Qxe6+ Kh8 28.Qh3+ Kg8 29.Rxe2 Rf8 30.Qe6+ Kh8 31.Ng5 Nxf3+ 32.Nxf3 Bxf3 33.Rf2 Qxc3 34.Raf1** Black resigns as he loses the bishop due to the pin on the f-file. A real slugfast!**1-0**

(3) Steinitz,Wilhelm - Lasker,Emanuel [C65]
World Championship, 1894

The tournament was the Steinitz Memorial, so we thought it appropriate to include a game from the old world champion. Steinitz lost his title to Emanuel Lasker in 1894 as he was ageing and young Lasker was on the rise. This game from the match shows however that Steinitz was still a brilliant player. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3** This is the way modern players continue in the Ruy Lopez. Opening popularity runs in cycles. **4...d6 5.c3 Bd7 6.Ba4 g6 7.Nbd2 Bg7 8.Nc4 0-0 9.Ne3 Ne7 10.Bb3 c6 11.h4!?** An interesting, aggressive advance on the kingside. Similar to Magnus's h4 of the previous game played 126 years later! **11...Qc7 12.Ng5 d5 13.f3 Rad8 14.g4 dxe4?!** [14...d4 15.cxd4 exd4 16.Ng2 h6 may be better] **15.fxe4 h6** Diagram

16.Qf3! Not backing down! Steinitz take kingside squares and is ready to sacrifice the knight. **16...Be8** [16...hxg5 17.hxg5 Nh7 18.Nf5! would be a crushing attack.] **17.Bc2 Nd7 18.Nh3 Nc5 19.Nf2 b5 20.g5 h5** Diagram

21.Nf5! gxf5 22.exf5 f6 [22...Bh8!?] **23.g6 Nxg6** Black must give the piece back to avoid mate. **24.fxg6 Bxg6 25.Rg1 e4?** [25...Bxd3 26.Bh6 Rf7 27.Bxd3 Rxd3 28.Nxd3 e4 is slightly better for White but Black is still in the game.] **26.dxe4 Kh7?!** Diagram

[26...Be8 27.Be3 Qe5 28.Rd1 leaves White in control.] **27.Rxg6! Kxg6 28.Qf5+ Kf7 29.Qxh5+ Kg8** With bishop, knight and pawn for the rook White is winning. **30.Qxc5 Qe5 31.Be3 a6 32.a4 Rfe8 33.axb5 axb5 34.Qxe5 Rxe5 35.Ra6 Rc8 36.Ng4 Re7 37.Bc5 Ree8 38.Ne3! Bf8 39.Bd4 Kf7 40.h5 Be7 41.Bb3+ Kf8 42.Nf5 1-0**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA

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	Library	Chess	Building
Mon	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Tue	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Wed	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Thu	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Fri	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Sat	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun	Closed	Closed	Closed

Upcoming Events

Various Chess Classes
Monday, November 30, 2020 - 4:00pm to 5:30pm
The Money Plot: A History of Currency's Power to Enchant, Control, and Manipulate, on Zoom
Wednesday, December 02, 2020 - 5:30pm
Write If You Dare!
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 11:00am
Bi-Annual Members' Meeting on Zoom
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 5:30pm

Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

[parking map]

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/920

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Newsletter #920

May 30, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- San Francisco Scholastic Championship
- Northern California Online Invitational
- Chess.com Club's League
- 2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid and Blitz Championship Online
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- FM Paul Whitehead's Online Class
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship Online Draws 288 Players! Shawnak Shivakumar Wins 2020 SF Scholastic Championship On TieBreaks

The 2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship was held online this year with great success. We were concerned turnout might wane a bit, but instead we saw a record turnout for this free scholastic championship event, as 288 players participated, up from the 250 we had the previous year at Golden Gate Park.

This tournament is special in that it has always been free and open to anyone. The idea is to remove barriers to participation in a true celebration of chess. We had sections divided by grade level that were non-rated, so no USCF membership was necessary. Aside from the non-rated grade level section, we had two USCF online rated championship sections, one for players under 1000 USCF and an open championship section. We had a great distribution of players across all sections, and we had 209 players play the ChessKid platform and 79 players play the open championship section on Chess.com.

Adding to the excitement of this event was the star-studded guests we had on the broadcast, which included GM Susan Polgar, GM Sam Shankland, GM Patrick Wolff, Coach Jay Stallings, WIM's Ivette Garcia Morales and Alejandra Guerrero, and Adisa Banjoko. It was an honor for us to have so many great people come on and support our event.

As for the chess, this year's online event brought out some of the best scholastic players in the area. Shawnak Shivakumar (2098) scored a perfect 5/5 and won the tiebreaker over Rudransh Pathak, Brian Fong, and Defne Elci. Congratulations to all these co-champions.

Shawnak Shivakumar at Mechanics'

The championship was decided in a final round game between Shivakumar and Rohan Rajaram (1866). This matchup of talented young players was a fitting deciding match for the title. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(11) Shawnak Shivakumar (alphaunlimited) (1894) - Rohan Rajaram (ninjatrick) (1981) [A25]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.05.2020

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.e4 The Botvinnik pawn structure in this English Opening. This is a potent system for White. **5...d6 6.Nge2 f5 7.d3 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4** [9.Rb1 planing pawn to b4 would be the usual plan for White] **9...exf4 10.exf5 Bxf5** [10...fxg3 11.Nxg3] **11.Bxf4 Qd7 12.Qb3!?** Ready to start tactics. White doesn't defend d3 and instead attacks b7. **12...Bxd3** [12...Bh3 would be a safe way to play as Black will always have some chances against the white king with the light-squared bishops exchanged.] **13.Qxb7 Ne7 14.b3! Nh5 15.Rad1 Nxf4 16.Rxf4 Bf5?!** [16...Bxe2 17.Nxe2 Bh6 would keep chances level.] **17.c5! Qe6 18.Qxc7 Rac8 19.Qxd6 Qe3+ 20.Kh1 Qxc5** [20...Bxc3 21.Nxc3 Qxc3 22.Qxe7] **21.Qxc5 Rxc5 22.Rf3?!** White is a pawn ahead but is getting a little tangled up. [22.Nd5 Nxd5 23.Bxd5+ Kh8 24.b4 was better] **22...Rfc8 23.Re3 Re5 24.Rxe5 Bxe5 25.Rc1 Kg7 26.Be4 Bxc3?** The black bishops are powerful and this exchange takes the pressure off White. [26...Bh3 would keep him tied up] **27.Bxf5! gxf5 28.Rxc3 Rxc3 29.Nxc3** Now White is a clear pawn ahead in a knight ending. so has good winning chances. **29...Kf6 30.Kg2 Ke5 31.Kf3 Nc6 32.Ke3 a6 33.Ne2 Nb4 34.a4 Nd5+ 35.Kd3 Nf6 36.Kc4 Ng4** Diagram

37.Kc5! White finds the winning plan - use the king to win the a-pawn and run the queenside pawns. **37...a5 38.Kb5 Nxh2 39.Kxa5 Ng4 40.b4 Kd5 41.Kb5 Ne5 42.a5** Now it's pretty easy. **42...Kd6 43.Kb6 Nc6 44.b5 Nb8 45.a6 Nd7+ 46.Kb7 Nc5+ 47.Kc8 Na4 48.a7 Nb6+ 49.Kb7 Kc5 50.Nc3! h6 51.Na4+ Nxa4 52.a8Q Kxb5 53.Qe8+ Kb4 54.Qf8+ Kb5 55.Qxf5+ Nc5+ 56.Kc7 Kc4 57.Qf4+ Kd3 58.Qxh6 Ke4 59.g4 Nd3 60.g5 Nf4 61.g6 Kf5 62.g7 Ne6+ 63.Kd6 Nxg7 64.Qxg7 Kf4 65.Qe7 Kf3 66.Qe5 Kf2 67.Qe4 Kg1 68.Qf3 Kh2 69.Qg4 Kh1 70.Ke5 Kh2 71.Ke4 Kh1 72.Kf3 Kh2 73.Qg2# 1-0**

(10) UWillResignYesUWill (1691) - mselvaa (1418) [C62]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.05.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 The Old Steinitz Variation of the Ruy Lopez, played by the world champion at the end of the 19th century. **4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bd7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.h3 0-0 9.Be3 a6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bc4 Be6 12.Qd3 Bxc4?!** The game has been fine opening play by both players so far. Black's last move gives up some squares. Instead [12...d5 would be about equal.] **13.Qxc4 d5?!** [13...c5] **14.Qxc6!** Courageously taking the pawn and calculating that nothing bad happens. It's good to trust yourself. **14...d4?!** This was the idea, but it doesn't work. 14...dxe4 would only be a pawn down. **15.Rad1! Qc8** There was no salvation with any other move. Black is losing a second pawn and losing the battle for central squares. **16.Bxd4 Rd8 17.e5! Nh5 18.Nd5 Bg5 19.Nxc7 Rb8 20.e6! Bf4** [20...fxe6 21.Qxe6+ Qxe6 22.Nxe6 Rd5 23.c4 wins more material] **21.exf7+ Kh8?!** Diagram

22.Qe8+ Simplifying into a completely winning endgame. **22...Rxe8 23.fxe8Q+ Qxe8 24.Nxe8 Rxe8 25.Rfe1 Rc8 26.Bc3 Rc6?!** The position was hopeless anyway. **27.Re8# 1-0**

In the K-12 under 1000 section, StandingWriter took sole first with a perfect 5/5. Here is a fine win en route to the championship.

(9) StandingWriter (1592) - TastyCelery (1451)

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1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bb4 This move is alright, but not as solid as the usual 3...Nf6 **4.Nd5 Ba5 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bb5** [6.Qa4 would be a good alternative] **6...Nxe4 7.Qe2 Nf6?** Diagram

It was ok to grab the e-pawn but the black knight needed to retreat to d6 for a tactical reason. **8.Nxf6+?** [8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.Qxe5+ Be6 10.Nxf6+ Qxf6 11.Qxa5 would win a piece.] **8...Qxf6 9.Bxc6 dxc6 10.Qxe5+ Qxe5+ 11.Nxe5** We are back to even material in the endgame. Black is a bit better because of the bishop pair. **11...0-0 12.0-0 Re8 13.Nf3 b6? 14.d4?** [14.b4! traps the bishop **14...Ba6 15.Rd1?!** [15.b4!] **15...Be2! 16.Rd2 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Re1+ 18.Kg2 b5 19.a4 b4 20.cxb4 Bxb4 21.Rc2 h5?!** [21...Re6 guards the c-pawn] **22.Rxc6 Bd2?!** [22...Bd6] **23.Rxc7! Rb8 24.Rc2** With two pawns up White is clearly better even though the rook on a1 and the bishop are not developed. **24...Bg5 25.f4 Bh6** [25...Bf6! is more active] **26.Ra3!** This move is terrific. It gets out of the pin on the bishop and develops the rook. White has a big advantage now. **26...Rd8 27.Rd3 f6 28.Bd2 Rd1 29.Rc1 Rxc1 30.Bxc1 Rc8 31.Be3 Rc2 32.Rd2 Rxd2?!** When you are down material try to avoid trades. Now White is two pawns up with just bishops and kings. That is an easy win. **33.Bxd2 Kf7 34.Kf3 Ke6 35.Ke4 f5+ 36.Kd3 Kd5 37.b4 g6 38.b5 Bf8! 39.Ba5 Bd6 40.Ke3 Kc4** good defense - activating the king. **41.b6! a6** [41...axb6 42.Bxb6 Bb8 43.a5 Kb5 44.h3 Bd6 45.d5 Bb8 46.Kd4 Bxf4 47.Bc5 Kxa5 48.d6 Kb5 49.Kd5 would be winning for White, but this might be hard to find.] **42.f3 Kb3 43.b7 Kxa4 44.Bd8 Kb5 45.Bf6 Kb6 46.Be5! Bc7** [More complicated would be 46...Bxe5 47.fxe5 Kxb7 48.Kf4 Kc6 *(48...a5 49.e6 Kc7 50.Kg5 a4 51.e7 Kd7 52.Kf6 Ke8 53.Ke6 a3 54.d5 a2 55.d6 a1Q 56.d7#)*] **47.b8Q+ Bxb8 48.Bxb8** The ending with an extra bishop is no problem to win. **48...a5 49.Bd6 a4 50.d5 Kb5 51.Kd4 Kb6 52.Ke5 Kb7 53.Ke6 Kc8 54.Kf6 Kd7 55.Ba3 g5 56.fxg5 h4 57.g6 f4 58.g7 h3 59.g8Q Kc7 60.d6+ Kb6 61.d7 Kb5 62.d8R Kc6 63.Qe6+ Kc7 64.Rd7+ Kc8 65.Qe8# 1-0**

In the Grade 6-12 non-rated section, DarkChiefLand took sole forst with 4.5/5.

(8) CSF-Alex (1569) - DarkChiefLand (1676)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.Nxe5 Nxe5 [4...Qg5 or; 4...Qe7 would be tricky ways to win the pawn back and try to cause trouble.] **5.d4** The fork trick. White wins the piece back for a pawn in good position. **5...c6 6.Ba4** [6.Be2!] **6...b5?!** [6...Qa5+ 7.c3 Bb6 8.dxe5 Qxe5 9.0-0 Nf6 is equal] **7.Bb3 Bxd4 8.Qxd4 d6 9.Bf4?!** [9.f4! Qh4+ 10.Qf2 Qxf2+ 11.Kxf2 is an edge in the endgame as White has a little more control of the central squares] **9...Qf6?!** [9...c5! 10.Qc3 *(10.Qd5 Be6)* 10...c4 11.Bxe5 dxe5 12.Qxe5+ Kf8 13.Qxb5 cxb3 14.axb3 Nf6 gives Black an extra bishop for 3 pawns.] **10.Bxe5?!** [10.Qd2!] **10...Qxe5 11.Qxe5+ dxe5 12.a4!** This pawn lever activates White on the queenside. **12...Bd7 13.axb5 cxb5 14.Bd5 Rc8 15.c3 Rc7 16.Nd2 Nf6 17.Nf3 Nxd5 18.exd5 0-0** [18...f6!] **19.0-0** [In the endgame the king can be useful, so 19.Ke2 would be a little better] **19...Re8 20.Rfe1 f6 21.Ra6 Bc8! 22.Ra5?!** The rook is out of play here after Black's next move. The game would be equal after [22.Rd6] **22...a6 23.Rd1 Rd8** The white d-pawn is in trouble. **24.Ne1 Rcd7 25.c4 bxc4 26.Rc5 Bb7 27.Rxc4 Rxd5** Black has won a pawn and the bishop is slightly better than the white knight in this endgame. **28.Rdc1 Rd1 29.Kf1** Diagram

29...Bd5! 30.Rc7 Rxc1 31.Rxc1 Kf7 32.Ra1 Ra8 33.Nc2 a5 34.Ne3 Bb3 35.Rc1 a4 36.Rc7+ Kg6 37.h4 h5 38.Ke2 Rb8 39.Ra7 f5! 40.g3 [40.Ra6+ Kh7 41.Nxf5? Bc4+ wins the rook] **40...f4 41.gxf4 exf4 42.Ng2 Kf5?!** this loses the f-pawn. Black could keep a big edge with [42...Rb4] **43.Ra5+ Ke4 44.f3+ Kd4 45.Kf2?!** [45.Nxf4 Bc4+ 46.Kd1 is better for Black because of the active king, but White would have fair drawing chances.] **45...Bd1 46.Nxf4 Rxb2+ 47.Kg3 Kc3!** Black uses his king well in this ending. The black a-pawn gets support and becomes a terror. **48.Rc5+ Kb3 49.Nd3 Rd2 50.Nc1+?!** the white knight gets trapped now and the game is clearly lost. It was very difficult anyway after [50.Nf2 a3] **50...Kb2 51.Kf4 Bc2! 52.Ke3 Kxc1 53.Rxh5 a3 54.Ra5 Rd3+ 55.Ke2 Kb1 56.Rb5+ Rb3 57.Rg5 a2 58.Rg1+ Kb2** Excellent endgame play by DarkChiefLand, especially considering that CSF-Alex made few mistakes. **0-1**

In the 61-player Grade 3-5 section, Uramazing was amazing in scoring a perfect 5/5.

(7) Uramazing (1453) - PeskyPenguin_SVCA (1467)

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1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 The Exchange Ruy Lopez, often played by Bobby Fischer. Now Black needs to defend the e5 pawn and could do that in several ways, such as 5...f6 **5...Nf6?! 6.Nxe5 Bd6 7.d4** [even better is the retreat 7.Nf3 which just wins a clear center pawn as Black should not capture on e4 - 7...Nxe4? 8.Re1 f5 9.d3] **7...Bxe5 8.dxe5 Qxd1 9.Rxd1 Nxe4 10.f3 Nc5 11.Be3 Ne6 12.Nc3** This endgame is better for White because he has 4 pawns against 3 on the kingside and Black has doubled pawns on the queenside making it hard to use the pawn majority there. **12...0-0 13.f4 g6?!** [This causes a hole on f6. Better to play 13...Re8 and retreat the knight to f8] **14.g4 Ng7 15.h3 Be6 16.Ne4!** The knight can do a lot from this central square. **16...Rad8 17.b3 Bd5?!** Diagram

[17...b6! avoids material loss] **18.Nf6+ Kh8 19.Bc5!** White now wins the exchange. That combined with the kingside pawn majority makes the position clearly winning. **19...Bf3 20.Rf1! Bd5 21.Bxf8 Rxf8 22.c4 Bxc4?** This is giving up. Retreating with the bishop to e6 gives some hope in case White would go wrong. **23.bxc4 Rd8 24.Rad1 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Ne6** A rook ahead, White easily converts for the win. **26.f5 Nf4 27.Rd8+ Kg7 28.Kh2 Kh6 29.h4! g5 30.Ng8+ Kg7 31.f6+ Kg6 32.h5+ Nxh5 33.gxh5+ Kxh5 34.e6 b5 35.cxb5 cxb5 36.exf7 c5 37.f8Q c4 38.Qh6+ Kg4 39.Rd4+ Kf5 40.Ne7+ Ke5 41.Rd5+ Ke4 42.Qxg5 c3 43.Qe5+ Kf3 44.Rd3+ Kf2 45.Qg3+ Ke2 46.Rxc3 b4 47.Rc2+ Kd1 48.Qd3+ Ke1 49.Qe2#** An excellent game by Uramazing! Bobby Fischer would have been impressed. **1-0**

The K-2 section saw a tie for first with 5/5, but it was ConcernedOat who took first over InspiredSister on tiebreaks.

(6) ConcernedOat (1554) - kennethmex (1497)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.0-0 d6 5.c3 a6 6.Ba4 Nf6 7.Bc2?! White has played this Ruy Lopez well thus far and could get a nice edge out of the opening with the aggressive [7.d4 Ba7 8.dxe5 *(8.d5 b5)* 8...Nxe4 9.Qe2] **7...0-0 8.d4 exd4** [8...Ba7 keeps the e5 pawn working in the center.] **9.cxd4 Bb6 10.Bf4** [10.h3! is a helpful move which avoids the pin ...Bg4 and so holds the nice white center duo of d4 and e4] **10...h6 11.Qd2?!** [11.h3] **11...Nh7?!** Black could have gone on the offensive with [11...Bg4! threatening to take the knight on f3 and then the pawn on d4. Note that 12.Bxh6? gxh6 13.Qxh6 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Nh7 is very good for Black] **12.Nc3! Qf6?** Asking for trouble. 12...Bg4 was needed. **13.Nd5 Qe6?** This square is unfortunate as Black runs into a pawn fork the next move. The retreat 13...Qd8 was needed to avoid material loss. White would have a good edge, but wouldn't win anything right away. **14.Nxb6 cxb6 15.d5** From here on White takes advantage of every opportunity. **15...Qg6 16.dxc6 Bh3 17.Bg3!** Defending the threatened mate and attacking the bishop on h3. **17...Bg4 18.cxb7 Rab8 19.Nh4 Qe6 20.Bxd6 Rbd8 21.b8Q Rxb8 22.Bxb8 Rxb8 23.Qf4 Rf8 24.Bb3 Qd7 25.Ng6!** Diagram

Very nice! The knight jumps in from the rim to cause havoc. **25...Ra8 26.Ne5 Qc7 27.Bxf7+ Kh8 28.Ng6#! 1-0**

(5) DarkSkippingOcean (733) - InspiredSister (1173)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Nf6? [5...Qf6 is better, so that 6.Nxc6 Bxe3! is good. White would do better with 6. c3 Nge7.] **6.Nc3?** [6.Nxc6! attacks the queen and the black bishop on c5, so White would win a piece.] **6...Nxd4 7.Bxd4 Bxd4?!** This gets the white queen developed. 7...Qe7 gets the black queen out and defends the bishop. **8.Qxd4 0-0 9.Nd5?** [9.e5! Ne8 10.0-0-0 gives White great control of the board.] **9...Nxe4! 10.Qxe4?** [falling into the pin and losing the queen 10.0-0-0 still leaves White with good chances.] **10...Re8! 11.f3?!** [11.Qe2 Rxe2+ 12.Bxe2 leaves White some chances with rook and knight for the queen.] **11...Qh4+ 12.g3** Diagram

12...Rxe4+! 13.fxe4 Qxe4+ Black vacuums up the white pieces. **14.Be2?! Qxh1+ 15.Bf1 Qxd5 16.a4 d6 17.Ra3 Bg4 18.c3 Re8+ 19.Kf2 Qf3+ 20.Kg1 Re1 21.h3 Rxf1+ 22.Kh2 Qf2# 0-1**

This event went really well, with special thanks to Judit Sztaray, who organized this first-time virtual tournament. I also want to thank the broadcast crew of GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead. We are fortunate to have their talents and insights be a part of our commentary. Most of all, I want to thank the chess community for coming out and particpating and supporting this event, and for us to be able to continue this event for the scholastic chess community in San Francisco and Bay Area.

Results for sections can be found here:

Championship Section:

SwissSys Standings. tourney recreation: Online

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	TB-Sonneborn	Prize

1	SHAWNAK SHIVAKUMAR	15641965	2098	W42	W32	W26	W17	W6	5.0	15
2	RUDRANSH PATHAK	15361216	1921	W43	W9	W27	W8	X---	5.0	13
3	BRIAN FONG	16314805	1767	W12	W40	X---	W33	W18	5.0	11.5
4	DEFNE ELCI	17324673	1281	W53	X---	W35	X---	W31	5.0	7.5
5	ZACK ZHOU	16146661	1440	W57	L20	W30	W21	W24	4.0	11
6	ROHAN RAJARAM	15739716	1866	W48	W25	W37	W18	L1	4.0	10.5
7	PRANAV SATHISH	16464655	1776	L17	W38	W56	W25	W27	4.0	10.5
8	ABHINAV PENAGALAPATI	15467440	2017	W51	W13	W21	L2	X---	4.0	8.5
9	SWAGATHA SELVAM	16203181	1293	W71	L2	W64	W20	W23	4.0	8
10	IAN WIDJAJA	16010636	unr.	W73	W56	L18	W39	W17	4.0	7.5
11	RYAN TIONG	15990403	1790	X---	W65	D12	D15	W48	4.0	6.5
12	ADITHYA CHITTA	16695036	718	L3	W68	D11	W35	W16	3.5	9
13	RUSHIL DARSH YADAVALLI	16443601	1176	W63	L8	W52	W46	D14	3.5	6.75
14	ADAVYA SHARMA	16595703	1029	W74	L18	W47	W26	D13	3.5	6.75
15	JUSTIN LEUNG	16037737	1662	W69	L21	W28	D11	X---	3.5	6
16	KYLE YIFAN ZHENG	16281680	1305	W62	D35	X---	W36	L12	3.5	4.75
17	ARUNACHALAM KASI	16244965	1292	W7	W36	W20	L1	L10	3.0	9.5
18	YALI DANCIG PERLMAN	16280288	1235	W49	W14	W10	L6	L3	3.0	9.5
19	WCM ANIKA RAJARAM	15446678	1890	W52	W46	W24	U---	U---	3.0	7
20	JULIAN COLVILLE	16397710	1787	W64	W5	L17	L9	W54	3.0	7
21	KADEN YIKAI ZHENG	16281674	1508	W59	W15	L8	L5	W43	3.0	7
22	HAOFANG ZHU	16171382	1454	W31	L37	L40	W63	W33	3.0	7
23	EASON LI	17036260	902	U---	W55	W32	W41	L9	3.0	7
24	LUKE WIDJAJA	16010621	1257	W67	W28	L19	W37	L5	3.0	6.5
25	WINSTON LEUNG	16013470	1418	W65	L6	W42	L7	W34	3.0	6
26	ADRIEN CHENG	16318903	1294	W47	W45	L1	L14	W51	3.0	6
27	AUSTIN LI	16606238	1204	W61	W41	L2	W45	L7	3.0	5.5
28	CHARLENE KWOK	16470910	1124	W60	L24	L15	W52	W41	3.0	5.5
29	LUKE HONG	16894950	1346	L35	W71	U---	W47	W42	3.0	5
30	ETHAN SUN	16964125	931	D58	X---	L5	D60	W46	3.0	3.5
31	JAVIER SILVA III	16089208	1880	L22	W58	X---	W61	L4	3.0	3
32	RACHAEL TIONG	16019458	1624	W75	L1	L23	W64	W39	3.0	3
33	VEDANT AMEYA TALWALKAR	16408266	1532	X---	W66	W51	L3	L22	3.0	3
34	KIRILL NIKOLAEV	15971864	1064	W66	X---	L39	W53	L25	3.0	3
35	SANAT GUPTA	16396482	1224	W29	D16	L4	L12	W60	2.5	6.25
36	ANAGHA DHURJATI	17003536	1089	W38	L17	D43	L16	W44	2.5	5.5
37	DANIEL CAO	17081711	942	W68	W22	L6	L24	D38	2.5	5.25
38	JAKE CHI HANG LI	17144246	797	L36	L7	W57	W56	D37	2.5	5.25
39	GAVIN PU	16605660	1024	L46	W49	W34	L10	L32	2.0	5
40	GOGO DANCIG-PERLMAN	17151222	875	W55	L3	W22	U---	U---	2.0	5
41	ADAM TAI	16362865	963	W44	L27	W50	L23	L28	2.0	4
42	JUSTIN YEE	15167211	715	L1	W53	L25	W50	L29	2.0	4
43	ANDREW CHENG	15943457	1023	L2	W59	D36	D54	L21	2.0	3.75
44	GAVIN KATZ	15762048	1091	L41	L47	W65	W49	L36	2.0	3
45	KEVIN SUN	16898540	1039	W50	L26	W69	L27	U---	2.0	3
46	SAHIL SHIVAKUMAR	16379226	873	W39	L19	W63	L13	L30	2.0	3
47	ELLA GRACE KINNEY	16939048	unr.	L26	W44	L14	L29	W62	2.0	3
48	BRAD YEN	15957635	1089	L6	L63	W58	W62	L11	2.0	2.5
49	ANDREW BALLANTYNE	17079795	818	L18	L39	W68	L44	W59	2.0	2.5
50	EKAM DHOT	15754603	611	L45	W60	L41	L42	W65	2.0	2.5
51	JAYDEN WU	16636182	1380	L8	W62	L33	W66	L26	2.0	2
52	VIVEK GOORLA	16519828	1144	L19	W67	L13	L28	W72	2.0	2
53	EASHAN MAHAJAN	16803522	896	L4	L42	W71	L34	W64	2.0	2
54	STEPHEN ZHU	16412414	1331	U---	W75	D61	D43	L20	2.0	1.75
55	JARON LAI	16426304	942	L40	L23	L62	W73	W63	2.0	1.5
56	MAKSYM ZADAVYSVICHKO	17111597	928	W76	L10	L7	L38	W61	2.0	1.5
57	FABIAN GUO	17246318	unr.	L5	L64	L38	B---	W66	2.0	1
58	ALAN LUO	17093542	422	D30	L31	L48	L59	W67	1.5	2.5
59	WILLIAM FITZGERALD	17048414	549	L21	L43	D73	W58	L49	1.5	1.75
60	SOHAM CHATTERJEE	16314648	1098	L28	L50	W75	D30	L35	1.5	1.5
61	YUQIN ZHAO	16443732	894	L27	W76	D54	L31	L56	1.5	1
62	THOMAS GU	17005685	641	L16	L51	W55	L48	L47	1.0	2
63	ROWAN LAI	16941535	594	L13	W48	L46	L22	L55	1.0	2
64	CALEB LIU	17101700	508	L20	W57	L9	L32	L53	1.0	2
65	DAVID KUPERMAN	17140478	778	L25	L11	L44	W68	L50	1.0	1
66	HRISHIKESH BOLLINI	16890941	641	L34	L33	W67	L51	L57	1.0	1
67	RIBHAV RISHI VALLISHAYEE	15499101	522	L24	L52	L66	W71	L58	1.0	1
68	NEEV HITEN PATEL	16473402	572	L37	L12	L49	L65	W73	1.0	0.5
69	Vikrams76		unr.	L15	W73	L45	U---	U---	1.0	0.5

70	IMRAN CHAMPSI	16176854	1644	X---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0	0	
71	ANSHUL REDDY KOLLI	15089371	767	L9	L29	L53	L67	W75	1.0	0	
72	DHEERAJ TALLAPRAGADA	15733874	326	U---	U---	U---	W75	L52	1.0	0	
73	NATAN GIMELFARB	16757673	1049	L10	L69	D59	L55	L68	0.5	0.75	
74	TAURUS TONG	16321755	839	L14	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0	0	
75	RAGHAV SIVAKUMAR	16467310	638	L32	L54	L60	L72	L71	0.0	0	
76	KRISH DESAI	17216743	108	L56	L61	U---	U---	U---	0.0	0	

K-12 under 1000

https://www.chesskid.com/tournament/kindergarten---grade-12-san-franscisco-scholastic-championship-online-uscf-online-rated-32411/results (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chesskid.com/tournament/kindergarten---grade-12-san-franscisco-scholastic-championship-online-uscf-online-rated-32411/results)

Grade 6-12 non-rated

https://www.chesskid.com/tournament/grade-6---grade-12-san-franscisco-scholastic-championship-online-not-rated-32410/results (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chesskid.com/tournament/grade-6---grade-12-san-franscisco-scholastic-championship-online-not-rated-32410/results)

Grade 3-5 non-rated

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K-2 non-rated

https://www.chesskid.com/tournament/kindergarten---grade-2-san-franscisco-scholastic-championship-online-not-rated-32408/results (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chesskid.com/tournament/kindergarten---grade-2-san-franscisco-scholastic-championship-online-not-rated-32408/results)

To watch the broadcast, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF_-_MptQFc&t=12276s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF_-_MptQFc&t=12276s)

Mechanics' Institute To Organize Northern California Online Invitational Championship June 21

GM Sam Shankland headlines the Northern California Online Invitational

The best players in Northern California will come online with the Mechanics' Institute on Sunday June 21st to participate in a round robin rapid championship. The Northern California Online Invitational Championship will feature GM Sam Shankland, GM Zviad Izoria, and GM Steven Zierk. They will face the last three recipients of the Mechanics' Institute Neil Falconer Award, given to the top under-18 player in Northern California. They are IM Christopher Yoo, IM Andrew Hong, and IM Cameron Wheeler. The match will be G/15 +2 and will begin at 2PM PST. We will have a live broadcast with commentary, brought to us through the support of Mechanics' Institute Trustee FM Jim Eade. GM Sam Shankland and GM Steven Zierk are also past recipients of this award.

Stay tuned for more details from this exciting upcoming event!

Mechanics' Institute Draws With Southern Arizona Chess Association/Eastside Chess Club 13-13

The Mechanics' Institute played its first match in the Chess.com Club's League, and we had to make a stunning comeback in winning our final three games to draw our match against the Southern Arizona Chess Association/Eastside Chess Club 13-13. We are looking to come back strong this week with a win against Toronto Kaiqi Chess Club. The match will be on Saturday morning 10am PST, registration beginning at 9am here: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=12204 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=12204). Match is open to any member of our online chess club, but the number of players is limited to the number of players each side brings, so play is not guaranteed. There must be a minimum of 10 players. Go Mechanics'!

2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid and Blitz Championship Will Be Held This Weekend, May 30 - 31st!

Join us for Speed Weekend! The Mechanics' Institute Rapid and Blitz Championship will have a strong field for our first cash prize event. Confirmed registrants include GM Elshan Moradiabadi, GM Alexandr Lenderman, GM James Tarjan, GM Gadir Guseniov, IM Elliott Winslow, FM Josiah Stearman, and many more! Don't miss out on the thrill and action rapid and blitz, with live broadcast and commentary on our Twitch channel here: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess). **Read below for all the details!**

WGM Carla Heredia plays WFM Mugi Tsegmed at the 2019 MI Rapid Championship

2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid & Blitz Online Championship

Blitz - Saturday, May 30th -5pm PST
Rapid - Sunday, May 31st -3pm PST
Prize fund: $1600 over the weekend
USCF Online rated event
Play for the fun, play for the challenge, play to be a Mechanics' Rapid and Blitz Champion!

Rapid Championship: Format: One open section, Time Control: 6SS G/15+2inc
Prize fund: $800 total prize fund b/50 paid entries: 1st Place: $250, 2nd Place: $200, 3rd Place: $100, u2000: $100, u1800: $75, u1600: $75

Blitz Championship Format: One open section Time Control: 12SS G/3+2inc
Prize fund: $800 total prize fund b/50 paid entries: 1st Place: $250, 2nd Place: $200, 3rd Place: $100, u2000: $100, u1800: $75, u1600: $75

* Class prize are based on OTB standard USCF rating. Unrated (OTB, chess.com) players are not eligible for class prizes. Organizers reserve the right to determine class prize eligibility based on OTB and online activity in certain cases.

USCF Online Rated - Tournament will affect both chess.com and USCF online ratings. Tournaments will be submitted to US chess for rating 4-7 days after the tournament to allow time for fair play screening.

Start time: Blitz 5/30 -5PM PST. Rapid 5/31 -3PM PST

- First round is paired by chess.com at the start time. Players MUST be logged in and in live chess or they will not be paired.
- Consecutive rounds are paired as soon as all games are finished in previous rounds.
- No bye requests are possible.
- Late joins are okay, they will be added by the system with 0 point for each missed round.

Registration Fee: $20 for MI members, $25 for non-members, 10% discount if registering for both tournaments, GM's free, first 10 IM's free by 5/27.

Rules: Standard USCF rules apply. Pairings are based on chess.com rapid/blitz rating.

- Mouse slips count, no takebacks.
- No rejoin: once a player withdraws/withdrawn from the tournament, no rejoin is possible.
- If a player is not logged in to live chess when pairings occur, the system will assign a 0-point bye for that round.
- Section prizes will be awarded based on USCF standard rating.

Fair play screening: All games will be screened by both Chess.com and Dr. Ken Regan.
Prize distributions and rating submission will not take place until AFTER all games have been screened.

How to join?
1. Register online via jumbula: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/2020MechanicsInstituteRapidBlitzOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/2020MechanicsInstituteRapidBlitzOnline)
2. Join the specific Mechanics' club on Chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated)
Note that only those, who registered at least for one tournament through jumbula, and provided their full name, chess.com user ID (handle) and their USCF ID will be accepted to the club. Please, allow us time for this process to take place, 24 hours at least a day ahead of the tournament, and min 2 hours on the same day of the tournament. Tentative registration close time is 1PM PST on 5/30 and 5/31, respectively.
3. Join the tournament an hour prior to the start (2PM PST).

For more information and questions, email: chessroom@milibrary.org

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

This week's Tuesday Night Online brought incredible thrills and excitement, and for some players, for all the wrong reasons. One of the beautiful things about chess is the high drama and the thrills that come from incredible comebacks, seeing perseverance through adversity, and players winning games against all odds. It is exciting to see chess play out in these moments, and we got a handful of exciting moments on Tuesday. For those that lost won positions, it is a lesson in making sure to have the patience and skill to finish off games. For those who came back, it is a lesson for all of us that persistence can, at times, produce entertaining and memorable comebacks. We will share some of those games with our readers.

As for the TNO, we also saw a new winner emerge, as the undefeated run of IM Rost Tsodikov came to an end in a thrilling final round game. Nathan Fong, a UC Berkeley student (Go Bears! and regular in our online events won his first TNO with a perfect 5/5 after a final round victory over Tsodikov. Annnotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(4) Nathan Fong (nathanf314) (1898) - IM Rost Tsodikov (jasonRBT) (2101) [C00]

Live Chess Chess.com, 26.05.2020

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 a6?! White has played the innocuous Exchange Variation against the French. There is little danger, but this is a slow move that doesn't help development. On the plus side it gets to unknown territory. **5.Bd3 Bd6 6.0-0 Ne7 7.Re1 0-0 8.Bg5?!** [8.c4 would contest central squares.] **8...f6 9.Bh4 Nf5 10.Bg3 Nxg3 11.hxg3** The game is now about even again. **11...Nc6 12.c3 Ne7 13.Nbd2 c6 14.Qc2 g6 15.Re2 Rf7 16.Rae1 Qf8 17.c4 b5!?** [17...Bd7 would get the rest of the black pieces out and prepare a later ...Re8 to contest the e-file.] **18.c5** [18.cxd5 cxd5 19.Nb3 may be more promising as now the queenside gets locked up.] **18...Bc7 19.b3 Bg4 20.Re3 Bd7 21.a3 a5 22.R1e2?! a4 23.b4 Nf5! 24.Bxf5 Bxf5** The bishop pair gives Black a small edge. **25.Qc1 Bd7 26.Qe1 g5 27.Nf1 h5 28.N3d2 Rh7?!** Black's advantage is the bishop pair. White is tripled on the e-file but cannot do much with that if black is vigilant. The rook on h7 looks to attack, but extra defense with ...Rd8 first is safer. **29.Nf3 h4 30.gxh4** [30.Re7! Rxe7 31.Rxe7 Re8 32.Rxe8 Qxe8 33.Qxe8+ Bxe8 34.gxh4 gives White the edge.] **30...g4 31.N3h2 f5 32.g3 f4?!** Diagram

33.Re7! The invation takes over the initiative. Instead of attacking Black must defend a pawn down. **33...Rxe7?!** [33...Rf7 holds on better] **34.Rxe7 Re8 35.Rxe8 Bxe8 36.Nxg4 Bd7 37.Ne5** two pawns behind is too much for Black **37...Qe7 38.Nd2 fxg3 39.fxg3 Qg7 40.Ndf3 Be8 41.Kf2 Bh5 42.Qe3 Qf6 43.Qg5+** trading to the endgame takes away any hope of an attack with the black bishops. **43...Qxg5 44.hxg5 Be8 45.Ke3 Bd8 46.Kf4 Bh5 47.g4 Be8 48.Nh4 Kg7 49.Nf5+** domination **49...Kh7 50.Nd6 Bg6 51.Nxg6?** [51.Nxc6 is completely crushing] **51...Kxg6 52.Nf5 Bxg5+ 53.Ke5 Bc1** White is still winning though there is worry now as the black bishop creates some counterplay. **54.Ne7+ Kf7 55.Nxc6 Bxa3 56.Kxd5 Bb2 57.Na5!** This plan controls the dangerous black a-pawn. The rest is easy. **57...a3 58.Nb3 a2 59.Kc6 Bxd4 60.Kxb5 Ke7 61.Ka4 Kd7 62.Ka3 a1Q+ 63.Nxa1 Bxa1 64.Kb3 Bf6 65.Kc4 Be7 66.Kd5 Kc7 67.b5 Kd7** The three advanced pawns are too much for the black bishop and king. **68.c6+ Kc7 69.Ke6 Bh4 70.Kf5 Be7 71.g5 Bf8 72.g6 Kd6 73.Kf6 Bh6 74.g7 1-0**

While Fong's performance was impressive, and the win well deserved, it was great memorable comebacks that will make this week's ediiton of the TNO memorable. It started in the first round, where we thought we were watching Roham Rajaram (ninjatrick), a very talented 1900 level player, strike the finishing blow on Adam Mercado (A-Boy415). He was up 2 rooks in an endgame that looked routine, and Mercado was desparately checking his opponents king with his queen when lightning struck.

(3) Adam Mercado (A-boy415) (1599) -Rohan Rajaram (ninjatrick) (1948) [E32]

Live Chess Chess.com, 26.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Nf3 [Usually White plays 5.a3 to force the bishop to capture on c3 right away.] **5...c5 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 d5 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 cxd4 10.cxd4 dxc4** Black stands well as he has played logical developing moves or pawn moves to contest the center. **11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.e4 Nc6 13.e5?!** Diagram

13...Nxd4! This combination wins a pawn and positional pluses. **14.Qc3** [14.Nxd4? Qxe5+ loses more for White] **14...Nxf3+ 15.gxf3 Qe7 16.Rg1 Bd7 17.Qe3 Kh8 18.Bxc4 Bc6 19.0-0-0!** White is objectively lost yet plays for the most active possibilities. That at gives one practical chances. **19...Rac8 20.Kb2 Bxf3?** Diagram

[20...Rfd8 keeps control] **21.Rxg7!** A fine shot to even the chances. Suddenly the black king needs serious protection. **21...Qh4** [21...Kxg7? 22.Rg1+ Kh7 23.Bd3+] **22.Rd4 Qxd4+** forced **23.Qxd4 Kxg7** Black has two rooks and a pawn for the queen, but his open king compensates White for that. **24.Qf4 Bh5 25.Qf6+ Kh7 26.Bd3+ Bg6 27.Bxg6+ fxg6 28.Qe7+ Kh8 29.Qxe6 Rc6 30.Qe7 Rxf2+ 31.Kb3 Rf3+ 32.Kb4 Rb6+ 33.Kc5 Rf5 34.Kd4 Rf4+ 35.Ke3 Rf5 36.Qd8+ Kg7 37.Qd7+?!** [37.Qd4] **37...Rf7** Black is happy to get this rook back for the defense. **38.Qd4 Re6! 39.Ke4 Rfe7 40.Qxa7 Rxe5+** Now black should have all the winning chances with the two rooks and pawn. **41.Kd4 Re1 42.Qb6 Rd7+ 43.Kc3 Rc1+ 44.Kb2 Rc6 45.Qf2 Rcd6 46.Kb3 Rd2 47.Qg1 Rd1 48.Qc5 R1d2 49.Qe5+ Kh7 50.a4 Rf7 51.Qe4?! Rxh2** Now with two passed pawns Black should have a clear win. **52.Kb4 h5 53.Qd4 h4 54.Kb5 h3 55.Qh4+ Kg7 56.Qd4+ Rf6 57.Qd7+ Kh6 58.Qg4 g5 59.Qd4 Rhf2 60.Qd8 h2 61.Qh8+ Kg6 62.Qg8+ Kh5 63.Qh7+ Rh6 64.Qb1 Kg4** [64...Rb2+! 65.Qxb2 h1Q 66.Qe2+ Kh4 is one win] **65.Qe4+ Rf4 66.Qg2+ Kf5 67.Qd5+ Kg6 68.Qd6+ Rf6 69.Qd3+ Kg7 70.Qd7+ Rf7 71.Qd4+ Rhf6 72.Qd1 Rf1 73.Qd4+ Kg6 74.Qe4+ R1f5+** [74...R7f5+ 75.Kb6 h1Q] **75.Kb6 Rh7 76.Qe8+ Rff7 77.Qe4+ Kg7 78.Ka7!** White keeps fighting! **78...h1Q 79.Qe5+ Rf6 80.Qxg5+ Rg6 81.Qe7+ Kh6 82.Qf8+ Kg5 83.Qc5+ Kf6 84.Qd6+ Kf5 85.Qc5+ Ke4?!** [85...Ke6 86.Qb6+ Qc6] **86.Qc4+ Ke3 87.Qc3+ Ke2 88.Qc2+ Kf1 89.Qd3+ Kf2 90.Qc2+ Ke1 91.Qb1+ Kd2 92.Qb2+ Kd3 93.Qb3+ Kd4 94.Qb4+ Kd5 95.Qb5+ Kd6 96.Qd3+ Qd5??** losing two rooks with one move! [96...Ke5 is still winning] **97.Qxg6+ Kc5 98.Qxh7** now it should just be a draw **98...b6 99.Qc7+ Qc6 100.Qe5+ Qd5??** [100...Kb4] **101.Qxd5+ Kxd5 102.Kxb6** and so the white queen has taken all the black material. There is nothing left but the kings and one little white pawn, which unfortuately for Black can just march down to the queening square. **102...Kd6 103.a5 Kd5 104.a6 Kd6 105.a7 Ke6 106.a8Q Kf6 107.Qd5 Kg6 108.Qf3 Kh6 109.Qg2 Kh7 110.Kc6 Kh8 111.Kd6 Kh7 112.Ke6 Kh8 113.Kf7 Kh7 114.Qh2#** What a come back. **1-0**

Seeing the game itself does not give it justice. Watch it as we experienced it in the broadcast. Start at the 43:00 mark: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4_JtCZVNxM&t=90s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4_JtCZVNxM&t=90s)

Another game that caught our attention was a game between Abhinav Penagalapati and Cailen Melville. Cailen had built an amazing attack and had such a beautiful game, it seemed to us that he would cruise to a fine win against a talented player. Time pressure and the inability to find the finishing touches all creeped up, leading to an unraveling that was followed by our broadcast team.

(2) Cailen Melville (Mangonel) (1593) - Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) (2086) [D17]

Live Chess Chess.com, 26.05.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 [6.e3 is the most usual way to recapture the c-pawn.] **6...Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Nb6 8.Ne5 a5 9.e3 e6 10.g4!?** Aggressively taking space on the kingside. Black needs to be careful. **10...Bg6 11.h4 h5?** [11...Bd6 12.h5 Be4 is a positionally safer way to keep material even] **12.g5 Nfd5 13.Nxg6 fxg6 14.Qc2! Qd7** [14...Kf7?! 15.Rh3! and the rook checks on f3] **15.Qxg6+ Kd8 16.Bh3 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Qd5 18.0-0!** White has played a terrific opening and here will win a second pawn and control the board. So far all is roses. **18...Kc7 19.e4! Qd7 20.Bxe6 Qd6 21.Qf7+ Qe7 22.Bf4+ Kd8 23.Rfd1 Qxf7 24.Bxf7 Ke7 25.g6 Kd7 26.Rab1 Ra6!** Diagram

This position deserves a diagram. White has played wonderfully and is completely winning. Yet kudos to qing29 for fighting hard in this lost postion. No one ever won by resiging. **27.d5 cxd5 28.exd5 Be7 29.Be3 Bd8 30.Be6+ Ke7 31.Bc5+ Kf6 32.Bf7 Nxa4 33.Bd4+ Kf5 34.Bxg7 Bf6 35.Bxh8 Bxh8 36.Rxb7 Nxc3 37.Rd3 Ne2+ 38.Kf1 Nf4 39.Rf3 Bg7 40.Be6+ Ke4 41.Rf7?** [simply 41.Rxf4+ Kxf4 42.Rxg7 is a bishop and two pawns up and easy as pie to win] **41...Kxf3 42.Rxg7 Nxe6** [42...Rb6 43.Bf5!] **43.dxe6 Rxe6 44.Rf7+ Kg4 45.g7 Rg6 46.Ke2 Kxh4** White is completely winning again. He can play 47. f4 and the f-pawn comes quickly up to help the pawn on g7. Sadly though White lost here (presumably on time). **0-1**

The final comeback we want to point out was the unfortunate turn of events of last week's TNO winner Kristian Clemens. He appeared to be cruising to a victory over Stewart Katz, when all of a sudden he lost track of the position :)

(1) Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1852) - Stewart Katz (knvsback) (1633) [D31]

Live Chess Chess.com, 26.05.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 Nbd7 [6...dxc4 is objectively slightly better but then you have to enter the labyrinth complications after 7.e4 b5 8.e5 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7] **7.e3 Be7 8.Rc1 0-0 9.Qc2** White is waiting to develop the light-squared bishop in case Black captures ...dxc4. Probably better though to just play 9. Bd3 as the white queen move doesn't add too much here. **9...Re8 10.Bd3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nf8?!** [slighty passive. 11...Nd5 is more direct] **12.Ne5! Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.0-0 f5?!** This pawn on a white square leads to dark square weakenesses. **15.a3** [The direct 15.e4! would increase White's initiative. Black would have to live with the passive bishop and all the white pieces are active.] **15...a5 16.Bd3 c5?** opening up the game and losing a pawn. [16...Nxc3 17.Qxc3 Nd7 18.Nc4 a4 19.e4 is nice for White though Black is still holding everything.] **17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Qxc5 Qxc5 19.Rxc5 b6?** [19...Be6 saves the d-pawn] **20.Rxd5 Be6 21.Rd6 Rab8 22.Bb5 Rec8 23.d5 Rc5 24.Bc6** [24.Nc6! Re8 25.Nd4 wins more material] **24...Bf7 25.Nxf7?!** trading the strong knight brings the black king into play and gives black chances. [25.b4 keeps better control.] **25...Kxf7 26.Ba4 Ke7 27.Rc6 Rxd5 28.Rfc1 Rd2 29.R6c2 Rbd8 30.Rc7+ Kf6 31.R7c6+ Kg5?!** [31...R8d6] **32.f4+ Kh5 33.R6c2?!** [33.Rxb6! gets the second pawn back in good postion.] **33...R2d3 34.Kf2 Ne6 35.Ke2 Nc5 36.Bb5 R3d6 37.b4 axb4 38.axb4 Ne4** with the black knight arriving on the central e4 square matters have become a bit tricky. White is still a pawn ahead with fair winning chances, but will have to work now. **39.Bc6 Rd2+ 40.Rxd2?!** [40.Kf3!] **40...Rxd2+ 41.Kf1 Nf6?!** [41...Rf2+ 42.Kg1 Re2! 43.Bxe4 fxe4 is excellent drawing chances] **42.Bf3+ Kg6 43.Rd1?!** [43.Rc6!] **43...Rb2?!** [43...Rxd1+ 44.Bxd1 Nd5! 45.Ke2 Nxb4] **44.Rd4 Rb3 45.Kf2 Rb2+ 46.Ke1 Rb1+ 47.Ke2 Rb2+ 48.Kd3! Kf7 49.Kc3 Rb1 50.Bd5+?!** [50.Kc4! activates the king where it eyes the black pawn on b6] **50...Ke7 51.g3 Re1 52.Kd2 Rb1 53.Bf3 Rb2+ 54.Kc3 Rxh2** Now Black has levelled material and can draw. **55.Rc4 Rf2 56.Bb7 Rf1 57.Rc7+ Kf8 58.Rc6 Rc1+ 59.Kd4 Rxc6 60.Bxc6 Ke7 61.Bb7 Kd6 62.Bf3 g5 63.fxg5 hxg5 64.Be2 g4 65.Bd3 Ke6 66.Bc4+ Ke7?!** This lets the white king in. [66...Kd6!] **67.Ke5 Nh5?** [67...Ne4! 68.Bd3 *(68.Kxf5 Nd6+ 69.Kxg4 Nxc4)* 68...Nxg3 69.Kf4 Nh5+ 70.Kxf5 Nf6] **68.Kxf5 Nxg3+ 69.Kxg4 Ne4 70.Kf4 Nd6 71.Bd3 Ke6 72.e4 Nc8 73.Bc4+ Ke7 74.e5 Na7 75.Ke4 Nc6 76.b5 Nd8** Diagram

77.Bd5! The bishop traps the black knight. This makes the game like a king ending. King endings with an extra pawn are almost always winning. **77...Kd7 78.Kf5 Ke7 79.Kg5 Kf8 80.Kf6 Ke8 81.e6! Nxe6 82.Bc6+ Kd8 83.Kxe6 Kc7 84.Kd5 Kb8 85.Kd6 Ka7 86.Bf3 Kb8 87.Kc6 Ka7 88.Kc7??** Tragic! Allowing the stalemate. Of course any bishop move would have won. **1/2-1/2**

Watch the agony of the commentators here, starting at 1:10:00. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4_JtCZVNxM&t=90s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4_JtCZVNxM&t=90s)

As tragic as some of these losses were, it really showcased why chess is so beautiful to watch and follow, and why online chess provides us with such enjoyment and learning. It was a fun evening that had it all, and was for me one of the most enjoyable broadcasts ever.

Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1236084 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1236084)

To watch the broadcast, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4_JtCZVNxM&t=4323s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4_JtCZVNxM&t=4323s)

Mechanics' Weekly Online Roundup

The Friday Late Night Blitz saw NM Vyom Vidyarthi (2007checkmate) bested 40 players to take clear first with 8.5/10. The kids dominated the blitz this evening, with Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) taking 2nd place with 8/10 and Austin Mei (TitanChess666) in 3rd with 7.5/10. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online--1232954 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online--1232954)

IM Elliott Winslow wins the Saturday matinee on tiebreaks with 2.5, full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1232957 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1232957)

Michael "fpawn" Aigner took down the Saturday Late Night showdown with 4.5/5. Felix German takes 2nd with 4/5 and Nathan Fong is in 3rd on tiebreaks with 3.5. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1232956 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1232956)

The Sunday matinee saw a clear victory from Sricharan Pullela (Sricharan_The_King) with 4/4. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-matinee-1238336 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-matinee-1238336)

The Sunday late night showdown saw a very clear victory for kralj8 with 4.5/5. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1232962 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1232962)

The Monday Arena saw a close battle won by Nitish Nathan (BreathChessAlways) with 44 points ove Pranav Sairam (championps) with 42. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/monday-night-arena-205752 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/monday-night-arena-205752)

The Wednesday Late Night Showdown went to vish1080, winning on tiebreaks over twangbio with 6/8. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night showdown-1236087 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1236087)

Fischer Random Thursday was won by FM Kyron Griffith: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-fischer-random-thursday-1236652 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-fischer-random-thursday-1236652)

Kyron then went on to win the Thursday Late Night Showdown a few hours later, taking the first place tiebreak over "fpawn" with 4.5/5. https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-late-night-showdown-1236655 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-late-night-showdown-1236655)

Mechanics' Chess Social

Last week's guest on our Mechanics' Chess Social was WIM Alexey Root. She is an author, educator, and advocate of scholastic chess. To watch the interview, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm9UlPYcV2A (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm9UlPYcV2A)

The Mechanics' Chess Social will resume next week with all new special guests!

Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champion and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Upcoming Tournament Schedule - NOW daily on chesskid.com!

Saturday-, May 30: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=32591 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=32591)

Sunday, May 31: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=32592 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=32592)

Monday, June 1: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=33579 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=33579)

Tuesday, June 2: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=33580 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=33580)

Wednesday, June 3: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=33947 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=33947)

Thursday, June 4: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=33948 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=33948)

Friday, June 5: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=33949 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=33949)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

Online Chess Classes for Kids

To see available classes and register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/#/online-chess-classes)

Day	Time	Coach	Link
Monday	4-5PM	Coach Colin	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinMonday45PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinMonday45PM)
Tuesday	2-3PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays23PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays23PM)
Tuesday	3:15-4:15PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays315415PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyTuesdays315415PM)
Wednesday	3-4PM	Coach Colin	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinWednesdays34PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachColinWednesdays34PM)
Friday	1-2PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays12PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays12PM)
Friday	2:15-3:15PM	Coach Andy	https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays215315PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithCoachAndyFridays215315PM)

Class Fee: $25 for single class, $45 for two classes (10% off), $80 for 4 classes (20% off)
More details: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#OnlineScholastic (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#OnlineScholastic)

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

5/30 Saturday - Mechanics' Institute Blitz Championship
Format: 12 rounds of G/3+2: 5:00PM PST
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-mechanics-institute-rapid-blitz-online-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-mechanics-institute-rapid-blitz-online-championship)

5/31 Sunday - Mechanics' Institute Rapid Championship
Format: 6 rounds of G/15+2: 3:00PM PST
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-mechanics-institute-rapid-blitz-online-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-mechanics-institute-rapid-blitz-online-championship)

6/1 Monday - Monday Online Arena

Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=209375 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/live#r=209375)
Start: 6:30PM

6/2 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1242162 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1242162)
Start: 6:30PM

6/3 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1243597 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1243597)
Start at 4PM

Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1243600 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1243600)
Starts 9PM.

6/4 Thursday - Mechanics' Fischer Random tournament
Format: 5SS G/5 +2

Join from 5:30 - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1243601 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1243601)
Start: 6:30PM

Thursday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1243602 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1243602)
Starts 9PM.

6/5 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170041/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Paul's column will return next week

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Online Chess Galore:

Lindores Abbey and Clutch Chess

A new world of chess has arisen in the wake of the coronavirus, and it is as vibrant as ever. Of course the best events are our own Mechanics' Institute Online events! We had the San Francisco Scholastic last Saturday, and the blitz and rapid tournaments this weekend.

The international chess world continues to have entertaining top-level events. There are in fact two very noteworthy events going on now: the Lindores Abbey Rapid Challenge and Clutch Chess Rapid. The former is named after a Scottish Distillery and gathered 12 of the top players including Magnus Carlsen and Ding Liren. The format is unusual, something like the NBA, where more than half the field makes it into the playoffs, which is a knockout format. The participants play three mini-matches of rapid games, and the match may be decided by the last Armageddon game.

The Clutch Chess rapid has the top four American players - Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, Wesley So, and Lenier Dominguez - facing off in 12-game rapid matches. Something unusual is that Nakamura and Wesley So are playing in both tournaments! (Lindores and Clutch). This is possible as both are online, and Lindores is played for European hours, Clutch played in USA time.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - So,Wesley [E21]

Lindore Abbey Rapid , 23.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Bg5 In practice this pin is quite annoying. Wesley So has certainly worked out his openings, yet Magnus and his helpers have many ideas. **5...c5 6.Rc1** [6.e3 Qa5! 7.Bxf6 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Qxc3+ is a sharp pawn sacrifice where Black has equal chances if he is prepared.] **6...cxd4 7.Nxd4 h6 8.Bh4 d5 9.cxd5 g5 10.Bg3 Qxd5 11.e3 Qxa2!** This may seem risky and greedy but Black needs to get some compensation for his weakened kingside pawn structure. Also it causes threats on the queenside. **12.Qc2 Bxc3+ 13.Qxc3 Ne4 14.Qc2 Qa5+ 15.Ke2** Diagram

An interesting opening! White's king is in the middle of the board, yet he has a good lead in development and chances against the loose black kingside. **15...Nxg3+ 16.hxg3 Kg7 17.f4 Bd7?!** This is a little slow and Magnus can add fuel to the attack. With [17...Nc6! Black would immediately contest the center and gain equal chances. He wouldn't worry about giving back the pawn as would give him the initiative.] **18.b4! Qxb4 19.fxg5** White deflected the black queen away from g5 so it couldn't recapture on g5. Suddenly the white queen, rook, pawn and knight are brewing up an attack. **19...Rc8?** [19...Nc6 20.gxh6+ Kh8 21.Rh4 Nxd4+ 22.Rxd4 Qe7 is better for White but it is still a good battle.] **20.gxh6+ Kh8** Diagram

21.Qxc8+! Bxc8 22.Rxc8+ Kh7 23.Nf3! Magnus doesn't take a move to safeguard his king, but goes directly for the attack. Black has only the queen out so the white forces together are more than a match. **23...f6** [23...Qb2+ 24.Ke1 Qb1+ 25.Kf2 f6 26.g4] **24.Kf2 Qb2+ 25.Be2 Na6** Sadly black must give up the rook to get the knight in play. There was no time to slowly develop with the exposed king. The rook sacrifice pospones the end. [25...a5 26.Rc7+ Kh8 27.Nh4] **26.Rxa8 Nc5 27.Rd1 Ne4+ 28.Kg1! f5** [28...Qxe2 29.Rd7+ Kg6 30.Rg8+ Kh5 31.g4+ Kxh6 32.Rh8+ Kg6 33.Nh4+ Kg5 34.Rg7#] **29.Bd3 Qf2+ 30.Kh1 Qxe3 31.Bxe4 fxe4 32.Rd7+ Kg6 33.Rg8+** Black resigns as mate is coming, e.g. 33...Kxh6 34. Ne5 Qc1+ 35. Kh2 and Rg6 next. **1-0**

(2) Karjakin,Sergey - Dubov,Danil [C55]

Lindores Abbey Rapid, 24.05.2020

Danil Dubov of Russia is one of the brightest young talents in the chess world. He is in his early twenties and has very real possibilities to challenge for the world championship in the future. He had a fighting match with vetaran contryman Sergey Karjakin and here is one of the entertaining games. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.c3 g5!?** Diagram

This may be a move you want to try yourself! In an age old opening Dubov lashes out with the aggressive pawn advance. It looks like a novice move, but it has points. **6.a4?!** Not sure how to react on the kingside, White takes some space on the queenside. This allows Black the initiative. **6...g4 7.Nfd2 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.a5 Bg7 10.a6** It is Karjakin's turn to do the unorthodox. He has taken three moves in the opening with his a-pawn, but it causes some trouble there and this plan could be ok. The problem is that there is no margin for error when you are behind in development. **10...b6 11.h3?!** This is one too many pawn moves. 11. Qa4 would be alright. **11...Nf4! 12.Ne4 gxh3?!** [12...Nxg2+! 13.Kf1 gxh3 14.Qa4 Bd7 15.Bb5 0-0! 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.Qxc6 Qxd3+ would be a promising piece sacrifice.] **13.g3** [13.gxh3 Na5 14.Bxf4 exf4 15.Na3 Nxc4 16.Nxc4 Leaves Black two bishops against two knights yet at least the knights have decent squares.] **13...Ne6 14.Qf3 Bd7 15.Rxh3 Qe7 16.Rh5 0-0-0 17.Be3 Rhf8 18.Rf5** [18.Bxh6 Bxh6 19.Rxh6 f5 is a strong initiative for the pawn.] **18...Kb8 19.Na3 Nf4!** Diagram

20.Nd2? White loses his way in the complications. He could play [20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Qxf4 *(21.Rxf4 f5)* 21...Bxf5 22.Qxf5 Ne5 but then Black has a material and positional advantage. The only way out was the surprising; 20.Nc5! bxc5 21.gxf4 as 21...Bxf5? loses *(21...Qe8 22.fxe5 Bxf5 23.Qxf5 Nxe5* is a little better for Black*)* 22.Qxc6 Bc8 23.Bxc5 Rd6 24.Bxa7+ Kxa7 25.Nb5+ Kb8 26.a7#] **20...Bxf5 21.Qxc6 Bc8** White resigned. Perhaps a bit premature, but he is down material and nothing really works, e.g. 22. exf4 gxf4 and the bishop on e3 goes. **0-1**

(3) So,Wesley - Nakamura,Hikaru [B41]

Clutch Chess, 26.05.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Qc7 7.a3 Diagram

7...Nxe4!? A move in typical Hikaru style. There is lots of risk with this move - it does win a pawn, but Black will lag in development. **8.Nxe4 Qe5 9.Bd3! Qxd4 10.Qe2 Qe5 11.f4 Qc7 12.0-0?!** White could have gotten a safe edge with the advance [12.f5! keeping the white knight on its nice central square and using the f-pawn as a battering ram.] **12...f5 13.Ng5 Be7 14.b4 Bf6** Diagram

15.Ra2 Wesley should have channeled his inner Tal and tried the promising sacrifice [15.Bxf5! Bxa1 16.Be3 d6 *(16...Rf8 17.Qh5+ g6 18.Bxg6+ hxg6 19.Qxg6+ Kd8 20.Rxa1* is wonderful compensation for the rook*)* 17.Bxe6 Bf6 18.Bxc8 Qxc8 19.Bc5+ Be7 20.Bxd6 Nc6 21.Bxe7 Nxe7 22.Ne6 When white is a bit better despite having just two pawns for the rook. The black king is stuck in the center and the a8 rook well out of play.] **15...0-0 16.Be3 d6 17.c5 d5 18.g4!?** This is aggressive, but also weakens the white king position. **18...Nc6 19.gxf5 exf5 20.Qf3 h6 21.Qxd5+ Kh8 22.Re2?** White needs to be bold and precise. The only move to keep good chances was [22.h4! since Black would open the h-file for the a2 rook if he captured the knight. White would have fully equal chances after 22. h4.] **22...hxg5 23.fxg5 Qd8!** Hikaru grabbed the piece and now takes away the white attack. **24.Qf3 Qxd3 25.gxf6 Rxf6 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Bg5 Qd4+ 28.Kh1 Be6!** Diagram

Wesley resigned. The deadly threat of 29...Bd5+ ends any hope for White. **0-1**

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We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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Newsletter #921

June 6, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- 2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid and Blitz Championship Online
- USCF Online Rated events on chess.com: June 11 & June 28 - $375 Prize Fund!
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Chess.com Clubs League
- FM Paul Whitehead's Online Class
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

GM Eltaj Safarli Wins Blitz

GM's Alexandr Lenderman and Gadir Guseinov Share 1st in Rapid

2020 Mechanics' Institute Blitz and Rapid Online Championship A Star-Studded Event

The 2020 Mechanics' Institute Blitz and Rapid Championship was held online last weekend, with a strong field of 11 different grandmasters playing along many other titled players, some of the finest scholastic players in the Bay Area, and Mechanics' regulars. We had 67 players for the blitz and 69 for the rapid.

Blitz, Saturday May 30th

GM Eltaj Safarli wins the 2020 Mechanics' Institute Blitz Championship

The G/3 +2 12-round Blitz Championship brought out some of the finest players in the world, including GM Andrew Tang who is known for his blitz play and has played in the world blitz championship. Nine GM's participated, and GM Eltaj Safarli showed he was the best player in the tournament with a dominant 10.5/12 clear first showing. It was an impersssive feat in a tournament where every round had to feel like a gauntlet.

GM Andrew Tang was among the pre-tournament favorites

The big breakthrough ocurred in round 9 against GM Andrew Tang. With this decisive result, Safarli started to pull away from the field. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) GM Eltaj Safarli (Eltaj_Safarli) (3015) - GM Andrew Tang (penguingm1) (2934) [C60]

Live Chess Chess.com, 30.05.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 An old fashioned variation, it has its points though. **4.c3 a6 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4** White has a nice pawn center. Black has two bishops and is only a bit worse, he will be fine if he completes development. **7...Bg7 8.0-0 Ne7 9.h3 0-0 10.Nc3 h6 11.Bf4 Kh7 12.Be5!** A nice postional theme. If Black trades the dark-squared bishops then the dark squares are weak. The alternative is to advance the third kingside pawn, loosening the kingside. **12...f6 13.Bh2 g5 14.Re1 Ng6 15.Rc1 f5 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Be5?!** White has played an excellent opening, yet now places the bishop on e5 instead of the more natural 17. Ne5 which would keep a good edge. **17...g4! 18.hxg4 Bxg4 19.Re3 Nxe5 20.dxe5 Bxf3 21.Qxd8 Raxd8 22.gxf3 Rf5?!** [22...h5! 23.Rce1 Bh6 24.Re4 Rxf3 would win a pawn for insufficient compensation.] **23.e6 h5** a move too slow **24.Rd1! Rxd1+ 25.Nxd1 Rf8 26.Nc3 Re8** [26...Kg6! gets the king in play close to the e-pawn] **27.f4 Kg6 28.Rg3+!** Diagram

giving Black a dilema. **28...Kh6?** [Black needed to be brave with 28...Kf6! 29.Ne4+ Kf5 30.Rxg7 Kxe4 31.Rxc7 Rxe6 32.Rxb7 Kxf4 and the rook endgame is equal. After the game move Black is in big trouble with the black king on the side and the white e and f pawns becoming very powerful.] **29.f5 Rf8 30.Ne2?!** [30.Rg6+ Kh7 31.Rg5 Kh6 32.Ne4! is winning] **30...Be5 31.Rg6+ Kh7 32.Ng3 Bxg3?** [32...Bxb2 33.Rg5 Bf6 34.Rxh5+ Kg7 is not nice for Black but he can still play with the bishop holding the pawns from f6. After the bishop trades for the knight there is no way to stop the white pawns.] **33.Rxg3 h4** [33...Rxf5 34.e7 Re5 35.Re3] **34.e7! Re8 35.f6! hxg3 36.f7 gxf2+ 37.Kxf2 1-0**

One of the breakout performances in the blitz was the play of Mechanics' Institute chess regular FM Kyron Griffith, who won his first 3 games, and then pulled off this upset of GM Gadir Guseinov.

(2) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2858) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2356) [B23]

Live Chess Chess.com, 30.05.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qd3 An unusual line against the Sicilian. It gets the white pieces in motion though it gains no advantage. **7...g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0 Nf6 10.Nd5 0-0 11.Bg5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Ne5 13.Nxe5 dxe5!?** This mixes things up. The normal 13...Bxe5 is equal yet it doesn't cause White to think. **14.c4 Rac8 15.Rac1 h6 16.Be3 b6 17.b4** Objectively White is just better as his pawns are not doubled and so more threatening. **17...Rfd8 18.Rfd1 f5 19.f3 e6?! 20.Qb3?!** [20.d6! would make this pawn a bone in Black's throat. It would tie down major forces and can easitly be defended by c4-c5.] **20...exd5 21.Rxd5 Qf7 22.Rcd1 Rxd5 23.Rxd5 Kh7 24.Qd3 Rc7 25.a3 Qe6 26.c5 bxc5 27.Bxc5 e4** Black has undoubled the e-pawns and gotten a passes pawn himself. He has at least equality here. **28.fxe4 fxe4 29.Qd2 Bc3!? 30.Rd6 Qc4 31.Rd7+ Rxd7 32.Qxd7+ Bg7 33.Kf2 Qa2+ 34.Kg3?!** Giving away a pawn with check. The game would have been just equal after [34.Kf1 Qxa3 35.Qxa7] **34...Qxa3+ 35.Kf4 Qc1+?!** [35...Qb2!] **36.Kxe4 Qe1+ 37.Kd5 Qd2+ 38.Kc6 Qxg2+ 39.Qd5** [39.Kb5 keeps the white queen on its active post pinning the bishop.] **39...Qxh2 40.Bxa7 Qc2+ 41.Bc5 h5 42.b5 Qa4 43.Qd7 Qa8+ 44.Qb7?** Black has an extra pawn but the white b-pawn is more advanced. White need only move his king to d6 and the game will likely end with checks and repetition. Trading queens leaves Black a winning bishop ending. **44...Qxb7+ 45.Kxb7** Diagram

45...Be5! the bishop does everything here. Slowing the white b-pawn and supporting the black pawns advance. **46.Kc6 h4 47.Kd5! h3 48.Kxe5 h2 49.Kd6 h1Q** the rest is easy **50.Kc7 Qd5 51.Kb6 Qd8+ 52.Kc6 Qc8+ 53.Kd6 Qb7 54.b6 Kh6 0-1**

One of the very exciting things about an event like this is the ability of our club regulars to play some of the best players in the world. Here in the first round, club regular Felix German got his shot at glory against GM Alexandr Lenderman, but the GM showed why there is a huge separation between them and us mere mortals.

(4) Felix German (FelixGerman) (1872) - GM Alexandr Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2791) [A40]

Live Chess Chess.com, 30.05.2020

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 The Owen's Defense deferred. Bound to cause confusion. **3.Nf3** [3.e4 Bb7 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bd3 f5 is very sharp] **3...Bb7 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Bxf3 6.exf3 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Nf6 8.Nc3** Black has gotten an unusual opening, White holds a little more of the center and so can be happy. **8...0-0 9.Bg2 d5 10.0-0 Nc6** [10...dxc4 11.f4 c6 12.Ne4 Nd5 13.Rfc1 b5 14.b3 cxb3 15.axb3 is fair compensation for the pawn] **11.f4 Ne7 12.Rac1 c6 13.b4?!** [13.cxd5 cxd5 is about equal. White gives up the c-pawn in a situation that doesn't give enough play for it.] **13...dxc4 14.b5 Rc8! 15.bxc6 Nxc6 16.Rfd1 Nb4** Black clearly has the more pleasant positon. White must try to regain the pawn and there are no weakenesses in the black camp, **17.Ne4** [17.Nb5! Nd3 18.Nxa7 Nxc1 19.Rxc1 gives White entertaining play for the exchange. The white knight jumps to c6 and causes trouble.] **17...Nbd5 18.Nxf6+ Nxf6 19.Qb4 Qc7** [19...Nd5 20.Qa4 Qd6! is strong since 21.Rxc4? Nc3 drops the exchange] **20.Qb5?!** [20.Bf1 c3 21.Ba6 Nd5 22.Qb3 is better holding chances] **20...Rfd8 21.f5 exf5 22.Qxf5 c3** The pawn White gave up on move 13 is now deep in the white camp. **23.g4** trying to generate play. As a practical move it's hard to criticize even though objectively it weakens the white king protection. [23.Rd3 Qd6 24.Rdxc3 Rxc3 25.Rxc3 g6 26.Qc2 Qxd4 is a pawn up for Black though no more] **23...Qd6 24.g5 Nd5 25.Rd3 g6!** This takes full control of the position. White can choose a lost middle game or a lost endgame. **26.Qe5** [26.Qxd5 Qf4!] **26...Qxe5 27.dxe5** Diagram

27...Nf4! 28.Rxd8+ Rxd8 The knights threatening to fork on d2 and the black pawn on c3 decides the game. There is no way out. **29.Bf3 Rd3 30.Be4?** [30.Bg4 b5 31.Kf1 b4 etc.] **30...Ne2+ 0-1**

Congratulations to Safarli, who wins the 2020 Club Blitz Championship. Clear 2nd with 9.5/12 was GM Alexandr Lenderman and tied for 3rd was GM Tang and IM Christopher Yoo, who showed he belongs among the elite when it comes to his blitz skills.

Rapid, Sunday May 31st

The MI Rapid Championship had big shoes to fill, as it was going to become near impossible to top the inaugural event last year which was won by GM Fabiano Caruana, GM Jon Ludvig Hammer, and GM George Meier. However, a strong field came back for the rapid, which included two new GM's that did not play the day before: GM Conrad Holt and GM James Tarjan. It was a 6-round G/15 +2 battle for the title, and GM Alexandr Lenderman and GM Gadir Guseinov showed final round toughness en route to a share of the championship.

GM Lenderman was a class marathoner, taking 2nd in the blitz and sharing first in the rapid

Lenderman got a share of first with a final round victory over GM Conrad Holt.

GM Gadir Guseinov out played GM Eltaj Safarli for a share of first

GM Guseinov had to find final round heroics against the reigning blitz champion GM Eltaj Safarli. There was no friendly draw between countrymen in this case, and Guseinov showed fine technique in producing the win.

(5) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2557) - GM Eltaj Safarli (Eltaj_Safarli) (2423) [B23]

Live Chess Chess.com, 31.05.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Bb5 A good alternative to the theoretical lines of the open Sicilian (4. d4). **4...d6** This leads to doubled pawns. [4...Nd4 5.e5 Nxb5 6.Nxb5 Nd5 Is an alternative though White has a lead in development.] **5.e5 dxe5 6.Nxe5 Qc7 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Qf3 Bb7 9.Bc4** Black has control of the center squares as compensation for his doubled isolated pawns. This means good squares for the pieces. Still, White is for choice. **9...e6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.h3 0-0 12.d3 Be5 13.Bd2 a5 14.Rae1 Ba6?!** This exchange clarifies the position a little and thus shows the weakeness of the doubled pawns. Preferable was [14...a4] **15.Bxa6 Rxa6 16.b3 Bxc3?!** Black doesn't want the white knight blockading the doubled pawns, but giving up this good bishop for the knight is not a great solution. **17.Bxc3 Nd5 18.Be5 Qd7 19.a4! f6 20.Bb2 e5** Diagram

21.Re4 Raa8 22.Rc4! This nice rook maneuver will win a pawn. **22...Qd6 23.Ba3 Nb4 24.Qe3 Na6 25.Bxc5 Nxc5 26.Qxc5 Rfd8 27.Qxd6** [27.Qxc6 would be two pawns ahead with little trouble. White plays to keep control.] **27...Rxd6 28.f4 Re8?!** [28...exf4 29.Rfxf4 Kf7 is not pleasant but holds the second pawn. Black plays for activity and hopes that White goes wrong.] **29.Rc5 exf4 30.Rxf4 Re2 31.Rf2! Re1+ 32.Kh2 Rd5 33.Rxc6 h5 34.Rc4 Kf7 35.Re4 Rc1 36.Rfe2 g5 37.h4!** White is aware that his king could get pinned on the kingside and possibly be attacked by the two black rooks. **37...Kg6 38.hxg5 Kxg5 39.d4?!** suddenly Black gets chances. Double rook endgames are tricky. **39...Rf5** [39...f5! 40.Re8 Rxd4 gets a pawn back] **40.R4e3 Rff1 41.Rf3 Rh1+ 42.Kg3 h4+?!** [42...Rcd1 43.c3?! *(43.Kf2)* 43...f5! would bring Black back to even chances.] **43.Kf2 f5 44.Ke3!** The white king escapes any mating net and comes to help the white pawns advance. **44...Rhd1?!** [this allows the white rooks to move to the offensive. 44...Rcd1 makes more trouble] **45.Ref2! Re1+ 46.Kd3 Red1+ 47.Kc3 f4 48.Rxf4 1-0**

Another exciting game was between GM James Tarjan and FM Kyron Griffith. It was dramatic in the endgame and one worth looking at.

(8) GM James Tarjan (Tirantes) (2283) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2059) [A15]

Live Chess Chess.com, 31.05.2020

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Nge2 c5 7.d3 Nc6 White has opted for the Botvinnik setup in this English Opening. That allows for a slower maneuvering game for a while. **8.0-0 a6 9.a4 Rb8 10.Rb1 Ne8 11.Be3 Nc7 12.d4!** Now this central break allows White an edge with more space in a now open positon. **12...cxd4 13.Nxd4 Ne6 14.Nde2 Nb4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.cxd5 Nc5 17.b4 Nd7 18.Nd4 Ne5 19.Ne2?!** why go backwards? [19.a5!] **19...Bd7 20.Qb3 b5!** Now Black has the c4 square for the knight and chances are back to even. **21.a5 Rc8 22.Bb6**

Qe8 23.Rfd1 f5 24.Bd4 fxe4 25.Bxe5!? eliminating the central knight but at the cost of a good bishop **25...Bxe5 26.Bxe4 Qf7 27.f4 Bg7 28.Rbc1 Qf6 29.Kg2 Qb2 30.Qxb2 Bxb2 31.Rxc8 Rxc8 32.Rb1** Black has a pull in the endgame because of the bishop pair. **32...Bf6 33.Rc1 Rxc1** [33...Rc4!? 34.Rxc4 bxc4 35.Kf3 Bb2 could also make trouble for White] **34.Nxc1 Bc3 35.Nd3 Kg7 36.Kf3 h5 37.Ke3 Kf6 38.Bf3 Bf5 39.Be4 Bg4 40.Bf3 Bh3 41.Kf2?** [41.Nf2! Bf5 *(41...Bf1? 42.Ne4+)* 42.Ne4+ Bxe4 43.Kxe4 Bxb4 44.g4 gets the white bishop into the game and offers good drawing chances.] **41...Bf5! 42.Ke3** Diagram

42...Bxd3 Black wins two pawns now, but the bishops of opposite color give White some drawing chances **43.Kxd3 Bxb4 44.Ke4 Bxa5 45.Be2 Be1 46.Bd3 h4 47.g4! g5 48.fxg5+ Kxg5 49.h3 Kf6 50.Be2 Bd2 51.Bd3 e6 52.Be2 Ke7 53.Bd3 Kd7 54.Be2 exd5+ 55.Kxd5** .Here the white king controls the center and keeps the black king out, so the black monarch heads for the queenside. **55...Kc7 56.Bd3 Bf4 57.Ke4 Be5 58.Kd5 Kb6 59.g5 a5 60.g6 a4 61.Bc2 Ka5 62.g7 Bxg7 63.Kxd6 b4?!** [63...a3! 64.Bb3 Kb4 65.Be6 Kc3 is an easy win] **64.Kc5!** Now the black king is trapped on the side and can't get to the aid of the pawns in their advance. **64...b3 65.Bd1 b2?!** [It's hard to get the black king to help. Perhaps 65...Bf8+ 66.Kc4 Kb6 67.Bf3 Kc7 68.Be4 Bd6] **66.Bc2 a3 67.Bb1 Bf8+ 68.Kc4 Kb6 69.Kb3** Now the game is a draw. The pawns are blockaded on white squares. **69...Kc6 70.Ka2 Kd5 71.Bf5 Kc4 72.Bg6 Kc3 73.Kb1 Kd2 74.Bf7 Ke3 75.Bg8 Kf4 76.Bf7 Kg3 77.Be6 Bd6 78.Bd7 Bc5 79.Be6 Kf2 80.Bd7 Ke1 81.Be6 Kd2 82.Bf7 Bf8 83.Be6 Bc5 84.Bf7 Ke2 85.Be6 Kf3 86.Bf7 Kg2 87.Be6 Kg3 88.Bd7 a2+ 89.Kxa2 b1N 90.Kxb1 Bf2** A lucky (and skillful) escape by Tirantes. **1/2-1/2**

GM James Tarjan has been playing Mechanics' online events

The rapid also saw a battle of talented local regulars. Here is a game between FM Balaji Daggupati and FM Josiah Stearman that shows even some of the strongest youth players in the country can succumb to trickery in a rapid event.

(6) FM Balaji Daggupati (chess2thesun) (2557) - FM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2152) [B31] Live Chess Chess.com, 31.05.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.e5 Ne8 8.d3 Nd4 [8...Nc7 is a sensible alternative. It's always nice to get the knights off the sides of the board.] **9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.Nd5!? a6** This is a mistake as Black doesn't see White's devilish idea coming on move 12. He would be is good shape with [10...e6! 11.Nf4 d6 12.exd6 Nxd6 having excellent control over the central squares.] **11.Bc4** [11.Bg5] **11...b5?** Diagram

[11...e6!] **12.Bg5!** Ouch! This move destroys the Black position. Their is no decent reply. **12...Qa5** [12...bxc4 13.Nxe7+ Kh8 14.Nxg6+ fxg6 15.Bxd8 loses the queen; 12...f6 13.exf6 exf6 14.Nxf6+ Kh8 15.Nxh7 is nearly as bad] **13.b4!** Black resigns as the queen is lost to the bishops retreating to attack it on c1 and b3. A sudden end to the game! **1-0**

In these events, we are always looking for huge upsets. Such was almost the case for Theo Biyiasas, who had a beautiful game and looked like he could potentially pull of a monster upset against GM Alexandrov Alekej, only to have the position collapse under time pressure.

(7) Theo Biyiasas (TABiyiasas) (1885) - GM Aleksandrov Aleksej (aleksandrovaleksei) (2568) [E32] Live Chess Chess.com, 31.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Nf3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 c5 9.e3 Be6 10.Be2 Nbd7 11.0-0 Rc8 A well played Nimzo-Indian dopening by both sides. Black has near equality. **12.Qa4** [12.Rac1] **12...a6 13.Rac1 Qb6 14.a3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 c4 16.Rb1 Qa7 17.Nd2! Bf5 18.Rb2** White must deal with the black bishop controlling the b1-h7 diagonal. His pieces find good squares despite that. **18...Rfe8 19.Bf3 Rc6 20.Qa5?!** the white queen is not going anywhere from here **20...b6 21.Qa4 Rce6 22.Bg3 Qa8 23.Qd1 Qc6 24.Rb4 a5?** Diagram

[24...Bd3] **25.Rxc4! Qb5 26.Rc7** White has snatched a pawn and has the two bishops. **26...Qb2 27.a4** [27.c4! Qxa3 28.cxd5 would be a huge edge to White] **27...Qa2 28.c4 Nf8 29.cxd5 Nxd5 30.Bxd5?!** giving up the light squared bishop makes Black's game easier to play. [30.Rc4 Nb4 31.e4 is again a big edge] **30...Qxd5 31.Qb3 Qd8?!** [31...Qxb3 32.Nxb3 R6e7 has holding chances] **32.Rfc1 Qa8 33.Nc4 Be4 34.f3 Bd5** White is totaly controlling the board. He has an extra pawn and two monster center pawns. Simpy 35. e4 would start to roll Black up. **35.Nxb6??** a tragic miscalculation, losing a piece. **35...Bxb3 36.Nxa8 Rxa8 37.e4** Now White still has the two center pawns but that's just not enough for a piece in this ending. **37...Ree8 38.d5 Bxa4 39.Rb7 Bd7 40.Rcc7 a4!** this little pawn allows Black to play offensively and makes the win easy **41.Ra7 a3 42.Be5 a2 43.Bd4 f6 44.Kf2 h5 45.g3 Kh7 46.h4 Kh6 47.f4 Kg6 48.Ke3 Kh6 49.f5 Rxa7! 50.Rxa7 Bxf5 51.Rxa2 Rxe4+ 52.Kd3 Rxh4+ 53.Kc3 Rg4 54.Bf2 Kg6 55.Rd2 Nd7 56.d6 Re4 57.Kb3 Kf7 0-1**

It was a great deal of fun to see the participation and viwership for this amazing event. Special thanks go to our commentators for the weekend, GM Nick de Firnian, FM Paul Whitehead, FM Jim Eade. Also thanks go to our extarordinary organizer Dr. Judit Sztaray, the club's General Manager of Youth Outreach and Events. I also want to thank our amazing players and everyone who participated. There were a lot of moving parts in organizing an online rated event and the players all did what was necessary, making everything a very smooth process. I also want to thank Chess.com and Isaac Steincamp, and Dr. Ken Regan for both verifying that all games were clean. We will organize more online rated events with prize pools, stay tuned for more details

For full results, follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-mechanics-institute-rapid-blitz-online-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-mechanics-institute-rapid-blitz-online-championship)

To watch the live broadcast, follow these links:

Blitz: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCgphsbuXL4&t=50s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCgphsbuXL4&t=50s)

Rapid part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joSh_FAAX00&t=30s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joSh_FAAX00&t=30s)

Rapid part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmDjJ1mQ2bc&t=3133s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmDjJ1mQ2bc&t=3133s)

Starting this coming week: USCF ONLINE rated tournaments - $375 Prize Fund!

June 11 Thursday @ 7PM - 8SS G/5+2

June 28 Sunday @ 2PM - 6SS G/15+2

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom)

REGISTER: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/RegularOnlineRatedTournamentThursdayBLITZG5June117PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/RegularOnlineRatedTournamentThursdayBLITZG5June117PM)

Tight fair play screening: both chess.com & Dr. Regan from University of Buffalo will screen matches, prizes and tournament rating will only be finalized after the screening completed.

Prize Fund: $375 b/30 paid entries

1st: $100, 2nd: $75, 3rd: $50
u2000: $75, u1800: $50, u1600: $25 -- based on USCF regular (OTB) rating

Entry fee: $20 for MI library members, $30 for non-MI library members -- All players must be US Chess members!

Players must register through Jumbula, and be a part of the Mechanics' Online rated club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated)

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

The Tuesday Night Online this week was dominated by one player, coming off an impressive perfomance in the weekends blitz and rapid. FM Kyron Griffith played his first TNO in a few weeks and dominated the 54-player field with a perfect 5/5 to win the gold medal, a full point ahead of the field.

FM Kyron Griffith (left) went 5/5 in the TNO

One of the toughest games he had was against Lauren Goodkind. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(9) Lauren Goodkind (laurengoodkindchess) (1778) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2069) [B22]

Live Chess Chess.com, 02.06.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Be2 Be7 7.dxc5!? Usually White doesn't make this exchange, but there is nothing wrong with it. The one thing is that Black can trade into an equal ending , though you may not mind that. **7...Qxd1+ 8.Bxd1 Bxc5 9.0-0 b6 10.Bg5 Bb7 11.Ba4+ Ke7 12.Nbd2 h6 13.Bh4 Rd8 14.Rfe1?!** Diagram

Thus far both players have done the best and the position was level. The white rook just went to the wrong file - it should have gone to d1 where it defends the knight on d2. **14...g5!** seizing the opportunity **15.b4** [15.Bg3 g4 16.Nd4 Bxd4 17.cxd4 Rxd4 18.Rec1 Rxa4 19.Rc7+ Ke8 20.Rxb7 is a clear pawn up for Black] **15...Bxb4 16.cxb4 gxh4 17.Rac1 Na6!** White's postion looks very harmonious. Black though has all the squares covered and an extra pawn. **18.a3 h3 19.Bc6** [19.gxh3 Rd3 20.Bb5 Rxa3 21.Bxa6 Rg8+ 22.Kh1 Bxf3+ 23.Nxf3 Rxf3 24.Rc7+ may have been a better chances to hold the game] **19...Bxc6 20.Rxc6 hxg2 21.Kxg2 Rac8 22.Rec1 Rxc6 23.Rxc6 Rd3** An extra pawn and more centralized king give Black good winning chances. **24.Nc4 Nd7?!** [24...Nd5! threatening ...Nf4+, Raf3+ and Nd4+ forking the rook would have been very good 25.b5 Nc5] **25.b5 Nac5 26.Rc7 Rb3 27.a4** [27.Nfe5! Rxb5 28.Rxa7 Rb1 29.Nxd7 Nxd7 30.Ne5 Rd1 31.Rb7 Rd5 32.Nxd7 Rxd7 33.Rxb6 gets White almost even chances] **27...Nxa4 28.Rxa7 Nac5 29.Nxb6 Rxb5 30.Nxd7 Nxd7 31.Ra8 Nf6 32.h3** Now all the pawns are on one side, which is good for the defense. Still a pawn is a pawn. **32...Nd5 33.Ra2 Kf6 34.Kg3 Rb3 35.h4 Ne7 36.Ra4 Nf5+ 37.Kg2 Rb8 38.Rg4 Rb2 39.Re4 Kg6 40.Rg4+ Kh5 41.Re4 Rb8 42.Kh3 Rc8 43.Rg4 Rc3 44.Rf4 Kg6 45.Kg2 f6 46.Nd4 Ng7** Black is wise not to exchange into a rook ending, which should be a draw. **47.Nf3?!** [47.Ne2 Rc2 48.Rg4+ Kf7 49.Ng3 continues to make it difficult for Black to progress] **47...e5 48.Ra4 Ne6** now Black has an aggressive setup with the e and f pawns and the knight. **49.Rg4+ Kf5! 50.Nh2** [50.Ra4 Nf4+ 51.Kg3 Rd3! 52.Ra7 e4 53.Ra5+ Nd5 also wins] **50...Nf4+ 51.Kg1 Rc1+ 52.Nf1 Kxg4 53.f3+ Kxf3 54.h5 Ne2+ 55.Kh2 Rxf1 56.Kh3 Rh1# 0-1**

One player we are starting to follow is "Action" Adam Mercado (A-Boy415). This Mechanics' regular has been playing games we can't take our eyes off of, some in his favor, others not. Here is an action game from this evening.

(10) Advay Bansal (chessforme17) (1738) - Adam Mercado (A-boy415) (1622) [C45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 02.06.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 The classical response to the Scotch Game - old and tested. **5.Nb3 Bb6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bg5 d6** [7...h6 could give Black more options if White retreats the bishop to h4.] **8.Qe2 Bd4?! 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qd3** White has gotten the nice dark squared bishop for a knight - a good trade. **10...c5?!** aggressive but loosening [10...Ne6] **11.0-0-0 Be6 12.Kb1** [12.Nb5! causes trouble for Black] **12...Qa5 13.a3 Ng4 14.Qg3 f6 15.Bf4 0-0-0 16.f3 Ne5 17.Be3** [17.Qxg7! is greedy and good. That's just a nice pawn to grab.] **17...g6 18.Bxd4 cxd4**

19.Rxd4 Rd7?! [19...Qc5] **20.Be2 Rc7 21.Nb5! Rc6 22.c3 Rb6 23.c4** [23.Rxd6!] **23...a6?!** [23...Kb8!] **24.Nxd6+ Kb8 25.Ka1** [25.f4 Nc6 26.Rd3 Qc5 27.Rhd1] **25...Rd8 26.Rhd1 Qa4 27.Qe1?!** this gives Black an opportunity as the queen leaves the diagonal of the black knight and king. [27.R1d2] **27...Nc6 28.R4d3 Nb4!** suddenly Black is back in the game. Though two pawns down, there are threats. **29.R3d2 Rdxd6 30.Rxd6?** Diagram

[White needed to avoid the capture and play 30.Kb1 when the game is still about even] **30...Nc2+!** suddenly Black has an overwhelming attack. **31.Kb1 Nxa3+ 32.Ka2 Nxc4+ 33.Kb1 Rxb2+ 34.Kc1 Qc2# 0-1**

This TNO also saw a fine performance from Clarence Lehman, who played solidly through every round, and got this fine win against a tough opponent.

(12) Clarence Lehman (FrankJamesMarshall) (1559) - Gianluca Pane (b0bl0b1aw) (1744) [B20] Live Chess Chess.com, 02.06.2020

1.e4 c5 2.b4 The Wing Gambit - entertaining and sound enough. **2...cxb4 3.a3 d5! 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nf3** [5.axb4? Qe5+ wins the rook on a1] **5...e5 6.axb4 Bxb4 7.c3 Be7 8.Na3 Bg4?!** [8...e4 or ; 8...Nc6 are more to the point] **9.Nb5 Qd7 10.h3** [10.Qa4! Bxf3 11.Nc7+ Kd8 12.Nxa8] **10...Bh5?** [Black needs to take the knight 10...Bxf3] **11.g4 Bg6 12.Nxe5** the white knights are controlling the board **12...Qc8 13.Nxg6** [13.Bg2 Nc6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Nxa7! works tactically for White. His pieces are all participating.] **13...hxg6 14.Qe2 Qc6 15.Rg1 a6?!** [15...Kf8 is relatively best - getting out of potential checks] **16.Bg2! Qd7** Diagram

17.Bxb7! Ra7 [17...Qxb7 18.Nd6+] **18.Nxa7 Qxb7 19.Qe3 Nf6 20.Ba3?!** [20.g5! Nd5 21.Qe4 0-0 22.Ra5 and White keeps the material edge] **20...0-0! 21.Bxe7 Re8 22.Qc5 Rxe7+ 23.Kf1 Qxa7 24.Qxa7 Rxa7** Now the endgame is equal. Rook and pawn is usually worth two knights. **25.d4 Rc7 26.Ra3 Ne4 27.Kg2 Kh7?!** kings belong in the center in the endgame. At least Black avoids [27...Rxc3? 28.Rxc3 Nxc3 29.Rc1 Nb5 30.Rc8+] **28.Rc1 Kh6 29.c4** Now the white pawns are advancing and becoming dangerous **29...Kg5 30.f3 Nd6 31.c5 Nb5 32.Rd3 Rd7?!** [32...Nc6 33.d5 Nb4 gives more hope] **33.d5 Kf4?! 34.c6** now the white pawns simply win the game **34...Nxc6 35.Rxc6 a5 36.Rc5 Nd6 37.Rxa5 Nc4 38.Ra4 Rc7 39.Rc3 1-0**

Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1242162 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1242162)

To watch the broadcast, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtLV7VKG9UU (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtLV7VKG9UU)

Mechanics' Online Events Recap

The 32-player Friday Night Online was won by NM Vyom Vidyarthi (2007checkmate) with 8.5/10, buoyed by a round 6 win over IM Rost Tsodikov (JasonRBT). In second was Tsodikov with 8 and Abhinav Penagalapati in 3rd with 7.5. Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online--1242160 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online--1242160)

The Monday Night Arena was won by Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) with 26 points, ahead of EM-TheChessShark with 25 and FM Kyron Griffith with 24. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-209375 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-209375)

The Wednesday matinee was won by IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) with 3.5/4, full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-matinee-1243597 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-matinee-1243597)

The Wednesday Late Night Showdown was won by Kristian Clemens with 6/7, followed by Rudolph Breedt (bobbejaan) with 5/7 and David Askin with 4.5/7. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1243600 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1243600)

In the Fischer Random Thursday, Austin Mei went a perfect 3/3 to win the event. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-fischer-random-thursday-1243601 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-fischer-random-thursday-1243601)

In the Thursday Late Night event, IM Elliott Winslow rolled through the competition, which included this writer, to go 5/5 and cruise to an easy win. Nathan Fong took 2nd with 3.5 and Manas Paldhe 3rd with 3/3. Full results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-late-night-showdown-1243602 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-late-night-showdown-1243602)

Mechanics' Chess Social

Jay Stallings bringing chess as far as Maachu Picchu

We will have a very special edition of the Mechanics' Chess Social this week as spoke to Paul Covington and Jay Stallings. Paul Covington is from Colorado and was a recipient of the 2020 US Chess Meritorious Service Award. He is also a US Chess Delegate from Colorado and member of the US Chess Clubs Committee. Coach Jay Stallings is from Southern California and was the recipient of the 2020 US Chess Organizer of the Year award and is a member of the US Chess Scholastic Committee. He is also the author of the popular Coach Jay book series for scholastic students and very active in promoting scholastic chess as organizer of the Southen California State Scholastic Championship.

Paul Covington represents chess in Colorado and has traveled the country visiting chess clubs

To listen to the interview, follow this link: https://www.twitch.tv/videos/642178238 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.twitch.tv/videos/642178238)

Information

Colorado Open Online Fundraiser
June 20, 10 AM (MDT--Denver time) Event is on LiChess.com

All donations are accepted. This is a great opportunity for a chance to play against a titled player!
http://www.coloradochess.com/newtourn.shtml?id=1009#tournamentContent (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/http://www.coloradochess.com/newtourn.shtml?id=1009#tournamentContent)
After going to the info site, click on the sign up link :
https://caissachess.net/online-registration/index/774 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://caissachess.net/online-registration/index/774)

This site take you through the rest of the process.

Coach Jays Chess Academy

https://www.wholesalechess.com/coach-jays-chess-academy/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpJuCiJjs6QIVbRitBh1U1wMFEAAYASAAEgLai_D_BwE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.wholesalechess.com/coach-jays-chess-academy/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpJuCiJjs6QIVbRitBh1U1wMFEAAYASAAEgLai_D_BwE)

Mechanics' Defeats Toronto Kaiqi Chess Club 24-20, Will Face Club de Ajedrez Par de Alfiles From Paraguay In Round 3 Of Chess.com Club's League

Our Mechanics' Institute Chess Club team defeated Toronto Kaiqi Chess Club 24-20 last Saturday in our club's first league victory! We now have 1.5/2 headed into week 3. This Saturday, we play Club de Ajedrez Par de Alfiles from Paraguay. If you would like the opportunity to play in this match, or simply want to follow the action and root the team on, follow this link on Saturday at 10am: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=12864 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=12864). If you want to play, registration opens at 9am. Go Mechanics!

Dr. Alexey Root on Michael Walder and Chess in Coronoavirus Times

WIM Dr. Alexey Root has written two amazing articles that we would like to share with the Mechanics' community. The first is a personal profile of Mechanics' regular NM Michael Walder that is definitely worth rreading for anyone that has had the pleasure of knowing him and interacting with him. You can read the article here in Chessbase: https://en.chessbase.com/post/chemo-brain-and-chess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://en.chessbase.com/post/chemo-brain-and-chess).

Another article is on how we can all keep the chess alive in these shleter in place times. Written for Chess.com, you can read the article here: https://www.chess.com/article/view/supporting-each-other-on-chess-com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/article/view/supporting-each-other-on-chess-com)

We want to thank Alexey for writing thoughtful and thought provoking articles, and we especially thank her for the wonderful piece on Michael Walder. Getting an intimate glimpse of the people that make up our club and knowing them beyond the chessboard is a truly fascinating thing. Thanks, Alexey!

Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champion and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, June 6: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5 +5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35143 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35143)

Sunday, June 7: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/10+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35144 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35144)

Monday, June 8: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35146 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35146)

Tuesday, June 9: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35147 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35147)

Wednesday, June 10: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35648 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35648)

Thursday, June 11: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35649 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35649)

Friday, June 12: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35650 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=35650)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

in June: June 14 & June 28 @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Scholastic Games Of The Week (games from our scholastic online tournaments)

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(13) tuotuo (1420) - BentActiveTank (1301)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 e6?! The idea of advancing the black c-pawn is to take the white pawn on d4 and thus help control the center. Now White could advance with 4. d5! and have a clear advantage. **4.Bg5?! f6 5.Bf4 e5?** [5...cxd4! 6.Nxd4? Nxd4 7.Qxd4 e5 wins a piece.] **6.dxe5 fxe5 7.Bg5** [7.Nxe5 Qf6 8.Nxc6 Qxf4 is complicated] **7...Nf6 8.Nc3 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Bb5** [10.Nd5 Qd8 11.Bc4 leaves White with the pieces on excellent squares] **10...Nd4?!** [10...a6] **11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Nd5 Qd6 13.Qh5+ Kd8?!** [13...g6 keeps the right to castle] **14.0-0 a6 15.Ba4 Qc5?** This gives away the important e5 pawn, which lets White take over the center and add to the attack. **16.Qxe5 b5 17.Bb3 a5 18.Rad1?** [18.a4! keeps full control and keeps all the material] **18...a4!** now Black wins the bishop and has even chances **19.Bxa4 Rxa4 20.a3 b4?! 21.axb4 Qxc2?** Diagram

This looks sensible, but allows White to get a winning attack. [21...Rxb4! makes the defense much easier] **22.Rc1! Qxb2 23.Qc7+** [23.Rxc8+ Kxc8 24.Qc7# is also good] **23...Ke8 24.Qxc8+ Kf7 25.Qxd7+ Kg6 26.Qf5# 1-0**

(14) sulndu12 (1504) - kennethmex (1524)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 h6 5.0-0 Nf6 6.c3 d6 7.a4 a6 8.b4 Ba7 9.Re1 0-0 A well played opening thus far by both players. The pieces have been developed to good squares. **10.d4?! exd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.cxd4 Bg4?!** [12...Nxe4! 13.Rxe4 d5 is the fork trick. Black wins the piece back in excellent position.] **13.f3 Be6 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Be3 e5 16.dxe5?!** [16.Nc3] **16...Bxe3+ 17.Rxe3 dxe5 18.Qxd8 Raxd8 19.Nc3 c6 20.Rd1 Rxd1+ 21.Nxd1 Rd8** Black has a slight edge in the endgame due to having control of the open file. **22.Nc3 Rd2 23.b5 cxb5 24.axb5 axb5?!** [24...a5! is a nice passed pawn] **25.Nxb5 Rd1+ 26.Kf2 Rb1 27.Nd6 b5 28.Rc3!** Activating the rook allows White active possibilities. **28...Rb2+ 29.Kg1 Kh7?!** Black plays to win sacrificing a pawn [29...Rb1+ 30.Kf2 Rb2+ 31.Kf1 Rb1+ would be a draw] **30.Rc5 b4 31.Rxe5 b3 32.Rb5!** rooks belong behind passed pawns **32...Rb1+ 33.Kf2 b2?!** The loses the passed pawn. There were better chances to be had after [33...Rb2+] **34.Nc4 Rh1 35.Rxb2 Rxh2 36.Ne5 Rh5 37.Ng4?** [the game move breaks up the white pawns. Clearly better was 37.Nd3] **37...Nxg4+ 38.fxg4 Re5 39.Ke3 Ra5 40.Rb3 Re5 41.Rd3 Re7 42.Kd4 Kg6 43.e5 Kg5 44.Rg3 Kf4 45.Re3?** Diagram

45...Kxg4? going from winning to losing in one move [45...Rd7+! drives the white king away and so wins the rook on e3] **46.e6!** suddenly the e-pawn becomes a monster and wins the game **46...Kf5 47.Kd5 g5 48.Kd6 Rg7 49.e7 Rg8 50.e8Q Rxe8 51.Rxe8 Kg4 52.Rh8 h5 53.Ke5 h4 54.Rg8!** good technique **54...h3 55.gxh3+ Kh4 56.Kf5 Kxh3 57.Rxg5 Kh4 58.Kf4 Kh3 59.Rg4 Kh2 60.Rg3 Kh1 61.Kf3 Kh2 62.Kf2 Kh1 63.Rh3# 1-0**

(15) Oktai (1394) - BCSabarishree (1231)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5! The courageous move, making difficulites for your opponent and yourself. **4...d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 h6 9.Nf3** [9.Nh3 Bobby Fischer preferred to play] **9...Be6?!** [9...e4! drives the white knight] **10.Nc3?!** [10.Nxe5! takes a valuable center pawn and removes the worries of ...e4 by Black] **10...Qe7 11.d3?!** [11.Nxe5!] **11...0-0-0 12.Bd2 Rh7?!** this puts the rook on a poor square **13.Ne4?!** [13.Nxe5] **13...Nxe4 14.Bxa5?!** Diagram

14...Rd7? [14...Qc5! 15.Bxd8 Qxf2#] **15.Qb1?! Nf6 16.0-0 Ng4 17.h3 h5 18.hxg4?** This takes a piece but brings the black rook on h7 into the action. White was much better just leaving the knight alone. **18...hxg4 19.Nh2 Qh4!** suddenly Black has an overwhelming attack. Good use of the h-file **20.f3 g3!** not letting the king escape **21.Re1 Qxh2+ 22.Kf1 Qh1# 0-1**

Virtual Summer Chess Camps 2020

June 1 through Aug 14 on selected weeks

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp)

9AM - 12AM morning camps: Monday through Fridays
Next camp: June 15-19 - camp is filling up so secure your spot now!
Other weeks: 6-29-7/3, 7/6-10, 7/20-24, 8/3-7
Min 4 students, max 9 students in each camp.

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes)

1-hour intensive class followed by optional online tournament
$25/class, $45/two classes or $80/four classes package

Available classes:
Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Wednesday 3:00-4:00PM - Coach Colin
Friday 1:00-2:00PM - Coach Andy
Friday 2:15-3:15PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

6/6 Saturday - Saturday Afternoon Matinee
Format: 3SS G/30+0
Join from 2PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1247120 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1247120)
Starts at 3PM

Saturday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1247121 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1247121)
Start: 9PM

6/7 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 4 rounds of G/15+5
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1247126 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1247126)
Start: 4PM

6/7 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 7PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1247128 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1247128)
Start: 8PM

6/8 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=213115 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/live#r=213115)
Start: 6:30PM

6/9 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1249120 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1249120)
Start: 6:30PM

6/10 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1250429 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1250429)
Start at 4PM

Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1250431 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1250431)
Starts 9PM.

6/11 Thursday - USCF Online Rated Tournament
Format: 8SS G/3 +2
Join from 6:00PM -
Start: 7:00PM
https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/RegularOnlineRatedTournamentThursdayBLITZG5June117PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/RegularOnlineRatedTournamentThursdayBLITZG5June117PM)

6/12 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-

club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160129/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Tactics

To master the game of chess, a player needs tactical awareness. Time and again I see my students dodging calculation, avoiding complications. It's as though they are living in a world where lightning never strikes and their wishful thoughts always come true. The reality is that tactics dominate the game. After all, what good is the aphorism "double your rooks on the 7th rank", when you do so, only to overlook your opponent's checkmating your king in one move?

So, wake up and smell the tactics! When you start looking for – and seeing - those 1-2-3 jabs the masters use, you will win a lot more games. I promise.

Putting my own words into practice, the following positions are from my own on-line blitz games. Immodestly I will state I was on the winning side in all. I highly recommend blitz, especially for older players. It keeps you sharp – tactically aware! Some of the positions you might find easy, some hard. I'll give some clues, but I'm sorry I won't be there to tell you "it's mate in 2" when you're playing your next game!

- FM Paul Whitehead

Diagram 1. White to play.

Black has just played …Nf6-g4? This is the kind of move a player who's only looking at their own chances makes. White mates in 3 moves.

Diagram 2. White to play.

White has black on the ropes. How can he force mate or a decisive gain of material? Don't be lazy – work out a variation or two.

Diagram 3. Black to play.

White has been careless. Mate him in 3 moves.

Diagram 4. Black to play.

Remarkably, black has many losing moves, only one drawing move – and only one move that wins! This one's a little tough, but working out the variations will pay off in the long run.

Diagram 5. White to move.

A nice move ends any hope black might have had here.

Diagram 6. Black to move.

This is a little sequence every player should have in their bag of tricks. Black mates white in 2 moves.

Diagram 7. Black to move.

A volatile situation, but black is winning. Give a few variations.

Diagram 8. White to move.

It’s mate in 3 moves. Give it a delicious twist!

Diagram 9. White to move.

Black is a piece ahead, but dead lost. Find the forced mate without moving the pieces.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Great Action from Lindores Abbey Finals

Tennis has four Grand Slam tournaments in which all the best players in the world participate (unless they are injured). Who is the greatest tennis player? Roger Federer, Rod Laver, Bjorn Borg? That is open to debate, but in the French Open there is no one that compares (or has ever compared) to Rafael Nadal, who has won 12 of the last 14 events. That kind of dominance is similar to what Magnus Carlsen has done of late (or for that matter since 2010 when he became the #1 player in the world). When Magnus doesn't win a tournament he plays in it is a shock. Winning the tournament is one matter, but defeating Magnus is an even greater triumph.

It is for this reason we celebrate the finals of the Lindores Abbey Rapid Challenge. Our own Hikaru Nakamura made it to the semi-finals of this event and met his opponent "Sauron" as Hikaru calls him. This joking likening to the evil dark lord of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic is a fitting name for Magnus if you happen to meet him over the board. Hikaru started in the best of three rapid match losing the first match 3-0. All seemed usual for "Sauron." Then Hikaru squeaked by with a victory in the second match and it all came down to the Armageddon game of the third match. With a miraculous victory, Hikaru won and went to the Finals against up and coming Danil Dubov. Dubov managed to win the finals with the Armageddon game of the third match, so a great victory for him. Yet I consider Hikaru's tournament to be better. Defeating Sauron and bringing order to the world is a rare and satisfying victory.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Nakamura,Hikaru [D37]

Lindores Abbey Rapid, 30.05.2020

The Armageddon to decide the match. Hikaru chose the black pieces to have draw odds, though a minute less to start the game (5min vs 4 min). **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Be2 dxc4 8.0-0 a6 9.a4 Nd5 10.Bg3 c5 11.Bxc4 cxd4 12.exd4 N7b6 13.Bb3** White has an edge as his pieces have more mobility. **13...a5 14.Ne5 Bd7 15.Ne4 Bc6 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Rc1 Nb4 18.Qe2** Diagram

White has a small edge and still almost a minute time advantage. Black's position is pretty solid though. **18...N6d5** [18...Qxd4? 19.Rfd1 wins material as the black queen has no escape square.] **19.Rfd1?! Re8** [19...f5! threatens to trap the bishop on g3 with ...f4 when the knight moves from e4. White can try 20.Nd6! Qd7 *(20...f4 21.Qxe6+)* 21.Nc4 f4 22.Nb6 Qd6 23.Nxa8 fxg3 24.hxg3 Rxa8 is about equal.] **20.Qf3 Ra7 21.Be5 Bf8 22.Qg3 f6 23.Bd6** White is back to having an edge, though not too much. **23...Bxd6 24.Nxd6 Rf8 25.Ne4 Qb8 26.Qf3** [26.Bxd5! Nxd5 *(26...cxd5 27.Nxf6+!)* 27.Rxc6 wins a pawn] **26...Re8 27.g3 Kh8 28.Nc5 Rae7 29.Bc4 e5 30.dxe5 Qxe5 31.Rd2 Qg5 32.Nb3 Nb6 33.h4!** White is beginning to take squares and increase the pressure. The white bishop is a stronger pieces than a knight. **33...Qe5 34.Re2 Qc7 35.Rxe7 Qxe7 36.Nxa5 Qe5** Diagram

37.Nb3? Just when it looked really bad for Hikaru some luck comes his way. [Magnus could have come through with 37.Bf7! Rf8 *(37...Qxb2 38.Qd1 Rf8 39.Nxc6)* 38.Nxc6 Qxb2 39.Qd1 basically winning for White] **37...Nxa4 38.Bf7 Rf8 39.Rc4 Rxf7 40.Rxb4??** Diagram

[40.Qe4! is equal] Here is your position. Can you find how to beat Magnus? **40...Qe1+** That simple! You win a rook. Sometimes you just have to be alert when luck comes your way. **41.Kh2 Qxb4 42.Qxc6 Rf8 0-1**

(2) Dubov,Danil - Nakamura,Hikaru [D61]

01.06.2020

The finals match with Dubov was very close. Hikaru had his chances and plays well in this game. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.Qc2 c5 8.dxc5 dxc4 9.e3 Na6 10.Bxc4 Nxc5 11.0-0 a6 12.Rfd1 Qe8 13.Be2 b6 14.b4 Ncd7 15.Nd4 Bb7 16.Qb2 Rc8** Diagram

We have a pretty usual queen pawn position where the c and d files are open and the pawn structure symmetical. White is a little more active so holds a slight edge. **17.b5 a5 18.Na4 Nd5 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Bf3 Nc5 21.Nxc5 Rxc5 22.Nc6?!** Playing for activity, but this gives up a pawn. **22...Bxc6 23.bxc6 Qc7! 24.Rac1 Qxc6 25.Rxc5 Qxc5 26.Bxd5 exd5 27.Rc1 Qd6 28.g3 Rd8** White has some activity though the extra pawn means that Black is the one playing for the win. **29.Qb5 d4! 30.exd4 Qxd4 31.Rc6** Diagram

31...Qe4! It's this kind of transition move that is important to make. Black leaves the b6 pawn completely unguarded and looks instead to an attack on the white king. **32.Rc1 Qf3 33.Qb1** [33.Qxb6 Rd1+ 34.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 35.Kg2 Qd5+ 36.Kg1 Qxa2 is an excellent pawn up queen ending] **33...g6 34.h4 Rd6 35.Qa1 Kh7** White was forced back to the defensive, so is just a pawn down for nothing. Hikaru has great technique for quick chess. **36.Qb1 h5 37.Re1 a4 38.Qb4?! Rd1! 39.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 40.Kh2** [40.Kg2 Qd5+ 41.Kg1 Qxa2 is again a great queen ending. Black guards the f7 pawn and so can just march up the a-pawn.] **40...Qc2!** Diagram



There was no good move. The f2 pawn is hanging so Dubov at least guards that and only remains a pawn down. Unfortunately for him it's still losing. **41.Qxb6 Qxa2 42.Qf6 Qe6 43.Qc3 Qb3 44.Qf6 a3** The a-pawn wins the game. Dubov tries a last desparate chance. **45.g4 Qe6! 46.Qf3 a2 0-1**

(3) Dubov,Danil - Nakamura,Hikaru [C26]

03.06.2020

The finals all came down to the Armageddon game of the third match. Just as in the semi-final match against Magnus, Hikaru took the black pieces. **1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3** A decent, offbeat system for White. **3...Bc5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.Nge2 d6 6.d3 a6 7.0-0 Be6 8.h3 h6 9.Kh2 d5** Going for the central break right away. **10.exd5 Nxd5 11.f4 exf4?!** Diagram



12.Bxd5! A surprising and inventive move by young Dubov. Giving up the fianchettoed bishop brings the white knights to action. **12...Bxd5?** [Black needed to play 12...fxg3+ 13.Nxg3 Bxd5 14.Qh5 Ne7 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Qxd5 Nxd5 17.Rf5 0-0-0 18.c4 when 18...Nb4 19.Rxc5 Nxd3 20.Rf5 is a clearly better endgame for White, but there is still lots of play left.] **13.Nxf4 Ne7 14.Qh5 c6 15.Ncxd5 cxd5 16.Ne6** Ouch. Black has a lot of troubles. **16...Qd6 17.Nxg7+ Kd7 18.Rxf7** Two pawns up and the attack, White is winning. It's not sure though in a blitz game. **18...Raf8 19.Bf4** Diagram

19...Rxf7 best chance here **20.Bxd6 Rf2+ 21.Kh1 Bxd6 22.Re1 Rhf8 23.Qg4+ Kc6 24.Ne6 R8f6 25.Nd4+ Kb6 26.Re2 Rf1+ 27.Kg2 Nc6 28.Nxc6 bxc6** Hikaru fights on. In a classic time control game he might resign, but there are always chances in blitz. **29.c3 R1f5 30.b4 Kb7 31.Qg7+ Rf7 32.Qxh6 Bc7 33.Qe3 Bb6 34.d4 Bc7 35.h4 a5 36.a3 a4 37.Qd3 Rf1 38.b5!** Opening up the position around the black king. The end is near. **38...R1f6 39.bxc6+ Kxc6 40.Qa6+ Bb6 41.Qxa4+ Kb7 42.Qe8 Rf8 43.Re7+ Bc7 44.Qb5+ Rb6 45.Rxc7+** Black resigns as 45...Kxc7 46. Qc5+ picks up the rook on f8. Congratulations to Dubov for a great event, but even more congratulations to Naka for beating Sauron. **1-0**

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Newsletter #922

June 13, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- USCF Online Rated Blitz
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- TD Corner
- Chess.com Clubs League
- FM Paul Whitehead's Online Class
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Tournament Report: USCF Online Rated Blitz June 11, 2020

GM Gadir Guseinov wins the June Thursday Night USCF online rated blitz.

The Mechanics' Institute organized its first regularly-occurring USCF online rated blitz event on Thursday with 35 players competing for a $372 prize pool. The 8-round G/5 +2 blitz was won by GM Gadir Guseinov with 7/8 and clear first. GM Aleksandr Lenderman took clear 2nd with 6.5, despite missing the first round. There was a tie for 3rd between GM Michael Rohde and IM Elliott Winslow with 6/8.

GM Michael Rohde tied for 3rd in the Thursday blitz.

It was another fine performance by Guseinov, who also won the MI Rapid Championship the week before. Here is a big win by Guseinov in round 3 against GM Rohde. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) GM Michael Rohde (boo786) (2393) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2869) [A04]

Live Chess Chess.com, 11.06.2020

1.Nf3 g6 2.e4 c5 3.c3 We started with a Reti, transposed to an Accelerated Dragon and now into a c3 Siclian. **3...d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Bg7 6.Na3 cxd4 7.Nb5 Na6 8.Be2 Nf6 9.Qxd4 0-0 10.0-0** White has only a minimal edge from the opening. Both sides lack weakenesses. **10...Bg4 11.a4 Rfd8 12.h3 Be6 13.Be3 Qb3!?** GGuseinov plays a bold move to go after a pawn. White should certianly get enough play for it. **14.Qh4 Qxb2 15.Rfe1?!** [15.Nfd4! threatens to trap the black queen with Rfb1. 15...Ba2 16.Rac1 probably forces 16...Rxd4 17.Nxd4 and White has the exchange for a pawn.] **15...Qc2 16.Ng5 Bd5 17.Bd1 Qf5 18.Bg4 Qd3 19.Be2 Qc2 20.Bd1 Qb2** Not accepting the repetition of moves. **21.Bf3?!** [21.Rc1] **21...Bxf3 22.Nxf3 Rd5** [22...Nd5!] **23.Bxa7** [23.Qc4! threatens Ra2 to trap the black queen. 23...Qc2 24.Bxa7 would be pleasant for White.] **23...Re8? 24.Bd4?** [24.Qc4! Qc2 25.Nbd4 wins material] **24...Rh5 25.Qg3 Nc5 26.Ne5?** Diagram

[26.Bxc5] **26...Nfe4! 27.Qf4 Rf5** Now it is Black than wins material. **28.Qe3 Bxe5 29.Bxe5 Rxe5 30.f3 Rd8** [30...Rg5 31.g4 Nd2!] **31.fxe4 Rd2 32.Qf3 Rg5 33.g4 Nd3** All the black pieces are swarming near the white king. The defense is very difficult. **34.Rf1 Ne5 35.Qg3 h5 36.Qf4?!** [The only chance is to harass the black queen with 36.Rab1 Qa2 37.Ra1 Qc2 38.Nd4 Qxe4 39.Rae1 though 39...Rd3 40.Rxe4 Rxg3+ 41.Kh2 Rxc3 should be a winning endgame] **36...hxg4!** The rook on g5 is immune because of ...Rg2+, so White resigned as his position is collapsing **0-1**

Another battle of top GM's came in round 6 between Guseinov and Lenderman. With a full point lead to protect, Guseinov did his part in a tough game.

(3) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2871) - GM Aleksandr Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2816) [C43]

Live Chess Chess.com, 11.06.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 This is a sharp line against Petrov's Defense, but methods have been worked out to deal with it. **3...Nxe4 4.Bd3 Nc6!? 5.Nxe5** This is more interesting than capturing the knight as [5.Bxe4 d5 6.Bd3 e4 simply wins the piece back with no difficulties] **5...Nxe5 6.dxe5 Nc5 7.Bf4 d5 8.exd6 Bxd6 9.Bb5+ Ke7! 10.Bxd6+ Qxd6 11.Qxd6+ Kxd6 12.Nc3 c6 13.0-0-0+ Kc7** After a flurry of tactics we get a completely level ending. That is the job of Petrov's Defense - to equalize completely with a safe position. **14.Bc4 Be6 15.Bxe6 Nxe6 16.g3 Rad8** In the old days players would just agree to a draw in such a positon. **17.f4 Rxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Rd8 19.Re1 g6 20.Ne4 h5 21.Nf2 Kd6 22.Nd3 f6 23.c3 b6 24.b4 Rh8 25.Kc2 h4 26.g4 h3 27.Rd1 Ke7 28.Re1 Kf7 29.a4 Rh4 30.Rg1 Ke7 31.Kd2 Kd6 32.Ke3 c5 33.Nf2 f5 34.Kf3 cxb4 35.cxb4 Nd4+ 36.Kg3 Rh8 37.Rd1 Kd5 38.gxf5 gxf5 39.Nxh3** Diagram

White has marched the king over to g3 and has won the black h-pawn. Meanwhile the black king has taken up a strong centralized position, which fully compensates for the lost pawn. **39...Kc4 40.Ng5 Ne2+ 41.Kf3 Rxh2 42.Rd7 Nd4+ 43.Kg3 Ra2 44.Rxa7 Kxb4 45.Ra6 Kc5 46.Nf7 Kd5 47.Rxb6 Rxa4** Everything is still completely even. Neither player has made any significant error. **48.Ng5 Ra3+ 49.Kh4 Ra1 50.Kh5** This is still a clear draw, but White gets into a little trouble on the h-file now **50...Rf1! 51.Nh3 Rh1 52.Kh4 Ne2 53.Rb5+ Ke4 54.Rb4+ Ke3 55.Rb3+ Ke4 56.Rb4+ Ke3 57.Rb3+ Kd4 58.Kg5** White decides to give up the knight to get the last black pawn. This leads to rook and knight against rook, which is an easy draw. **58...Kc4 59.Re3 Nxf4 60.Nxf4 Kd4 61.Re8 Rg1+ 62.Kxf5 Rf1 63.Rd8+ Kc4 64.Ke4 Re1+ 65.Kf3 Rf1+ 66.Ke3 Re1+ 67.Ne2 Rh1 1/2-1/2**

Many Mechanics' regulars participated and got to play some elite players. However, two of our stronger scholastic players faced each other, with Boldi firing off a nice tactical shot to get him this nice win.

(2) CM Ethan Boldi (etvat) (2146) - Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) (2245) [A07]

Live Chess Chess.com, 11.06.2020

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.0-0 Bf5 5.d3 e6 6.Nbd2 Be7 Black has chosen a solid system against the King's Indian Attack. Often players select 6...h6 so that the light-squared bishop has a good hiding place on h7. **7.Re1 0-0 8.e4?! dxe4 9.dxe4 Bg6?!** [Black could have snatched a pawn with 9...Nxe4! 10.Nxe4 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Bxe4] **10.e5 Nd5 11.Nc4 Nd7 12.c3 Qc7 13.Ne3 Nxe3 14.Bxe3 Rad8 15.Qe2 Nc5** [15...Bh5 would win the e5 pawn for small compensation] **16.Bxc5 Bxc5 17.b4 Bb6 18.Qc4 Rd7 19.a4 a6 20.a5 Ba7 21.Nd4 Bxd4?!** Black gives away the bishop pair for no reason. Simply 21...h6 would keep a comfortable edge. **22.cxd4 Rfd8 23.Rad1 Qb8 24.Be4 Bxe4 25.Rxe4 Rd5 26.Qc3 Qa7 27.Kg2** The double rook and queen ending is even. Black has a target on d4 to look at while White has more space on the kingside. **27...h6 28.Rd3 Qb8 29.Qd2 Qc7 30.Rf4 Qe7 31.Qc3!?** This is risky as it will lose the b-pawn. White wishes to press on the kingside and is bringing the forces that way. **31...Rb5 32.Rdf3 Rf8 33.Rg4 Rxb4?!** [It would be better to interfere with the attack first before grabbing the b-pawn - 33...h5! 34.Rh4 Qxb4 35.Qe3 Qc4 36.Rxh5 Qd5] **34.Qe3?!** [34.Rf6] **34...Kh8?** [34...f5! 35.exf6 Rxf6 would allow Black to defend. The game move allows a shot.] **35.Rf6!** Diagram

There is no decent defense as all the white pieces focus on the black king and the black rooks are just onlookers. **35...Kh7** [35...g5 36.Rxg5 hxg5 37.Qxg5 Qxf6 38.exf6] **36.Rxg7+! Kxg7 37.Qxh6+ Kg8 38.Qg5+ Kh7 39.Rh6# 1-0**

Chess is not usually looked at as a game of luck, but sometimes prayers need answering. GM Lenderman hung a rook against Tejas Mahesh, but he fought on looking to build incremental advantage after advantage, slowly winning material back, and outplaying Mahesh in an endgame to save the point. Here is the game: https://www.chess.com/live#a=775372 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#a=775372).

It was a fun and entertaining event, and it was especially fun to see many viewers observing games. We look forward to our next online rated event, on Sunday June 28th, info can be found here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom)

Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-uscf-online-rated-blitz-1254526 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-uscf-online-rated-blitz-1254526)

SwissSys Standings. mechanics-uscf-online-rated-blitz-1254526 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Tot	Prize
1	GM Gadir Guseinov	17343590	unr.	W24	W32	W3	W10	W6	D2	D8	W7	7.0	100.00
2	GM Aleksandr Lenderman	12787646	2717	L25	W34	W11	W15	W7	D1	W3	W6	6.5	75.00
3	GM Michael Rohde	10047871	2478	W21	W25	L1	W13	W10	W6	L2	W8	6.0	25.00
4	IM Elliott Winslow	10363365	2278	W29	W17	L6	W9	L5	W25	W10	W19	6.0	25.00
5	Abhinav Penagalapati	15467440	2060	W28	D11	L12	W22	W4	L8	W17	W15	5.5	
6	FM Jason Liang	16041488	2403	W23	W13	W4	W12	L1	L3	W15	L2	5.0	
7	CM Vyom Vidyarthi	15107740	2247	W16	W22	L10	W25	L2	W11	W13	L1	5.0	
8	CM Ethan Boldi	15088362	2120	L17	W29	D24	W21	W12	W5	D1	L3	5.0	
9	Krishnakanth Rapaka	15343534	2043	W31	L12	W19	L4	L13	W21	W22	W23	5.0	
10	Manas Paldhe	16418854	1994	W30	W19	W7	L1	L3	W18	L4	W16	5.0	75.00
11	Tejas Mahesh	15086558	1988	W14	D5	L2	W26	D16	L7	W28	D13	4.5	
12	Ako Heidari	15206848	1980	D34	W9	W5	L6	L8	L23	W18	W20	4.5	
13	Nitish Nathan	15494283	1941	W20	L6	W18	L3	W9	W28	L7	D11	4.5	
14	Clarence Lehman	10497272	1904	L11	L18	W20	L28	L29	W33	W31	W24	4.0	
15	Rudolph Breedt	13701346	1884	U---	W27	W23	L2	W24	W16	L6	L5	4.0	
16	Nikhil Parvathaneni	15227212	1825	L7	D26	W34	W19	D11	L15	W25	L10	4.0	
17	Saatvik Krishnan	15210955	1797	W8	L4	L25	D23	W21	W24	L5	D22	4.0	16.67
18	Max Hao	16083648	1761	L19	W14	L13	W27	W22	L10	L12	W25	4.0	16.67
19	Isaac Spence	15293854	1747	W18	L10	L9	L16	W27	W29	W23	L4	4.0	16.67
20	Cailen Melville	14006141	1940	L13	L24	L14	W30	D33	W34	W27	L12	3.5	
21	Glenn Kaplan	12680193	1776	L3	W30	D32	L8	L17	L9	W34	W28	3.5	
22	Vishva Nanugonda	16380312	1664	W33	L7	W28	L5	L18	W31	L9	D17	3.5	
23	Marc Willis	12601676	1583	L6	W33	L15	D17	W26	W12	L19	L9	3.5	50.00
24	Felix German	12624534	1976	L1	W20	D8	W32	L15	L17	D29	L14	3.0	
25	Mansoor Mohammed	16086550	1893	W26	L3	W17	L7	W31	L4	L16	L18	3.0	
26	Nicholas Boldi	15088356	1883	L25	D16	W29	L11	L23	L27	D30	W34	3.0	
27	Stewart Katz	12458563	1835	L32	L15	W30	L18	L19	W26	L20	W29	3.0	
28	Kritin Gopalakrishnan	16545130	1506	L5	W31	L22	W14	W32	L13	L11	L21	3.0	
29	Nathaniel Bryans	12680723	1887	L4	L8	L26	W33	W14	L19	D24	L27	2.5	
30	José Pacheco	17095177	unr.	L10	L21	L27	L20	L34	B---	D26	W31	2.5	
31	Valerie Jade	17168772	1490	L9	L28	W33	W34	L25	L22	L14	L30	2.0	
32	Pranav Sathish	16464655	1768	W27	L1	D21	L24	L28	U---	U---	U---	1.5	
33	Jeff Anderson	11296106	1643	L22	L23	L31	L29	D20	L14	B---	U---	1.5	
34	Narayan Rueppel	16577540	756	D12	L2	L16	L31	W30	L20	L21	L26	1.5	
35	Kevin Fong	17254586	1783	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0	

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

The Tuesday Night Online this week saw a new winner emerge, as Anthony Rozenvasser (Atrozen) broke through a tough field to win his first TNO with a perfect 5/5 and his first gold medal. There was a 4-way tie for 2nd with 4/5, with NM Michael "fpawn" Aigner taking silver, and IM Elliott Winslow taking bronze. Rounding out the top spots were FM Kyron Griffith and EM-TheChessShark.

The breakthrough game for Rozenvasser came in round 4, as he displayed steady nerves in finishing a nice win against defending champ FM Kyron Griffith.

(6) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2067) - Anthony Rozenvasser (Atrozen) (1821) [A53]

Live Chess Chess.com, 09.06.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nf3 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.e4 0-0 6.h3 Kyron likes this move and has had success with it. **6...e5 7.dxe5!?** Exchanging and heading for the endgame. Sometimes it just depends what mood you're in - safe and simple or crazy and complicated. **7...dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bg5 c6 10.Nxe5 Re8 11.0-0-0** not [11.f4?! Nh5! with several threats] **11...Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe5 13.Nf6+ Bxf6 14.Bxf6 Be6 15.Bd3 Nd7 16.Bc3** [16.Bd4! controls a few more squares] **16...f6** [16...Nc5!] **17.Rhe1 Kf7 18.b3 a5 19.Bc2** The pawn structure is symmetrical and all is level except White has the bishop pair. The white dark squared bishop is superior to the black knight. **19...b5?!** Diagram

20.Be4?! [20.Rd6! Ra7 *(20...bxc4? 21.Rexe6 Rxe6 22.Rxd7+)* 21.Rxc6 with an extra pawn and good position] **20...Ra6 21.cxb5 cxb5 22.Kb2 b4 23.Bd4 a4 24.Bd3 a3+ 25.Kb1 Rd6 26.Bc2 Bf5 27.Be3 Bxc2+ 28.Kxc2 Rc8+ 29.Kb1 Rcc6?** [29...Rxd1+ 30.Rxd1 Ne5 31.Rd4 is clearly better for White as the black pawn on b4 is a target. The game move however allows White more.] **30.Rxd6?** [30.Bd2! wins at least the b4 pawn and probalby the a3 pawn after that 30...Rb6 31.Bxb4 Rxd1+ 32.Rxd1 Rxb4 33.Rxd7+ is a winning ending] **30...Rxd6 31.Rc1 Ne5 32.f4 Nd7 33.Rc7 Ke6 34.Kc2 Kd5?! 35.Rc4?!** [35.Bd2! and White wins a pawn or more] **35...Rc6! 36.Rxc6 Kxc6 37.Kd3 Kd5** now Black should be able to defend easily and make a draw **38.g4 f5** It's important to place this pawn on a white square where the white bishop can't attack it **39.Bd2 Kc5 40.Be1 Nf6 41.gxf5 gxf5 42.Bh4?** [42.Bf2+ Kd5 43.Bd4 is just a draw. White overpresses.] **42...Nd5! 43.Bf2+ Kb5 44.Bg3 Nc3!** It seemed that Black was struggling the whole endgame trying to defend the pawns on b4 and a3. Just one mistake in continuing to play for the win and suddenly the black knight is able to spring into the game and snatch the white pawn on a2. **45.Kc2 Nxa2 46.Be1 Kc5 47.h4 h5 48.Bf2+ Kd5** The game is over. There is no way for White to even make it difficult. **49.Be1 Kd4 50.Bf2+ Ke4 51.Bc5 Kxf4 52.Kb1 Nc3+ 53.Kc2 Nd5 54.Kd3 Kg4 55.Kc2 f4 56.Kb1 f3 57.Bd4 Kg3 58.Ka2 f2 59.Be5+ Kf3 60.Bd4 f1Q 61.Bg1 Qe2+ 62.Kb1 Qb2# 0-1**

In the final round, he had to survive a queenside attack from Anika Rajaram en route to his first TNO victory.

(5) Anthony Rozenvasser (Atrozen) (1842) - Anika Rajaram (Kirotori)(1848) [B47]

Live Chess Chess.com, 09.06.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.a3!? This is a slow move in this Taimanov Sicilian, but not a bad one. White still has a little more control of the center. **6...a6 7.Be3 Nf6 8.f3** [8.Be2 would be a typical Sicilian. The game move allows Black an opportunity.] **8...Be7** [8...d5!? 9.exd5 exd5 10.Qd2 Bd6 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.Kb1 Be5 is roughly equal] **9.Qd2 Ne5 10.g4 b5 11.Be2 Bb7 12.g5 Ng8?** The knight retreat leaves Black on the defensive and gives White time to bring all the pieces into play. Much better was the brave [12...Nh5! since 13.f4 Nc4 saves the knight on h5 and leaves Black active.] **13.Bf4 d6 14.0-0-0 Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.Nde2** Nicely putting pressure on the d6 square. **16...e5 17.Be3 h6 18.h4!** played to keep the knight on the poor g8 square **18...Bc6 19.Ng3 Rb8 20.Rdg1?!** [20.Nd5! Qb7 21.Nb6 stops Black on the b-file and leaves White in firm control] **20...Qb7 21.Nd1 d5 22.exd5** Diagram

22...Bxa3?! [22...Bxd5] **23.dxc6?!** [23.Qc3! wins a piece as both black bishops are attacked] **23...Bxb2+ 24.Kb1 Qxc6! 25.Nxb2 c3** Black gets on piece back with a strong attack to compensate for the other **26.Qd3** Black gets on piece back with a strong attack to compensate for the other **26...Rxb2+ 27.Kc1 Ra2 28.Kd1!** The king runs to its only safe place even though i allows a capture with check **28...Qxf3+ 29.Ne2 Ra1+?!** The check leads to an edgame where White is clearly better with the piece. Black is only slightly worse if he stays in the middle game with the developing 29...Ne7! **30.Bc1 Qxd3+ 31.cxd3 Ne7 32.gxh6 gxh6 33.Nxc3** The game has simplified. White has a bishop for two pawns and good winning chances. **33...Nf5 34.Kc2 Nd4+ 35.Kb2** The game has simplified. White has a bishop for two pawns and good winning chances. **35...Ra5 36.Be3 Nf3?!** [36...Kd7] **37.Rf1 Nd4 38.Bxd4 exd4 39.Ne2** Now the d-pawn goes and it's only one black pawn for the knight. **39...Ke7 40.Nxd4 Rb8+ 41.Kc3 Rc5+ 42.Kd2 Rb2+ 43.Ke3 Re5+ 44.Kf4** Many black checks, but no danger to the white king. **44...Rd5 45.Re1+ Kd6 46.Nf5+ Kc5 47.Re5 Rb4+?** [better is 47...Rf2+ 48.Kg4 h5+ 49.Kg5 Rxe5 50.d4+ Kd5 51.dxe5 Kxe5 52.Re1+ Kd5 53.Ra1 though it would still be easy enough for White] **48.d4+! Kc4 49.Rc1+** Black resigned as White wins the rook. **1-0**

In a game that immediately caught my attention, Lauren Goodkind and Barbara Goodkind were paired againt each other they thought they would have a little fun. We included the game for entertainment purposes, so readers may play it out for some laughs. Who do you think is better in the end?

(4) Barbara Goodkind (eatdinner) (1641) - Lauren Goodkind (laurengoodkindchess) (1756) [A00]

Live Chess Chess.com, 09.06.2020

1.a4 a5 2.Ra2 b5 3.Ra3 b4 4.Rc3 c5 5.Rc4 d5 6.Rd4 e5 7.Re4 f5 8.Rf4 g5 9.Rg4 h5 10.Rh4 b3 11.c3 c4 12.Qc2 d4 13.Na3 Nf6 14.Qe4 f4 15.Nc2 g4 16.d3 f3 17.e3 bxc2 18.b4 Be6 19.b5 Nbd7 20.b6 Kf7 21.b7 Ra7 22.Ba3 c1N 23.b8B Nc5 24.Qa8 N5b3 25.Bb4 Na1 26.e4 Nd7 27.Be2 Nc5 28.Bd1 N5b3 29.Ne2 fxe2 30.Bc2 Qd7 31.f4 Kg7 32.Kf2 e1N 33.f5 Bd5 34.f6+ Kg6 35.Kg3 Bd6 36.f7 Qe6 37.f8B Nd2 38.Rf1 Nb1 39.Rf3 gxf3 40.Be7 f2 41.Bd8 Qd7 42.Rf4 exf4+ 43.Kh4 Qb7 44.g4 Kh7 45.Bb6 f1N 46.Bb3 cxb3 47.e5 b2 48.c4 Nc3 49.c5 Nd1 50.c6 b1N 51.c7 f3 52.c8B f2 53.e6 Nfd2 54.Bd8 f1N 55.e7 axb4 56.e8B Rg8 57.g5 Na3 58.a5 Ndb1 59.a6 Qg7 60.Qc6 Rb7 61.a7 Qe7 62.a8B Qe4+ 63.dxe4 d3 64.e5 d2 65.e6 Ndc3 66.Qc4 d1N 67.Qg4 hxg4 68.Ba4 N3a2 69.e7 b3 70.e8B b2 71.g6+ Kh6 72.g7 Rf8 73.gxf8B+ Kh7 74.Bcxb7 g3 75.h3 g2 76.Ba5 g1N 77.Ba6 Nbd2 78.Ba7 b1N 79.Be7 Ng3 80.Bed8 Ndf1 81.Bdc7 Nh1 82.Bcb8 Bb4 83.Bed7 Bb3 84.Bdc8 Kg8 85.Kh5 Kf8 86.Kh6 Kf7 87.h4 Kf6 88.h5 Kf7 89.Kh7 Kf6 90.Kh8 Bg8 91.h6 Bf8 92.h7 Kg5 93.hxg8B Bg7+ 94.Kxg7 Kh4 95.Bf7 Kg5 96.Bfe8 Kh4 97.Kf8 Kg5 98.Ke7 Kh4 99.Kd8 Kg5 1/2-1/2

IM Elliott Winslow had a fine tournament, and he had this quick win against a tough opponent.

(3) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1819) - Mansoor Mohammed (Mansoortaj) (1627) [C70]

Live Chess Chess.com, 09.06.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Nf6 6.0-0 Be7 looking to play the Marshall Attack after 7. c3 d5! **7.d4** The avoids the Marshall Attack, but now White cannot reach the standard lines of the Closed Ruy Lopez the way Fischer and others used to play. **7...0-0?!** [Black should play to control the center squares with 7...d6 8.c3 Bg4] **8.dxe5?!** [8.Nxe5! Nxe4 9.Bd5 Nf6 10.Nxc6 dxc6 11.Bxc6 is a clean pawn ahead] **8...Nxe4 9.Qd5 Nc5 10.Be3 Nxb3 11.axb3 Bb7 12.Nc3 Qc8 13.Rad1 Rd8 14.Ng5 Bxg5 15.Bxg5** Diagram

15...Nb4? Black can't resist the temptation to double attack the white queen. This impatience leads to a lost position. He needed a cool head for a little longer - [15...Re8! 16.Qxd7 Nxe5 is about equal] **16.Qc5** A simple double attack wins material. **16...Nxc2 17.Bxd8 Qxd8 18.Nd5! c6 19.Nb6 Rb8 20.Nxd7** Black resigns as heavy material loss is coming. **1-0**

For full results, please follow this link: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1249120
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1249120)

Mechanics' Online Events Recap

Saturday Matinee: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1247120
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1247120)

Saturday Late Night Showdown: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1247121
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1247121)

Jeremy Cawthon won the Saturday Late Night Showdown with 4.5/5. Here is his final round win against Rudolph Breedt.

(1) Rudolph Breedt (bobbejaan) (1977) - Jeremy Cawthon (Karmas_Revenge) (2112) [B15]

Live Chess Chess.com, 06.06.2020

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 dxe4 4.f3 The Fantasy Variation against the Caro-Kann. Black's most usual replay is 4...e5! **4...Nd7** [4...exf3 5.Nxf3 gives White very nice play for the pawn] **5.fxe4 e5** Black needs to break up the classic white pawn center on e4 and d4. **6.Nf3 Bd6 7.dxe5!?** headed for trades and the endgame. I would prefer to stay in the middlegame with 7. Bg5. **7...Nxe5 8.Nxe5 Bxe5 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8** Black has lost the right to castle but has an even ending due the the isolated white e-pawn. **10.Bd2?!** This is a little passive. More active is 10. Bc4 **10...Be6 11.0-0-0 Kc7 12.g3 Ne7 13.Bf4 Ng6! 14.Bxe5+ Nxe5** Diagram

Now Black holds the advantage as the only imbalance is White's isolated pawn. The black knight sits in front of it on an excellent square. **15.Be2 Rad8 16.Rxd8 Rxd8 17.Rd1 Rxd1+ 18.Kxd1 Kd6 19.Kd2 Nc4+** Getting a bishop vs. knight, which is an edge in this endgame. Yet keeping the powerful knight on e5 would keep a little more pressure on White. **20.Bxc4 Bxc4 21.Ke3 Ke5 22.Nd1 a5** [22...Bxa2 23.b3 Bb1 24.Kd2 Bxc2 25.Kxc2 Kxe4 was a fair alternative as the three black pawns are at least at valuable here as the white knight] **23.b3 Be6 24.Nf2 f6 25.Nd3+ Kd6 26.Kd4 b6 27.c4** [27.e5+ fxe5+ 28.Nxe5 c5+ 29.Ke4 should hold the draw without too much pain] **27...c5+ 28.Ke3 Bg4 29.h4 Bd1 30.Kd2 Bf3 31.Ke3 Bg2 32.Nf4 Bh1 33.Nh5?! Ke5! 34.Nxg7 Bxe4** White's knight journey has grabbed the g-pawn for the isolated e-pawn, but now Black has good control of the center. **35.Nh5?** [35.Ne8! Bb1 36.a3 Ba2 37.Nc7 Bxb3 38.Kd3 Kd6 39.Ne8+ Ke6 40.Nc7+ Kd7 41.Nd5 keeps the pawns even] **35...Bb1! 36.a3** [36.Kd2 Bxa2 37.Kc2 a4! gets the bishop out with an extra pawn.] **36...Ba2 37.b4 Bxc4 38.bxc5 bxc5** With an extra pawn and bishop vs knight, Black has excellent winning chances. **39.Nf4 a4 40.Ng2 Bf1 41.Ne1 Kd5 42.Kf2 Bb5 43.Ke3 Kc4!** The black king invasion seals the deal. **44.Nd3 Bd7 45.Kd2 Bf5 46.Nc1 Kd4?!** [46...h5! is zugszwang] **47.Na2 Kc4 48.Nc3?!** [48.Nc1] **48...Kb3 49.Nd5 Kxa3 50.Kc3 Ka2 51.Nxf6 Kb1!** The a-pawn marches down now. **52.g4 Bc2 53.Nd5 a3 54.Ne3 Be4 55.Nc4 a2 56.Nd2+ Kc1 57.Nb3+ Kd1 58.Kb2 c4 59.Nc5 Bb1 60.g5 c3+ 61.Ka1 c2 62.Nb3 c1Q 63.Nxc1 Kxc1 64.h5 Kd2** no stalemates! **65.g6 h6** [65...Bxg6 66.hxg6 hxg6] **66.Kb2 Ke3 67.g7 Bh7 68.Kxa2 Kf4 69.Kb2 Kg5 70.Kc3 Kxh5 0-1**

Sunday Afternoon Rapid: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-afternoon-rapid-1247126
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-afternoon-rapid-1247126)

The Sunday afternoon saw Jeffery Wang take clear first with 4/4. Here is a final round win against IM Elliott Winslow.

(2) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1813) - Jeffery Wang (twangbio) (1682) [C70]

Live Chess Chess.com, 07.06.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 g6 5.c3 b5 6.Bb3 Bg7 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4 Nge7 9.Nc3 d6 10.h3 0-0 White has gotten some edge against Black's little played defense to the Ruy Lopez. **11.Bg5 h6 12.Be3 Bb7 13.Qd2 Kh7 14.h4!?** White could have played the natural 14. 0-0 with advantage. **14...b4 15.Ne2 f5?** Diagram

16.h5? [White had to crushing 16.Ng5+! hxg5 *(16...Kh8 17.Ne6)* 17.hxg5+ Bh6 18.Rxh6+ Kg7 19.0-0-0 with an extra pawn and huge attack.] **16...g5 17.Bxg5?! fxe4! 18.Bxe7 Qxe7** Now Black has a safe king and more control of the center. A quick change of fortune from two moves ago. **19.Nh4 Qf6 20.0-0-0 Qg5?!** [20...Qxf2!] **21.f4 exf3 22.gxf3 Nxd4!?** initiating tactics that should end up level **23.Nxd4 Bxd4 24.Bc2+ Kg7?!** [24...Kg8!] **25.Qxg5+ hxg5 26.h6+! Kf6 27.Ng6?!** [27.Rxd4 gxh4 28.Rf4+ leaves Black under pressure as the white pawn on h6 is strong.] **27...Be3+ 28.Kb1 Rg8! 29.h7 Rxg6 30.h8Q+ Rxh8 31.Rxh8 Rg7** Black has two pawns for the exchange, so material and positon are even. **32.Be4?!** [32.Re1 Bf4 33.Rh6+] **32...Bxe4+ 33.fxe4 Re7** [33...g4! and the black pawn starts to cause trouble] **34.Re1 Bb6 35.Rg8 Rg7 36.Rxg7 Kxg7 37.Re2?!** [37.Kc2 g4 38.e5! g3 39.Re4 Kf7 40.Rg4 Bf2 41.exd6 cxd6 should be a draw] **37...Kg6 38.Rg2 Kh5 39.Kc2 g4 40.Kd3 g3?** perhaps there is a scoring error as this pawn just hangs [40...Kh4 41.Rh2+! would hold the draw. Either the black king retreats or gets in front of the pawn, slowing it down.] **41.Ke2??** [41.Rxg3] **41...Bf2** Black is simply winning here. The white rook has gotten trapped by the bishop and pawn so cannot move. This makes it a pawn up king and pawn ending for Black - an easy win. **42.Kf3 Kg5 43.b3 Kf6 44.Kf4 Ke6 45.Kg4 Ke5 46.Kf3 Kd4 47.Kf4 Kc3 48.Kf5 Kd3 49.Kf4 Kc2 50.Kf5 Kb2 51.Ke6 Kxa2 52.Kd7 Kxb3 53.Kxc7 Ka3 54.Kxd6 b3 55.e5 b2 56.e6 b1Q 0-1**

Sunday Evening Blitz: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-evening-blitz-1252477
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-evening-blitz-1252477)

Monday Night Arena: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-213115
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-213115)

Wednesday Matinee: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-matinee-1250429
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-matinee-1250429)

Wednesday Late Night Showdown: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1250431
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1250431)

Mechanics' Chess Social

Our special guest this week was FM Kyron Griffith. He played and developed at the San Diego Chess Club, attended the Marshall Chess Club while attending Columbia in New York, and now plays at Mechanics' while working in San Francisco.

To watch the interview, please follow this link: https://www.twitch.tv/videos/648934331 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.twitch.tv/videos/648934331)

Tournament Director's Corner

What's new in Online Chess Rules

by Dr. Judit Sztaray, FIDE Arbiter, USCF Senior Tournament Director

Much focus has been on online chess since the lockdown in the US has begun. The Rules of Chess from the USCF will always take precedent, but tournament organizers, tournament directors and the USCF have been facing new challenges given the circumstances around the country and the world. Kudos to US Chess, which has and continues to adapt quickly to the challenges. They have issued important statements and are working on some pretty amazing innovations and collaborations.

Most recent is the release of US Chess Online Regular ratings:
https://new.uschess.org/news/us-chess-release-online-regular-rating/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://new.uschess.org/news/us-chess-release-online-regular-rating/)
"
With demand for online play increasing, the US Chess Executive Board, in conjunction with the Ratings Committee, authorized the creation of a regular rating system for online play. The new rating system will be for online rated games of 30 minutes or more. The new rating system will be available for use starting Friday, June 12.
Individual member ratings will be seeded from a member's Over-the-Board (OTB) regular rating, provided that the member has at least 10 regular rated OTB games. The Member Services Area (MSA) already features this new rating, which will start populating when online games begin to be played later this week. The US Chess regular OTB rating system will continue to be used only for OTB "

What does this mean to you as a player? If you have an established (10 games or more) OTB regular rating, you'll get that automatically as your initial online regular rating. This is also called initialization. If you play a US Chess online rated game with a time control of G/30 or longer, your game will affect your US Chess online regular rating.
Note: over the board, G/30 is a dual rated (affecting both regular and quick rating), however, online it only affects your online regular rating,
Note 2: Online rapid and online blitz ratings have been around for a few years.

This came after a few important announcements and developments that have paved the way to make the US Chess online regular rating happen.

1. US Chess allowed any certified affiliate to run online tournaments:
https://new.uschess.org/news/online-rated-us-chess-events/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://new.uschess.org/news/online-rated-us-chess-events/)
This opened up the window to all clubs to be able to gather their community and get them engaged on a regular basis. This was one of the first encouraging messages from US Chess during the first weeks of the SIP period.

2. https://new.uschess.org/news/us-chess-announces-online-events-partnership-chess-com/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://new.uschess.org/news/us-chess-announces-online-events-partnership-chess-com/)
In this announcement, US Chess emphasized that Online rated games will only affect your online rating, and **never** the over the board rating.
All online rated games will show up in your usual MSA page, with an additional ONL in front of your rating.

3. US Chess was allowed "under the hood" of chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://chess.com/) to observe their fair play screening method. Based on what selected members of US Chess staff and Executive Board saw, they felt comfortable releasing a statement that has huge implications:
https://new.uschess.org/administration/chess-com-fair-play-endorsement-us-chess/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://new.uschess.org/administration/chess-com-fair-play-endorsement-us-chess/)
https://new.uschess.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Chess.Com_FairPlayV2_6-3-2020_FINAL-approved.pdf (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://new.uschess.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Chess.Com_FairPlayV2_6-3-2020_FINAL-approved.pdf)
In this letter of endorsement they state:
"We are confident that the system is able to eventually detect players using computer assistance with very little likelihood of falsely accusing a player." This
should give confidence to US Chess members that online-rated events will have a high degree of integrity of play on the Chess.com platforms.

4. Finally, a small, yet huge step to help TDs submit the tournaments for online rating: developers at Swissys worked hard to be able to read the crosstable of completed events on chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://chess.com/). Why is this seemingly small step so significant? It reduces the workload of any tournament director by a factor of 10! Yes, while before I spent roughly 8 hours on a tournament with 100 players and 800 games played, this would take me no more than 30 minutes with this new feature. Pretty cool, right?

We would like to thank the US Chess Federation Executive Board and the entire US Chess staff for their hard work. It's clear that without their fast, yet careful actions, we would not be here today, running USCF online rated tournaments, and continue to build friendships across the virtual boards. Stay tuned for more developments from US Chess.!

Mechanics' Loses To Club de Ajedrez Par de Alfiles From Paraguay In Round 3 Of Chess.com Club's League

The Mechanics' suffered a tough defeat against a very strong team from Clud de Ajedrez Par de Alfiles from Paraguay, losing 14.5-5.5. They had titled players on all boards, and our Mechanics' team was undermanned this week. We are now with one win, one draw, and one loss, 1.5/3 going into week 4 against the Pittsburgh Chess Club. The match will be Saturday June 13 at 10am, to play or follow the action, please visit this link: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=13353 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=13353)

Go Mechanics' players!

Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champior and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, June 13: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5 +5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=36336 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=36336)

Sunday, June 14: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/10+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=36337 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=36337)

Monday, June 15: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=36880 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=36880)

Tuesday, June 16: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=36881 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=36881)

Wednesday, June 17: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=37289 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=37289)

Thursday, June 18: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=37290 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=37290)

Friday, June 19: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=37291 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=37291)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

in June: June 14 & June 28 @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Scholastic Games Of The Week (games from our scholastic online tournaments)

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(7) ThinOvalPaw (1521) - ColdOriginalGecko (1356)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 The Classical Variation against the Ruy Lopez. This was popular in the 19th Century, but grandmasters determined that White would get an opening advantage with 4.c3! planning 5. d4 to hit the center. **4.0-0 d6 5.Nc3** [5.c3!] **5...a6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bb3 a5?** This is one too many pawn moves trying to chase down the white bishop. It loses a pawn and neglects development. **8.Bd5 Bb7 9.Nxb5 Nf6 10.d3 Nxd5 11.exd5 Nd4?!** [11...Ne7 12.c4 0-0 would be just a pawn down for Black. There would be no other problems, so it should be a long battle.] **12.Nfxd4! exd4 13.Re1+** Black loses the right to castle. **13...Kd7?** Diagram

[13...Kf8 14.Qf3 is very good for White but Black is still alive] **14.Qg4+** ouch **14...f5 15.Qxf5# 1-0**

(8) WiryCautiousRat (1304) - Oktai (1401)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 The Scotch Game. **3...exd4** [3...Bb4+] **4.Nxd4 Nxd4?!** The problem with this is that the knights get exchanged and the white queen comes to a nice centralized square. **5.Qxd4 Nf6 6.Bc4 Qe7 7.e5?!** [7.Nc3!] **7...Ng8?** Courage! The black knight has no need to retreat as the white e-pawn is pinned. With 7...d6! Black would be fine. **8.0-0 f6 9.Re1!** This position shows up the problem of being behind in development. White is castled and has three pieces out. Even with best play Black is in great trouble and it's hard to avoid all the tactics that can occur. **9...Qc5?!** Diagram

10.Qxc5 [10.exf6+ Kd8 11.fxg7] **10...Bxc5 11.exf6+ Kd8?** [11...Kf8! 12.Re8+! Kxe8 13.fxg7 Bd4 14.gxh8Q Bxh8 15.Bxg8] **12.fxg7 Bd4 13.gxh8Q Bxh8 14.Bxg8** A rook, a knight and a pawn ahead should be plenty to win. **14...d6 15.Bg5+ Kd7 16.Nc3 Kc6 17.Bd5+ Kd7 18.Re7+ Kd8 19.Rxh7+ Ke8 20.Rxh8+ Kd7 21.Rh7+ Ke8 22.Bf7+ Kd7 23.Re1** It's always good to get all your pieces into the battle. **23...Kc6 24.Bd5+ Kb6 25.Be3+ c5 26.Na4+ Kb5 27.b3 Bf5 28.c4+ Ka5 29.Rxb7 Re8 30.Rxa7+ Kb4 31.Bd2+ Ka3 32.Rxe8 1-0**

(9) thechessmaster1 (1597) - SlipperySummer (1450)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.0-0 e5 5.d3 The King's Indian Reversed. White quickly castles and prepares to hit back in the center. Black just grabs the vacant central space. **5...f5 6.Bg5 Nf6 7.Nbd2 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.e4** Both sides have played the opening well. Here is tricky as Black would like to consolidate the advantage in space but not suffer from being behind in development. **9...Be6 10.exd5 Bxd5 11.Re1 Bd6?!** [11...0-0-0! gets the black king out of the center with still the advantage in space] **12.c3?!** [White misses cashing in on the lead in development - 12.Nxe5! Bxg2? *(12...Nxe5 13.Bxd5)* 13.Ng4+ wins the queen] **12...0-0 13.c4?!** [13.Nxe5! Bxg2 14.Nd7 Qf7 15.Nxf8 Bd5 16.c4! is a material edge to White.] **13...Be6 14.a3 g5 15.Qc2 Rad8 16.Rad1 Rfe8** material is even but Black has more space and more control of the board **17.Qc3 f4?** giving the white knight the wonderful e4 square lets White jump back into control. Slow and careful advance would keep the advantage. **18.Ne4 Qe7 19.Nxd6 Rxd6 20.Nxe5** White has won a pawn and all the pieces have activity. **20...Nd4!** This makes the game complicated so White must think. **21.Nf3?!** [21.b4] **21...g4 22.Nxd4 cxd4 23.Qb4 f3 24.Bh1?!** [24.Bf1 is safer for the white king as there are no back rank checkmates to worry about] **24...Rb6 25.Qxe7 Rxe7 26.b4 Ra6 27.Ra1** [27.h3 h5 28.Ra1 Kf7 29.Re5 Kg6 30.a4 is very good for White] **27...h5 28.Re5 Rh7?** [28...Kf8! 29.Rxh5 Bf7 takes the important e-file] **29.b5 Rd6 30.c5! Rd5 31.Rxe6 Rxc5** Diagram

White is a whole bishop up, and is winning with good play. Yet the bishop on h1 is completely useless for now, so White must actively try to get it back in the game. 32. h3! is called for. **32.a4 Rc3 33.Rd1 Ra3 34.Re4 Rxa4 35.Kf1** [35.h3!] **35...Rc7 36.Re5! Rc2 37.Rxh5 Raa2** [37...Rd2!] **38.Rg5+ Kf7** [38...Kh7] **39.Rxg4 Rxf2+ 40.Kg1 Rxh2 41.Bxf3** getting the white bishop back in play should make the endgame a straightforward win. The two black rooks are troublesome though they cannot do damage if White is careful. **41...Raf2 42.Rf4+ Kg7 43.Bxb7 Rxf4 44.gxf4 Rb2 45.Bc6 Kf6 46.Rf1 Kf5 47.Be4+ Kg4 48.Bc6** [48.f5! Rxb5 49.f6 Rb8 50.f7 Rf8 51.Rf5 is pretty easy to win] **48...Rb3 49.f5 Rxd3 50.Rf2** [50.f6!] **50...Rh3 51.f6 Rh8 52.f7 Rf8 53.Be8 d3 54.Kf1 Kg3 55.Rf6 Rh8** Black is completely lost but fights bravely for the last chance. Mate on h1 is threatened. **56.Bc6 d2 57.Ke2 Rh2+ 58.Ke3??** [58.Kd1 is completely over] **58...d1Q 59.f8Q?** [59.Rf3+ Kg4 60.Rf4+ Kg5 61.Rf5+ Kxf5 62.f8Q+ would be a draw] **59...Re2#** A tragidy for thechessmaster1. A reward to SlipperySummer for never saying die. **0-1**

(10) ColdOriginalGecko (1408) - SlipperySummer (1462)

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.d4 e5 A slippery pawn sacrifice! Not so good, but it can be confusing. **2.dxe5 Qe7?!** [2...Nc6 is a better way to attack the e5 pawn. The black queen comes out and becomes a target.] **3.Nc3 Qxe5 4.Nf3 Qe7 5.Bg5 Nf6 6.Nd5!** Diagram

That's the problem with the queen coming out soon. The minor pieces who have less value jump out to try to trade for her. **6...Qd8 7.Bxf6 gxf6 8.Qd4 Bg7 9.Qe3+ Kf8 10.Qc5+! d6 11.Qxc7** The endgame is a struggle for Black. A pawn down and doubled f-pawns mean difficulties. Still, one should hold on to the rest of the material. **11...Qe8?** [11...Nc6] **12.Qxd6+ Kg8 13.Ne7+ Kf8 14.Nxc8+! Kg8 15.Ne7+ Kf8 16.Nf5+ Kg8 17.Qg3! Qf8 18.Nh6#** A forceful game by ColdOriginalGecko! **1-0**

Virtual Summer Chess Camps 2020

June 1 through Aug 14 on selected weeks

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp)

9AM - 12AM morning camps: Monday through Fridays
Next camp: June 15-19 - camp is filling up so secure your spot now!
Other weeks: 6-29-7/3, 7/6-10, 7/20-24, 8/3-7
Min 4 students, max 9 students in each camp.

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes)

1-hour intensive class followed by optional online tournament
$25/class, $45/two classes or $80/four classes package

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Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Wednesday 3:00-4:00PM - Coach Colin
Friday 1:00-2:00PM - Coach Andy
Friday 2:15-3:15PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

6/13 Saturday - Saturday Afternoon Matinee
Format: 3SS G/30+0
Join from 2PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1253287 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1253287)
Starts at 3PM

Saturday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1253288 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1253288)
Start: 9PM

6/14 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 4 rounds of G/15+5
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1253290 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1253290)
Start: 4PM

6/14 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 7PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1253293 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1253293)
Start: 8PM

6/15 Monday - Monday Online Arena
Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=217485 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#r=217485)
Start: 6:30PM

6/16 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1256872 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1256872)
Start: 6:30PM

6/17 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1256875 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1256875)
Start at 4PM

Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1256876 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1256876)
Starts 9PM.

6/18 Thursday Night Blitz
Format: 8SS G/3+2
Join the tournament from 6PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1256878 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1256878)
Starts 7PM.

6/19 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165026/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Paul Whitehead's column will return soon

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

GM Maurice Ashley

The headlines of the news finally changed in the last two weeks from coronavirus to cover the protests in the United States and around the world. Following the death of George Floyd, the protests of Black Lives Matter for unfair treatment by police of African Americans took over the country. The thorny issue of race surfaced, and hopefully this will be a turning point in how we treat all community members. We thought it would be an opportunity to write about the career of the self-proclaimed “First Black Grandmaster,” Maurice Ashley.

Maurice is simply a star by any standards but also someone who can bridge the two worlds of the highly intellectual thinking game of chess and the free flowing play. Articulate and charming, and with the enthusiasm of a sportscaster, Maurice and has done a great deal to promote chess in the United States. Maurice was born in Jamaica and came to the US at an early age, growing up in Brooklyn. Besides his playing career of becoming a grandmaster, he has had a stellar chess career in chess broadcasting, teaching children in Harlem, and promoting the game as an organizer. Maurice relates that he brings the energy from his background to liven up the broadcast. He is also extremely articulate and delivers a succinct and upbeat explanation of chess variations. His usual job now is to cover the major world chess events with fellow commentators Jen Shahade and Yasser Seirawan for the Sinquefeld-sponsored show done from St. Louis.

He came to San Francisco to play in the Mechanics’ Institute’s 1995 Pan Pacific International organized by MI trustee Jim Eade. Then he became familiar with the Mechanics’ Institute in an event still fondly remembered by many of our club members. We give below a few of Maurice’s entertaining games.

(1) Maurice Ashley - Larry Mark Christiansen [B15]

Foxwoods op Connecticut (6), 28.03.2002

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.h3 White plays a classical conservative setup that gains him a slight edge in the opening. **5...Nf6 6.Bd3 dxe4 7.Nxe4 Nxe4 8.Bxe4 Bf5 9.Bxf5 Qa5+ 10.c3 Qxf5 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Re1 e6 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nc4** Black is almost equal, yet there is a bit more space and mobility for White. **14...Qd5 15.Ne3 Qd6 16.Qf3 Rae8 17.b3 c5!?** the game now opens up and both players have to calculate accurately. **18.Qxb7 cxd4 19.cxd4 Bxd4 20.Rd1** Now Black could equalize with 20....Nc5 21. Qf3 e5 but plays instead the natural **20...Rd8?!** Diagram

21.Qxa7! This courageous move snatches a pawn and gives White a clear advantage. **21...Bxa7** [21...e5 22.Ba3 Qc6 23.Rxd4 exd4 24.Bxf8 dxe3 25.Be7 exf2+ 26.Qxf2] **22.Rxd6 Nf6 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Bb2 Ne4 25.Rd1!** Christiansen was nearly getting a strong endgame initiative. This trade offer works tactically to remove Black's threats. **25...Ra8 26.Bd4?!** [26.Ng4! would have kept a large advantage. Black gets some chances to save the game now.] **26...Bxd4 27.Rxd4 Nc3 28.Rc4 Nxa2 29.Ra4! Rxa4 30.bxa4** The pawns are back to even. The white a-pawn gives White the advantage as it will take the attention of either the black knight or king. **30...Nb4 31.Kf1 Kf8 32.Ke2 Ke7 33.Nc4 f6 34.Kd2 Kd7 35.Kc3 Nd5+ 36.Kd4 Kc6 37.Ne3 e5+ 38.Kc4 Nf4 39.h4** improving the position of the white kingside pawns. **39...h5 40.a5 g5?! 41.g3 Nh3 42.g4 gxh4 43.gxh5 Nxf2?** This greedy move dooms Black. He had much better drawing chances with [43...Ng5 44.h6 h3 45.Nf1 f5] **44.h6 Ne4 45.Nf5!** stopping Black's plan of ...Nd6+ and ...Nf7 to stop the h-pawn. **45...Ng5** [45...h3] **46.Nxh4** the two white rook pawns win the game as they are the hardest to stop for a knight. **46...Nh7 47.Nf5 Ng5 48.Ne7+ Kb7 49.Kb5 e4 50.a6+** Black resigns as the white king and knight push the a-pawn though. 50...Ke7 51. Nc6+ Ka8 52 Kb6 e3 53 Nd4 followed but Nb5 and Nc7+ **1-0**

(2) Maurice Ashley - Joshua Waitzkin [B57]

Mermaid Beach Club Bermuda (5), 1997

Played in one of the famous Bermuda tournaments, Maurice battles the famous wunderkind who was the subject of "Searching for Bobby Fischer." **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4** Fischer's favorite Sozin Sicilian. **6...Qb6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.0-0 e5 9.Bg5!? Qxb2 10.Qd3** White has good compenation for the pawn with the lead in development and the black king still in the center. **10...Qb6 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Nd5!** Diagram

12...Qd8 [12...cxd5 13.Qxd5 Qb7 14.Rfb1! Qxd5 15.Bxd5 wins the rook on a8 or worse] **13.Rab1 Be7 14.Nxe7 Kxe7 15.f4 Qa5 16.Kh1 Rg8** Black has defended well and avoided major damage. Maurice should slow down but can't resist a speculative sacrifice. **17.Bxf7!? Kxf7 18.Qxd6 Qd8 19.Qxc6 Qd2! 20.Rg1 Bd7 21.Qc4+ Ke7 22.fxe5 fxe5 23.Rbd1 Qa5 24.Qd3?!** [24.Rxd7+! Kxd7 25.Qf7+ Kc6 26.Qe6+ Kc7 27.Rd1 Rad8 28.Qc4+ Kb7 29.Rb1+ Qb6 forced 30.Rxb6+ axb6 31.Qf7+ would be an endgame advantage for White] **24...Qc7 25.Qa3+ Ke8 26.Rgf1 Rc8 27.Rd2 Qc4 28.Rdf2 Qc5 29.Qf3 Kd8 30.Rd2 Kc7?** Diagram

[30...Rg7 would leave chances about equal. White now makes use of his opportunity] **31.Rxd7+! Kxd7 32.Qf7+ Kc6 33.Rf6+ Kb5 34.Qb7+ Qb6** Black must lose the queen. If [34...Kc4 35.Qb3+ Kd4 36.Qd3#] **35.Rxb6+ axb6 36.Qd5+ Ka6 37.h3** With a queen and two pawns plus the safer king, White has good winning chances. **37...Rg6 38.Qd3+ Kb7 39.Qd7+ Rc7 40.Qd5+ Ka7 41.c4 Rcg7 42.Qd2 Rg3 43.Qf2 Kb7 44.Kh2 Rxg2+?!** thinking there is hope in the coming tricky king ending. **45.Qxg2 Rxg2+ 46.Kxg2 Kc6 47.Kg3 Kc5 48.Kg4 Kxc4 49.Kf5 Kd4** Diagram

50.h4 b5 51.h5 b4 52.h6 zugszwang **52...Kc3 53.Kxe5 Kb2 54.Kf6 Kxa2 55.e5 b3 56.e6 b2 57.e7 b1Q 58.e8Q** the queen ending is winning because of white king and queen can get the black h-pawn **58...Qd3 59.Kg7 Ka3 60.Kh8! Qf5 61.Kg8 Qd3 62.Qf7 Ka4 63.Kh8 Qe4 64.Qa7+ Kb5 65.Qxh7 Qe5+ 66.Qg7 Qe8+ 67.Kh7 Qe4+ 68.Qg6 Qe7+ 69.Kg8 Qd8+ 70.Kg7 Qe7+ 71.Qf7 Qe5+ 72.Qf6 Qg3+ 73.Kf7 Qc7+ 74.Kg6 Ka4 75.h7 Qg3+** Black resigns as 76. Kh5 stops the checks (76...Qh2+ 77. Qh4+) **1-0**

(3) Maurice Ashley - Sunil Weeramantry [B06]

New York Open New York, NY USA (7), 03.1991

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Be3 c6 5.Qd2 b5 Sunil Weeramantry is Hikaru Nakamura's step father and thus his first chess trainer. Sunil is famous for his slippery openings, such as this modern defense which gets quickly into little know territory. **6.f3 Nd7 7.h4 h5 8.Nh3 Nb6 9.Ng5 Rb8 10.Nd1 d5 11.Bf4 Rb7 12.e5 Nh6 13.Bd3** White is slightly better from the opening, with more space. Black can be satisfied to have a playable game and be off the beaten tracks. **13...Nf5 14.Bxf5 Bxf5 15.Ne3 Nc4** Diagram

16.Nxf5! A surprising and bold move, offering up the queen. **16...Nxd2?** when Black should have resisted temptation to capture it. White would be only somewhat better if Sunil had checked himself and captured the knight - [16...gxf5 17.Qc1 b4 18.b3 Na3 19.0-0] **17.Nxg7+ Kd7 18.e6+!** The pawn advance gives great squares to the white knights. Now **18...Kc8** Diagram

[18...fxe6 19.Bxd2 leaves White 3 excellent minor pieces for the queen.] **19.exf7!** Mind over material! Maurice lets the black knight live, but the white pawn on f7 in combination with the powerful knights will gain material before long. **19...Nc4 20.N7e6 Qa5+ 21.Kf2! Qb4 22.b3 Nd6 23.c3 Qxc3 24.Rhc1 Qb2+ 25.Kf1 Rb6 26.Rab1 Qxa2?!** Black wants to get material as he will be losing a rook for the f-pawn, but this opens the a-file and seals his doom. **27.Ra1 Qxb3 28.Rxa7** All of the white pieces are in the attack. Black can stop one or two of them, but not the whole white army. **28...Rb7 29.Rxb7 Nxb7** [29...Kxb7 30.Nc5+ wins the queen] **30.Rxc6+** It's mate after the forced 30...Kd7 31. Rc7#. **1-0**

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Chess Room Newsletter #923

Gens Una Sumus!

- << Previous
- Next >>

Newsletter #923

June 20, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Northern California Online Invitational
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Chess.com Clubs League
- GM Nick de Firmian's Advanced Class
- FM Paul Whitehead's Online Class
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Northern California Online Invitational Sunday, 6/21 2PM Pacific

GM Sam Shankland leads the field this Sunday

This Sunday we will host the first Northern California Online Invitational. The event, starting at 2PM, is sponsored by Jim Eade, a trustee at Mechanics' Institute (MI) and the former MI Chess Director. The time control for the tournament will be G/15 +2. This will be a 6-player round robin featuring three world-class Grandmasters and three teenagers who represent the future of American chess. What is special about this tournament is that it has deep Mechanics' ties, as the three scholastic players are the last three recipients of the MI Neil Falconer Award, given to the top under 18-year-old player in Northern California based on end-of-year USCF rating. The participants will be GM Sam Shankland (2762), GM Zviad Izoria (2694), GM Steven Zierk (2597), IM Christopher Yoo (2540), IM Andrew Hong (2533), and IM Cameron Wheeler (2494). Shankland and Zierk are also past winners of the Falconer award. Recipients of this award receive a check in the amount of their USCF rating! This award was started by former Mechanics' Institute Trustee Neil Falconer, who was an attorney and member of the Chess Committee of the Mechanics' Institute. He was also a very strong player, who in 1949 held former world champion Max Euwe to a draw during a simul at Mechanics' Institute. John Donaldson wrote a piece for Chess Life
here: http://www.uschess.org/content/view/12620/760

Neil Falconer was a longtime Mechanics' Trustee and Chess Committee member

This is a special event between talented players between generations. It will be a Father's Day special for chess enthusiasts, and we look forward to an afternoon of amazing chess. We will broadcast the event on our channel here: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess. We will have live commentary by GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead, FM Jime Eade, and Abel Talamantez. Dr. Judit Sztaray will be the Chief Tournament Director managing the game setup.

See everyone on Sunday!

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

FM Kyron Griffith took down the June 16 installment of the Tuesday Night Online, winning clear first with 4.5/5. There was a 5-way tie for 2nd with 4/5 between Rapaka Krishnakanth (DragonInAction), Shaashwath Sivakumar (Dontmesswithme_2), Lauren Goodkind (laurengoodkindchess), and Anika Rajaram (Kirotori). The commentary team took the night off this evening, but 50 players showed up for the Tuesday night battle.

Kyron Griffith used a tactical shot to convert a big 4th round win against Sivakumar. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(2) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2073) - Shaashwath Sivakumar (Dontmesswithme_2) (1787) [B23]
Live Chess Chess.com, 16.06.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nowadays White has found many other options to the open Sicilian (with d2-d4). **3...Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qd3 Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.0-0-0 a6 11.Kb1** [White could double the black f-pawns with 11.Bxf6 gxf6 which is a positional approach. He aims for piece play in the center instead.] **11...Qc7 12.Rhe1 b5 13.h4 h6** [13...Rd8 is a perfectly sensible move which would give Black even chances.] **14.Bf4 b4?** Diagram

[14...Ne5] **15.Bxd6!** Kyron is not bothered by the attack on his knight and simple grabs a pawn. He has calculated accurately and White is ahead in all variations. **15...Qb7?!** [The best choice is to try the pawn down endgame after 15...Bxd6 16.Qxd6 Qxd6 17.Rxd6 bxc3 18.Rxc6] **16.Bxe7** [also 16.Nd5 Bxd6 *(16...exd5 17.exd5)* 17.Nxf6+ gxf6 18.Qxd6] **16...bxc3 17.Ba3 cxb2** If Black could castle it wouldn't be so bad, but this takes some effort with the white bishop on a3. **18.Qc3 Rc8 19.Ne5 Na7 20.Qb3 Nb5 21.Bxb2 Nxe4** [21...0-0? 22.c4 wins a piece] **22.Ka1!** This fine move safeguards the white king against knight checks and keeps all the threats of c2-c4 and others. **22...Nc5 23.Qg3 Rg8** [now 23...0-0 24.Nd7 wins with the threat of mate on g7.] **24.c4 Na7 25.Qf4 f6 26.Nd3 Rb8** [26...Nxd3 27.Rxe6+ Kf7 28.Rxf6+! gxf6 29.Qxf6+ Ke8 30.Qe6+ Kf8 31.Rxd3 is overwhelming] **27.Re2 Nxd3 28.Rxd3 Kf7 29.Rb3** [29.Red2!] **29...Qxg2?** [29...Qc8 would hold out longer. White could play 30. Rg3 threating 31. Rxg7+!] **30.Qc7+ Kg6** there was no where to go **31.Rg3+ 1-0**

Another interesting game was between Anika Rajaram and Lauren Goodkind in round 3.

(3) Anika Rajaram (Kirotori) (1873) - Lauren Goodkind (laurengoodkindchess) (1756)

[D11]
Live Chess Chess.com, 16.06.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 e6 4.Qc2 f5 5.g3 Nf6 6.cxd5!? This pawn capture is a commital move that should probably be deferred. White could capture later on d5 while Black really doesn't want to give up the center with ...dxc4. **6...exd5 7.Bg2 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bd2 Be6 11.Ne5 Nbd7** [11...Bxe5!? 12.dxe5 Ng4 starts interesting complications surrounding the e5 pawn.] **12.Ng6 Rf7** [12...Re8!] **13.Bf4!** contesting the dark squares with the bishop gives White a positional edge. **13...Nf8 14.Ne5 Bxe5 15.Bxe5 N8d7 16.Nd2?!** after this the game is even again [16.Bf4 is simply an edge to White with the bishop pair and dark square control] **16...Nxe5 17.dxe5 Ne4 18.Nb3 Qc7 19.f3! Qb6+ 20.e3** [20.Kh1? Nf2+ 21.Kg1? Nh3+ 22.Kh1 Qg1+ 23.Rxg1 Nf2#] **20...Qxe3+ 21.Kh1 Ng5 22.h4 Nh7 23.Rae1** White has given up a pawn for extra space and the initiative. **23...Qb6 24.Nc5 Re8** [24...Nf8 would put the knight right to work] **25.f4 Nf8 26.Bh3 g6?!** Diagram

[26...Bc8 is more solid] **27.h5!** breaking up the kingside pawns **27...gxh5 28.Nxe6 Rxe6** [28...Nxe6 29.Bxf5 Nd4 30.Bh7+ Kh8 *(30...Rxh7? 31.Qg6+* wins*)* 31.Qg6 is good for White with the potent passed e and f pawns] **29.Bxf5 Ree7 30.Rg1 Qd4 31.Rgf1?!** [31.Rg2] **31...Rg7 32.Kh2 a6 33.Bh3 Kh8 34.Qe2 Rg6?** Black has been defending tenaciously but now errs. [34...Kg8 would keep Black in the game with a small disadvantage] **35.f5!** Now the white pawns roll and there is no stopping them. **35...Rg5 36.e6?!** was the last chance to hold up the pawns. [36.Rf4! drives the black queen off the a1-h8 diagonal] **36...Qg7?** a blunder [36...Nh7! was the last chance to hold up the pawns. If White had played 36. Rf4 there would have been no last chances.] **37.f6 Qh7 38.fxe7 Qxe7 39.Rf7 Qc5 40.e7 Nh7 41.e8Q+ Rg8 42.Q2e5+ 1-0**

Rapaka Krishnakanth (DragonInAction) had a strong 2nd place showing. Here is his win using a blistering attack against Roham Rajaram (ninjatrick).

(4) Rapaka Krishnakanth (DragonInAction) (2086) - Roham Rajaram) ninjatrick (1935) [B44]
Live Chess Chess.com, 16.06.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nxc6 This immediate capture on c6 allows the black b-pawn to join the fight for the center. **5...bxc6 6.c4 Qf6?!** [6...Nf6 7.Nc3 *(7.e5 Qa5+)* 7...Qc7 is a safer alternative] **7.Bd3 Bb4+ 8.Nd2! Ne7 9.0-0 Ng6 10.a3?!** [10.Nf3 h6 11.Be3! would leave White nicely developed and ready to use the black queen as a target] **10...Bd6! 11.Nf3 Ne5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Rb1 0-0 14.b4 a5** [Black could have equality with direct central play - 14...d5 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.exd5 exd5 17.Re1 Bf5!] **15.Kh1!?** [15.b5! gets a passed pawn and keeps the black rook on a8 from getting an open file. White has an aggressive idea however] **15...axb4 16.f4! Bc3 17.axb4 e5!** This is needed to hold the dark squares in the center **18.f5 d6?!** This one slow move allows White to brew up a dangerous initiative [18...h6 19.Qh5 d5 starts the action in the center so that White doesn't have time to focus squarely on the kingside.] **19.Qh5! h6 20.Rf3** [20.g4!] **20...Re8 21.g4! g6** the powerful threat of 22. g5 forced black to give up a pawn. **22.Qxh6 Qg7 23.Qh4 Qh7 24.Qg3** White could also have played the endgame but wants to finish with an attack. **24...Ra2 25.Bg5 Bd4 26.Bf6!** This bishop takes up a very powerful post. Now there are mating threats in both the middlegame and endgame. **26...g5** Diagram

27.Qh3! Qh4 The only defense to the threat of 28. Qxh7+ Kxh7 29. Rh3+ and mate. This only delays the

inevitable though. **28.Qxh4 gxh4 29.Rh3 Bf2 30.g5** [30.Rf1!] **30...Rd2 31.Rf1!** planning 32. Rxf2 and 33. Rxh4 **31...Bd4 32.Rxh4 Kf8 33.Rh8# 1-0**

We will be back streaming next Tuesday with upgraded streaming power. We look forward to seeing everyone then!

For full results, folow this link: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1256872

Mechanics' Online Events Recap

The Friday Night Online blitz on June 12 was won by FM Kyron Griffith with 9.5/10. In 2nd was Rudolph Breddt (bobbejaan) with 8/10 followed by Austin Mei (TitanChess666) with 7/10. Here is a miniature by FM Kyron Griffith over the usually tough Austin Mei. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2385) - Austin Mei (TitanChess666) (2268) [C46]
Live Chess Chess.com, 12.06.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 f5?! A sharp attempt to mix things up from the start. Black plans 4. exf5 d6 when it is a Vienna Game reversed. The problem when playing sharply with Black is that White already has an extra developing move, so there are more options for the first player. **4.d4!** This is equally good as 4. exf5 but it has the pschological advantage that White grabs the initiative. **4...fxe4 5.Nxe5 Nf6 6.Bc4 d5** Diagram

7.Nxd5! [7.Bb5] **7...Nxd5 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Nxg6 Nf6?** This logical defensive move allows a terrific shot. Black needed to try [9...hxg6 10.Qxg6+ Kd7 11.Bxd5 Nxd4 12.Bg5 Be7 13.Be6+ Nxe6 14.Rd1+ Kc6 15.Rxd8 Bxd8 When White is clearly better, but it's still a battle.] **10.Bf7+!** Diagram

10...Kxf7 there is no way out. Black gets mated in any case. **11.Ne5+ Ke6 12.Qf7+ Kf5 13.g4#** A terrific attacking game by Kyron. **1-0**

Friday Night Online Blitz: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online--1253280

Saturday Matinee: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1253287

Saturday Late Night Showdown: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1253288

Sunday Matinee: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-matinee-1259102

Sunday Evening Blitz: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-night-1253293

Monday Night Arena: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-217485

Wednesday Matinee: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-matinee-1256875

Rudolph Breedt (bobbejaan) tied for 1st with Alan Finkelstein (stratus_junior2) and Jeffery Wang (twangbio) in the Wednesday Night Showdown with 5/7. Here is his final round victory over Kristian Clemens. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) bobbejaan (2032) - kclemens (1926) [C42]
Live Chess Chess.com, 17.06.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.d4?! [The usual follow up to the pawn sacrifice is 4.Nc3 when 4...Nxc3?! 5.dxc3 gives White a dangerous initiative, having f7 as a target.] **4...d5! 5.Bb3 exd4 6.Qxd4 c6** [6...Be6! with the plan of 7...Nc6 would be clearly better for Black.] **7.Nbd2 Qf6 8.Nxe4 Qxd4 9.Nxd4 dxe4 10.0-0** White has arrived in the endgame with reasonable compensation for the pawn due to the developed white pieces. **10...Bc5 11.Re1! 0-0 12.Rxe4 Nd7 13.Nf3 Nf6 14.Re5 Bd6 15.Re1 Bg4 16.Nd4 Rfe8 17.Bg5** even material again and both sides castled and developed **17...Nd7?!** [17...Be5! 18.c3 h6 19.Bh4 g5 20.Bg3 Bxg3 21.hxg3 Rad8] **18.h3 Bh5 19.Nf5 Bf8 20.g4** White has taken some territory. **20...Bg6 21.Ne7+ Kh8?!** [21...Bxe7 22.Bxe7 Nf6 23.Bxf6 gxf6 is relatively best] **22.Nxg6+ fxg6 23.Rad1 Nc5 24.Bf7 Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1** White has the bishop pair and more active pieces. An endgame struggle for Black. **25...h6 26.Be3 Kh7 27.Bd4?!** [27.Rd1! takes the file] **27...Rd8 28.c3 Nd3! 29.Re2 Nf4 30.Re3 Nd5 31.Re6 Nf4 32.Re4?** not wanting to retreat back to e3 White loses a pawn and allows tactics **32...Nxh3+ 33.Kf1 Ng5 34.Rf4** Diagram

34...Nxf7? [Simply 34...Bd6! wins outright as the white rook is trapped!] **35.Rxf7** Now White has good compensation for the pawn with the active rook on the 7th rank. **35...c5 36.Be5 b5 37.Rxa7 c4?!** [37...g5!] **38.Ke2 Re8 39.f4 g5 40.Kf3 gxf4 41.Bxf4 Kg6 42.Rb7 Ra8 43.a3** Now White wins a pawn. Along with the more active king and bishop that is enough to win the game. **43...Rc8 44.Rxb5 Kf7 45.Be5 g6 46.Rb7+ Ke6 47.Bd4 Be7 48.Rb6+ Kf7 49.Rb7 Ke6 50.Ke4 Re8 51.Rb6+ Kf7 52.Rb7 Ke6 53.a4 Kd6?! 54.a5?!** [54.Rb6+! Kd7 55.Rxg6] **54...Kc6?** [54...Bd8+ 55.Kf3 Bxa5 56.Rh7 is still better for White but Black may draw] **55.Rb6+ Kc7 56.Rxg6** Now it's completely over. **56...Bb4+ 57.Kd5 Bxa5 58.Rxh6 Rd8+ 59.Kxc4 Rb8 60.Be5+ 1-0**

Wednesday Late Night Showdown: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1256876

Thursday Night Blitz: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-night-blitz-1256878

Mechanics' Chess Social

Guest June 26 Episode, Adisa Banjoko

On the June 26 episode of our Mechanics' Chess Social, we will have a conversation with Adisa Banjoko, founder of the Hip Hop Chess Federation, marial artist, writer, and teacher. We will discuss a range of issues including the power of chess and its impact on children, as well as how chess can be used to bring communities together and create a space in which people from diverse backgrounds can find a common bond and understanding. Tune in at noon next Friday on our channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

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Chess.com Club's League Update

Because of a server restart last week on Chess.com, the games from last week's club match had to be pushed a week ahead. Our match with Pittsburgh Chess Club will therefore be held this Saturday at 2PM. The link for the match is here: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=13835. Good luck to the team!

NEW Online Advanced Class With 3-Time U.S. Champion GM Nick de Firmian

For players around 1400-2000, this class is for players looking to develop the thinking skills and techniques that bring their chess to the next level. The class will focus on the development of middle-game thinking, positional play, and endgame concepts, but will cover all areas of need, depending on the class. The class will be dynamic and interactive, so players really become involved in the class with GM de Firmian guiding instruction through lecture, going over games and through discussion. Students are also encouraged to bring games for discussion and analysis so that the whole class can benefit. Also encouraged is to investigate your specific opening problems, which students should bring to the forum.

Classes will be held online through Zoom. Take advantage of this great opportunity to train with our GM in Residence!

Class is on Thursday's 6:30-8:00PM

Begins June 25, 2020

To register, please follow this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian

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Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champion and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead

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Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom

Saturday, June 20: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5 +5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=38073

Sunday, June 21: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/10+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=38074

Monday, June 22: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=38178

Tuesday, June 23: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=38179

Wednesday, June 24: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=38881

Thursday, June 25: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=38882

Friday, June 26: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/10+5:

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

in June: June 14 & June 28 @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Scholastic Games Of The Week (games from our scholastic online tournaments)

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(6) RareThirdDessert (1544) - TopWittyGem (1537) [B52]
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.0-0 Ngf6 6.Re1 g6 This is reasonable but lets White get the central set up he's after with c3 and d2-d4. Black could play like a French Defense with 6...e6 and 7...d5 with the light-squared bishops exchanged. **7.c3 Bg7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 0-0 10.Nc3** A nice classic pawn center for White. **10...a6 11.Qb3 Qc7 12.Be3 Rac8 13.Rac1 Qb6 14.Qa3!** White is using the extra central space to develop a serious initiative. Black has more difficulty maneuvering without access to the middle of the board. **14...Ng4? 15.Nd5! Rxc1 16.Rxc1** [16.Nxb6 Rxe1+ 17.Nxe1 Nxb6 18.Qb3 would be simply winning. White is still way ahead with the game move.] **16...Qd8** Diagram

17.Bg5?! [17.Rc8! Qxc8 18.Nxe7+ Kh8 19.Nxc8 Rxc8 20.Qxd6 is the end as their are no back rank checkmates] **17...Ndf6 18.Bxf6?!** [18.Rc8! Qd7 19.Rc7!] **18...Nxf6 19.Nxf6+ Bxf6 20.e5 dxe5 21.dxe5 Bg7** Black has struggled back to almost equality. **22.h3 e6 23.b3 Qd5! 24.Qe7 Qd8?** this loses a pawn [24...Bxe5 25.Nxe5 Qxe5 26.Qxb7 Qb2 27.Rc8 will likely end in perpetual check] **25.Qxb7 Qa5 26.a4 Rd8 27.Rc7?** [27.Qe7 maintains the pawn up advantage] **27...Rd1+ 28.Kh2 Bxe5+! 29.Nxe5 Qxe5+ 30.g3 Rd2??** Diagram

[30...Qe1! and Black's attack comes first] **31.Qb8+ Kg7 32.Rxf7+!** winning the queen. The last few moves have had dramatic tournarounds. **32...Kxf7 33.Qxe5 Rxf2+ 34.Kg1 Rf3** The game goes on for some time now, but Black has no real hope. **35.b4 Rb3 36.b5 axb5 37.axb5 Ke7 38.Qc7+ Kf6 39.b6 Rb1+ 40.Kf2 Rb2+ 41.Kf3 Rb3+ 42.Kg4 Rb4+ 43.Kf3 Rb3+ 44.Kf2 Rb2+ 45.Ke1 Rb1+ 46.Kd2 Rb2+ 47.Kd3 Rb3+ 48.Qc3+!** simplest **48...Rxc3+ 49.Kxc3 Ke5 50.b7 Ke4 51.b8Q Kf3 52.Qf4+ Kg2 53.Kd4 Kxh3 54.Qh4+ Kg2 55.Qxh7 Kxg3 56.Qxg6+ Kf3 57.Qxe6 Kf4 58.Qe5+ Kf3 59.Qe4+ Kf2 60.Qe3+ Kf1 61.Qd2 Kg1 62.Qe2 Kh1 63.Ke3 Kg1 64.Kf3 Kh1 65.Kg3 Kg1 66.Qe1# 1-0**

(7) BCSabarishree (1236) - NextLovingPajamas (1224)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 This has been played by the Italians for centuries. The logical developing move is very principled and Black must react precisely. **7...Bxc3+** [7...Nxe4! 8.0-0! Bxc3 9.d5 Bf6! 10.Re1 Ne7 11.Rxe4 d6 is the complicated line that has been worked out to equality for the last two centuries.] **8.bxc3 Nxe4 9.Ng5?** [9.d5! Na5 10.Bd3 is nicer for White with the good development and safer king.] **9...0-0?** [9...Nxg5 simply snags a piece and leaves Black very well, even if the piece is given back for position and another pawn.] **10.Qh5! h6?** [10...Nxg5 11.Bxg5 Qe8+ 12.Kd2 d5! would give Black reasonable defensive prospects. After the game move the White attack is decisive.] **11.Bxf7+! Kh8 12.Nxe4 d6** Diagram

13.Bxh6! The black king is a goner. **13...d5 14.Bxg7+! Kxg7 15.Qg6+ Kh8 16.Qh6# 1-0**

(8) ColdOriginalGecko (1433) - thechessmaster1 (1574)
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.g3 A good solid system against the King's Indian Defense. **5...c5 6.d5** [6.dxc5 Na6 gets the pawn back in good position] **6...d6 7.Bg2 Na6?!** The knight has less prospects developed here on the rim. It would be better to play [7...e6 which would transpose into a Benoni Defense after 8.0-0 exd5 9.cxd5] **8.0-0 Bf5 9.Ng5** [9.Nh4 Bd7 10.e4 also gives White a space advantage] **9...Nb4 10.e4 Bd7 11.a3 Na6** Black has been pushed back and has less room to maneuver. **12.f4** [12.h3 Qc8 13.Kh2 Is a slow and steady way to control more squares on the kingside] **12...h6** [12...Ng4 13.Kh1! avoids ...Bd4+ and leaves White in control after 13...h6 14.Nf3] **13.Nf3 Qc8 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 Ne8 16.Be3 Bh3 17.Nh4?!** [17.Qd2 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Kh7 19.Rae1 is a straightforward way to build the pressure on the kingside and center] **17...Bxg2 18.Kxg2 h5?!** [18...Bxe5! 19.Bxh6 Bg7 is a better defensive chance since Black removes the powerful e5 pawn. Still, it would be a tough defense as the white pieces have easier access to the kingside.] **19.Bg5 f6** Diagram

20.Nxg6! A crushing blow, which follows logically from the offensive buildup. **20...fxg5** This doesn't work but anything else loses material as well as a difficult defense. **21.Nxe7+ Kh8** [21...Kh7 22.Qxh5+ Bh6 23.Qg6+ is the same] **22.Qxh5+ Bh6 23.Qxh6#** A fine game by ColdOriginalGecko! **1-0**

Virtual Summer Chess Camps 2020

June 1 through Aug 14 on selected weeks

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp

9AM - 12AM morning camps: Monday through Fridays
Next camp: June 29-July 3 - camp is filling up so secure your spot now!
Other weeks: 6-29-7/3, 7/6-10, 7/20-24, 8/3-7
Min 4 students, max 9 students in each camp.

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes

1-hour intensive class followed by optional online tournament
$25/class, $45/two classes or $80/four classes package

Available classes:
Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Wednesday 3:00-4:00PM - Coach Colin
Friday 1:00-2:00PM - Coach Andy
Friday 2:15-3:15PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

6/20 Saturday - Saturday Afternoon Matinee
Format: 3SS G/30+0
Join from 2PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1260152
Starts at 3PM

Saturday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM -https://www.chess.com/live#t=1270630
Start: 9PM

6/21 Sunday - Northern California Online Invitational

Format: 6 player round robin G/15+2
2PM -GM Shankland, GM Izoria, GM Zierk, IM Yoo, IM Hong, IM Wheeler
https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

6/21 Sunday - Sunday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 7PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1270635
Start: 8PM

6/22 Monday - Monday Online Arena

Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=229487
Start: 6:30PM

6/23 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1273176
Start: 6:30PM

6/24 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1273177
Start at 4PM

Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1273182
Starts 9PM.

6/25 Thursday Night Blitz
Format: 8SS G/3+2
Join the tournament from 6PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1273562
Starts 7PM.

6/26 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-

institute-chess-club-1. You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

FM Paul Whitehead

Paul Whitehead's column will return soon

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Rematch: Fabiano battles Magnus Again

Two years ago we had a very closely-contested World Championship between Magnus and our American challenger Fabiano Caruana. It was tied after regulation games and went into the rapid time control tiebreaks, where Magnus showed his superiority. Now we are awaiting the second half of the Candidates Tournament to choose the next challenger, which may again be Fabiano. He has consistently maintained the number two ranking in the World. In addition, Fabi has greatly improved his rapid game so that he is as good as anyone in the world in fast chess too. Well anyone except perhaps Magnus, and that question was put to the test in the finals of the Clutch Chess Rapid Tournament with its $265,000 prize fund (the most ever for an on-line chess event).

Magnus cruised into the finals with a 12-6 shellacking of super GM Lev Aronian. Fabiano had a much tougher time against fellow American Wesley So, with a narrow victory 9.5-8.5. Thus we got the World Championship rematch in the finals. Magnus struck first on day one to take the lead, but Fabi struck back. Day one ended in a tie 3-3, showing the dramatic improvement Fabi has made since the tiebreaks of the World Championship two years ago. The second day was also closely contested. This became a real heavyweight battle fought to the last round. The last game came down to a situation where Magnus had to win, or Fabi would take the title on tiebreak. The drama of this rematch is shown in the third game we cover of this great encounter.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Caruana,Fabiano [D02]
Clutch Chess Finals, 13.06.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 Magnus frequently uses this London System. I suggest MI trustee Jim Eade write a book on this opening, something the average player could use to improve his/her game after reading his best selling "Chess for Dummies." **3...c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 Nh5** A principled move to trade the knight for the bishop. It loses a little time but the benifits are worth it. **6.dxc5 Nxf4 7.exf4 Qa5 8.Bd3 Qxc5 9.0-0 g6! 10.Nb3 Qd6 11.Qd2 Bg7 12.c3 0-0 13.Rfe1 Bg4 14.Qe3 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 e6** Diagram

Fabiano has played like Capablanca or Fischer thus far. He has a wonderful classical position with a solid kingside pawn chain and nearly full development. Against just about anyone in the world one expects him to

press to win with this position. Yet he is playing Magnus... **16.h4!** This takes the play a little bit more over to the kingside. **16...h5 17.g3 Rfe8 18.Rad1 a6 19.Nd2 b5 20.Ne4** An active move to bring more force to the kingside. **20...Qd7** [not 20...dxe4? 21.Bxe4 winning the knight back with an extra pawn] **21.Ng5 Rad8 22.Bc2 b4 23.Ba4 bxc3 24.bxc3 Qc8?** Diagram

This one small error allows the White positon to erupt. Everything looks so solid for Black, but Magnus spots the flaw. Fabiano could have kept even chances with [24...Rf8] **25.f5! gxf5** [25...exf5? 26.Rxe8+ Rxe8 27.Qxd5 just wins] **26.c4!** breaking in the center before capturing with Qxh5 makes White's attack more powerful **26...Nd4** [26...Ne5 27.Qxh5 Re7 28.cxd5] **27.Rxd4! Bxd4 28.Bxe8 Rxe8 29.Qxh5 Qc7 30.cxd5** Black has defended the king, which can run away from the check on h7, but the collapse of the center in conjuction with the kingside problems is decisive. There is no way out. **30...Re7 31.dxe6 f6** [31...fxe6 32.Qg6+ Kh8 33.Nxe6] **32.Qg6+ Kf8 33.Nf3** The retreat leaves the Black position in ruins. Resignation would be in order if the game were classic time control. **33...Bc3 34.Rc1 Rxe6 35.Nd4! Rb6 36.Qh6+ Kg8 37.Qe3 1-0**

(2) Caruana,Fabiano - Carlsen,Magnus [B30]
Clutch Chess Finals, 15.06.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 [Caruana didn't have much success in the World Championship match with the open Sicilian - 3.d4] **3...e5 4.0-0** [4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.Nxe5 Qd4 wins the pawn back with at least equality] **4...Bd6!?** inventive, but Black should do better with a more usual way to defend the e-pawn such as 4...d6, **5.c3 a6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bc2 Nge7 8.d3** This develps slowly and lets Black get a decent game. Perhaps 8. a4 followed by 9. Na3 would be more testing of Black's setup. **8...Ng6 9.Be3 0-0 10.Nbd2 Be7 11.Bb3 d6 12.Bd5 Qe8?!** The queen is a bit odd here. More usual is 12...Bb7 **13.d4** The game has turned into a position like a Ruy Lopez, Closed variation except the black knight is not as well placed on g6 as the usual square f6. **13...exd4 14.cxd4 Rb8 15.Rc1 Nb4!?** A pawn sacrifice for activity. White has gotten the opening edge, so this is as good as the alternatives. **16.dxc5 dxc5 17.Bxc5 Nxd5 18.exd5 Bxc5 19.Rxc5 Bb7 20.Nb3 Qd7 21.Na5!** This powerful knight move to the rim gives Fabiano a positional edge as well as the extra pawn. The knight looks to post itself on the excellent c6 square, coordinating well with the d5 pawn. **21...Ba8 22.Nc6 Rbe8 23.Nfd4 Qd6 24.b4 Re4 25.Qf3 Rfe8 26.Nf5** Both white knights have great influence on the board. Sometimes the bishop pair is very strong, but knights are at least as good when they have good posts. **26...Qd7 27.g3 h6 28.h4 Kh8 29.Ne3** [29.Nb8 Qd8 30.Nxa6 would win a second pawn, but Fabiano wants to keep control. When pieces are spread out in a fast time control game it is easy to fall for tactics.] **29...Kg8 30.Rfc1 Nf8 31.Nf5 Nh7 32.Kg2 Kh8** Diagram

33.Nb8! Now this move is very strong. It's not just the pawn but control of the c-file. White is winning if he doesn't err. **33...Qd8 34.Nc6 Qd7 35.Nb8 Qd8 36.Nxa6! Bxd5 37.Nc7 Bb7** [37...Qxc7 38.Rxc7 R4e5 39.Nd6 Bxf3+ 40.Kxf3 Rf8 41.R1c5 is easy] **38.Nxe8 Re7** Diagram

39.Qxb7! Rxb7 40.Ned6 Threatening Rc8, Nxb7 and eyeing the fork on f7. Black is completely busted. **40...Nf8** Magnus resigned before 41. Rc8 Qf6 42. Rxf8+ etc. A powerful performance by Fabiano to even the score! He is showing Magnus that there is no big difference in their rapid play anymore. **1-0**

(3) Carlsen,Magnus - Caruana,Fabiano [A22]

Clutch Chess, 15.06.2020

This was the final game of the match. In case of a draw Caruana wins the tournament, so it was win or die for Magnus. **1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bb4 4.e4!?** An interesting move. Magnus insists upon a Botvinnik pawn structure in this English Opening. **4...Bxc3 5.bxc3 0-0** [5...Nxe4 seems very logical. White gets the pawn back though and remains with the bishop pair after 6.Qe2 Nf6 7.Qxe5+ Qe7 8.Qxe7+ Kxe7 9.Nf3] **6.f3!?** Another unusual move from Magnus. He is trying to lock down the center so that White can slowly consolidate and make use of the bishop pair and space when he is ready. **6...b5!?** Fabiano chooses an active pawn sacrifice to open the game with a lead in development. **7.d4** White choose to play for activity instead of taking the pawn - [7.cxb5 d5 8.exd5 and Black has good play with 8...a6!] **7...exd4 8.cxd4 bxc4 9.e5 Nd5 10.Bxc4** Now we have an opening with similarities to a Queen's Gambit Accepted and a Nimzo-Indian. Black has castled with a slight lead in development while White has more pawns in the center and the bishop pair. **10...Bb7 11.Nh3 d6 12.0-0 Nd7 13.Re1 dxe5 14.dxe5 N7b6 15.Bb3 Qe7?!** [15...c5! controls queenside space] **16.e6!** Magnus directly goes for an open position where the bishops are strong. **16...fxe6 17.Ng5 Rf6?!** [17...Bc8 18.Qc2 g6 19.f4 Rb8 20.Bb2 leaves White with fine compensation for the pawn. It's difficult to play this passively for Black but the game move is worse.] **18.Qc2** [18.Qd3 g6 19.Bb2] **18...Rg6?!** Diagram

[18...g6 19.Bb2 is very unpleasant but now White has a shot.] **19.Rxe6! Qxe6** the only move as mate comes after [19...Rxe6 20.Qxh7+ Kf8 21.Qh8#] **20.Nxe6 Rxe6 21.Bb2** With the two raking bishops and queen against rook and knight, White is winning. Converting in a rapid game against Caruana is no easy task, but one Magnus is up to. **21...Rae8 22.Bd4 Kh8 23.Qf5! Bc8 24.Qh5 c5 25.Bxc5 Re5 26.Qf7 Bh3 27.Bf8! Re1+ 28.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 29.Kf2 Rf1+ 30.Ke2 Nc3+ 31.Kd3** A great game from the champ, who always seems to play his best chess when pushed to the edge. Still, Caruana played a great match and we hope he will have another shot at Magnus when the Candidates Tournament finishes. **1-0**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA

- << Previous
- Next >>

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	Library	Chess	Building
Sat	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Tue	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Wed	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Thu	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Fri	Closed	Closed	8 - 6

Upcoming Events

Various Chess Classes
Monday, November 30, 2020 - 4:00pm to 5:30pm
The Money Plot: A History of Currency's Power to Enchant, Control, and Manipulate, on Zoom
Wednesday, December 02, 2020 - 5:30pm
Write If You Dare!
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 11:00am
Bi-Annual Members' Meeting on Zoom
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 5:30pm

Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

[parking map]

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20201201084220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-ne…

Chess Room Newsletter #924

Gens Una Sumus!

- << Previous
- Next >>

Newsletter #924

June 27, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Northern California Online Invitational
- People's Tournament
- Tuesday Night Online
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Chess.com Clubs League
- Tom Dorsch
- Dr. Alexey Root: Chess and Food
- GM Nick de Firmian's Advanced Class
- FM Paul Whitehead's Online Class
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Announcement: The Mechanics' Institute Chess Newsletter Will Be Off Next Week and Return On July 11.

GM Sam Shankland Wins 2020 Northern California Online Invitational

The 2020 Northern California Online Invitational brought out the best in Northern California in a six-player online invitational, sponsored by Mechanics' Institute Trustee Jim Eade, who also heads of the Eade Foundation. The tournament was a G/15 +2 and featured GM Sam Shankland, GM Zviad Izoria, GM Steven Zierk, along with the last 3 recipients of the Mechanics' Institute Neil Falconer Award, IM Christopher Yoo, IM Andrew Hong, and IM Cameron Wheeler. It was a Father's Day spectacular with great chess action for chess fans to enjoy. GM Sam Shakland showed why he is one of the world's elite players, dominating an exceptionally strong field to score 4.5/5 and capture sole first. GM Steven Zierk finished in 2nd with 3.5/5 and GM Zviad Izoria finished 3rd with 2.5/5. IM Yoo, IM Hong and IM Wheeler all finished with 1.5/5.

From the very beginning, Sam showed he was going to be the one to beat. He was paired in round 1 with GM Zviad Izoria, and put on a dominant positional performance to make a statement making win.

(3) GM Sam Shankland (Shankland) (2738) - GM Zviad Izoria (Izoria123) (2498) [A62] Live Chess Chess.com, 21.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Bg2 g6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 Bf5?! [9...a6 10.a4 Nbd7 is more in keeping with the Benoni idea of controlling the e5 square] **10.Nd2! Re8 11.h3** The black bishop on f5 has no future. White has cleverly taken away the squares it could advance to. **11...Na6 12.e4 Bc8 13.Nc4** Diagram

13...Bf8N A reasonable defensive move, but admitting the opening has not been a success. **14.Re1 Nd7 15.a4 Nb6 16.Na3** White keeps pieces on the board to keep Black cramped. **16...Nb4 17.Bf1 Bd7 18.Bf4 a6 19.b3** [19.a5! Nc8 20.Nc4] **19...g5 20.Bd2 Qf6 21.a5 Nc8 22.Nc4 Na7?** [22...Bg7 would be a disadvantage, but not

unusual for a Benoni.] **23.Nb6! Rad8** Diagram

now White wins a crucial pawn **24.Nxd7 Rxd7 25.Qg4 Rc7 26.Bxg5 Qg6** [26...Qxc3? 27.Bf6+] **27.Rac1 h5 28.Qh4 Re5 29.Bf6 Be7 30.Bxe7 Rcxe7** It's hard to criticise this move as Black is lost and so plays for activity. It does give up the exchange. **31.f4! Rxe4 32.Nxe4 Rxe4 33.Qg5** Trading into an ending is the safe way to play. There may be quicker wins but Black cannot cause much trouble without the queens. **33...Qxg5 34.fxg5 Rd4 35.Rcd1 Rxd1 36.Rxd1 Nb5 37.Bxb5 axb5 38.Kf2 Kg7 39.Ke3 Kg6 40.h4** The ending is a simple win for Sam. **40...f6 41.gxf6 Kxf6 42.Ke4 Nc2 43.Rf1+ Kg6 44.Rf8 Nd4 45.b4** Black resigned. The white rook and central white king make it easy. **1-0**

In round 3, Sam had the fortune of getting white again against what would be the next toughest opponent, GM Steven Zierk. Again, Shankland displayed amazing precision in getting the win and breaking away from the field.

(1) GM Sam Shankland (Shankland) (2774) - GM Steven Zierk (Zkid) (2464) [C18] Live Chess Chess.com, 21.06.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qa5 7.Bd2 Qa4 Known mostly as the Portisch-Hook Variation, this sets particularly difficult tactical and strategic problems for both players. **8.Rb1** A 21st Century move (played a few times by your annotator). [8.Qb1 , a one-move threat, is actually the most popular here (so far).; 8.Qg4 Kf8 *(8...g6 9.Nf3!?)* 9.Qd1! White returns his queen to the center defense, but there is no easy way for Black to return his king somewhere appropriate (not between his rooks). 9...Ne7 10.Nf3 A recent grandmaster game went *(10.Qb1!?* Negi in his Grandmaster Preparation 1.e4 volume 1 (2014).*)* 10...b6 11.c4 Ba6 12.cxd5 Bxf1 13.d6?! *(13.Kxf1 Nxd5 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.h4+/=* is the often-seen development of the rook, usually after a further h5 h6; Rh4.*)* 13...Ba6 14.dxe7+ Kxe7 15.dxc5 Qe4+ 16.Be3 Rd8 0-1 (37) 37, Chigaev,M (2631) -Andreikin,D (2724) Moscow 2019] **8...c4** and it's locked up tight in the center, for now. **9.Qc1 Nc6 10.h4! Nge7 11.h5 h6 12.Ne2** White has a spatial advantage on the kingside, spearheaded by the strong pawn on e5. Still the question for both sides is where do you make your pawn break? **12...b6** Diagram

[12...Qa6] **13.g4N** [Previously 13.Rh3 had been seen: 13...Bd7 14.Rf3 Rf8 15.g4 0-0-0 16.Bh3 Ng8 17.Rg3 f6 18.f4 1-0 (40) Schoppen,C (2508) -Grooten, H (2274) Hoogeveen 2019] **13...Bd7 14.Bg2** Mysterious and then some. Much of White's play anticipates Black's attempting to open up the center with ...f7-f6. Very long term. **14...0-0-0 15.f3** And more mysterious, but Sam keeps control with any pawn breaks. **15...Rdf8 16.Bf4 Kb7 17.Bg3 f5?!** Black had plenty of good incremental improvements to implement, but he loses a bit of patience. **18.exf6 gxf6 19.Bf4 Ng8 20.0-0** White is solid, but Black continues in a similar vein: **20...e5?!** [20...f5!?; 20...Rh7!?] **21.Be3!** White's bird's nest on the kingside suffices. **21...Re8** [21...e4?? 22.fxe4+-] **22.Qd2** Diagram

22...Nge7?! [22...Be6] **23.Bxh6 Reg8 24.dxe5 fxe5 25.Bg5** White grabbed a pawn; Black grabs back... **25...Qxa3 26.Bf6** [26.Ng3!? Black could sac an exchange for a pawn and a dangerous looking center with 26...Rxg5 27.Qxg5 Qxc3 28.Rf2 defends well] **26...Rh7 27.Ng3 Qd6? 28.Ne4!** With the knight entering play on the kingside the battle is firmly in White's favor. **28...Qc7 29.Ng5 Rh6** Diagram

30.Ne6! No surprise that Sam breaks through with a tactical sequence, well calculated. **30...Rxf6** Steven elects to radically alter the balance, but objectively it's just lost. **31.Nxc7 Kxc7 32.Rbe1 a5 33.h6 Be6 34.g5 Rfg6 35.f4** One step with each pawn, and Black's crumbling. **35...Kd7** [35...exf4 36.Qxf4+ Kb7 37.h7 Rh8 38.Rxe6 Rxe6 39.Qf7 with 40.Re1 the final touch.] **36.h7 Rh8 37.f5!** This second tactical sequence is the death of Black. **37...Bxf5 38.Rxf5 Nxf5 39.Qxd5+ Kc7 40.Rxe5** Black resigned. A marvelous game by Sam. **1-0**

GM Zierk, despite the round 3 loss, had a strong tournament. Here is his win against GM Izoria.

(6) GM Zviad Izoria (Izoria123) (2398) -GM Steven Zierk (Zkid) (2536) [A07]
Live Chess Chess.com, 21.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.g3 Nf6 2.Bg2 d5 3.Nf3 c6 4.0-0 Bf5 5.d3 e6 6.Nh4 White decides to chase down the black bishop - there will be a cost of a slight kingside weakening. **6...Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.f4 Be7 9.g4 Nfd7** Diagram



Thus the white knight is attacked and their is a decision to be made. **10.Nf3N** [alternatively 10.gxh5 Bxh4 11.e4 f5 12.e5 Qe7 13.d4 Na6 is probably a little better for Black. White has a nice pawn center, yet the doubled pawns are more of a liability.] **10...Bg6 11.Nc3 0-0 12.e4 h6?!** This gets the light-squared bishop locked away for a while. [12...Qb6+ 13.Kh1 f6 is about equal] **13.f5 exf5 14.exf5 Bh7 15.Be3 Bf6 16.Qd2 Ne5 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Ne2 Nd7 19.c3 Re8 20.Rae1 Qc7 21.Bf4 Re7 22.d4** [22.Bxe5 Rxe5 23.d4 Re7 24.Nf4+/-] **22...Bd6 23.Bxd6 Qxd6 24.Qf4 Qf6** safer was to trade into the ending with [24...Qxf4 25.Nxf4 Rae8 26.Rxe7 Rxe7 27.h4 g6=] **25.Nc1 Rae8 26.Nd3 Qg5 27.Rxe7 Rxe7 28.Kf2?!** The king becomes active too soon. White could have stayed in the middle game with an edge after [28.Qd6! Nf8 29.Nf4] **28...g6=/+ 29.Qxg5 hxg5 30.fxg6 Bxg6 31.Re1 Rxe1 32.Nxe1 Bb1** The game has traded down to a dry looking ending at first glance. However the black pieces can cause trouble to the white queenside. **33.Nf3?!** Diagram

[33.a4] **33...Nb6!** Black aims to hit the b-pawn and make the whole queenside weak. **34.Nxg5 Na4 35.c4 dxc4 36.d5 Nxb2!?** [36...cxd5 37.Bxd5 Nxb2] **37.dxc6 bxc6 38.Ne4 Na4!?** [38...Bxa2 39.Nc3 Bb3 40.Bxc6 a5 is a reasonable alternative] **39.a3 c3 40.Ke3 c5** the black pawns are advanced and the white king can't approach. What to do? **41.Nd6?** not this! White needed to keep the knight on e4 and play slowly with 41. h4. Now Black has a tactical win. **41...c2 42.Kd2** Diagram



42...Nc3! White resigned as there is no decent defense to ...Na2 queening the pawn. [42...Nc3 43.Be4 Nxe4+ 44.Nxe4 c1Q+ 45.Kxc1 Bxe4] **0-1**

Though Izoria had a rough showing against the GM's, he took care of business against the young IM's. Here is his win against IM Cameron Wheeler.

(2) GM Zviad Izoria (Izoria123) (2576) - IM Cameron Wheeler (Caminator2000) (2314) [A09]

Live Chess Chess.com, 21.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.c4 d4 5.d3 e5 6.b4 Ne7 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.0-0 h6 9.a4 c5?! [Perhaps better is 9...Be6 though White has an edge anyway. One game continued 10.Ba3 Nd7 11.b5 Re8 12.Nb3 b6 13.a5 Rb8 14.Ne1 h5 15.Nc2 h4 16.Nb4 hxg3 17.hxg3 Bf6 18.axb6 axb6 19.Nd2 Kg7 20.Ne4 Rh8 21.Nc6 Nxc6 22.bxc6 Nc5 23.Bxc5 bxc5 24.Nxc5 Bg4 25.Bf3 Qg8 26.Bxg4 Qh7 27.Kg2 Qh2+ 28.Kf3 Be7 29.Rh1 Qxh1+ 30.Qxh1 Rxh1 31.Ne6+ fxe6 32.Rxh1 Rb6 33.Bxe6 Rxc6 34.Bd5 Rf6+ 35.Kg2 Ba3 36.Ra1 Ra6 37.Kf3 Ra5 38.Rb1 Bd6 39.Be4 Iordachescu,V (2591)-Jobava,B (2634) Batumi 2018 1-0] **10.bxc5** Diagram

10...Nbc6N [Also seen was 10...f5 11.Ne1 Nbc6 12.Nc2 Kh7 13.Ra3 g5 14.e3 Ng6 15.Qh5 Bd7 16.Rb3 Na5 17.Rb4 Bc6 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.exd4 exd4 20.Nf3 f4 21.Rb1 Rf5 22.Bd2 Ne7 23.g4 Rxc5 24.Bb4 Qd6 25.Nxg5+ Rxg5 26.Bxd6 Rxh5 27.gxh5 Bf6 28.Bxe7 Bxe7 29.Nxd4 Rd8 30.Rfe1 Bf6 31.Nb3 Nb7 32.Re6 Bh4 33.Rxc6 Nd6 34.Nd2 Rd7 35.Nf3 Nf5 36.Rc5 1-0 (36) Eljanov, P (2716)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2632) Netanya 2009] **11.Ne4 Be6 12.Rb1** White simply has good and easy play on the queenside. A great Benoni reversed. **12...Rb8 13.Rb5 a6 14.Rb3 Qa5? 15.Rb6!** Diagram

suddenly the Black queen is in trouble. White threatened to win it with Bd2. Black saves the queen but at a material loss. **15...Nb4 16.Bd2 Nec6 17.Rxb4 Nxb4 18.Qb3 b5 19.Bxb4 bxc4 20.Bxa5 cxb3 21.Bb6!** Shutting off the black rook seals the queenside and the game. **21...f5 22.Nd6 e4 23.Nd2 Be5 24.N2c4** Black resigned as the white pieces are jumping all over the queenside and center. Perhaps this was a bit premature, yet the position is certainly lost. **1-0**

IM Christopher Yoo is definitely a player to follow and among the future stars of American chess. Here is his win as black against IM Wheeler.

(7) IM Cameron Wheeler (Caminator2000) (2260) - IM Christopher Yoo (ChristopherYoo) (2221) [D85]
Live Chess Chess.com, 21.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 Diagram

8.h3!? Hard to believe White can stop for this but maybe! This could well be the move of the future. Kramnik did roll it out against Kasparov at Wijk aan Zee, 2000 (draw). The two Big Theory moves are [8.Be3 thinking about Qd2 and Rc1; and 8.Rb1 0-0 9.Be2 with some pawn sacrifices in the air] **8...0-0 9.Be2 b6** [9...b5!? 10.Be3 Bb7 11.Qd3 cxd4 12.cxd4 Nd7 13.0-0 Nb6 ½-½ (37) Kramnik,V (2758)-Kasparov,G (2851) Wijk aan Zee 2000; 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Nc6 11.Be3 f5 12.Bc4+ Kh8 13.0-0 fxe4 14.Ng5 e5 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Bd5 h6 17.Nxe4 Bxh3 18.gxh3 Nf3+ 19.Kg2 Nh4+ 20.Kg1 Nf3+ 21.Kg2 Nh4+ 22.Kg1 Nf3+ 1/2-1/2 (22) Svidler,P (2739)-Grischuk,A (2810) Tbilisi 2015 CBM 165 [CB]] **10.Be3 Bb7 11.Qc2** [11.Qd3 e6 12.0-0 Nd7 13.Bg5 Qc7 14.Qe3 Rae8 15.Rad1 Qc6 16.Bd3 Qa4 17.Bh6 f5 ½-½ 40, Sakaev,K (2596)-Hansen,E (2606) Moscow 2019] **11...cxd4 12.cxd4 Qc8** Diagram

13.Bd3N [13.Qb1? Bxe4! 0-1 (34) Altantuya,B (2220)-Stankovic,M (2462) Veliko Gradiste 2019] **13...Nc6 14.Qa4 a6 15.Rc1 b5 16.Qa3 Qd7** The rest of the game sees Christopher playing an energetic Gruenfeld master class game. **17.d5 Ne5 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.0-0 e6 20.f4 Bd6 21.Qb2 exd5 22.e5 Qe7 23.Qd4 Ba3 24.f5 Rfe8 25.e6** Diagram

Cameron sacrifice an exchange to bust open Christopher's kingside, but the plan of ruling the long diagonal never comes to fruition. **25...Bxc1 26.exf7+ Qxf7 27.Bxc1 Qg7 28.Qh4 Rf8 29.Bh6 Qf6 30.Bg5 Qb6+ 31.Kh1 Rf7 32.Qh6 Raf8 33.Re1 Qf2 34.Re2 Qg3 35.Bf4? Qxd3** ChristopherYoo won on time **0-1**

IM Cameron Wheeler has the distinction of being the only player to draw GM Shankland. He also had this win against IM Andrew Hong.

(4) IM Cameron Wheeler (Caminator2000) (2338) - IM Andrew Hong (SpeedofLight0) (1995) [E04]
Live Chess Chess.com, 21.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.0-0 b5 8.a4 c6 9.Ne1!? [More active looks to be 9.Ne5 yet the knight may get in the way there. One game continued 9...Nd5 10.Ne4 f6 11.Nf3 a5 12.b3 cxb3 13.Qxb3 Ba6 14.Qc2 bxa4 15.Rxa4 Nd7 16.Ra1 Rc8 17.Nc5 Nxc5 18.dxc5 e5 19.Ba3 Bb5 20.Rfd1 Qe7 21.Nh4 Nc3 22.Rd6 Nxe2+ 23.Kh1 Nd4 24.Qe4 Rcd8 25.Bxb4 axb4 26.Qg4 f5 27.Qh5 Rxd6 28.cxd6 Qxd6 29.Ra7 b3 30.Bh3 b2 31.Qd1 Qb4 32.Qb1 Bd3 33.Qa2+ Qb3 0-1 (33) Harikrishna,P (2731)-Anand,V (2757) Kolkata 2019] **9...Nd5 10.e4 Nc7 11.Nc2 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne4** Diagram

13...Bb7N [13...b4 may be a little better] **14.Qg4 Kh8 15.Qh5 f5** Black feels the pressure on the kingside and feels compelled to do something in response. This creates weakenesses however, so perhaps it was better to sit tight with 15...Nd7 instead. **16.exf6 gxf6 17.Bh6 Rg8 18.Rfe1 Nd7?** It's strange for a developing move to be bad but now White gets to target the e6 pawn. [18...Na6 lets Black have the option of Nc7 to guard e6.] **19.Nc3! b4 20.Nxd5 exd5 21.Bh3** The e6 pawn was spared however the white rook and light-squared bishop now use the light squares to infiltrate. **21...Nf8?** [21...Bf8 22.Be6 Rg6 23.Bd2 is unpleasant for Black with all the weak kingside squares. The game move loses material.] **22.Qf7! Ng6 23.Bf5** Diagram

23...Qe8 [the problem with 23...Bd6 is 24.Re8! Qxe8 25.Qxf6+ Rg7 26.Qxg7#] **24.Bxg6 Rxg6 25.Rxe7 Qxf7 26.Rxf7 Ba6** The knight up ending is an easy win for White. **27.Nxb4 Rxh6 28.Nxa6 Rg6 29.Re1 Rg4 30.Ree7 Rxd4 31.Nc7 Rb8 32.Rxh7+ Kg8 33.Reg7+ Kf8 34.Ne6+** It's mate next move. A great game by Cameron! **1-0**

IM Andrew Hong had a chance to tie for 3rd with Zviad Izoria had he drawn the final game, which looked even before a blunder in time pressure cost him the game. He looked in good form in this event, and here is his win against IM Chistopher Yoo.

(5) IM Andrew Hong (SpeedofLight0) (1914) - IM Christopher Yoo (ChristopherYoo) (2198) [B69]
Live Chess Chess.com, 21.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 The Richter-Rauser Attack. Very classical Sicilian play. **6...e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.f4 Be7 10.Nf3 b5 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.f5 Qb6 13.Qh6** [most usual is to transfer the knight to the kingside - 13.Ne2 Na5 14.Nf4] **13...0-0-0 14.Qh5 Kb8 15.Kb1** [15.Qxf7 b4 16.Na4 Qe3+ is about equal] **15...Be8 16.Bd3 Ne5** Diagram

17.Ne2N [White has tried 17.Nxe5 dxe5 18.Rhf1 a5 19.Qg4 1/2-1/2 (19) Garcia,H (2079)-Fourie,M (2376) ICCF email 2008] **17...Qb7 18.Nf4 d5! 19.exd5 Nxd3 20.Nxd3 Rxd5** So far a very well played opening by both sides. White could now defend the f5 pawn with 21. Nh4 or 21. g4 but chooses to give it up and win the h-pawn. **21.Qg4 Rxf5 22.Qg7 Rf8 23.Qxh7 b4 24.h4** Usually the center pawns are just better than the wing pawns in the opening and middle game. Yet this white h-pawn intends to be troublesome. **24...Bc6 25.Nd4 Ra5 26.Nxc6+ Qxc6 27.Qg7 Rc8 28.Rd2 Qa4 29.Nc1 b3?** Diagram

[29...Bd6! with ideas of ...Bf4 or ...Be5 would give Black attacking chances to keep the game level. The game move overlooks a key defense.] **30.Qg3+!** If White had captured the b-pawn with the knight or either pawn it would be trouble, but now the white queen comes back for the defense. **30...Ka8 31.Qxb3** Both the middlegame or endgame will be a real struggle for Black. **31...Qc6 32.Rh3** [32.h5!] **32...e5?!** [32...Rb5] **33.h5 Rb5 34.Qxf7 Rcb8 35.Rb3** White is two pawns up with a very defensible king position. So the game is over if White doesn't err. **35...Bb4 36.Rd7 Bc5 37.Qd5 Qxd5 38.Rxd5 Be3?** A blunder, but it doesn't matter much. **39.Rdxb5 axb5 40.Rxe3** Black resigned. **1-0**

I want to thank GM Nick de Firmian, FM Jim Eade, and FM Paul Whitehead for the commentary. A special thanks goes to Chief TD Judit Sztaray, who had to pair the round robin manually on Chess.com every round, as well as starting games. Thanks again to Jim Eade for his generous support of quality chess events and using the power of technology to bring chess events that can be viewed by many. Finally, I want to thank all the players for participating in this event - their time and talent allowed us to enjoy a great afternoon of chess.

2020 Northern California Online Invitational

Sponsored by FM James Eade, MI Trustee

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	GM Sam Shankland	12852765	2762	W3	W6	W2	W5	D4	4.5	$500
2	GM Steven Zierk	12796611	2597	W4	D5	L1	W3	W6	3.5	$300
3	GM Zviad Izoria	12922861	2694	L1	W4	D6	L2	W5	2.5	$200

4	IM Cameron Wheeler	13473477	2494	L2	L3	W5	L6	D1	1.5	
5	IM Andrew Zhang Hong	14941904	2533	W6	D2	L4	L1	L3	1.5	
6	IM Christopher W Yoo	15244943	2540	L5	L1	D3	W4	L2	1.5	

To learn more about the work Jim Eade does to help support chess for those in need, please visit https://eadefoundation.org/

The People's Tournament: A Short History Part 1 (Coming July 11)

The People's Tournamnet is a Bay Area chess tradition. It is more commonly known as a Berkeley tradition, but the story of the evolution of the event is facinating and important as a matter of local history. Over the next several weeks, I will speak to many individuals who have been part of or played this event, which started in Hayward in 1974. I was going to start writing about it in this edition, but since the newsletter will go on a one week hiatus next week, I figured it be best to begin on our return on July 11, where I will write the first of a three-part series.

I encourage submissions from the chess community of stories or games from the People's Tournament, which was originally named "First California People's Chess Festival." Please send to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Online

IM Elliott Winslow put on a show at the Tuesday Night Online, playing incredible chess through a tough field to win the TNO with a perfect 5/5, including a third-round game that was as spectacular as it was artistic and creative. Here is the round 3 game against NM Sriram Krishnakumar, it was a pleasure for us to follow on the broadcast. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(8) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1845) - NM Sriram Krishnakumar (2008king) (2002) [C78]
Live Chess Chess.com, 23.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.Re1 The old main line. [7.c3!?; 7.d3 Be7 (7...Bc5 8.a4 *(8.Nc3; 8.c3)*)] **7...Bc5 8.c3 d6 9.d4 Ba7?!** Rare. Perhaps he was thinking about some of the recent games with 5...Bc5, when the bishop sometimes comfortably retreats to a7. [Typical is 9...Bb6 10.Bg5 *(10.Be3 0-0 11.Nbd2 h6 12.h3 Re8 13.d5 Ne7 14.Bxb6 cxb6 15.a4 bxa4 16.Bxa4 b5 17.Bc2 Qb6* 0-1 (39) 39, Alekseenko,K (2638) -Grischuk,A (2771) St Petersburg 2018*)* 10...h6 11.Bh4 Qe7 *(11...Qd7)* 12.a4 0-0-0 13.axb5 axb5 14.Na3 Na7 15.Qd3 g5 16.Bg3 Nxe4!? 17.Rxe4 f5 18.Rxe5! dxe5 19.Qxf5+ Kb8 20.Bxe5? *(20.Nxe5+-)* 20...Rhf8 21.Qg6 Nc6 22.Bg3 Rf6 23.Qc2 Rxf3 1-0 (88) Winslow,E (2312)-Shirazi,K (2425) Palo Alto 1981] **10.a4 h6 11.h3?** Unnecessary in this line -- nothing is going to g4. [11.Be3; 11.Na3; 11.axb5 axb5 12.Na3] **11...0-0** Diagram

12.Be3!?N In many of these lines White baits Black with the e-pawn. But he has to be careful it doesn't just fall for nothing. **12...exd4 13.cxd4 Re8** [13...Ne7 14.d5 Bxe3 15.Rxe3 c6] **14.axb5 axb5 15.d5?!** [White could continue to advantageously play on the edge with 15.Nc3 b4 (15...Nxe4 16.Nxe4 Rxe4 17.Bc2 *(17.d5 Bxe3 18.Rxa8 Bxa8 19.dxc6 Bxf2+ 20.Kxf2 Rxe1 21.Qxe1 Bxc6* just isn't enough*)*) 16.Nd5 Nxe4 17.Rc1 is a lot of pressure on the c-file and the a4-e8 diagonal] **15...Bxe3 16.dxc6??** [16.Rxa8 Bxa8 17.dxc6 Bb6 18.e5= is still a dynamic equality.] **16...Rxa1** Elliott completely overlooked this little detail; Black is totally won **17.cxb7 Bb6??** Black neglects the power of this little pawn. Remember the legendary quote, maybe the best thing in "My System": "A passed pawn is a criminal which should be kept under lock and key. Mild measures, such as police surveillance, are not sufficient." – Aron Nimzovich [17...Ba7; 17...Bf4!-+] **18.e5!=/+** White flails to create tactical possibilities. **18...Nd7?!** [18...dxe5 19.Nxe5 Qxd1 20.Rxd1 Rb8 21.Bxf7+ Kf8 22.Bg6 c5 23.Rd7! appears to hold (via computer analysis).] **19.e6?** [19.Qd5! gets better and better the longer the computer looks at it!] **19...fxe6 20.Rxe6 Kh8 21.Qd3 Rxe6 22.Bxe6 Nc5?** [22...Ba7! He has to stop that pawn!] **23.Qg6!?** Incredible! But [23.Ne5!! wins immediately] **23...Nxe6 24.Qxe6 Rxb1+ 25.Kh2 Ba7 26.Qc8 Qg8 27.Nh4 g5??** He was too short on time to see that he had to let the perpetual happen. [27...Re1; 27...Ra1; 27...Rc1] **28.Ng6+ Kg7 29.Qxg8+ Kxg8 30.Ne7+ Kf7 31.Nc6** ecwinslow won on time in a won position **1-0**

Winslow followed that amazing win with a fantastic win against FM Kyron Griffith. In this game, Winslow missed a mate in one on move 14, but persevered on and won a hard fought game.

(9) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1858) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2070) [B15]
Live Chess Chess.com, 23.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Ne2 [8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5] **8...Re8 9.Qc2 h5** This is the big novelty in this line, but it's hard to see what all the fuss is about. **10.0-0** [Most games see White at least postponing the king commitment: 10.Be3 Nd7 11.Qd2 Nf8 12.Bf4 Be6 13.0-0 h4 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Qf4 Qxf4 16.Nxf4 g6 17.f3 Rad8 18.b4 Kg7 19.Kf2 f5 20.a4 Bc8 21.Rfe1 Ne6 22.Nxe6+ Bxe6 23.Re5 Bd7 24.Rae1 Rxe5 25.Rxe5 Re8 26.f4 f6 27.Rxe8 Bxe8 28.Bc4 Kf8 29.Ke3 Ke7 30.a5 b6 31.axb6 axb6 32.g3 hxg3 33.hxg3 Kd6 34.Bg8 c5 35.bxc5+ bxc5 36.c4 g5 37.Kd3 Bc6 38.Ke3 Bd7 39.Bd5 Be8 Guseinov,G (2665)-Cheparinov,I (2686) playchess.com 2020 1/2-1/2 (79)] **10...h4 11.Bf4!?** [11.h3; 11.Nf4!?] **11...Rxe2?** [11...h3 is the only move with a plus score here, but White is fine after 12.g3; So just 11...Na6 to work on the light squares.] **12.Qxe2 Bxf4** Paul and Abel on the Twitch commentary weren't sure who had fallen for whose trap! **13.Qe4** Diagram

Stockfish is sure, though -- White is winning. **13...Qc7??N** Winning or not, allowing Mate in One is not good! [13...g5 14.Qh7+ Kf8 15.Rae1 Be6 16.g3 Bc7 17.f4 hxg3 18.hxg3 Qd6 19.Re3 c5 20.f5 Nd7 21.fxe6 fxe6 22.Bg6 1-0, Jakic,I (2393)-Tica,S (2439) Zadar 2018] **14.Qh7+??** [14.Qe8#] **14...Kf8 15.Qh8+ Ke7 16.Qxg7 Bxh2+ 17.Kh1 Be6 18.Rae1 Nd7** Diagram

19.Rxe6+! Kxe6 20.Bc4+ [20.Re1+! was even better. White was concerned with some block on e5, but White keeps piling in the pieces and pawns.] **20...Kd6 21.Qxf7 Qa5 22.Kxh2?!** Elliott didn't see any total knockout and just snaps up the material. It's still won, but Kyron resists as best he can. Eventually he succumbs. **22...Rf8 23.Qe6+ Kc7 24.Re1 Qg5 25.Qe3 b5 26.Bd3 Rg8 27.Qxg5 fxg5 28.f3 g4 29.fxg4 Rxg4 30.Re7 Rf4 31.Kg1** [31.Kh3] **31...a5 32.Re4 Rxe4 33.Bxe4 Nf6 34.Bf3 Nh7 35.Kf2 Ng5 36.Bg4 Kd6**

37.Ke3 c5 38.dxc5+ Kxc5 39.Kf4 Nf7 40.Be6 Nd8 41.Bg8 Nc6 42.Kg5 Ne5 43.Kxh4 Nd3 44.b3 b4 45.cxb4+ Nxb4 46.a4 Kd6 47.Kg5 Ke5 48.g4 Nc6 49.Bc4 Ne7 50.Kh6 Kf4 51.g5 Nf5+ 52.Kg6 Ng3 53.Bd3 [53.b4!] **53...Ke5 54.Kf7 Nh5 55.g6** ecwinslow won by resignation **1-0**

Shaashwath Sivakumar finished in 2nd on tiebreaks with 4/5, with his only loss coming in the final round against Winslow. He had this win against Anika Rajaram.

(11) Shaashwath Sivakumar (Dontmesswithme_2) (1831) - Anika Rajaram (Kirotori) (1854) [E49]
Live Chess Chess.com, 23.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 [1...d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 Nf6 6.e3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 1-0 (39) Shankland,S (2679) -Sanikidze,T (2497) Baku 2016] **2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3** [4.e3 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 1-0 (27) Minzer,C (2370)-Aberbach Peltzman,A Villa Ballester 1993] **4...Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 0-0 6.e3** [6.f3 d5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 c5 9.Bd3 b6 10.Ne2 Ba6 1-0 (41) Mirzoev,E (2412)-Lushnikov,E (2136) Pardubice 2018] **6...c5 7.Bd3** Diagram

7...d5 [7...Nc6 doesn't give White an easy way to dissolve his doubled pawns, and is a more thematic strategy.] **8.cxd5 exd5 9.Ne2 b6 10.0-0 Ba6** If you've never seen the monumental game Botvinnik-Capablanca, AVRO 1938, this would be an excellent time to do so. History, Strategy, Education, Entertainment. [10...Re8 11.Ng3 Ba6 12.Bxa6 Nxa6 13.f3 Rc8 14.Qd3 Nb8 15.Bb2 1-0 (27) Minzer,C (2370)-Aberbach Peltzman,A Villa Ballester 1993] **11.f3 Bxd3** [11...Re8 12.Ng3 Bxd3 1-0 (41) Mirzoev,E (2412)-Lushnikov,E (2136) Pardubice 2018] **12.Qxd3 Nc6?!** [12...Re8 13.Ng3 Nc6] **13.Bb2?!** [13.e4!] **13...Re8 14.Ng3 Na5** Taking the pressure off d4 right away. [14...c4 is popular but loses options, notably the c4 square. Sam Shankland won a critical game for the US team at the 2016 Olympics, also worth study and enjoyment. 15.Qe2 h5 16.Qf2 Qd7 17.Rae1 Ne7 18.e4 h4 19.Nh1 Ng6 20.e5 Nh5 21.Bc1 Nhf4 22.Bxf4 Nxf4 23.Qxh4 Nd3 24.Re3 Re6 25.f4 1-0 (39) Shankland,S (2679)-Sanikidze,T (2497) Baku 2016; 14...Rc8 is a sensible plan, counterplay along the c-file, but as has 15.Rad1!? has done well**a)** 15.Rae1!? Na5 16.e4 Nc4 1-0 (41) Mirzoev,E (2412)-Lushnikov,E (2136) Pardubice 2018 *(16...cxd4 17.cxd4 dxe4 18.fxe4 Nc4* 1-0 (27) Minzer,C (2370)-Aberbach Peltzman,A Villa Ballester 1993*)* ; **b)** 15.e4?! cxd4 16.cxd4 dxe4 17.fxe4 Ne5! gets a tempo of sorts.; ; 14...h5!? played in Petrosian-Fridshtein, 1947 and then all but forgotten until the 2000s when it went viral.] **15.Rae1** [15.e4! Seize the day! (and the center)] **15...Nc4 16.Bc1 Rc8 17.e4 cxd4 18.cxd4 dxe4 19.fxe4 Ne5 20.Qd2** This position has occured five times in the database! The score 5-0 is a hint that Center Pawns Matter. **20...Nc4 21.Qf2 Qd7 22.h3** [22.e5 Nd5 23.Nf5 Rc6 24.Qf3 sets up 25.Nd6:1-0 (41) Mirzoev,E (2412)-Lushnikov,E (2136) Pardubice 2018] **22...Rcd8** [22...Rf8 23.Nf5 Ne8 24.e5 Qe6 25.d5 Qd7 26.e6 1-0 (27) Minzer,C (2370) -Aberbach Peltzman,A Villa Ballester 1993. Why the extra move? White had played Bxa6 and Qd3, and Black had played ...Nb8 and ...Nc6.] **23.e5 Nd5 24.Bg5 Rc8 25.Nf5 h6** Diagram

26.Bxh6! gxh6? 27.Qg3+ Kh8 28.Qg7# Dontmesswithme_2 won by checkmate **1-0**

NM Kevin Pan played in what I believe is his first TNO. He will be a force in future events, and on Tuesday he had this win versus Barbara Goodkind.

(10) NM Kevin Pan (petearrpan) (1869) - Barbara Goodkind (eatdinner) (1658) [D12]
Live Chess Chess.com, 23.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.c4 Transposing to a popular line against the Slav Defense without allowing Black any opportunity to play ...dxc4 and try to hold that pawn. **4...Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.b3** Not the most incisive; [6.Nh4; and 6.Qb3 are the most frequently seen.] **6...Nbd7 7.Bb2 Be7 8.h3 h6 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Bb4 11.0-0 0-0 12.a3 Bxc3 13.Bxc3 Ne4 14.Nd2 Nxc3 15.Qxc3 f5 16.f3 Qg5 17.e4 Nb6?** Wrong way! It might look like a Stonewall gone bad, but Black doesn't have the usual bad light-squared bishop, nor the cramped development in general. And the pawn on h3 means it's White with the suspect complex of squares, the dark ones on the kingside. If anyone is better it would be Black. [17...Nf6! 18.f4 Qh4 19.e5 Ne4!=/+] **18.Rae1** [18.f4! Qh4 19.c5! Nd7 20.e5 Note that White's queen can shift quickly across, but Black even here has a space problem.] **18...Rad8** [18...Qf4!=] **19.exd5** [19.c5; 19.f4] **19...exd5 20.f4 Qf6 21.Re5** [21.c5!] **21...Nd7?** [21...dxc4 22.bxc4 Nd7 23.Re3 Nc5!=] **22.Re3?!** [22.cxd5 cxd5 23.Rxd5] **22...Nb6** [22...Nc5!] **23.Nf3 dxc4 24.bxc4 Qf7 25.Ne5 Qc7 26.Rfe1 Nd7 27.Ng6 Rf6 28.Ne7+ Kh7 29.g3 Nf8** Diagram

30.Re5 [The shot 30.Nxf5!+- would break Black down immediately.] **30...Ng6 31.Nxg6 Kxg6 32.Qd3 Qb6 33.c5 Qc7 34.Rxf5 Rxf5 35.Re6+ Kh7 36.Qxf5+ Kh8 37.Qe4** [37.Qe5!] **37...Qd7 38.Re7 Qxh3 39.Qe3??** [39.Qg6! Rg8 40.f5! is crushing] **39...Rf8?** [39...b6 to open up a file for the rook should extract a perpetual for one side or the other.] **40.Rxb7** Now White is back on top **40...Qh5 41.Qe5 Qd1+ 42.Kg2 Qd2+ 43.Kh3 Rg8 44.Rxa7 Qd1 45.Re7 Qh1+ 46.Kg4 Qf1 47.Re6?!** [47.a4] **47...Qd1+ 48.Qe2 Qh1?** [48...Qxd4+/-] **49.Qe5** [49.a4; 49.Re5; 49.f5] **49...Qd1+** Diagram

50.Kf5?? [50.Qe2 Qxd4 51.Qc2+/-] **50...Qh1??** [50...Rf8+! and BLACK wins] **51.g4** [51.Kg6! and f4-f5 will lock Black out, then Re8 will mate. 51...Qb1+ 52.f5 Qb8 53.Qxb8 Rxb8 54.Rxc6] **51...Qh3 52.Rg6??** Diagram

[52.Re8! is easiest] **52...Qg3??** [52...Qd3+! and Black wins again!] Now White finally gets to play the move he has been trying to set up for so many moves now: **53.Rxh6#** petearrpan won by checkmate **1-0**

The TNO is never without action, and two action players provided fireworks in this game.

(12) Lauren Goodkind (laurengoodkindchess) (1783) - Adam Mercado (A-boy415) (1642) [B22]
Live Chess Chess.com, 23.06.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 e5 4.c4? Diagram

White has so many good things to do here, giving the first move to Black (and the better knight development) isn't one of them. [4.d4; 4.Bc4] **4...Nf6** [4...d6 and ...f5 takes an initiative.] **5.d3 Be7 6.Nc3 d6 7.Be2 h6 8.0-0**

Be6 9.Ne1 Nd4 10.Nc2 a6 11.Ne3 b5 12.b3 b4 13.Ncd5 Bxd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Diagram

15...f5? This needs some preparation. Now White takes over on the light squares. **16.Bh5+ Kd7 17.Be3 g5 18.Bxd4 cxd4 19.Bf7 Qf8 20.Be6+ Ke8 21.Qh5+ Kd8** Diagram

22.a3 bxa3 23.Rxa3 Kc7 24.Rfa1 Kb6 25.Qe2 Qb8 26.Bxf5 h5 27.Qd2 Kc7 28.Qa5+ Qb6 29.Qd2 Rhf8 30.Be6 Rf4 31.Qa2 g4 32.Ra4 h4 33.Qa3 e4 34.Rb4 Qc5 35.Qa4 Rd8 Diagram

36.Qxa6 Rb8 37.Rxb8 Kxb8 38.Qa8+ Kc7 39.Qc8+ Kb6 40.Ra6# laurengoodkindchess won by checkmate **1-0**

It was a fun evening of chess. To watch the broadcast of the event, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cefBsujn_U

For full results, follow this link: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1273176

Mechanics' Online Events Recap

Friday Night Online Blitz: Winner: FM Kyron Griffith https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-blitz-1260151

Saturday Matinee: Winner: Oren Livne https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1260152

Saturday Late Night Showdown: Winner: FM Kyron Griffith https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-showdown-1270630

Sunday Evening Blitz: Winner: FM Kyron Griffith https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-night-blitz-1270635

Monday Night Arena: Winner: FM Kyron Griffith https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-229487

Wednesday Late Night Showdown: Winner: Advay Bansal https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1273182

Thursday Night Blitz: Winner: Shaashwath Sivakumar https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-night-blitz-1273562

Mechanics' Chess Social

Guest June 26 Episode, Adisa Banjoko

On the June 26 episode of our Mechanics' Chess Social, we had a conversation with Adisa Banjoko, founder of the Hip Hop Chess Federation, marial artist, writer, and teacher. We discussed a range of issues including the power of chess and its impact on children, as well as how chess can be used to bring communities together and create a space in which people from diverse backgrounds can find a common bond and understanding. To watch the interview, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VX7ws6Yt38

To listen to his podcast Bishop Chronicles, follw this link: http://www.bishopchronicles.com/

Chess.com Club's League Update

The Mechanics' Institute had a statement making win on Saturday, defeating the Pittsburgh Chess Club 18.5-1.5 in a match where many of our top players showed to get Mechanics' back in the win column after losing the previous match. GM James Tarjan, IM Elliott Winslow, NM Ruiyang Yan, and NM Sriram Krishnakumar were among the players representing the club.

This Saturday we will be facing off against Clube De Xadrez de Curitiba fro Brazil. To join the event or

follow the action, please follow this link: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=34354

Here are the standings for the A Division in the Chess.com Club's League

Division A Standings after Round 4

#	Name	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Bursa Buyuksehir Belediyespor	W40	W5	W35	W14		4.0
2	Kyiv Chess Club	W11	W23	W39	W7		4.0
3	The Flaming Tigers Chess Club	W58	W17	W18	W24		4.0
4	Thomas Jefferson Chess Club	W59	W9	W28	W15		4.0
5	Batubey Chess Club	W57	L1	W23	W26		3.0
6	Bay Tigers Chess Club	W61	W44	L7	W31		3.0
7	Chess Club Politika	W42	W36	W6	L2		3.0
8	ChessKidsNation Club	W53	L16	W21	W27		3.0
9	Club De Ajedrez Par de Alfiles	W54	L4	W20	W28		3.0
10	Echecs 16	W38	W51	L14	W35		3.0
11	Klub Szachowy Dwie Wieze Krakow	L2	W38	W51	W39		3.0
12	Loulé ++ Clube de Xadrez	L51	W61	X48	W36		3.0
13	Mykolaiv Chess Club	W46	L35	W33	W37		3.0
14	SK Sarajevo	B---	W37	W10	L1		3.0
15	Stevenson High School Chess Club	W16	W53	W47	L4		3.0
16	Rio Grande Valley Rising Stars	L15	W8	W30	W43		3.0
17	University Of Sydney Chess Club	W45	L3	W29	W49		3.0
18	Uttara Central Chess Club	W49	W29	L3	W45		3.0
19	Charlotte Chess Center	W52	L30	W50	H---	U---	2.5
20	Mechanics' Institute Chess Club	D21	W43	L9	W52		2.5
21	S. Ariz Chess Assn / Eastside CC	D20	W50	L8	W30		2.5
22	UCS De Rode Loper	L48	D40	W61	W41		2.5
23	Amo Galaxias Thessaloniki	W33	L2	L5	W44		2.0
24	Bangladesh Univ of Eng & Tech	L29	W49	W45	L3		2.0
25	Chess Club Levice	L44	W41	L31	W51		2.0
26	Chess School Etud	L35	W46	W40	L5		2.0
27	Club Jaque al Rey	W34	L28	W32	L8		2.0
28	Clube De Xadrez de Curitiba	W32	W27	L4	L9		2.0
29	Golden Sporting Club	W24	L18	L17	W58		2.0
30	Iowa Pawn Stormers	W47	W19	L16	L21		2.0
31	La Zubia	L39	W55	W25	L6		2.0
32	Liga Regional de Xadrez	L28	W34	L27	W47		2.0
33	Lviv State Chess Club	L23	W57	L13	W46		2.0
34	Maritime Chess Club	L27	L32	W55	W54		2.0
35	Shakh Club	W26	W13	L1	L10		2.0

36 SK Kriegshaber	W60	L7	W42	L12		2.0
37 SSDE- Societa Scacchistica Epor.	W55	L14	X44	L13		2.0
38 SSZ Olimpia Goleszow	L10	L11	W60	W61		2.0
39 Wasa SK	W31	W48	L2	L11		2.0
40 Bahrain Chess Academy	L1	D22	L26	W60		1.5
41 Club Ajedrez 64 Villalba	H---	L25	W53	L22		1.5
42 Port Elizabeth Chess Club	L7	W60	L36	D57		1.5
43 Toronto Kaiqi Chess Club	D56	L20	W52	L16		1.5
44 African Chess Lounge	W25	L6	F37	L23		1.0
45 Ballarat Chess Club	L17	W58	L24	L18		1.0
46 Chesshouse Club	L13	L26	W57	L33		1.0
47 Fox Valley 2020 Chess Club	L30	W54	L15	L32		1.0
48 Halesowen Chess Club	W22	L39	F12	---	U---	1.0
49 Karakol Chess Academy	L18	L24	W58	L17		1.0
50 Learners Chess Academy	B---	L21	L19	L53		1.0
51 Nucleo Sporting. de Sao Miguel	W12	L10	L11	L25		1.0
52 Pittsburgh Chess Club	L19	W59	L43	L20		1.0
53 Rocky Top Chess Club	L8	L15	L41	W50		1.0
54 Waco Chess Club	L9	L47	W59	L34		1.0
55 Zukertort Amstelveen Jeugd	L37	L31	L34	B---		1.0
56 Nashville Chess Center	D43	---	---	---	U---	0.5
57 Shamieh Chess Academy	L5	L33	L46	D42		0.5
58 Bishan Chess Club	L3	L45	L49	L29		0.0
59 GHA Chess Club	L4	L52	L54	---	U---	0.0
60 Grassy Park Chess Academy	L36	L42	L38	L40		0.0
61 Muks Szs Cieszyn	L6	L12	L22	L38		0.0

Tom Dorsch 1941-2020

Tom Dorsch passed away on April 17, 2020. He was a former CalChess President, USCF Treasurer, organizer and all around chess enthusiast. To learn more about his life, please follow this article written on the CalChess site: http://www.calchess.org/

Dr. Alexey Root: Chess and Cooking: A Perfect Pairing?

Dr. Alexey Root has recently taken an interest in the subject of chessplayers and food. While I know many other artistic disciplines can fuse with chess - like dance, music, art, and martial arts - food is not necessarily something that readily comes to mind. However, both elite Grandmasters and strong club players have a foodie experience through chess.

WIM Alexey Root emailed, "The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club is how I met my latest co-author online. After Mike Walder noticed me in a Facebook posting by Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, he contacted me via Facebook. Mike told me his story of surviving stage four cancer, which became Chemo Brain and Chess: One Master's Story. As Mike and I were writing that story, Mike emailed me a photo of a brunch he cooked for his roommates. As Mike, IM Elliott Winslow, and FM Frank Thornally ate brunch, they analyzed Kiriakov – Tiviakov, Port Erin 1999. Mike's brunch photo gave me the idea for articles about chess and cooking. Our first article about chess and cooking is Grandmaster Chef: Anish Giri."

Enjoy! There sill be another article, another GM, and more food next week!

NEW Online Advanced Class With 3-Time U.S. Champion GM Nick de Firmian

For players around 1400-2000, this class is for players looking to develop the thinking skills and techniques that bring their chess to the next level. The class will focus on the development of middle-game thinking, positional play, and endgame concepts, but will cover all areas of need, depending on the class. The class will be dynamic and interactive, so players really become involved in the class with GM de Firmian guiding instruction through lecture, going over games and through discussion. Students are also encouraged to bring games for discussion and analysis so that the whole class can benefit. Also encouraged is to investigate your specific opening problems, which students should bring to the forum.

Classes will be held online through Zoom. Take advantage of this great opportunity to train with our GM in

Residence!

Class is on Thursday's 6:30-8:00PM

Begins June 25, 2020

To register, please follow this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian

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Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champion and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead

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Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom

Saturday, June 27: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5 +5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=39489

Sunday, June 28: starts at 3:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/15+2 USCF Rated: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom

Monday, June 29: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=40369

Tuesday, June 30: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=40370

Wednesday, July 1: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=40372

Thursday, July 2: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=40374

Friday, July 3: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=40376

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

in June: June 14 & June 28 @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Scholastic Games Of The Week (games from our scholastic online tournaments)

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(13) ThinOvalPaw (1532) - RareThirdDessert (1601) [C50]
Live Chess ChessKid.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 [4.c3; 4.d3] **4...Nf6** [4...d6 5.h3 Nf6 6.d3 h6 1-0 (56) Mege Rustici,A-Roesch,R France 1999] **5.Nc3 d6 6.h3** The combination of 0-0 and h3 is a sort of red flag for Black -- to attack! **6...h6 7.d3** Diagram

7...g5!? White has castled but Black has not -- so pawnstorm is an option! **8.Be3** [8.Nd5 g4 9.hxg4 Bxg4 1-0 (56) Mege Rustici,A-Roesch,R France 1999] **8...g4 9.hxg4 Bxg4 10.Nd5 Rg8 11.Bxh6?** Abandoning control of d4! [The one game that had this position went 11.g3 Bxe3? **a)** 11...Nxd5! 12.Bxd5 *(12.exd5 e4! 13.dxe4 Ne5 14.Be2 Bxe3* crashes through*)* ; **b)** Less good, but still good, is 11...h5; 12.Nxe3 Bh3?! 13.Re1 and White went on to win 13...Ng4 14.Nf5 Qf6 15.Qd2 Nd4 16.N3xd4 exd4 17.Bd5 c6 18.Bb3 1-0 (56) Mege Rustici,A-Roesch,R France 1999] **11...Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Nd4!** Diagram

Black's attacking strategy works to perfection! White's poor bishops might as well not be on the board! **13.Kh2 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Qh4#** RareThirdDessert won by checkmate **0-1**

(14) Oktai (1463) - FreeFavoriteMap (1519) [B13]
Live Chess ChessKid.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.d4 Bf5 6.Bb5 a6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Bf4 Qb6 9.Qb1 Rb8?? 10.Bxb8 Qxb8 White is up a clear exchange, although the presence of both Black bishops is somewhat of a compensation. **11.0-0 h5?!** Any normal development is more sensible. **12.Nh4?!** Just a waste of time. **12...Bh7 13.Qc1 e6 14.Ne2 Be7 15.Nf3** Diagram

15...g5?! Tossing another pawn into the fire. [The computer amuses us with 15...Be4 16.Nd2 Bf5 17.c4 Bd6 18.h3 Ne7 White is clearly ahead, but with the extra long range piece (two bishops vs. rook and knight!) Black has his practical chances.] **16.Nxg5 h4 17.Nh3** [17.Nxh7!? Rxh7 18.c4 gets it going (and gets rid of a bishop!).] **17...Bf5 18.Nef4** an overweight defensive line. **18...Bd6** Diagram

19.g3?? White really, really didn't have to do that! Now Black is winning! Everything is justified... **19...hxg3 20.fxg3 Rh4??** Well, not everything! [Why not just 20...Bxh3-+ 21.Nxh3 Rxh3 for example, 22.Qg5 Ne7 23.Qg7 Bxg3!] **21.Ng5?!** [21.gxh4 What were they thinking?] **21...Rg4** Diagram

22.Nf3?? That throws the win away. [22.Ne2 bolsters up g3: 22...Bxg3 23.hxg3 Rxg3+ 24.Nxg3 Qxg3+ isn't even a perpetual after 25.Kh1 Qh4+ 26.Kg2 Qg4+ 27.Kf2 There just isn't enough backup material to make this work for White. 27...Nf6 *(27...Qxd4+ 28.Qe3)* 28.c3] **22...Bxf4!** NOW it's all Black's way. **23.Qe1** Diagram

23...Bxg3!! It all comes together! **24.hxg3 Rxg3+ 25.Kh1?!** [25.Kf2 Nf6! Black swarms.] **25...Rh3+** [25...Be4! is the simplest wipeout.] **26.Kg2 Qf4! 27.Rd1** [27.Qe5 Qg4+ 28.Kf2 Qxf3+ *(28...Rxf3+)*] **27...Qg4+ 28.Kf2 Qxf3+ 29.Kg1 Rh1#** FreeFavoriteMap won by checkmate **0-1**

(15) CuteDynamicGargoyle (1462) - ThinOvalPaw (1538) [C57]
Live Chess ChessKid.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 [2.Nf3 Nc6 0-1 (12) Fischer,R-Burger,R San Francisco 1964] **2...Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nd4!?** [5...Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 is the most common defense,] **6.d6?!** Seen hundreds of times, but it's a shortsided achievement as we'll see here. [6.c3 is by far the most common and critical move, with incredible complications after 6...b5! 7.Bf1! Nxd5! 8.cxd4 *(8.Ne4!?)* 8...Qxg5 9.Bxb5+ Kd8 (or the other king move). Let's publish again former past boardmember and chess statesman Robert Burger's miniature: 10.Qf3 Bb7 11.0-0 exd4 12.Qxf7 Nf6 0-1 (12) Fischer,R-Burger,R Mechanics' simultaneous, San Francisco 1964] **6...Qxd6 7.Nxf7?** Diagram

[7.Bxf7+ Ke7 8.Bb3 Nxb3; 7.0-0!? might still hold out for a proper game, although 7...Bg4 8.f3 Bh5 and Black is ready to start pushing back.] **7...Qc6!** 132 two games in the database chose this (and no others) **8.Na3N** [8.0-0 Qxc4 9.Nxh8 Nxc2] **8...Qxg2** Diagram

This pattern is quite old and seen in other openings as well: **9.Rf1 Qe4+ 10.Be2 Nf3#** ThinOvalPaw won by checkmate. Nicely done! **0-1**

(16) LateLoyalBagel (1207) - DarkCapableCharm (1402) [A06]
Live Chess ChessKid.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d3 c5 3.e4 Nc6 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.c4?! Perhaps positionally suspect -- that hole on d4... **5...Qd6 6.g3 e5 7.Bg2 Nb4?!** Diagram

Hey! Development! [7...Bf5!?; Simply 7...Nf6; or 7...Be7] **8.Bd2??** [8.0-0! Qxd3 9.Qxd3! *(9.Nc3)* 9...Nxd3 10.Nxe5! Nxe5 11.Re1+/- Black is getting caught in the center.] **8...Nxd3+ 9.Kf1 Bg4** [9...e4 10.Ne1 f5] **10.Bc3** with a threat, but... **10...e4 11.Be5? Qd7?!** [11...Nxe5!] **12.Qd2 exf3 13.Qe3 fxg2+ 14.Kxg2 Nxe5** [14...Bh3+ 15.Kg1 0-0-0] **15.Qxe5+ Be7 16.Qxg7 Qf5** Alas, you can only play one. [16...Qc6+; 16...Bh3+] **17.Qxh8 Qf3+ 18.Kf1 Qxh1#** DarkCapableCharm won by checkmate **0-1**

Virtual Summer Chess Camps 2020

June 1 through Aug 14 on selected weeks

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp

9AM - 12AM morning camps: Monday through Fridays
Next camp: June 29-July 3 - camp is filling up so secure your spot now!
Other weeks: 6-29-7/3, 7/6-10, 7/20-24, 8/3-7
Min 4 students, max 9 students in each camp.

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes

1-hour intensive class followed by optional online tournament
$25/class, $45/two classes or $80/four classes package

Available classes:
Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Wednesday 3:00-4:00PM - Coach Colin
Friday 1:00-2:00PM - Coach Andy
Friday 2:15-3:15PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

6/27 Saturday - Saturday Afternoon Matinee
Format: 3SS G/30+0
Join from 2PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1276339
Starts at 3PM

Saturday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5 rounds of G/5+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1276341
Start: 9PM

6/28 Sunday - 6SS G/15+2 USCF Online Rated
Join from 1PM- https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom
Starts at 2PM

6/29 Monday - Monday Online Arena

Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=244074
Start: 6:30PM

6/30 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
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7/1 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1289346
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Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1289347
Starts 9PM.

7/2 Thursday Night Blitz
Format: 8SS G/3+2
Join the tournament from 6PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1290109
Starts 7PM.

7/3 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
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Start: 6:30PM sharp.

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3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

FM Paul Whitehead

Practical Shots for the Tactical Patz.

“Always study your one and two-move tactics.”

- IM **John Grefe**

The title of this article comes from John Grefe, who always wanted to write a book with that name. The “Greefster” was a bit of a harsh teacher – he had no truck with lazy students, and woe betide those who missed a simple mate or elementary combination. I was reminded of this the other night while commenting on this position from the Tuesday Night Marathon:

IM **Elliott Winslow** – FM **Kyron Griffith**. TNM 06.23.20

Here Kyron tried 1… Qc7. It looks logical, protecting the bishop and hitting h2. Naturally Elliott swooped in with his Queen: 2.Qh7+ and eventually won the game and the tournament.

What did these titled - yet human! - players miss?

John Grefe - rest his soul – is turning over in his grave.

And now on to you, dear reader. It’s your turn to try your hand. The following puzzles are pretty easy, and they come again from my on-line blitz games. Mate or win material.

I’m going to offer a few clues, but remember: Grefe is watching.

Diagram 1. White to move.

Let’s start with a real easy one…

Diagram 2. White to move.

No clues, just find the winning shot.

Diagram 3. White to move.

A standard mating pattern. This should literally take you 2 seconds to see.

Diagram 4. Black to move.

Black is losing but tried 1…gxf3, trying to sneak in a new Queen I guess. What did he miss?

Diagram 5. White to move.

Here your task is just to win a lowly pawn. Can you see how?

Diagram 6. Black to move.

This sequence needs to be in every chess player's head. Mate in 4 moves.

Diagram 7. White to move.

Black has gone astray in a sharp variation of the Sicilian. What move ends his hopes?

Diagram 8. White to move.

Black has just tried the tricky 1…Ng5. However, the trick is on him. Why?

Diagram 9. White to move.

Another standard mating pattern… learn to recognize them!

Diagram 10. White to move.

A lovely shot brings smashes the black defenses.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Sam the Man

“Sam I am, I am Sam. Would you like…” Thus speaks the title character of Dr. Seuss’ famous rhyme. Yet we have our own 'Sam' the man - Sam Shankland, who won Northern California Championship on Sunday. He adds another feather in his cap of many tournament victories. We thought this was a good time to recount the glories of our local hero who was born in Berkeley and grew up in Orinda. He was US Chess Champion in 2018 and had other superb tournament victories that year, but has been relatively quiet the last couple years. His razor-sharp play last Sunday was a pleasure to watch, and hopefully a sign that he will be back to great tournament victories very soon.

Sam has been a mainstay of the US Olympic Teams the last several years, winning gold medals twice, one for his individual board in 2014 Tromso Olympiad and one with the team at the 2016 Baku Olympiad. He is a hard working player, who instills the work ethic into his pupils. We see this at the “US Chess School,” which is a week-long camp for the country’s best junior players. It is held once a year at the Mechanics’ Institute with Sam and organizer Greg Shahade. The kids are thrilled to be pushed hard by Sam to achieve their best.

Sam’s greatest achievement was winning the 2018 US Championship ahead of World Championship challenger Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So and Hikaru Nakamura. This brought Sam to the level of super grandmaster, but there the road is steep and Sam has not progressed up the rating ladder since. His great play on Sunday may be the start of a new run and even greater glories.

We show a couple of his games below, but see also his play from the Northern California Championship in this newsletter.

(1) Alexander Shabalov (2611) - Samuel Shankland (2368) [B50]
World Open Philadelphia, PA USA (1), 02.07.2008

This was an important game in the development of Sam's chess career. The wily Shabalov is a difficult opponent for anyone in the US, and before this game Sam had difficulties meeting him over the board. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.Bc2 e6 8.d3 Be7** Black has gotten his pieces out to good squares. It's very nice the light-squared bishop is out instead of trapped on the queenside. **9.Nbd2 Qc7 10.Qe1 0-0-0!?** Sam is out for blood!. It would have been ok to castle kingside, but now the opposite sides castling means attacks for both players. **11.a3 Kb8 12.b4 h6 13.b5 Na5 14.c4 g5 15.Bb2 Rhg8** Diagram

Simple and direct. Black aims to open the g-file as the route to the white king. **16.Nh2 g4 17.Qe3 gxh3 18.Qxh3 Be2 19.Rfe1 Bg4 20.Nxg4 Nxg4** White has the bishop pair while Black has more open lines against the enemy king. **21.Bd1 Ne5 22.Nf1 Bf6 23.Ra2 Qe7 24.Bc1 h5!** It looks like the black h-pawn is doomed, but taking it would open the h-file **25.Nh2** [25.Bxh5 Rh8 is a very annoying pin on the bishop] **25...h4 26.Nf1 Ng6 27.f4?** [27.Bd2 keeps the game at only a small black advantage (having more play on the kingside squares). After 27. f4 Black can infiltrate.] **27...Bc3! 28.Ree2 Qf6 29.Qf3?** Diagram

[29.f5 Ne5 is very pleasant for Black with minor pieces using the central dark squares. Now though the breakthrough comes.] **29...h3! 30.Nh2** [30.Qxh3 Bd4+ 31.Be3 Nxf4!; 30.g3 Ne5! wins] **30...hxg2 31.Be3 Bd4 32.Rf2 Bxe3 33.Qxe3 Qh4!** There is no stopping the black attack. Sam threatens ...Ne5 and ...Qxh2+! **34.Bg4 e5 35.fxe5 Nxe5** Shaba resigned as he loses at least a piece. If 36. Bd1 Qxh2+!, if 36. Bh3 Rg3. **0-1**

(2) Shankland,Sam - Liang,Awonder [B13]
US Championship St Louis, MO USA (1), 29.04.2018

This is one of the games from Sam's 2018 US Championship victory. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3** The old Exchange Variation against the Caro Kann, which was sometimes used by Bobby Fischer. **4...Nc6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4 Bg4 7.Qb3 e5?!** Diagram

8.h3! This was undoubtedly part of Sam's opening preparation. He simplifies the complications to reach a positional advantage. [8.dxe5 Nh5 is Black's idea, which is a most unclear position] **8...exf4 9.hxg4 Qe7+** in this way Black guards the b7 pawn **10.Kf1 0-0-0 11.Nd2 g6?!** this now threatens to capture on g4 (since no Bf5+) but it allows White the setup he seeks. Note the white king is happy on f1 since one rook can come to e1 and the other is already developed on the h-file. **12.Re1 Qc7 13.g5 Nh5 14.Be2 Ng7 15.Ngf3 Ne6 16.Bb5!** focusing on the e5 square. Black has the isolated d-pawn and trouble attacking White's solid pawn structure. **16...Bg7 17.Qa4 Rd6 18.Nb3 b6?!** Diagram

Note sure what to play Awonder stops any idea of Nc5, but in doing so he creates weakeness on the queenside light squares. Try to guess Sam's powerful maneuver. **19.Nc1! Nb8 20.Nd3 Kb7 21.Nb4** A great relocation of the white knight - it reminds me of Petrosian. Black is now in serious difficulties. **21...Qd8 22.Ne5! Qc7 23.Qb3** Black can't hold on to all his pawns now. **23...Rhd8 24.Rxh7 a6 25.Bd3 Ka7 26.Qa4**

a5 27.Bb5 Kb7 28.Nbd3 Rg8 29.Nf3 Rh8 30.Rxh8 Bxh8 White has an extra pawn and postional edge. Sam wraps up efficiently. **31.a3 Nc6 32.Bxc6+ Rxc6 33.Nde5 Bxe5 34.Nxe5 Rd6 35.Qe8! Rd8** [35...Nxg5?! 36.Nxf7! with Re7 coming] **36.Qxf7 Nxg5 37.Qxc7+ Kxc7 38.Nxg6** With 2 pawns ahead, the game is finished. **38...f3 39.Nf4 Kc6 40.gxf3 Nxf3 41.Re6+ Kb5 42.Ke2 Ng1+ 43.Kd3 1-0**

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Sun	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon	Closed	Closed	8 - 6

Upcoming Events

The Money Plot: A History of Currency's Power to Enchant, Control, and Manipulate, on Zoom
Wednesday, December 02, 2020 - 5:30pm
Write If You Dare!
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 11:00am
Bi-Annual Members' Meeting on Zoom
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 5:30pm

Turn Your Passions into Paychecks: Write and Sell Feature Articles
Friday, December 04, 2020 - 10:30am to 12:00pm

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57 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

[parking map]

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  - eMagazines
    - eMagazines Help
- Events
  - All Events
  - Activities & Meet the Author(s)
  - Book Group Meetings
  - Chess Tournaments

Chess Room Newsletter #925

Gens Una Sumus!

- << Previous
- Next >>

Newsletter #925

July 11, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Tuesday Night Marathon Online
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Chess.com Clubs League
- GM Sam Shankland Summer Seminar
- Dr. Alexey Root: Chess and Food
- GM Nick de Firmian's Advanced Class
- FM Paul Whitehead's Online Class
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

History of the People's Tournament: Part 1 - Next Week July 18

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Marathon Online

The Tuesday Night Marathon has returned, and we held rounds one and two of this modified, online Tuesday Night Marathon (TNM). This event is a 3-week event that has six rounds in total, with a time control of G/35 +2, and is USCF-online rated. Each week there will be two rounds played, and players are paired manually on Chess.com according to their standard over-the-board USCF rating. There are also two sections and a prize pool, and the event was broadcast on our Twitch channel. It had every bit the feel of the TNM many of the players know and the excitement for this new event was definitely in the air. It was great to see the strong turnout and support, as 54 players registered, and we expect to have 60 players by the start of next week!

The games were manually paired by Chief TD Dr. Judit Sztaray on Chess.com. The round times were 6:30pm and 8:00pm, and the rounds started on time. Special thanks to Judit or handling this very busy part of the tournament, as she had to process results and troubleshoot players not in live chess at the start of the second round.

The field was led by Mechanics' regulars FM Kyron Griffith, IM Elliott Winslow FM Eric Yuhan Li and NM Ruiyang Yan. FM Kyron Griffith had a tough first round, but converted the win in a time scramble. His

second round game was sharp and ended quicky. Kyron defeated the very formidable Rudolph Breedt. Game annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(4) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2470) - Rudloph Breedt (bobbejaan) (1884) [C47]
Chess.com Chess.com, 08.07.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 Bb4!? [4...exd4 Kyron would be in character by playing 5.Nxd4 *(5.Nd5!?* the Belgrade Gambit, dares Black to take another pawn.*)*] **5.Nxe5 Nxe4 6.Qg4 Nxc3** Diagram

7.Qxg7 Rf8 8.a3 Ba5 9.Nxc6 dxc6 10.Qe5+ Qe7 11.Qxe7+ Kxe7 12.Bd2 Diagram

12...Nb5?N Black (Rudolph Fr Breedt) plays for a bit of counterattack, but overlooks a loss of exchange. [Fourteen games, all went 12...Bf5 and we've transposed into thirty more! 13.Bxc3 It's about split between this *(*and *13.bxc3!?* both in frequency and results.*)* 13...Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Bxc2 15.Kd2 Bg6 16.h4 is still annoying for Black, as his bishop still isn't home free. 1/2-1/2 (33) Thilakarathne,G (2346)-Esipenko,A (2609) Konya 2018] **13.Bxa5 Nxd4** [After 13...b6 14.Bb4+ Nd6 15.0-0-0 White has a pawn and other advantages as well.] **14.Bb4+!** Giving Black a decision on where to put the king. Each square has some difficulty. **14...Ke8?!** [14...Kf6 15.0-0-0 Rd8 16.Bc5! Ne6 17.Rxd8 Nxd8 18.Bd4+ Kg6 19.g4!+- And even here, Black's king has not reached safety.; 14...Ke6 takes the square from the knight 15.0-0-0 Rd8 16.Bc5] **15.0-0-0** No more difficulties. White is winning with an extra exchange. **15...Ne6 16.Bxf8 Nxf8 17.Bc4 Be6 18.Rhe1 Ke7 19.f4 Kf6 20.Bxe6 Nxe6 21.Rd7 Rg8 22.g3 h5 23.f5! Ng7 24.Rxc7 Nxf5 25.Rxb7 h4** KyronGriffith won by resignation. [25...h4 26.gxh4 Rg2 27.h3 c5 28.Rxa7 Nd4 29.c3 6.80/0] **1-0**

FM Eric Li showed his precice technical play against Simona Nayberg in round 2.

(8) Simona Nayberg (roboro13) (1906) - FM Eric Yuhan Li (wepkins) (2369) [B22]
Live Chess Chess.com, 07.07.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

Simona Nayberg vs. Eric Yuhan Li **1.e4 c5 2.c3** [In looking at the diagram below, note that this move order is important: 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 d6 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Nc6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 1-0 (30) Carlsen,M (2863)-Xiong,J (2709) Lichess.org INT 2020 11.0-0] **2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 dxe5!?** [Most usual is 7...Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.Nc3 *(11.0-0)* 11...e6 1/2-1/2 (92) Vachier Lagrave,M (2778)-Giri,A (2764) chess24.com INT 2020] **8.Nxe5** [8.Bxd5 used to be quite an initiative for White until the value was appreciated of 8...Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6! 10.d5 Nd4! 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5! 13.Qd3 Bd7 Black prepares ...f5! and ...Kf7!; 8.dxe5 Ndb4 and, notes Peter Wells, if Black is careful, he gets an initiative against White's e5 pawn and light squares at d3 and c2.] **8...e6 9.0-0 Nb6!?** Diagram

Black shows his considerable theoretical preparation here. [9...Be7; and 9...Bd6 are the two moves considered by Peter Wells in his excellent coverage of this line (7...dxe5!?) in "Dangerous Weapons: Anti-

Sicilians" (2009).] **10.Bb5** [10.Nxc6!? has only been played once in this position but by the strongest player who's been right here (Skoberne), but a move later there are hundreds of games, including one by the strongest player who's been anywhere! And *very* recently: 10...bxc6 11.Bb3 and suddenly there are hundreds of games! (see move order on move two) 11...Be7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qf3 Ba6 14.Rd1 Nd5?! This has to be seen as a bit inconsistent at best. *(14...Qd7* is a move the computer is off and on about.*)* 15.Ne4 Qb6 16.Qg3 Qb8 17.Bg5 Qxg3 18.hxg3 Bxg5 19.Nxg5 Rfb8 and Black is on the verge of equality. *(*or *19...Bb5)*] **10...Bd7 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.Nc3** Diagram

Another position that has attracted the attention of the world's elite in the last year! **12...a6** [12...Be7 13.Qg4 0-0 14.Bh6 Qxd4 15.Qg3 Bd6 16.Bxg7 Bxg3 17.Bxd4 Bxh2+ 18.Kxh2 Nxd4 19.Bd3 f5 20.Rae1 Rf6 21.Re3 Rh6+ 22.Kg1 Kf7 23.Ne2 Rd8 24.Rc1 Nxe2+ 25.Bxe2 Rd2 26.Bf3 Rxb2 27.Ra3 a6 28.Bxb7 Nc4 29.Ra4 Nd2 30.Ba8 Ne4 31.Bxe4 fxe4 32.Rxa6 Rf6 33.Rf1 h5 34.Ra3 Rf5 35.Re3 Rxa2 36.Rxe4 1/2-1/2 (36) Nakamura,H (2736) -Ding,L (2791) chess.com INT 2020] **13.Bxc6 Qxc6 14.Qg4** [14.Be3 Nd5! 15.Rc1 Nxc3 16.Rxc3 Qd5 17.Qg4 h5 is about equal] **14...g6!?** has scored well (almost 70%) [14...h5!? has scored the same!] **15.Bg5 Bg7 16.Rac1 Qd7 17.Rfd1** [An A-player came up with the excellent 17.d5! 0-0 *(17...Nxd5! 18.Rfd1 f5! 19.Nxd5! fxg4 20.Nc7+ Qxc7 21.Rxc7 0-0!=)* 18.Rfe1?! *(18.dxe6!+/=)* 18...Nxd5 19.Red1 f5 *(19...h5!-/+)* 20.Nxd5? *(20.Qf3)* 20...fxg4 21.Ne7+ Qxe7 22.Bxe7-/+ but White managed to draw: ½-½ (59) Foster,J (1948)-Barissever,E (1957) Coulsdon 2008] **17...0-0** Diagram

18.h4!?N [18.d5! eliminates White's isolated pawn and so the game is equal.] **18...Rac8 19.b3?! Nd5** [19...Rc6!] **20.Ne2 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Rc8** Black is just better with a solid game and play against the isolated pawn. **22.h5 Rxc1+ 23.Bxc1 Nf6** [23...Qc7] **24.Qg3 Qc8 25.h6** [25.hxg6 hxg6 26.Qd3] **25...Bf8 26.Qe5?! Ng4** When that pawn goes it's going to be difficult. **27.Qe4 Nxh6 28.g4!?** [28.Bxh6!? Bxh6 29.d5 would acquiesce to a pawn-down but weakness-free defense, but would probably go Black's way regardless.] **28...Qc6** [28...Qd7!?] **29.Qf4** [29.Qxc6 bxc6 30.f3] **29...Qc8 30.Qg3 f5 31.g5 Nf7 32.Bf4 Be7 33.Nc3?! Qd8!** Black attacks both the d-pawn and g-pawn. wepkins won by resignation **0-1**

NM Ruiyang Yan showed her fierce attacking style in her 1st round win against Ryan Tiong.

(3) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2242) - Ryan Tiong (gmcarebear999) (1790) [B78] Live Chess Chess.com, 07.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

Ruiyang Yan vs. Ryan Tiong **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3** The classic Dragon, Yugoslav Attack. Both players are out for blood. **11...Ne5 12.Kb1 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.h4** An older line. [14.g4 is the major battleground these days, when after 14...b5 15.b3!? (P. Negi in his "Grandmaster Repertoire" series on 1. e4 doesn't let Black have so much fun: 15.h4 b4 16.Nce2 *(16.Nd5)*) 15...b4!? 16.bxc4 bxc3 17.Qxc3 White is objectively doing well, but in practice anything can happen.] **14...Qc7!?** [14...h5!?] **15.g4 Rc8 16.h5 b5** [16...Rxc3 17.bxc3 Qxc3 18.hxg6 *(18.Qxc3 Rxc3 19.Rd3 Rc7 20.h6!?)* 18...hxg6 19.Bh6 Qxd2 20.Rxd2 Bxh6 21.Rxh6 Kg7 is a classic Exchange sacrifice, but White is better in the endgame. 22.Rh1 Nh7 23.Rdh2 Nf8 24.Kb2 1-0 (76), Wang,H (2484)-Xu,J (2582) Jinan 2005] **17.hxg6 fxg6 18.Qh2** Diagram

[18.Nd5! (far and away the most popular move) really puts Black on the spot: 18...Nxd5 19.exd5 Be5

20.Qf2! Rf8 21.Qh4 Rf7 22.f4 Bf6 23.Qh3 Qc8 Diagram

24.f5 gxf5 25.gxf5 Bxd4 26.Bxd4 Bxf5 27.Rhg1+ 1-0 Morris,W (2380)-Whitehead,P (2330) CalChess Masters, Berkeley 1981] **18...b4?N** Now White gets the good variation a vital move up. [18...Rxc3! 19.bxc3 Qxc3 makes a lot more sense here, as Black can keep the queens on the board for the attack, at least for a while. 20.Qd2 *(20.Rd3!?)* 20...Qa3 21.Qc1 Qa4 22.Rd3 b4 23.Qb2 a5 *(23...Rc4!?)* 24.Qb3+ e6?! 25.Rd2 Rc3 26.Qxa4 Bxa4+/- 27.Rd3?? Bxc2+-+ 0-1 (46) Caderon,M (1999)-Prevot,E (2108) Soulac sur Mer 2015] **19.Nd5** Black crumbles! **19...Nxd5 20.Qxh7+ Kf8 21.Bh6** [21.Qxg6!?] **21...Bxh6 22.Qxh6+ Kf7 23.exd5** [23.Qh7+ Kf6 and White has varioui moves that lead to mate in 9 or so 24.g5+ *(*and *24.Rh6; 24.exd5* does also win but not imminent mate)*)*] **23...Rxd4 24.Rxd4 Qxc2+ 25.Ka1** White just stops the counterattack. Note the white queen on h6 helps with the defense. **25...g5 26.Qxg5 Rf8 27.Rf4+ Ke8 28.Qh5+ Kd8 29.Rxf8+ Kc7 30.Qg5 Qe2 31.Rc1+ Kb7 32.Qf4 a5 33.Qc4 Qxc4 34.Rxc4 Kb6 35.g5 Kb5 36.Rc1 e6 37.dxe6 Bxe6 38.g6 Ka4 39.g7 d5 40.g8Q Bxg8 41.Rxg8 d4 42.Rd8 d3 43.Rd5** jij2018 won by resignation **1-0**

Perhaps the most dynamic game of the match was this 2nd round matchup between Austin Mei and Ryan Wang. It certainly took up most of the second round broadcast commentary!

(10) Austin Mei (TitanChess666) (2149) - Ryan Wang (Ryanwang01) (1725) [C52] Live Chess Chess.com, 07.07.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 The Evans Gambit -- an entertaining adventure. **4...Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 exd4 7.0-0 d6 8.cxd4 Nf6 9.d5** [Here's a recent master game in this line: 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.e5 dxe5 12.dxe5 Qe7 13.Qe2 Bg4 14.Bb5 Qe6 15.Nbd2 Bxd2 16.Qxd2 Bxf3 17.gxf3 0-0 18.f4 Qg6+ 19.Kh1 Rad8 20.Qe3 Nd4 21.Rg1 Qh5 22.Bf1 Nc2 23.Qg3 g6 24.Rc1 Qf5 25.Bh3 Qe4+ 26.Bg2 Qf5 27.Bh3 Qe4+ 28.Bg2 Qf5 ½-½, Travkina,A (2221)-Styazhkina,A (2301) Sochi 2017] **9...Ne5 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.Qa4+ c6** Diagram

12.Ba3?N White stops Black from castling, but there is another matter... [12.dxc6 0-0! is the well-preached strategy of giving back the extra pawn to solve other problems, i.e. getting castled. 13.Rd1 Qc7 14.Ba3 Rd8 15.Rxd8+ Qxd8 16.Qb3 Qc7 17.cxb7?! Bxb7 leaves even material but Black better developed. The game continued. 18.f3 Bb6+ 19.Kh1 Bd4 20.Nc3 Rc8 21.Nb5 Qxc4 22.Nxd4 Qxd4 23.Rd1 Qb6 0-1 (23) Zgarda,J (1859)-Szajda,M (2093) Poronin 2013] **12...b5! 13.Bxb5** [13.Qc2 bxc4 14.dxc6 Be6 is a safe piece ahead] **13...cxb5 14.Qxb5+ Bd7 15.Qe2 Qb6** Yes Black's king is stuck in the center, but White just doesn't have the way to add fuel to the fire. The knight will be exchanged before it gets to play to c4 and d6. **16.Nd2 Bxd2! 17.Qxd2 Nxe4!** Black has another path for his king... **18.Qe1 f5! 19.Rb1 Qd4 20.Rb7** Trying to stop ...Kf7 **20...Nd2** The greed approach. **21.Qd1 Qxd5?!** [21...h5! is safer] **22.Qh5+ Kd8** (forced!) **23.Rc1! Ne4** Diagram

Black is trying to hang on to his advantage, but now he's hit with yet more sacrifce: **24.Rxd7+! Kxd7 25.Qxf5+** [25.Rd1!? Nd2 26.Qxf5+ Kc6! 27.Qc2+ Qc4! 28.Qxd2 Rad8! 29.Bd6 Kb7!-/+ Castling "by hand" -- on the queenside!] **25...Ke8 26.h3! Nf6?!** [The computer finds 26...Rg8!!-/+ 27.Re1 g6 28.Qf3 Rd8 with still a small edge for Black] **27.Rc5!** Finally! White's attack has some traction. **27...Qxa2 28.Rxe5+** [28.Qxe5+ Kf7 *(28...Kf8 29.Rc8+! Kf7 30.Rc7+)* 29.Rc7+ Kg8! *(29...Kg6? 30.Qg3+ Kf5 31.Qd3+* and mate

is coming*)* 30.Qe7 Nh5 31.Qe5 Nf6 seems to hold on] **28...Kf7= 29.Re7+ Kg8 30.Qg5?** [30.Bb2! Rf8 31.Bxf6 Rxf6 32.Re8+ Kf7 33.Qd7+ Kg6 34.Qg4+= is a draw by perpetual check] **30...Qb1+ 31.Kh2 Qg6** A splendid defense! White is pretty much out of ammunition now. **32.Qc5 h6! 33.Qc6 Re8 34.Qe6+ Kh7 35.h4 Rxe7 36.Qxe7 Re8 37.Qxa7 Ng4+ 38.Kg3 Nf6+** [38...Ne3+ and mate] **39.Kh3 Qg4+ 40.Kh2 Qxh4+ 41.Kg1 Re1#** Ryanwang01 won by checkmate **0-1**

Another action packed game was this one between Tejas Mahesh and Roger Shi.

(1) Tejas Mahesh (ChessTX9) (1988) - Roger Shi (1-h4-1-0) (1572) [E97]
Live Chess Chess.com, 07.07.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 The Bayonet Attack against the King's Indian, a less popular line to the Mar Del Plata Variation until Kramnik started finding idea after idea. He won the Top Novelty prize one issue of the Chess Informant book, and then in the same position found another novelty and won it again the next issue! [9.Ne1 heads for the Mar Del Plata. White combines attack and defense on a grand scale, while Black usually leans more on a pawn storm kingside attack, including sacrifical showers. Of course the big difference is that, should Black crash through, there is a king there to checkmate. But White does win a good share of the games. 9...Nd7 10.Nd3 *(10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5)* 10...f5 11.Bd2 Nf6 12.f3 f4 13.c5 g5] **9...Nh5 10.g3** The older move, which here in 2020 the computers are not so sure about. [One of Kramnik's signature lines, with many games by him and others following, is: 10.Re1 f5 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.Bf3 c6 13.Be3] **10...f5 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.Bf3** Another Kramnik discovery; [The old 12.f3 still leads to severe complications after 12...f4 *(*or *12...c6)*] **12...h6** [12...c6 has probably been the biggest move. 13.dxc6!? Actually a novelty after all that has passed before! *(13.Ba3* was Kramnik's first surprise (against Giri in 2011);*; 13.Bg2* was his next thunderbolt, vs. Grischuk in 2012*.)* 13...bxc6 14.exf5 gxf5 15.b5 h6 16.Nh3 Be6 17.bxc6 Bxc4 18.Re1 Qc7 19.Ba3 Rfd8 20.Qa4 d5 21.Nf4!? Nxc6! Black gives up the Exchange but keeps his fantastic center; 22.Ne6 Qd7 23.Nxd8 Rxd8 0-1 (42) 42, Indjic,A (2622)-Shimanov,A (2587) Moscow 2020.; 12...fxe4!? is all just too complex...] **13.Ne6 Bxe6 14.dxe6 Qc8!?** Diagram

[14...c6; 14...Ne8] **15.Ba3?!N** A few years after their first scholastic events, these youngsters (Tejas Mahesh and Roger Shi) are duking it out in an epic theoretical King's Indian Defense! But here White rather loses the thread. [Probably more critical is the only somewhat tested: 15.Nd5 Nexd5 16.cxd5 *(16.exd5 e4* has also been tried a few times*)* 16...fxe4 17.Be2 c6 1/2-1/2 (31) Likavsky,T (2486)-Zelbel,P (2379) Austria 2012] **15...Qxe6** Black starts to turn the game in his favor. **16.Nb5?** [16.exf5 gxf5 *(16...Nxf5)* 17.Bxb7 Rab8 18.Bd5 *(18.Bg2 Qxc4 19.Rc1 Qf7)* 18...Nexd5 19.Nxd5 c6! 20.Nxf6+ Rxf6-/+ Black has much more central control.] **16...Qc8?!** [16...fxe4!-+ would just win a critical pawn as 17. Nxc7 Qd7 wins material] **17.c5** Around here White is probably wondering why everything works so well for Kramnik, but he's all a mess... **17...dxc5** [17...fxe4! 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.Nxd6? Qc3] **18.bxc5 fxe4** [or 18...Nc6 Black is very happy not to play ...c6.] **19.Bg2 a6?** [19...Rd8 20.Qb3+ Kh7 21.Rad1 Ned5=/+] **20.Qb3+ Kh7 21.Nc3** [21.c6! Nxc6! 22.Bxf8 Qxf8 23.Nxc7 Nd4 and White has to be careful about his king... 24.Ne6! keeps an advantage.] **21...Nc6 22.Rab1?!** [22.Nxe4] **22...Rb8** Black has kept his head, closed down White's bishops, and has squares for knights (well, at least one, d4) **23.Nxe4 Nd4 24.Qd3 Rd8 25.Rfd1 Qg4 26.Kh1 Nc6 27.Nxf6+ Bxf6 28.Qb3 Nd4** [28...Bg7] **29.Qf7+ Bg7 30.c6?! Nxc6** [30...bxc6!] **31.f3??** [31.Rxd8 Rxd8 32.h3 Qf5 33.Qxf5 gxf5 34.Rxb7 Rd1+ 35.Kh2 Nd4=] **31...Rxd1+?!** [31...Qa4!-+ 32.Rxd8 Rxd8 and there is nowhere good for the bishop to go] **32.Rxd1 Qa4!? 33.Rd7! Rg8** Diagram

34.Bf8?? [White would be alright with either 34.Bc5! Qc2 35.Bg1; or 34.f4!] **34...Nd4** Certainly some advantage. [but 34...Nb8!!-+ puts White up to a test he can't pass. 35.Rxc7?! Qd1+] **35.Bf1!? Qd1 36.Kg2 Qc2+ 37.Kg1 Qf5 38.Bb4 Nxf3+ 39.Kg2 Qxf7** [39...Nd4!] **40.Rxf7 e4 41.Rxc7** Black is up a lot of pawns! But White, with the two bishops and far superior rook and king, can harrass those extra pawns until there isn't much left. But he has to get on it right away! **41...b5 42.Bc3?!** [First 42.a4 dissolves the queenside pawns 42...bxa4 43.Bc3! Kh8 44.Bc4! Bxc3 45.Bxg8] **42...Kh8 43.Bxg7+ Rxg7 44.Rc8+?!** [44.Rc6 gets right on it, picking on the queenside.] **44...Kh7 45.Ra8 Rc7** White has to be careful **46.Rxa6?!** [46.Kf2 Nxh2 47.Be2 Rc3 48.Rxa6 e3+ 49.Kg2 Rc2 and Black doesn't lose the knight for nothing, and wins.] **46...Rc2+** completely winning. **47.Kh3 Rxh2+** [47...h5! 48.g4 Rxh2+ 49.Kg3 h4+ 50.Kf4 Rf2 and the h-pawn is unstoppable] **48.Kg4 h5+?!** [48...Rf2 and now White has to contend with the e-pawn (after ...Ne5+).] **49.Kf4 g5+ 50.Kf5 Rf2 51.Ra7+ Kg8 52.Ra8+ Kf7 53.Ra7+ Ke8? 54.Ke6?** [54.Bxb5+ gets rid of a lot of pawns at once and draws.] **54...Nd4+?!** [54...Kd8-+; 54...Kf8!-+] **55.Kd6?** [55.Kd5 when Black still has to find a win.] **55...Rxf1** That should do it! **56.Ra8+ Kf7 57.Ra7+ Kf6 58.Kd5 Rd1 59.Ra6+ Kf5 60.Ra8 Ne6+ 61.Kc6 Rc1+ 62.Kd5 Rc5+ 63.Kd6 Rc1 64.Ra5 Rd1+ 65.Kc6 Nd4+ 66.Kb6 e3 67.Ra8 e2 68.Re8 e1Q 69.Rf8+ Kg4** 1-h4-1-0 won on time. What a battle! **0-1**

In the under 1600 section, Daniel Perlov and Charlene Kwok are the only players remaining perfect after 2 rounds. Here is a game from that section, a nice win by Liora Gizburg against Rahim Dharssi.

(5) Liora Ginzburg (pegasus1015) (1523) - Rahim Dharssi (rahimftd) (595) [D53] Chess.com Chess.com, 08.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 The advantage White has is that the black c-pawn is not helping with the central battle while the white c-pawn is. **6...0-0** Playing in conservative manner after ...Nc6 leads to discoordinated positions. **7.Bd3** [7.a3 would be a useful move here] **7...b6 8.a3 Bb7 9.0-0 a6** Diagram

[9...dxc4!? 10.Bxc4 Na5 11.Bd3 c5 tries to put Black's house back in order. 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.Qe2 Rc8 is only slightly better for White. 14.Rfd1 Nd5 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 1/2-1/2 (23) Cherepov,A (2224)-Kupsik,J (1708) Poznan 2019] **10.Re1N** [10.Qe2 takes aim at the pawn on a6. 10...dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nd5 12.Bxe7 Ncxe7 13.Rac1 c6 14.Rfd1 h6 15.Bd3 b5 16.Ne4 1-0 48, Dashiev,K (2059)-Khudyakov,Y Russia 2014; while 10.Rc1 pressures the c-file. 10...Qd7 11.Qe2 Rfe8 12.b4 Rec8 13.Rfd1 Na7 14.Ne5 Qe8 15.Rb1 Ne4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.f4 1-0 (53) Baur,V-Leditschke,S Torgelow 1994] **10...Na7 11.e4!** Taking charge of the center. **11...dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Bxe4 Bxe4 15.Rxe4 Rad8 16.Qe2 c6 17.Rd1** White (Liora Ginzburg) plays a straightforward game, a space advantage with play on the central files plus Black (Rahim Dharssi) queenside weaknesses. **17...Rd7!?** In spite of all that, Black is developed and able to defend. [17...b5] **18.d5?!** This has problems. [18.b4 b5 19.Ne5 Rc7 20.c5 is a classic "give squares (d5) to get squares" operation.] **18...Rfd8 19.Rd2 a5?** Diagram

Black doesn't want to lose this pawn for the d5 pawn, but now White can win another pawn somewhere else. [19...cxd5 20.cxd5 Rxd5 21.Rxd5 Rxd5 22.Qxa6 b5 leaves White with no way to capitalize on the side lined Na7 , so the game would be even.] **20.dxe6! Rxd2 21.Nxd2 f6+- 22.Nb3?** Everything else is winning: [Something like 22.h3 is just a huge advantage.] **22...c5!** looking for the d4 square **23.Nc1 Nc6 24.Nd3 Nd4?!** [24...Qd6! 25.Re3 Nd4 26.Qg4 Nxe6 would get rid of the annoying advanced e-pawn] **25.Qe3** [25.Qe1 Nf3+ 26.gxf3 Rxd3 27.f4 g6 28.Qe2 Rd6 29.b3 continues to be a problem pawn on e6.] **25...Rd6**

[25...Nf5!] **26.Nf4! Nb3?** [26...Nxe6!? 27.h4! Kf7 28.Nd5 Qd7 29.Qf3 White still tries to angle a way in at the Black king, but at least the monster on e6 has been eliminated!] **27.Nd5** [Nothing wrong with 27.Qxb3] **27...Qe8 28.e7** White has learned the power of a passed pawn! **28...Nd4 29.Nc7!** winning the queen **29...Nf5 30.Qe1! Qxe7 31.Rxe7 Nxe7 32.Nd5 Ng6 33.Qe8+ Nf8 34.Ne7+** pegasus1015 won by resignation. **1-0**

The broadcast was led by FM Paul Whitehead with myself (Abel) joining. We had a lively chat and the games were exciting. The pairings for round 3 which begins at 6:30pm on Tuesday July 14 will be posted by noon on Monday the 13th. To view the current standings and see the pairings when they are released, please follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-july-2020

We would like to thank all the participants and viewers of the broadcast. Everyone who has registered is supporting the Mechanics' Institute, and we are happy to be able to provide competitive chess online and broadcasting it to the entire chess community.

To watch the broadcast of the first 2 rounds, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3GoIByo9LU&t=4002s

For full results, follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-july-2020

Mechanics' Online Events Recap

Friday Night Online Blitz: Winner: Rohan Rajaram
(ninjatrick) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online-1292823

Sunday Matinee: Winner: IM Elliott Winslow
(ecwinslow) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-matinee-1292828

Sunday Evening Blitz: Winner: Rudolph Breedt
(bobbejaan) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1292829

Monday Night Arena: Winner: Ed Rosenthal
(BogusAurelius) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-247376

Wednesday Matinee: Winner: NM Michael Walder
(FlightsOfFancy) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-matinee-1295513

Wednesday Late Night Showdown: Winner: Rudolph Breedt
(bobbejaan) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1295514

Thursday Night Blitz: Winner: IM Elliott Winslow https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-night-blitz-1309316

Mechanics' Chess Social

Guest July 10 Episode, Lauren Goodkind

On Friday's Mechanics' Institute Chess Social we had author and chess coach Lauren Goodkind on the broadcast. She is a strong player and an advocate for women's and girls chess in the Bay Area. I asked her about her life, her coaching, what inspired her to write her books, and her experience with chess in the pandemic era. It was a great discussion and you can watch the interview by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwDrrZp7xTY

Chess.com Club's League Update

The Mechanics' Institute had a strong win last week against the Iowa Pawn Stormers 17.5-8.5. We now have 3.5/6 in the league with 2 rounds to go. This Saturday at 10am we will face off in round 6 against the Stevenson High School Chess Club from Illinois. They are Illinois State High School champs and are looking for a top notch win against our historic club. Our players will be ready to put up a battle, and the match for the event can be found here: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=45390

Full results for our win against Iowa can be found here: https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/34816

Go Mechanics!

GM Sam Shankland To Partner With Berkeley Chess School For Online Summer Camp

GM Sam Shankland will do a special online summer seminar July 13-July 15 from 9am -12:30pm. Take advantage of this opportunity to train virtually with one of the world's best chess players, who happens to be a Bay Area native and Berkeley and Mechanics' alum. For more info, please follow this link: http://www.berkeleychessschool.org/event/gm-sam-shankland-summer-seminars/

Dr. Alexey Root: Chess and Cooking: A Perfect Pairing Part 2

Here is another article in a series written by Dr. Alexey Root on Grandmasters and cooking, this time about GM Levon Aronian. The dish referenced in the article was from Aronian's late wife, Arianne Caoili, who tragically passed away in a car accient earlier this year. The dish is given further discussion by our very own NM Michael Walder. Enjoy the article here: https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-levon-aronian

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New Online Class! FM Paul Whitehead's Endgame Lab

Monday's 6:30PM - 8:00PM

We are excited to announce a new online 6-week course offered by our very own FM Paul Whitehead that focuses solely on the part of the game that really seperates the masters from the club players. Here is the agenda for the course:

Outline for six-week endgame course

Week	Date	Topics
1	July 13	• Review student's knowledge of basic checkmates, principals and terms • Opposition, centralization, zugzwang • K + P endings: theory and practice
2	July 20	• Queen endings and Knight endings: theory and practice
3	July 27	• Bishop vs Bishop endings: theory and practice
4	Aug 3	• Bishop vs Knight endings: theory and practice
5	Aug 10	• Rook endings: theory and practice

6	Aug 17	• Material imbalances

Save your spot now! Classe start Monday July 13. Register by following this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead

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Online Advanced Class With 3-Time U.S. Champion GM Nick de Firmian

Thursday's 6:30 - 8:00PM

For players around 1400-2000, this class is for players looking to develop the thinking skills and techniques that bring their chess to the next level. The class will focus on the development of middle-game thinking, positional play, and endgame concepts, but will cover all areas of need, depending on the class. The class will be dynamic and interactive, so players really become involved in the class with GM de Firmian guiding instruction through lecture, going over games and through discussion. Students are also encouraged to bring games for discussion and analysis so that the whole class can benefit. Also encouraged is to investigate your specific opening problems, which students should bring to the forum.

Classes will be held online through Zoom. Take advantage of this great opportunity to train with our GM in

Residence!

Class is on Thursday's 6:30-8:00PM

To register, please follow this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian

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Online Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Wednesdays 6:30PM - 8:00PM

This class is designed to help players who are 1000+ learn how to think and what to look for in games after the opening all the way through the endgame. Modeled after his own style of coaching, Paul uses games of students and current and historical games to discuss what players should be thinking about in order to get their chess to the next level. This class is dynamic, and encourages student participation and discussion. The goal is for students to understand the thinking so they can apply what is learned in their own games.

Students will need a Zoom account, and Paul will use an interactive board to conduct the class online. This will be a live class, not per-recorded. While this class is aimed at the active tournament player looking to rise in rating, it is suitable for everyone that wants to improve their chess by learning how a master thinks and sees games. Paul is a former U.S. Junior Champion and commentator on our Mechanics' broadcasts.

$25/class for a 90-minute class. MI needs a minimum of four students to host the class, and has a maximum of 12 students.

Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead

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Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom

Saturday, July 11: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM
6SS G/10+2: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-

chesskidcom

Sunday, July 12: starts at 3:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/15+2 USCF Rated: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=42538

Monday, July 13: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=42539

Tuesday, July 14: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=42540

Wednesday, July 15: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=43044

Thursday, July 16: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=43047

Friday, July 17: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=43261

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

in June: July 11, July 19 & July 25 @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Scholastic Games Of The Week (games from our scholastic online tournaments)

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(2) ColdOriginalGecko (1527) - BentActiveTank (1325) [B00]
ChessKid.com ChessKid.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 e6 4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 g6? Black has much more important things to do than

trying this. [6...Nf6 7.Qe2 Nc6 8.a3 h6? *(8...Be7* is pretty passive, but Black can wait and see.*)* 9.Nc3 g5!? 10.Be3 White is already winning: 1-0 (36) 36, Bocharov,D (2533)-Predke,A (2622) Khanty-Mansiysk 2018; 6...Bb4+] **7.Nc3** Diagram

7...f5?!N In the opening there are two reasons for ...g6, fianchettoing and supporting .. .f5. Here neither of them are good. [7...Bg7?! 8.Bf4 *(8.Nb5!* jumps right on the weakened dark squares, winning.*)* 8...a6 9.h4 1-0 (37) 37, Marcos Herrero,F (1930)-Ruiz Bazaga,M (1588) Madrid 2014] **8.exf5 gxf5** Diagram

9.d5! exd5?! Black's pawns are a mess! [9...Nf6 10.dxe6 dxe6 11.0-0 has Black's e-pawn in a dreadful state.] **10.0-0** Morphy would have loved White's position. A big lead in development and many targets for one doubled pawn. **10...Qc7?!** These moves are not helping, not that there is any help. **11.Nb5 Qc6 12.Ne5 Qc7?!** Suicide by knight? **13.Qh5+** White politely ignores his opponent's queen... **13...Ke7?! 14.Qf7+ Kd8 15.Qxf8#** ColdOriginalGecko won by checkmate **1-0**

(6) ProfessorP (1399) - suIndu12 (1454) [B92]
ChessKid.com ChessKid.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Be3? just giving away the knight for a pawn. Did White forget to move it away? **7...exd4 8.Bxd4 Be7 9.0-0N 0-0 10.Qd3 b5 11.Rfe1** So White has lost a piece for a pawn, but calmly plays good moves. There is some central control for White with the black e-pawn gone. **11...Bb7 12.Bf3 Nc6 13.e5?! Nxd4?!** [13...dxe5! 14.Bxc6 Bxc6 *(14...exd4)* 15.Rxe5 b4 16.Ne2 Ng4 sees Black taking over with an extra piece.] **14.Bxb7** [14.exf6 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3!? Bxf3 16.fxe7 Qc7 17.exf8Q+ Kxf8 18.gxf3 b4 White has done pretty well in the confusion, but is still lost.] **14...Ra7?** [14...dxe5! 15.Bxa8 Qxa8 16.Rxe5 Ne6 Here also, White has come out very well on the material level, considering how it was after move seven (!), but Black is still on top here and has a big advantage.] **15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Bd5** [16.Be4!] **16...Re7 17.Ne4 Ree8** And now it's White with the winning chances. **18.Nxf6+** [18.Qd2! to be ready with f2-f4 if Black tries to put his bishop somewhere better] **18...Qxf6 19.Rxe8** [19.c3 Ne6 20.Qf3 with the better minor piece] **19...Rxe8 20.h3?!** [20.c3 Ne2+ 21.Kf1 Nf4 22.Qd2 keeps the balance.; Even 20.g3 Re2 21.f4 Rxc2 22.Rd1 Qe7! 23.Qxd4 Qe2 24.h4 Qh2+ 25.Kf1 Qh3+ looks dangerous but is still a draw.] **20...h6** [20...Re2; and 20...Ne2+ both give Black chances to press the advantage.] **21.c3 Ne2+** Diagram

22.Kh2? [22.Kf1 Nf4 23.Qf3 Qf5! *(23...Re2? 24.g3)* 24.Rd1 Re5 25.Bb7 g5! Black is still trying to muster up an attack, with ...h5 and g4.] **22...Nf4 23.Qf3 Nxd5 24.Qxd5 Qxf2 25.Qxd6** [25.b3] **25...Re2!** control of the seventh rank is a winning advantage **26.Rg1 Rxb2 27.Qd8+ Kh7 28.Qd3+ g6 29.Rf1? Qxg2#** suIndu12 won by checkmate **0-1**

(7) RareThirdDessert (1643) - CuteDynamicGargoyle (1557) [C50]
Live Chess ChessKid.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Nc3 d6 5.d3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Nf6 8.Bg5 Nd4 9.Qd1 h6 10.Bh4 Qe7

Diagram

11.Qd2N [More direct is 11.Nd5 Qd8 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.0-0 c6 14.Nc3 Qd7 15.Na4 0-0-0 16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.c3 Ne6 18.Qf3 Qe7 19.Rad1 1-0 (68), Werwitzke,J-Hapke,M playchess.com INT 2008] **11...0-0-0?!** [11...c6!] **12.Nd5! Qf8 13.Nxf6 gxf6 14.Bxf6 Rg8 15.Bxd8** White wins an exchange but needs to take care. **15...Rxg2 16.0-0-0! Kxd8 17.Bd5?!** [17.Rdf1] **17...c6 18.Bb3 Nf3 19.Qa5+ Bb6 20.Qc3 Rxf2 21.Rdf1? Rxf1+?** [21...Be3+! 22.Kb1 *(22.Kd1 Rd2+)* 22...Nd2+ wins material] **22.Rxf1 Ng5?** [22...Qg7! defends the knight on f3 as 23.Rxf3? Qg1+ 24.Kd2 Qg2+ 25.Ke1 Qxf3 is a big advantage for Black] **23.h4! Nh3 24.Rxf7 Qh8 25.Qe1** now White is up material and in control **25...Kc8 26.Qg3 Nf4 27.Qg4+ Kb8 28.Qd7 Qc8 29.Qxd6+ Bc7 30.Qf6 Bd8 31.Qxh6 Qg4** Diagram

White deftly sidesteps Black's checks: **32.Qd6+ Kc8 33.Rf8 Qg1+ 34.Kd2 Qf2+ 35.Kc3 Ne2+ 36.Kc4** The white king is running around but is safe. **36...b5+ 37.Kb4 a5+ 38.Ka3 b4+ 39.Ka4** One safe square was all that was needed. Black is gone now. **39...Qb6 40.Be6+ Kb7 41.Qd7+ Bc7 42.Qc8+ Ka7 43.Qa8#** RareThirdDessert won by checkmate **1-0**

(9) SoftBronzeJump (1223) - CuteDynamicGargoyle (1568) [D06]
ChessKid.com ChessKid.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c5 3.cxd5 cxd4 4.Nf3 [4.Qa4+ Nd7 5.Qxd4 is just an opening advantage for White] **4...Qxd5 5.Qxd4** Diagram

[5.Nc3!] **5...Qc6?!N** [They were going the way of the superstars! But now... 5...Qxd4 6.Nxd4 Bd7 7.e4 Nc6 8.Be3 e5 9.Nb5 Rc8 10.Nd2 Nf6 11.f3 a6 12.Nc3 b5 13.a4 Nd4 14.Bd3 bxa4 15.Bxd4 exd4 16.Ne2 Bb4 17.Nxd4 a3 18.Ke2 axb2 19.Rxa6 Rc1 20.Rd1 0-0 ½- (35) ½ 35, Carlsen,M (2882)-Mamedyarov,S (2764) Saint Louis 2019] **6.Bf4?!** [6.Nc3! f6!? 7.Bd2 Leave White with a nice advantage in development as Rc1, and/or e4 and Bb5 is coming. Black will be harassed.] **6...f6!? 7.Be3 e5** and it's White who gets pushed around. **8.Qc3** [8.Qd1] **8...Qe4??** [8...Ne7 is fine for Black. White has just forgotten about the bishop on c8.] **9.Qxc8+** Now there is little hope. **9...Kf7 10.Qc7+ Be7 11.Bc5?** [Just developing with 11.Nc3 should win easily] **11...Qc2** [11...Na6! 12.Nc3! Qxf3! 13.exf3! Nxc7 is a little better for White but even pieces] **12.Qxb7??** [12.Nbd2 Qxc5 13.Qxb7 Qc6 14.Qb3+ is still very good for White.] **12...Qc1#!** CuteDynamicGargoyle won by checkmate **0-1**

Virtual Summer Chess Camps 2020

June 1 through Aug 14 on selected weeks

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp

9AM - 12AM morning camps: Monday through Fridays

Next camp: June 29-July 3 - camp is filling up so secure your spot now!
Other Weeks: 7/13-17, 7/20-24, 8/3-7
Min 4 students, max 9 students in each camp.

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes

1-hour intensive class followed by optional online tournament
$25/class, $45/two classes or $80/four classes package

Available classes:
Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Wednesday 3:00-4:00PM - Coach Colin
Friday 2:00-3:00PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

7/11 Saturday - Saturday Online Rated Blitz
Format: 8SS G/5+2
Join from 5PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom
Starts at 6PM

7/12 Sunday - 4SS G/15+5
Join from 1PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1309319
Starts at 2PM

7/12 Sunday - 8SS G/3+2
Join from 7PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1309320
Starts at 8PM

7/13 Monday - Monday Online Arena

Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=259460
Start: 6:30PM

7/14 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)

Join from 5:30PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-july-2020
Start: 6:30PM

7/15 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1311349
Start at 4PM

Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1311351
Starts 9PM.

7/16 Thursday Night Blitz
Format: 8SS G/3+2
Join the tournament from 6PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1312302
Starts 7PM.

7/17 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1. You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

FM Paul Whitehead

John Grefe: An Appreciation

After writing a bit about John Grefe here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/873 (The Three Wise Guys), and then using one of his favorite expressions as the title of my last column here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/924#paularticle. I decided it was time to delve a bit more into his chess style, and showcase some of the “Greefsters” games and combinations.

John was a serious influence on my development as a player. We played five times, and I was only able to draw him twice. He used an active, forward-momentum style of play, employed sharp openings, a high level of tactical awareness and superb endgame technique. Grefe was right out of the Fischer school: your attempts to prove that 2 + 2 = 5 on the chessboard would be pointed out, laughed at, and then mercilessly destroyed.

Grefe's heyday was the 1970's, although he remained a powerful player, analyst, and coach throughout his life. He wrote an excellent book, *The Best of Lone Pine* (1980), and was Walter Browne's second at the Manila Interzonal in 1976. Winning the 1973 US Championship (as an untitled player!) with Lubomir Kavalek was the highlight of a career that never quite took off afterwards, as John's ambition seemed to wane. John Grefe was awarded the International Master title by FIDE in 1975.

Jeremy Silman writes a touching bit about his friend John here: https://www.chess.com/article/view/john-grefe-talent-isnrsquot-enough

Richard Shorman interviews John right after he won the US Championship: http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/shorman/art_12.htm

I'll always remember John for helping me out through a rough time back in 2013, right before he passed away. He was part of my growing up in chess, one of my "brothers" in the chess world.

Sorely missed.

Finally, here are some positions – "practical shots for the tactical patz" - from Grefe's games.

The positions get a little tougher as you move on to the next, but none are too difficult I think.

Rather than give solutions, I urge our readers to attempt to solve these on their own.

If you're still stumped, write me at pwhitehead@milibrary.org

Or, better yet, find these games yourself on the Internet – and many other games played by this great American chess master.

Diagram 1 – white moves.

John Grefe – James Tarjan

National Open 1971.

These Bezerkley residents and rivals played some tough games. Can you find the sequence that knocked Tarjan out?

Diagram 2 – white moves

John Grefe – Sal Matera

Houston 1973.

A simple tactic forces black to resign.

Diagram 3 Black Moves

Julius Loftsson - John Grefe

Lone Pine 1971.

Not too difficult: finish white off, but be accurate about it!

Diagram 4 – white moves

John Grefe – Lawrence Day

Lone Pine 1977.

Remember: we are living in a material world!

Diagram 5 – white moves.

John Grefe – Pal Benko

US Championship 1976

Black has just played 23…Nxb3, but had to resign after white's next move.

Diagram 6 – white moves.

John Grefe – Arthur Dake

Lone Pine 1976.

This one requires a bit of accurate calculation, after “seeing” the initial shot.

Diagram 7 – white moves.

John Grefe – Norman Weinstein

US Championship 1974.

Does the move you want to play work? Calculate!

Diagram 8 – black moves.

Samuel Reshevsky – John Grefe

US Championship 1977.

Take out the legendary Reshevsky with a nifty one-two punch.

Diagram 9 – black moves.

Larry Evans – John Grefe

Lone Pine 1973.

A volatile situation, yet black has a brilliant shot. Find it!

Diagram 10 – white moves.

John Grefe - Andrew Karklins

US Championship 1973.

White is certainly much better after 1.Qxc7, for example.

But the old adage “if you see a strong move, look again for a better one” is second nature for players of Grefe’s caliber.

Diagram 11 – black moves.

John Watson – John Grefe

US Open 1969.

Black has a terrific move here – find it!

Diagram 12 – black to play.

James Tarjan – John Grefe

US Championship 1977.

We end where we began, with another game vs. James Tarjan!

White has infiltrated with 52.Qa8 attacking black’s bishop on e8.

What to do?

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

GM Nick de Firmian's column will return in August

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA

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Tue	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Wed	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Thu	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Fri	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Sat	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun	Closed	Closed	Closed

Upcoming Events

Various Chess Classes
Monday, November 30, 2020 - 4:00pm to 5:30pm
The Money Plot: A History of Currency's Power to Enchant, Control, and Manipulate, on Zoom
Wednesday, December 02, 2020 - 5:30pm
Write If You Dare!
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 11:00am
Bi-Annual Members' Meeting on Zoom
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 5:30pm

Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

[parking map]

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/926-0

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Chess Room Newsletter #926

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Newsletter #926

July 18, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- People's Tournament
- Tuesday Night Marathon Online
- Online Events Recap
- Chess.com Clubs League
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Short History of the People's Tournament: Part 1

People’s Tournament: A Chess Poem by Dennis Fritzinger

people’s tournament

the people’s tournament got the name
back when there were still memories
of the people’s park riots
and tear gas and the blue meanies
busting heads.
also, the berkeley team
in the national phone league
was named the berkeley riots.
the best players always showed up
and played, and took away prizes,
which usually was a little money,
though maybe not enough
to pay for a motel room and meals
with much left over,
so the players were usually locals.
if someone came down a distance
it was usually from seattle
or maybe los angeles,
twin poles on the chess hiway.
the same pattern operates today,
though the local players are much stronger,
with names i don’t even recognize
half of the time.
overall, the people’s tournament
has been a success, lasting
as long as it has, with new players
of strength showing up each year
to display their skills or try
their luck. it shows no signs
of fading.
in this regard it resembles
berkeley itself, a small town
named for a philosopher
with an eye to establishing an intellectual
outpost of enlightenment
on the wild california coast.

Dennis Fritzinger, from Mechanics' Institute Newsletter 799 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/799)

My first memory of the People's Tournament was when I was a scholastic player in the mid 1980's. Though I lived in San Jose, I would travel to the North Bay to play events, at St. Marks and some other places, but I had never played in the People's Tournament, nor had visited Mechanics' for that matter. I knew it was a special tournament that felt different from many of the other regular local events of the time, the LERA tournaments etc. From reading the California Chess Journal, I knew that strong players would go out of ther way to play this event. I would also read and hear about the ambience of the event, the drums beating at the student union on the campus of UC Berkeley during the tournaments, and the occasional protests and marches on Telegraph. Many years later, I would be a student at UC Berkeley and living in nearby Albany while attending college. I got to experience that ambience first hand on an almost daily basis. There is something magical in that, to have a tournament that transcends the chess play alone and brings to the senses a feeling of something different and special, a feeling of representing a culture. It all came alive during the People's Tournament.

I wanted to write this piece to keep in the memory of this event present for the younger generation of players. It has Berkeley roots, references Berkeley ideologies and places, and was originated by people from Berkeley. The 1960's and 70's in Berkeley was a revolutinary time. The Free Speech Movement during the 1964-65 academic year on the campus of UC Berkeley was the first major organized civil disobedience movement on a college campus in support of civil rights and a protest of the Vietnam War. People's Park in Berkeley was not only the scene of a clash between police and protesters in 1969, but later became a symbol and place for peaceful protest and gathering. I believe that the revolutionary thread of peaceful gathering, of striving towards justice and equality, of offering a tournament which memorializes what Berkeley is about and its importance in the civil rights movement is more important than ever during these times We need to reflect on those events that originated with meaning and purpose, and not let them fade away. Keeping things etched into history and remembering them matters.

We made a deliberate effort to hold the Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial online because we thought it would be a shame not to have that event when we knew it could be done online. I know my great predecessor IM John Donaldson is a world class chess historian that understands the value of preserving knowledge, as does Kerry Lawless, with his Chess Dryad website being the greatest collection of California Chess history anywhere. I'm not a historian, and I don't pretend to be. I just believe knowing our chess history, even in the most basic form, has value, and helps us preserve those things that have value so they endure.

I will write this in three parts, this being the first. I do not have the space to make a complete history, and much of the information I bring forward has previously been compiled by others. My goal is to offer a fresh take on the People's Tournament as observed from a former scholastic observer, co-organizer of the event, and now staunch advocate. I will also interview those who have experienced and played in it before to get their thoughts on the event and its evolution. I guess the reflective part of my interest in writing this is that the absence of events due to COVID-19 has made me think about what might be lost if we do not act proactively preserve our chess history and keep the momentum going. While I'm not the person to preserve history, I may be among a team of people at Mechanics' looking to sustain events and the memory and idea of those events for continuity. History suffers when it stops being recorded, and the same goes for our treasured events, even if a world changing pandemic threatens them. I want to thank Kerry Lawless and John Donaldson in this newsletter for taking time to share information with me regarding the People's Tournament. Special thank you to Kerry for the Chess Dryad, which I have lately often looked and reminisced about my early career in chess that has brought back smiles, including finding some of my old games in issues of the California Chess Journal. I could not have known that I would appreciate history and enjoy reflecting on a joyful childhood time some 30 years later.

The 1st People's Tournament wasn't even held in Berkeley. Right off the bat we start off with a shock to those unaware. It was called the California People's Chess Festival and held on the campus of Chabot College in Hayward. According to the California Chess Reporter January-February 1974, the tournament was so named because it was a tournament set up by the people and for the people. The organizers of the first event were Jim McCormick, Alan Benson, John Grefe, Richard Shoreman, Dennis Frtizinger, as well as a few others. Although the event was an Hayward, some organizers like Alan Benson, John Grefe, and Dennis Fritzinger had Berkeley roots, so the Berkeley influence has always been present. Ruben Rodriguez was the first winner of this event, beating out a strong field that included GM Walter Browne. Here is Rodriguez's win over Browne in this event that led to him winning the title. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(12) Rodriguez,Ruben - Browne,Walter [B99]

People's Tournament, 1974

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 A classic 6. Bg5 Najdorf Variation. Walter Browne was an expert on the Black side, so this was a brave choice from Rodriguez. **9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.Be2 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.e5 Bb7**

13.exf6!? This is Keres' idea that he tried against Bobby Fischer. A very interesting queen sacrifice. **13...Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Bxf6 15.Bxa8 d5! 16.Bxd5! Bxd4 17.Rxd4 exd5 18.Re1+ Kf8 19.Nxd5 Qc5 20.c3 g6** [20...h5 may be better] **21.Re5 Kg7 22.g4 Qc8?!** [22...h5! 23.g5 Qc6] **23.f5! Re8?!** [23...gxf5] **24.f6+ Kh8 25.Re7!** Rodriguez begins to take control with the advanced pawn and centralized pieces. **25...Kg8?** [25...Qb8 26.Nc7 Rf8 27.Rdd7?! Qb6! would activate the queen] **26.Nc7!** Now White takes full control **26...Rf8 27.Rdd7** White has a winning bind **27...g5 28.Ne6** transposing to a pawn up rook ending **28...Qxd7 29.Rxd7 fxe6 30.Rg7+ Kh8 31.Rxg5 Rxf6 32.h4 Rf4 33.h5 b4 34.Kc2 bxc3 35.Kxc3 h6 36.Rg6 Kh7 37.Rxe6 Rxg4 38.Rxa6 Rg5 39.Rg6 Rxh5 40.Rg3** two passed pawns on the queenside should win the game **40...Rc5+ 41.Kb4 Rc2 42.Kb3 Rc1 43.a4 h5 44.Kb4 Kh6 45.Kb5 h4 46.Rg8 Rc7 47.b4 Rg7 48.Rc8 h3 49.Rc3 Rg5+ 50.Ka6 h2 51.Rh3+ Rh5 52.Rxh2!** giving up the rook, but the advanced white pawns are too much **52...Rxh2 53.b5 Kg5 54.b6 Rh6 55.a5 Kf5 56.Ka7 Ke6 57.b7 Rh7 58.Ka8 Rh5 59.a6 1-0**

Here is the list of the winners of the People's tournament, compiled by John Donaldson in the MI newsletter.

1974 Ruben Rodriguez (199 players)
1975 Walter Browne (over 100 players)
1976 Peter Biyiasas, Walter Browne and John Grefe (220)
1977 Walter Browne (168)
1978 Larry Christiansen and Nick de Firmian (142)
1979 Eugene Meyer (216)
1980 Paul Cornelius, John Donaldson and Charles Powell (196 players)
1981 James Tarjan (209)
1982 Jeremy Silman and John Grefe (111)

1983 Jeremy Silman (209)

1984 ???
1985 Igor Ivanov and Kamran Shirazi
1986 ???
1987 Cris Ramayrat and Jay Whitehead
1988 Nick de Firmian, Cris Ramayrat, Marc Leski and Dov Gorman (about 180)
1989 Nick de Firmian (213)
1990 Nick de Firmian and Vince McCambridge (close to 200)
1991 John Donaldson, John Grefe, Marc Leski, Larry Remlinger, and Vladimir Strugatsky (219 with 29 masters)

1992 Walter Browne (193)
1993 Nick de Firmian and Renard Anderson (200+)
1994 Richard Kelson, Victor Baja and Burt Izumikawa (152)
1995 John Donaldson (210)
1996 Dmitry Zilberstein and Artak Akopian (226)
1997 John Donaldson, Robin Forman and Walter Shipman (160)
1998 Tigran Ishkhanov and Vinay Bhat (170)
1999 Vinay Bhat (141)
2000 Camilla Baginskaite (130)
2001 Mauro Casadei (131)
2002 John Donaldson and Dmitry Zilberstein (160)
2003 Ricardo De Guzman and John Donaldson (157)
2004 Ricardo De Guzman (152)
2005 Ricardo De Guzman (144)
2006 Michael Aigner (60)
2007 Craig Mar, Walter Shipman and Nicholas Yap (126)
2008 Michael Aigner (79)
2009 David Pruess (104) Note: this event was only four rounds.
2010 Ricardo De Guzman (98)
2011 Ricardo De Guzman (176)
2012 Ricardo De Guzman and Kesav Viswanadha (135)
2013 No Tournament

2014 Faik Aleskerov (177)
2015 Eugene Yanayt (161)
2016 Parimarjan Negi (168)

2017 Conrad Holt (175)

2018 Prasana Rao, Yiping Lou, Jack Zhu (148)

2019 Gergely Antal (197)

2020

Multiple Winners
De Guzman and Donaldson – 6 times
de Firmian – 5 times
Browne – 4 times
Grefe – 3 times
Aigner, Bhat, Leski, Ramayrat, Shipman, Silman and Zilberstein– 2 times

Tournament Location
Berkeley 1976-2007, 2009, 2016, 2017, 2018
Concord 2010
Fremont 2011
Hayward 1974 and 1975
Pleasanton 2012
Santa Clara 2008, 2014, 2015, 2019

The tournament was moved to Berkeley for the 3rd People's, and remained there for the next 31 years. Alan Benson, Mike Goodall and Mike Donald directed this 220 player event, that was proclaimed by Benson as the "strongest tournament that was ever held in Berkeley without exception" -California Chess Reporter, Volume XXV number 4, January-February 1976. Peter Biyiasas, Walteer Browne, and John Grefe tied for 1st in this event.

In the 5th People's Tournament in 1978, GM Larry Chritiansen and our very own GM Nick de Firmian tied for first. Here is a win by Christiansen over GM Yasser Seirawan.

(11) Larry Mark Christiansen - Yasser Seirawan [B08]

People's Tournament San Francisco, CA USA, 1978

1.Nf3 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.d4 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6 7.d5 A classical Pirc Defense. White now takes some space but Black plays for dark squares in the center. **7...Nb8 8.Bg5 c6 9.Qd2 Qc7 10.Rad1 Nbd7 11.Rfe1 a5 12.Bf1 a4 13.a3 Re8** A classic Christiansen - Seirawan battle. Larry goes for the center and big play with attacking prospects. Yasser looks to maneuver to a better position. **14.h3 Nb6 15.Bh6** [15.dxc6 bxc6 16.e5! should give White a slight edge.] **15...cxd5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.exd5?!** [17.Nxd5] **17...Bd7 18.Re3?! Ra5!** The rook lift is very powerful. I will lead to the win of a pawn due to the weakeness of d5 and the white queenside. **19.Rd3 Nc4 20.Qc1 Rc5 21.Ng5 Nxa3** So Black has won a pawn. Christiansen plays as if its not important and centralizes his pieces to keep them active. **22.Rd4** [22.bxa3 Rxc3] **22...h6 23.Nge4 Nxe4 24.Rxe4 Nc4?!** [24...b5] **25.Rdd4?!** [There was a tactical opportunity here - 25.Nxa4! Bxa4 26.b4 **25...Nb6 26.Rh4 Rh8 27.Qa1** The queen looks far away from the action but defends the queenside. **27...Ra8 28.Bd3 g5?** [Black could still have an edge with 28...a3 as 29.b3? Rxc3 30.Rc4 Nxc4 31.Rxc4 Qb6 32.Qxc3+ Kg8 leaves the powerful black a-pawn. Yasser thinks to chase away the white rook from the kingside, but runs into a terrible surprise.] **29.Rxh6!!**



29...Kxh6 30.Rh4+!! It's amazing White can give up the two active rooks and gain a winning attack with the queen far away on a1. **30...Kg7** [no better is 30...gxh4 31.Qc1+ Kg7 (31...Kh5 32.Qd1+ *(32.g4+ hxg3 33.h4 Rg8)* 32...Kh6 33.Qd2+ Kh5 34.Qe2+ Kh6 35.Qe3+ Kh5 36.Qf3+ Kh6 37.Qxf7 *(37.Qf4+ Kh5 38.Qxf7+)*) 32.Qg5+ Kf8 33.Qh6+ Kg8 34.Qh7+] **31.Rh7+** [31.Qc1 gxh4 *(31...f6)* ; 31.Ne4 gxh4 32.b4+ f6] **31...Kf6** [31...Kg8 32.Qd1 g4 33.Qd2] **32.Rh6+ Kg7 33.Rh7+ Kf6 34.Ne4+ Kg6**



[34...Ke5 35.b4+] **35.Qd1!** [35.Nxd6+ f5] **35...g4** [taking the rook gets mated 35...Kxh7 36.Qh5+ Kg7 37.Qxg5+ Kf8 38.Qh6+ Kg8 39.Nf6+ exf6 40.Bh7+ Kh8 41.Bg6+ Kg8 42.Qh7+ Kf8 43.Qxf7#] **36.Qd2 Rxd5** [36...Kxh7 37.Nf6+ Kg7 38.Qg5+] **37.Qh6+ Kf5 38.Rxf7+ Ke5** The black king struggles, but he's clearly doomed. **39.Qg7+ Ke6 40.Rf6+ Ke5 41.Rxd6+ Kf4 42.g3+ Kf3 43.Nd2#** An absolutely amazing game! **1-0**

By the 9th People's tournament, Mike Goodall assumed the role of Chief TD after Alan Benson stepped away from organizing this event.

Mike Goodall at Mechanics'

The venue for the People's was the UC Berkeley campus at the Student Union. The Student Union was located next to Sproul Plaza, with the iconic Sather Gate and water fountain.

Martin Luther King Student Union on the campus of UC Berkeley

For anyone who had been to the campus during that time, and to this day, Sproul Plaza has echoed the sounds of drums playing. Be it drums, bongos, kongas, or even tin cans, the constant rhythmic sound of drums playing echoed as a symbol of what the People's Tournament was. Players seemed to drown out the sound as white noise because of its regularity. The sound added to the flavor of the event, and created a physical reminder of the memories of the People's Tournament.

Such were the early years. The next article next week will take a look at the 1980's through 2000, which showed great results by Mechanics' players including GM Nick de Firmian and IM Johr Donaldson. We saw a change in tournament directors and organizers. We will review some games from these events, and discuss the people from the People's next week in part two.

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Marathon Online

The Tuesday Night Marathon continued with rounds three and four of this six-round, three-week event, and the strongest players rose to the top and provided some thrilling action. The 62-player TNM now has two players in clear first in their respective divisions. In the top section, FM Kyron Griffith weathered a storm from Felix German in the third round to win, then unleashed a blistering attack on NM Ruiyang Yan in the fourth round. Yan found superb defense and some amazing opporunities, but in the end, Griffith converted the win to be the only player with 4/4 ir a 49-player top section. IM Elliott Winslow launched a fierce attack of his own against FM Eric Li, but Li's defenses proved strong and the two agreed to a draw. Here are some games from that section, featuring first the two games mentioned. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Felix German (FelixGerman) (1677) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2112) [E73]

Live Chess Chess.com, 14.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.h4 Felix has a fondness for this system, with a fair number of crashing successes. But general consensus, as well as classic theory, contends that "a wing attack is best met by a counterattack in the center" -- and so... **6...c5 7.d5 b5!** Playing into the Benko Gambit makes a lot of sense, turning White's h2-h4 into a virtual lost tempo. [7...e6 8.h5 exd5 9.exd5 Re8 10.h6!? is Felix's continuation, with complicated play.] **8.cxb5 a6** Diagram

9.h5?! Consistent but refusing to adapt. Forget about checkmate! Deal with the queenside! [White could secure a pawn plus with 9.bxa6; or there is a lot to be said for 9.b6 (It's funny how Black misses his a-file play thanks to his own pawn being there); While best might well be 9.a4!? axb5 10.Bxb5 Ba6 11.Bd2!? to recapture on b5 with the a-pawn. Looks ugly but thwarts a lot of Black's counterplay.] **9...axb5 10.hxg6** [After 10.Bxb5 Black has a standard trick: 10...Nxe4! 11.Nxe4 Qa5+ 12.Nc3 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Qxb5 with a solid edge.] **10...b4?!** Perhaps Kyron felt that White's ignoring Black's aggressions should be punished! [10...fxg6 comes out fine, even after 11.e5 *(11.Bxb5 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Qa5+ 13.Nc3 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qxb5)* 11...dxe5 12.Bxb5 Ba6] **11.gxh7+** [11.gxf7+ Rxf7 12.Nb5 Nxe4 13.Nf3 White still has options for his king position, his knight on b5 isn't, surprisingly, in danger, and Black's king isn't so thrilled about the missing pawns.] **11...Kh8** Another standard idea, hiding behind the opponent's pawn. **12.Nb1?!** Can White stand this loss of development after all that time spent with the h-pawn? [12.Nb5 Nxe4 13.a4] **12...Nxe4 13.Bh6?** Diagram

One of those knights needs to get into the game: [13.Nd2 is probably best, even if you have to take back with the queen.] **13...Bxb2!** Black bravely takes the material. **14.Qc2** [14.Bxf8 Qxf8 15.Nd2 Nxd2] **14...Bxa1 15.Qxe4 f5** This is fine but a bit losening. Black must play accurately henceforth. **16.Qh4 Bf6 17.Qh5 Rxa2 18.Nh3 Nd7?** [18...Qe8! contesting, the kingside squares, was the only winning move there.] **19.Ng5** Diagram

19...Bxg5?? [19...Ne5 keeps an equality after 20.f4 Rxe2+!; Or even more to the point, 19...Rxe2+! right away: 20.Kxe2 *(20.Qxe2? Bxg5 21.Bxg5 Nf6-+)* 20...Ba6+ 21.Kd1 Ne5 22.f4 Qa5 23.fxe5 Qa2= with a perpetual 24.Kc1?? b3-+] **20.Qxg5** Something has gone quite wrong with Black's defense! **20...Rxe2+!?** Trying to stay alive as it turns out. [20...Rf7?! 21.Bh5 Rxh7 22.Bg7+! with mate impending.] **21.Kxe2 Rf7** Diagram

22.Qc1?? This fails -- there's never going to be any mate on the long diagonal! [22.Qh5!! sticks Black in a quandary and would have been another of those crushes White plays for: 22...Ne5 *(22...Kxh7 23.Qxf7+; 22...Rxh7 23.Bg7+! Kxg7 24.Qxh7+ Kf6 25.f4!; 22...Qe8 23.Bg7+!!* and mate shortly*!)* 23.f4 wins a piece with an overwhelming position. 23...Bb7 24.fxe5 Bxd5 25.Nd2 dxe5 26.Qg6 c4 27.Rh5 c3 28.Rg5! Rxh7 29.Bg7+ Kg8 30.Bxe5+ Kf8 31.Qxh7 is over] **22...Rxh7** No more tricks. **23.Qb2+ Nf6 24.Rh3 Qg8 25.Rg3 Ba6+ 26.Ke1 Qxd5 27.Nd2 Rxh6** KyronGriffith won by resignation **0-1**

(4) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2125) - NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2157) [B90]

Live Chess Chess.com (4), 14.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bd3 Rare! Kyron used to play the Najdorf as Black but has been going other ways (as against Winslow, a ...Nf6/exf6 Caro Kann), and here as White playing one of the "anti-theory" lines. Many players do what they can to avoid opponent preparation. **6...e5** Reccommended in Vigorito's 2020 Najdorf book, seeing no reason not to keep things Najdorfian. [6...g6 makes sense, as Bd3 is even less thematic in Dragon lines than ...a6 is for Black.; 6...Nc6 also bluntly exposes one slight drawback of White's move.] **7.Nde2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Kh1 Nbd7 10.f4 b5! 11.a4** [Contesting the queenside, but Black is doing well in any case, e.g 11.Ng3 g6 12.f5 b4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Nf6 15.Bh6 Bb7 16.Ne4 Nxd5 17.Bxf8 Qxf8 18.Qd2 Rc8 19.Rae1 a5 20.b3 Nf4 21.Rxf4 exf4 22.Qxf4 d5 23.Ng5 h6 24.Nf3 g5 25.Qd4 Bc5 26.Qg4 Re8 27.Rf1 f6 28.Nd4 h5 29.Qxh5 Bxd4 30.Qg6+ Kh8 31.Rf3 Re1+ 32.Bf1 Qg7 33.Qh5+ Qh7 34.Qg4 Be5 35.Kg1 Ba6 0-1 (35) Polgar,J (2677) -Ponomariov,R (2743) Moscow 2002] **11...b4 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Bb7 14.c4!** a necessary move to hold the center squares **14...Bf6 15.Ng3 exf4 16.Bxf4 Be5 17.Ne4 Bxf4 18.Rxf4 Ne5?** This allows White some tactics. Safer was to hold kingside squares with [18...f5! 19.Ng3 g6] **19.Nf6+!**

19...gxf6 20.Qh5! Now White's attack rages. **20...Re8?!** [20...Nxd3 21.Rg4+ Kh8 22.Rh4 is a quick mate; 20...f5! 21.Rh4 Re8 22.Qxh7+ Kf8 23.Qh6+ Ke7 24.Bxf5 Rg8 25.Re1 is still good for White but Black has defensive chances at least.] **21.Bxh7+?** [21.Qxh7+ Kf8 22.Raf1 is a very strong attack for White] **21...Kf8?!** [21...Kg7! keeps the white queen away for a move] **22.Qh6+ Ke7 23.Rxf6 Rh8 24.Raf1 Qf8**

25.Rxf7+! Qxf7 [25...Nxf7 26.Qe6+ Kd8 27.Rxf7] **26.Rxf7+ Nxf7 27.Qe6+ Kf8 28.Bg6** Black must lose material against the queen and bishop attack. **28...Rh7 29.Bxf7** [29.Bxh7? Re8 is a back rank problem] **29...Rxf7 30.Qxd6+ Kg8 31.Qg6+ Kf8 32.h4** The white pawns are too strong. **32...Re8 33.h5 Rg7 34.Qd6+ Kf7 35.h6 Rg6 36.Qd7+ Re7 37.Qf5+ Rf6 38.Qh5+ Kg8 39.Qg5+ Kf7 40.h7** The little white h-pawn wins the game. Its march up the board was a quick journey. **40...Re1+ 41.Kh2 Re8 42.Qh5+ 1-0**

(9) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1931) - FM Eric Yuhan Li (wepkins) (2258) [C65]

Live Chess Chess.com (4), 14.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 A bit of a change from Eric's usual Najdorf Sicilian! **4.d3** Even Winslow finally admits the resiliency of the "Berlin Wall" variation: [4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8] **4...Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6** Diagram

6.Qe2!? Essayed by Carlsen already a couple times at least. [There's certainly nothing wrong with 6.0-0 unless you don't like to commit your king one way or another too soon.] **6...Bd6!?** Also not so popular, but an excellent percentage. [6...Qe7; 6...Nd7; 6...Bg4 are typical ways to deal with the threat to the e-pawn.] **7.Nbd2 0-0N** [7...Be6 is the only move previously played] **8.Nc4** Now White gets some pressure going. **8...Re8** [8...b5!? 9.Ncxe5? Qe8 10.d4 c5] **9.Bg5 b5 10.Ne3 h6 11.Bh4 Be6?!** [11...g5 12.Bg3 Nh5 13.h4! White hits at the right moment.; 11...Bc5!? looking for ...Qd6 unpinning the knight without consequence.] **12.h3 a5 13.g4?!** A bit crude [13.a4!? takes the battle to the other side, qith a plus.] **13...g5?!** And too crude in response. [13...a4!? 14.Rg1 a3 15.b3 is still an initiative for White (whose king is fine at f1).] **14.Bg3 Nd7 15.h4 f6 16.0-0-0** [16.hxg5 hxg5 17.d4 is crushing according to Stockfish.] **16...c5 17.hxg5 hxg5 18.Nf5 Bf8 19.Rh2** Even here White should have every reason to expect to win. **19...Bg7 20.Rdh1** [20.Nd2!] **20...Bxf5 21.gxf5** [21.exf5!?] **21...Nf8** An expensive defense **22.Qe3 Qe7** Diagram

23.Rh5 [23.Bxe5! fxe5 24.Nxg5 and a shift of the rooks to the g-file, and it's over.] **23...Ra6 24.Nd2** [24.Bxe5! again: 24...fxe5 25.Rxg5] **24...a4 25.f3 Kf7 26.Bf2 Rc6 27.Nb1 c4?! 28.dxc4 Rxc4? 29.Nc3?!** Time shortage starts to affect the play. [29.Na3 collapses Black.] **29...c6 30.Rd1** [30.a3] **30...Rd8 31.Rxd8 Qxd8** Diagram

32.Rh1 [32.Ne2! (threatens the rook) 32...c5 33.Nc3!] **32...Rd4 33.Qe2 Rd7 34.a3 Qe7 35.Na2 Qd6 36.Nb4 Ke8 37.Rd1 Qxd1+ 38.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 39.Kxd1** still great for White (that bishop on g7!) **39...Kd7 40.Bc5?! Kc7 41.Ke2 Nd7 42.Be7 Bf8 43.Bxf8 Nxf8** White has loosened his grip considerably. **44.Kd3?=** [44.Nd3] **44...Nd7 45.c4?** Diagram

45...Kb6? [45...Nc5+ 46.Kc3?? g4!-+] **46.cxb5** and a tense draw after **46...Kxb5 47.Kc3 Nc5 48.Nd3 Nd7 49.Nf2 Kc5 50.Ng4** Game drawn by agreement **1/2-1/2**

(7) Austin Mei (TitanChess666) (1802) - Simona Nayberg (roboro13) (1810) [C20]

Live Chess Chess.com, 14.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 Nf6 2.d3 A passive response to Alekhine's defense. **2...e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Be7?!** This lets White get a good setup against the e5 pawn. [6...Bg4 is more active] **7.0-0 Be6 8.Re1 Bf6 9.Nc3?!** [9.Nbd2! headed to c4 would annoy the e5 pawn.] **9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 e4?!** this trade lets the white pieces come to active squares **11.Rxe4 Bxc3 12.Rb1 0-0 13.Bg5** [13.Rxb7! Bd5 14.Rh4 is good] **13...Qd7 14.Bd2 Bf6 15.Rxb7 Bxa2 16.Bf4 Rfc8 17.Ng5?!** [17.c4! would put the bishop on a2 in danger] **17...Bxg5 18.Bxg5 Rcb8 19.Rxb8+ Rxb8 20.Re1 Nd4 21.c3 Ne6 22.Be3 a5 23.Qa1** [23.c4 Bb3 24.Qd2 a4 is chances for both sides] **23...Bd5 24.Bh3?!** White abandons the long diagonal. This is asking for trouble. **24...Ba8! 25.Rb1?** [25.Bg2] **25...Rxb1+ 26.Qxb1 Qc6! 27.Qb8+ Nf8 28.f3 Qxf3 29.Bc5**

29...Qh1+ 30.Kf2 Qxh2+ 31.Ke1 Qxg3+ 32.Kd2 Qg5+ Black has stopped the mate on f8 by checks and now simply has extra pawns. **33.Be3** [33.Kc2 Qxc5] **33...Qd5 34.Qxc7 Qa2+ 35.Kc1 Qa1+ 36.Kc2 a4 37.Qc8?!** [37.Bc5 would give White a little hope] **37...Bf3! 38.Bc5** now Black finishes it off with checks **38...Qd1+ 39.Kb2 Qb3+ 40.Kc1 Qxc3+ 41.Kb1 Qxd3+ 42.Kc1 Qc3+ 43.Kb1 Be4+ 44.Ka2 Qb3+ 45.Ka1 Qb1#** a great attack by roboro13 **0-1**

(8) Ahyan Zaman (ahyanzaman) (1420) - Tejas Mahesh (ChessTX9) (1818) [B33]

Live Chess Chess.com, 14.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.f3?! It is better to developa a piece. This guards the center but lags in development. **7...Be6** [7...a6! 8.Na3 Be6] **8.Be3 a6 9.Na3 Rb8** [9...d5 is very sensible] **10.Nd5?** loses a pawn **10...Nxd5 11.exd5 Qa5+! 12.c3 Qxd5 13.Qc2 Be7 14.Bb6** A tricky move, trying to trap the black queen in the center with Bc4. **14...Nd8** makes a square for the queen, though even better is [14...Bh4+! 15.g3 Bd8] **15.Rd1 Qc6 16.Qf2 0-0 17.c4 d5!** The loss of White's center pawn is a serious matter. Black is not just a pawn up - he has control of the key center squares. **18.c5?!** It's hard to give good advice here but there is really no hope with ceding the central squares to the black pawns. **18...f5 19.Qg3 Nf7 20.Rc1 Rbc8 21.Qf2 f4 22.g4 e4! 23.h4 Ne5**

24.fxe4 dxe4 The position is a wonderful picture from Black's side, but a nightmare from White's side. **25.g5 Kh8 26.Rd1 e3** splat **27.Qg2 f3 28.Qg3 f2+ 29.Ke2 Qe4** Many players would resign, but you may as well fight to the finish from here. **30.Bg2 Bg4+ 31.Bf3 Rxf3 32.Qxe5 Rf4+ 33.Kf1 e2# 0-1**

In the under 1600 section, Charlene Kwok (imcharlene) is at 4/4, a full point ahead of Rama Chitta (draidus).

Here are the current standings:

Standings after Round 4

SwissSys Standings. TuesdayNightMarathonOnline_2020July: 1600+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	T-Sonneborn	Prize
1	Kyron Wa Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	W30	W27	W24	W4			4.0	9	
2	Eric Yuhan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	15688436	2369	W42	W7	W19	D3			3.5	7.75	
3	Elliott C Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	W35	W28	W22	D2			3.5	7.25	
4	Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)	15462690	2242	W10	W20	W13	L1			3.0	7.5	
	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?											

5	15424820)	15424820	2087	W40	L13	W14	W18			3.0	6	
6	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	W39	D14	D17	W27			3.0	5.5	
7	Simona Nayberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14373224)	14373224	1906	W32	L2	W44	W21			3.0	5	
8	Shaashw Sivakumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15089302)	15089302	2078	H---	H---	W31	W20			3.0	4	
9	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1940	H---	H---	W23	W22			3.0	4	
10	Ryan Tiong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15990403)	15990403	1790	L4	W29	W26	X24			3.0	4	
11	Tejas Mahesh (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15086558)	15086558	1988	W49	L22	W36	W30			3.0	3.5	
12	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	H---	H---	X---	W19			3.0	2	
13	Robert E Berry (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12742576)	12742576	1671	W26	W5	L4	D16			2.5	6.25	
14	Imran Champsi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16176854)	16176854	1663	W16	D6	L5	W34			2.5	5.5	
15	Edward Rosenthal (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12413338)	12413338	2029	L19	D25	W47	W32			2.5	3.5	
16	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	L14	W39	W38	D13			2.5	3.25	
17	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	W47	H---	D6	H---			2.5	2	
18	Michael K Lum (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12604366)	12604366	1926	H---	W37	X33	L5			2.5	1.5	
19	Ryan Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15991187)	15991187	1725	W15	W21	L2	L12			2.0	4.5	
20	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1869	W29	L4	W25	L8			2.0	4	
21	Austin R Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	16090452	2149	W34	L19	W28	L7			2.0	3.5	
22	Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1572	X48	W11	L3	L9			2.0	3	
23	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1506	W31	L24	L9	W42			2.0	3	
24	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	W46	W23	L1	F10			2.0	2.5	
25	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1241	H---	D15	L20	W39			2.0	2.25	
26	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	L13	W40	L10	W38			2.0	2	
27	Rudolph Fr Breedt (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13701346)	13701346	1884	W38	L1	W45	L6			2.0	2	
28	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	W44	L3	L21	W45			2.0	2	
29	Cesar B Tamondong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12439091)	12439091	1600	L20	L10	W40	W41			2.0	2	
30	Saatvik Krishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15210955)	15210955	1797	L1	W46	W41	L11			2.0	1.5	
31	Lauren Goodkind (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12778910)	12778910	1856	L23	W49	L8	W44			2.0	1	
32	Rachael Tiong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16019458)	16019458	1624	L7	W42	X12	L15			2.0	1	
33	John P McCumiskey (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11277713)	11277713	1838	X43	H---	F18	H---			2.0	0	
34	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	L21	D47	W37	L14			1.5	1.75	
35	Barbara Goodkind (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12778604)	12778604	1791	L3	L38	D46	W47			1.5	0.75	
36	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1699	H---	H---	L11	D37			1.5	0.75	
37	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1009	B---	L18	L34	D36			1.5	0.75	
38	Ishaan Kodarapu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16128527)	16128527	1607	L27	W35	L16	L26			1.0	1.5	
39	Adelynne Yang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15661335)	15661335	1695	L6	L16	W43	L25			1.0	1	
40	Kevin Joe Roberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12735690)	12735690	1739	L5	L26	L29	W46			1.0	0.5	
41	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	H---	H---	L30	L29			1.0	0	
42	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	L2	L32	W49	L23			1.0	0	
43	Gan Mathrubootham (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15183473)	15183473	1494	F33	U---	L39	W49			1.0	0	
44	Wentao Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16629782)	16629782	1411	L28	B---	L7	L31			1.0	0	
45	Michael Hsu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14949587)	14949587	1263	H---	H---	L27	L28			1.0	0	
46	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1664	L24	L30	D35	L40			0.5	0.75	
47	Andersen Yang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16304918)	16304918	1475	L17	D34	L15	L35			0.5	0.75	
48	Jeremy Da Cawthon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15038608)	15038608	1866	F22	U---	U---	U---			0.0	0	
49	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	L11	L31	L42	L43			0.0	0	

SwissSys Standings. TuesdayNightMarathonOnline_2020July: u1600

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	T-Sonneborn	Prize
1	Charlene Kwok (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16470910)	16470910	1124	W8	W11	W3	W4			4.0	7.5	
2	Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	17350313	unr.	W5	L3	W7	W6			3.0	6.5	
3	Daniel R Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)	16465203	1364	W6	W2	L1	D5			2.5	6.25	
4	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1252	D9	W7	W8	L1			2.5	4.25	
5	Shankara Mohan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16810493)	16810493	1129	L2	W12	W10	D3			2.5	3.75	
6	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	948	L3	W13	W9	L2			2.0	1.5	

7	Jonatha Baterdene (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088555)	15088555	1237	W13	L4	L2	W12			2.0	1
8	Liora Ginzburg (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16587703)	16587703	1523	L1	W9	L4	D10			1.5	2.25
9	Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)	12693378	595	D4	L8	L6	B---			1.5	1.25
10	Martin Camacho (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248027)	17248027	1031	H---	H---	L5	D8			1.5	0.75
11	Michael Hsu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14949587)	14949587	1263	W12	L1	U---	U---			1.0	1
12	Danny Du Uy Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	843	L11	L5	X13	L7			1.0	0
13	Kate Canessa (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14102056)	14102056	473	L7	L6	F12	U---			0.0	0

SwissSys Standings. TuesdayNightMarathonOnline_2020July: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	T-Sonneborn	Prize
1	Michael K Lum (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12604366)	12604366	1926	W4						1.0	0	
2	John P McCumiskey (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11277713)	11277713	1838	W3						1.0	0	
3	Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1572	L2						0.0	0	
4	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1009	L1						0.0	0	

Rounds 5 & 6 will be this Tuesday starting at 6:30PM. You can follow the final two rounds on our live broadcast which can be seen on our Twitch channel at this link: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

To watch the brodcast of rounds 3 & 4, it can be seen at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHlhORabQwQ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHlhORabQwQ)

Mechanics' Online Events Recap

Friday Night Online Blitz: Winner: Roham Rajaram (ninjatrick) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online--1309317 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online--1309317)

Sunday Matinee: Winner: Jeffery Wang (twangbio) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-matinee-1309319 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-matinee-1309319)

Sunday Evening Blitz: Winner: Vedant Talwalkar (serverbusy) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1309320 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1309320)

Monday Night Arena: Winner: Winston Leung (TM_TheMaster) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-259460 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-259460)

Wednesday Matinee: Winner: Kevin Fong (chessappeals) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-matinee-1311349 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-matinee-1311349)

Wednesday Late Night Showdown: Winner: Cancelled due to Chess.com Server Restart

Thursday Night Blitz: Winner: Andrew Schley (andrewschley) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-night-blitz-1312302 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-night-blitz-1312302)

Chess.com Club's League Update

The Mechanics' Institute secured a big win last Saturday against Stevenson High School Chess Team 15-5. With that win, we are now in 13th place in the league out of 61 teams with a score of 4.5/7. There was an absolutely beautiful game played by IM Elliott Winslow in his first match. He has been playing some creative chess lately, and we hope he continues his inspirational rur in the coming U.S. Senior Invitational.

(5) MellowYawn (1810) - ecwinslow (1935) [B90]

Live Chess Chess.com, 11.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 h5 The 21st-Century approach, using the h-pawn early in the game. **8.Bg5** [8.g3] **8...Be6 9.Ng3** [9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nd5 Qd8 and now 11.Qd3!? (preparing to castle queenside before Black can slip ...g6 and ...Bh6 in) is the forefront of Najdorf chess theory.] **9...g6?!** [9...Nbd7 is probably more important, to recapture on f6] **10.Nd5?!** [10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Nd5 Qd8 12.Bc4 Nd7 and now 13.Ne2 Rc8 14.Bb3 Nc5 15.Nec3 was a win by former Bay Area star Steven Zierk: 1-0 (40) Zierk,S (2494) -Jacobson,B (2376) Charlotte 2018] **10...Nbd7 11.Bc4 Rc8 12.Bb3?!** [12.Nxf6+ Nxf6 13.Bb3 is still a little something for White] **12...Bxd5! 13.exd5** [It looks logical for White to recapture with the bishop but then 13.Bxd5 Qa5+ 14.Bd2 Qb6=/+ 15.Be3?! Qxb2 16.Rb1 Qc3+ 17.Bd2 Qxc2-/+] **13...Bh6!** Seizing the moment to exchange bishops **14.Bxh6 Rxh6** Black has the edge because the white bishop on b3 is not very active. **15.Qd2 Rh8 16.0-0 h4 17.Ne2 Kf8 18.f4!? Kg7?!** [18...Ne4 19.Qd3 f5 Black continues to keep White's knight back.] **19.fxe5 dxe5** [19...Nxe5! give White d4 but not much else. Black would have fine control of the dark squares.] **20.Nc3** [20.d6 is tricky for Black, although objectively he's still better.] **20...Qb6+ 21.Qf2?!** The attacking chances were with White, so keep the queens on! [21.Kh2!] **21...Qxf2+ 22.Rxf2** Diagram

22...Rxc3!? played rather cavalierly. This is fun, but there were better moves. [22...Ne8! is close to winning. Black follows up with ...f5 against almost anything. Even 23.d6 f5! and the d-pawn is a goner in the long run. 24.Be6 Nef6] **23.bxc3 Ne4 24.Rf3?!** White needs to do something against the slow advance of the black pawns. [24.Re2!? Nd6 25.Rae1 f5 26.Rxe5! comes close to equality (but not quite)] **24...Nd6** Black has no pawn for his Exchange, but the ones he does have threaten to march, well supported by the knights. In practice White has a difficult defense, with no open file for the rooks, and a cornered bishop. **25.Raf1 f5 26.c4 Rc8** Wasting time. [26...Kf6!; 26...e4!] **27.g4 f4! 28.Rc3** Diagram

[28.g5 Ne4] **28...g5!** There's no stopping those pawns and knights now. **29.Re1 e4** The extra exchange is of no value here. White is desparate to get some play. **30.c5 Nxc5 31.a4 a5!** Black square control. **32.Ba2 Kf6 33.Rb1 Ke5 34.Rb6 e3 35.Kf1 Nde4! 36.Re6+ Nxe6! 37.Rxc8 f3 38.Bc4** [38.dxe6 Ng3+ 39.Kg1 f2+] **38...Ng3+ 39.Kg1 Nf4 40.Re8+ Kd4** A wonderful endgame exchange sacrifice. **0-1**

GM James Tarjan delivered another solid perfomance for the team, winning both his games. Here is one of his victories.

(6) Tirantes (2334) - robot18 (2082) [D85]

Live Chess Chess.com, 11.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e3 An unpretentious but underestimated system, often leading to a Tarrasch Queens Gambit reversed. **5...Bg7 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 0-0 8.Nf3 Na6 9.0-0 c5 10.h3** This little move prevents ...Bg4 and so holds the white center. **10...cxd4 11.exd4** White has an edge as the black knight on a6 needs rerouting. **11...Nc7** Diagram

12.d5! Bxc3?! Taking the pawn is risky but Black felt compelled to grab space in the center. **13.bxc3 Nbxd5 14.Qd4 Nf6 15.Qh4** White has wonderful play for the pawn - the bishop pair, attacking chances against the weakend finachetto position and mobility. **15...Be6 16.Rd1 Qc8 17.Bg5?!** [17.c4!] **17...Nb5?** [17...Bxb3 18.axb3 Qf5 is a better defense] **18.c4** [18.Bxe6 Qxe6 19.Re1] **18...Nc3 19.Re1 b5 20.cxb5 Bxb3 21.axb3 Ncd5** [21...Nxb5 22.Rxe7] **22.Nd4 a6?!** Now it rolls downhill in White's favor. **23.Nc6! axb5 24.Rac1** All of white's pieces are in the attack. Black must lose something. **24...Qb7 25.Nxe7+?!** [25.Bxf6! exf6 26.Qd4! is very good 26...Nb6 27.Qxf6] **25...Nxe7 26.Bxf6 Nf5 27.Qf4 Rac8 28.g4 Rxc1 29.Rxc1 Ng7 30.Bb2** Diagram **30...f5?** [It's hard to defend against the queen and bishop working on the dark squares, but 30...f6 and White has his work cut out still.] **31.Rc7** That's all folks. **1-0**

This Saturday we play Club de Ajedrez Jacque al Rey from Corrientes, Argentina. If we win that match, we will surely crack the top 10 in the final standings. Good luck to the team, match will be at 10am at this link: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=55799 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=55799). Go Mechanics!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 6:30-8PM - Online class with GM Nick de Firmian

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, July 18: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=43486 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=43486)

Sunday, July 19: starts at 3:00PM - join from 3:45PM

6SS G/10+2 USCF Rated: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=43719 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=43719)

Monday, July 20: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=44088 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=44088)

Tuesday, July 21: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=44089 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=44089)

Wednesday, July 22: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=44090 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=44090)

Thursday, July 23: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=44321 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=44321)

Friday, July 24: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/10+5:

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(2) FunStyle (1490) - RareThirdDessert (1654) [C50]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 The Bishop's Opening is a simple plan, but masters usually prefer to get the knight out first. **2...Nc6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 h6** [More economical is 4...Nf6 since if 5.Ng5? 0-0 and f7 is guarded. It's not good for White to trade on f7 then - losing a bishop and knight for rook and pawn.] **5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Nd5 d6 7.h3 Be6 8.Nxf6+** [8.c3 is to be considered as White then occupies the d5 square - cramping the Black position.] **8...Qxf6 9.0-0?!** [9.Bxe6! Qxe6 10.c3 is a plan fro central play] **9...g5!** Going for the direct attack against the White king! [9...Bxc4 10.dxc4 a5 is comfortable for Black.] **10.Be3 g4** Diagram

11.hxg4? This lets Black get what he wants [Needed was 11.Bxe6! fxe6 *(11...gxf3 12.Bg4)* 12.hxg4 Bxe3 13.fxe3 Qg6 14.Nh2 tries to defend, not the storm that occurs.] **11...Bxg4 12.Bxc5?! dxc5 13.Qe2?** [13.Bb5! would stop the black knight from jumping in] **13...Nd4** Ouch! **14.Qd1 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Rg8+ 16.Kh2 Qh4#** A fine attack by RareThirdDessert! **0-1**

(3) GoodShakyBeetle (1520) - KeenUpbeatClock (1487) [C01]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 The Exchange Variation of the French Defense is very safe, but 3. e5 or 3. Nc3 are more promising (though more complicated). **3...exd5 4.Nc3 c6 5.Nf3 Bd6 6.h3 Nf6 7.Bg5 0-0 8.Be2 Bf5 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.0-0-0!?** Castling on opposite sides makes the game for interesting. Black is fine no matter where the white king goes. **10...h6 11.Bf4**

11...Ne4!? [11...Qc7 is simple and good] **12.Nxe4 Bxf4 13.Qxf4 Bxe4 14.Bd3 Bxd3 15.Rxd3 Qf6 16.Qxf6 Nxf6** Now we have ended up in a dead even endgame with symmetrical pawn structure. Reasonable play by both players but not so exciting. **17.Re1 Rfe8 18.Ne5 Nd7 19.Rde3 Nxe5 20.Rxe5 Rxe5 21.Rxe5 Kf8 22.Kd2 Re8 23.f4 Rxe5 24.dxe5** All the pieces have been exchanged to an even king and pawn ending. These can be tricky though - one error can lose the game. **24...Ke7 25.Kd3 f6! 26.exf6+ Kxf6 27.g4 g5?! 28.f5 Ke5** White has a protected passed pawn. Fortunately for Black the white king has trouble getting in. **29.Ke3 d4+ 30.Kd3 c5?** [30...Kd5 stops the white king] **31.c3** [31.Kc4! would have good winning chances] **31...b5?** [31...dxc3 32.Kxc3 Kd5] **32.b3?** [32.cxd4+ cxd4 33.a3 a6 34.b4 Kd5 35.f6 Ke6 36.Kxd4 Kxf6 37.Kc5 would win] **32...a5?** [32...dxc3!] **33.a4?** [33.cxd4+ cxd4 34.f6 Kxf6 35.Kxd4] **33...b4 34.cxd4+ cxd4 35.Kc4 Ke4 36.f6 d3 37.f7 d2 38.f8Q d1Q 39.Qf5+** now the game is a draw **39...Ke3 40.Qe5+ Kf3 41.Qf5+ Kg3 42.Qxa5 Kxh3 43.Qxb4 Qxg4+ 44.Kc3 Qxb4+ 45.Kxb4 g4 46.a5 g3 47.a6 g2 48.a7 g1Q 49.a8Q Qe1+ 50.Kc4 Qe2+ 51.Kb4 Qd2+ 52.Kc4 Qc2+ 53.Kb4 Qd2+ 54.Kb5 Qd3+ 55.Kb4 Qd4+ 56.Kb5 Qd3+ 57.Kb4 Qd2+ 1/2-1/2**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

in June: July 11, July 19 & July 25 @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Virtual Summer Chess Camps 2020

June 1 through Aug 14 on selected weeks

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp)

9AM - 12AM morning camps: Monday through Fridays
Next camp: June 29-July 3 - camp is filling up so secure your spot now!
Other Weeks: 7/13-17, 7/20-24, 8/3-7
Min 4 students, max 9 students in each camp.

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes)

1-hour intensive class followed by optional online tournament
$25/class, $45/two classes or $80/four classes package

Available classes:
Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Wednesday 3:00-4:00PM - Coach Colin
Friday 2:00-3:00PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

7/18 Saturday - Saturday Online Rated Blitz
Format: 3SS G/30
Join from 2PM - https://www.chess.com/live#g=5139994227 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/live#g=5139994227)
Starts at 3PM

7/18 Saturday - 5SS G/5+2
Join from 8PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1313696 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1313696)
Starts at 9PM

7/19 Sunday - 4SS G/15+5
Join from 3PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1316320 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1316320)
Starts at 4PM

7/19 Sunday - 8SS G/3+2
Join from 7PM- https://www.chess.com/live#t=1316321 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1316321)
Starts at 8PM

7/20 Monday - Monday Online Arena

Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=263346 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/live#r=263346)
Start: 6:30PM

7/21 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online Rapid
Format: 5 rounds of G/10+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-july-2020 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-july-2020)
Start: 6:30PM

7/22 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1327511 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1327511)
Start at 4PM

Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1327510 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1327510)
Starts 9PM.

7/23 Thursday Night Blitz
Format: 8SS G/3+2
Join the tournament from 6PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1327513 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1327513)
Starts 7PM.

7/24 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

John Grefe Continued

Grefe's signature game of the 1973 US Championship was this powerful victory over Walter Browne.

John Grefe – Walter Browne

US Championship 1973.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4

Be7 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bh4 Qc7 10.O-O-O Nbd7 11.Be2 Rb8 12.Qg3 Rg8

13.Rhf1 g5 14.fxg5 Ne5 15.Nf3 b5 16.Nxe5 b4 17.Nxf7 bxc3

18.gxf6!! Rxg3 19.fxe7 Rg5 20.Bxg5 hxg5 21.Nxd6+ 1-0.

Grefe's attacking prowess and fondness for the initiative and sharp play is nowhere better illustrated than in this beautiful game against the legendary Miguel Najdorf:

John Grefe – Miguel Najdorf

Lone Pine 1976.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.O-O O-O 7.Qe2

c6 8.a4 Qc7 9.h3 exd4 10.Nxd4 Re8 11.Bf4 Ne5 12.Bb3 Nfd7

13.Rad1 Bf8 14.Bc1 Nc5 15.Ba2 d5 16.f4 Ned7 17.e5 Nb6 18.a5

Nbd7 19.Qh5 Ne6 20.Nf5 Qxa5 21.Rf3 Nb6 22.Rg3 g6 23.Qh4 Na4

24.Rxd5!! Qb6+ 25.Be3 Qb4 26.Rb5!! Nxc3 27.Rxb4 Ne2+ 28.Kh2 Nxg3

29.Qxg3 Bxb4 30.Nh6+ Kh8 31.f5 Nd8 32.fxg6 fxg6 33.Qf4 Bf8

34.Nf7+ Nxf7 35.Qxf7 Be6 36.Bxe6 Bg7 37.Bd4 Rad8 38.Bc3 b5

39.Bd7 Rf8 40.Qe7 1-0.

I remember Grefe coming up with an interesting pawn sacrifice on the 4th move in a game against Arnold Denker, an experiment that was so successful… it's apparently never been repeated!

John Grefe – Arnold Denker

Lone Pine 1979.

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Qc7.

Here Grefe uncorked the amazing 4.f4!? and won a nice game:

4….Qxf4 5.Ngf3 Nf6 6.Nb3 Qc7 7.e5 Ng4 8.d4 Bf5 9.Nh4 Bd7 10.Be2 Nh6 11.Bxh6 gxh6 12.O-O Na6

13.Bxa6 bxa6 14.Nc5 e6 15.Qh5 Bc8 16.Rf6 Bxc5 17.dxc5 Rb8 18.Raf1 Rf8 19.Qxh6 Qxe5 20.Qxh7 Rxb2

21.Rxf7 Rxf7 22.Qg8+ 1-0.

I really like the way Grefe took the wind out of black's sails in this game. Chess is a fight!

John Grefe – Miguel Quinteros

Lone Pine 1976.

25.Rxf7! Kxf7 26.Qxd6 Kg8 27.Qe6+ Kh7 28.Qxg4 Qe7 29.Qh4+ Bh6

30.Bg4 Rf6 31.Bf5 Rg8 32.Na4 Ra6 33.Nxc5 Rxa2 34.Ne6 1-0.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

GM Nick de Firmian's column will return in August

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160942/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #927

July 25, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- People's Tournament
- Tuesday Night Marathon Online
- Online Events Recap
- Chess.com Clubs League
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Short History of the People's Tournament: Part 2

The Organizers Through Berkeley 2009

"24 years and counting. That's how long chessplayers have been coming down to Berkeley on President's Day weekend to participate in the People's Chess Tournament. Yes, 24 years of bongos, Blondie's Pizza, street preachers, and the rest of the usual Berkeley assortment to maintain your interest if your mind should wander from chess."

Don Shennum, from California Chess Journal Volume 11 #2 regarding the 1997 People's Tournament

Special thanks to the immense resource of The Chess Dryad in obtsining this information: http://chessdryad.com/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/http://chessdryad.com/)

In the previous issue, I wrote about the early years and gave a list of the winners to this date. I also wrote about the first Chief Organizers, Alan Benson and Mike Goodall. While much is written about the winners and players, I thought it would be interesting to mention the organizers, as they are the ones that keep the events going. Thier impact on chess is greatly felt, and it would be great to know even a little about them, especially to those reading and learning for the first time.

After Mike Goodall, Alan Glasscoe took up organizing the People's. Alan was TD of the People's Tournament from 1985-1991. He was a veteran of directing events, including the 1984 U.S. men's and women's championship held on the campus of UC Berkeley.

Alan Glasscoe, photo courtesy of the Chess Dryad.

Alan Glasscoe, back row far left, with TD George Koltanowski front center and the participants of the 1984 US Women's Championship in Berkeley.

Alan also had the help of Andy Lazarus and Max Grober. In 1989, a new organizer would join the crew, and he would soon lead organizing of the event for the next several years. It was someone I knew perosnally as a player, though I had no idea how important he would be in event organizing.

The People's Tournament by the late 1980's was a fixture on the UC Berkeley campus. I had just started to play actively in 1985, when I was 12 years old. After a couple of years, I felt I had hit a wall in my progress. I was about 1600 and trying to get to the next level in skill, but had no idea how to improve past that. From the tournament scene in the South Bay, I met Peter Yu, who was then a student at Bellarmine College Prep in San Jose (from where incidentally my son graduated in 2018). He rose up the ranks quickly, and I believe by the time he started attanding UC Berkeley, he had become a master. During one of the events in the South Bay, I had inquired if he was open to giving lessons. I had never had an instructor and had just taught myself. ChessBase or engines as we know them accesible to the club player weren't around then, so I essentially never had training or learning with a master evaluating my games and seeing what I was doing wrong. He came to my house and I trained with him for a few months, but for some reasons, we didn't keep it going. Little did I know that he would be a key player in the evolution of the People's Tournament.

Peter Yu

Peter Yu had a lot of energy, and I was happy to see him take to organizing events. It also presented an opportunity for someone from the younger generation to take a stab at organizing an event in a city known for the youth movement pushing to change the world. One of the advantages Peter had was in organizing was partnering with a student organization on campus called SUPERB (Student Union Program, Entertainment, and Recreation Board). By doing so, Peter was able to obtain a discounted rental on the campus facilities. This was important, as the reality of the business side of organizing any event is something that cannot be ignored.

Don Shennum assisted in directing the People's tournament with Peter Yu as early as 1993, and by 2000, a combination of Mike Goodall making a return to directing the People's, Don Shennum, and then Richard Koepcke kept the event going. Also helping during these years was Alan Tse (then also a UC Berkeley student).

Richard Koepcke took over directing the Peoples Tournament in 2004, with the assistance of SUPERB. One of the challenges of this relationship was that althought SUPERB financed the organization of the event itself, it was not a chess organization. A dispute between the campus and the organization stripped the organization of the facility rental savings, and the People's Tournament was again without a venue and organizer after 2009.

Richard Koepcke at the Peoples Tournament 2009

The question I often think about is whether the essence of what the People's Tournament was can ever be felt again. Or does a new history need to be written for the event? The constant sounds of drumming on Sproul Plaza have gone silent, or at least is filled with new sounds that don't bring back memories of days past. The Student Union while still there, has had a massive facelift, all of course for the better. One of the venues that looks much the same today is Pauley Ballroom, site of the 2018 People's Tournament, as well as The Faculty Club, site of the 2016 and 2017 People's. While the lighting at both were not ideal and never were, it did bring back the same feel of the stories and pictures in past issues of Chess Voice or the California Chess Journal. They look was the same, but not the feel of days past. I asked Richard Koepcke whether this difference is the result of time or something else, and he definitely said time. It is just not the same anymore, and the absence of the sounds of drums symbolizes something larger. Things change, and as organizers, we have to take notice of those changes and evolve with the times. While we may not be able to capture the past, we may be able to start a future, bringing forth something that people experience and value in these times, and begin writing a new history that will be remembered years later. There are not many chess events that have an impact on the senses the way the People's Tournament did, almost like the smells of certain foods can bring you back to a time and place. The People's Tournament is one of them, and if you don't believe me, read Paul Whitehead's column later in the newsletter...

In my final part next week, I'll focus on the players through 2009, as well as some of the games. Stay tuned!

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Marathon Online

The 1st Tuesday Night Marathon online was concluded in spectacular fashion by FM Kyron Griffith, who had to play the two toughest opponents he could possibly face and delivered masterful performances to take the TNM with perfect 6-0 score. Griffith defeated Eric Li in a dominant perfomance in round 5 and then defeated IM Elliott Winslow in a great technical games in the final round, which determined who would win the TNM. Griffith showed true nerves in a game where everyhting was on the line.

In the u/1600 section, there was opportunity for many players to finish in the money, but in the end, Shakara Mohan and Daniel Perlov finished in a tie for first with 4.5/6.

It seemed all cylinders were firing for Griffith, and it started early in round 5. Griffith built up a huge positional advantage over the usually very technical Eric Li. He then gradually accumulated material as well as space and soon overwhelmed the young phenom. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(8) FM Eric Li (wepkins) (2245) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2143) [E81]

Tuesday Night Marathon (online) Chess.com (5.1), 22.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 Kyron visited the Twitch commentary right after the game finished, and noted that Eric mostly played h3 systems against him in the past. [5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3] **5...0-0 6.Be3 c5** A popular gambit line, trying to take the initiative. **7.Nge2** [7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bxc5 does at first look almost unsound, but Black's counterplay shows up in force. So most White players try to stay in control with the move played.] **7...Nc6 8.d5 Na5!?**

Kyron noted that Eric is always well prepared, but figured that this rare line would leave them both on their own. But in fact it has scored quite well, that it might well be the move. On the other hand, Grischuk played it a couple times in 2012 before dropping his bombshell mentioned below the next year. [8...Ne5 9.Ng3 *(9.Nc1)* 9...h5!? is quite difficult to understand. Consider: *(9...e6* leads to dense Benoni play*)* 10.Be2 h4 11.Nf1 e6 12.f4 Nxc4!! Svidler - Grischuk, Candidates tournament, London 2013.] **9.Ng3** [9.Nc1 e6 10.Be2 exd5 11.cxd5 a6 12.a4?! *(12.0-0!? b5)* 12...Nd7 is still relatively uncharted seas.] **9...a6 10.a4?** White loses his way. the Ng3 and a4 don't work together here at all. So Kyron's opening strategy succeeded completely -- clear advantage by move 10. [10.Be2 Nd7!? 11.Rc1 b5!? 12.cxb5 axb5 13.Bxb5 Ne5 was a Benko Gambit witha few pecularies, like the knight on a5. Not necessarily a bad thing! But White prevailed 1-0 (55) in Svidler,P (2747)-Radjabov,T (2793) London 2013 CBM 154 [Javakhadze,Z/Alejandro Ramirez]] **10...Qb6!-/+ 11.Rb1?!** [11.Bd2 would at least keep the qiueen out of b4] **11...Qb4 12.Qd3?!**

White tries to hold on to his pawn, but it only costs him further. **12...Nd7! 13.f4 Nb6** White crumbles. **14.Bd2 Nbxc4 15.Nd1 Nxd2 16.Qxd2 Qxa4** Trading queens would also win, but Kyron adheres to the principle, "keep queens when your opponent is under attack" -- and takes another pawn as well. **17.Nc3 Qb4 18.Be2 Nb3 19.Qc2 Nd4** [19...Bd4 keeping the king in the center, would be consistent.] **20.Qd2 h5** This pawn adds to White's troubles. **21.0-0 h4 22.Nh1 h3 23.Ng3 hxg2 24.Kxg2 f5 25.Kh1 fxe4 26.Ngxe4 Bf5 27.Bd3 c4! 28.Bc2 b5** A picture perfect King's Indian/ Benoni position for Black. **29.Qg2 Nxc2 30.Qxc2 Qb3 31.Qg2 b4 32.Nd2 Qc2 33.Nd1 c3! 34.bxc3 bxc3 35.Nxc3** White essentially gives in. The rest doesn't need comment. **35...Bxc3 36.Rbd1 Rab8 37.Nf3 Qxg2+ 38.Kxg2 Be4 39.Rc1 Bf6 40.Rc6 Bxd5 41.Rxa6 Bc4 42.Ra7 Bxf1+ 43.Kxf1 Ra8 44.Rb7 Rfb8 45.Rc7 Rb2 46.h4 Ra1+ 47.Ne1 Bxh4 48.Rxe7 Bxe7 49.f5 gxf5** KyronGriffith won by resignation. **0-1**

In round 6, Griffith and Winslow would play for the championship, as Griffith was 5/5 and Winslow 4.5/5 after defetating NM Ruiyang Yan in avery close and exciting game that was decided after a blunder by Yan. It was a qulaity final game for the title from the tournament's two best players.

(7) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2149) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1943) [B23]

Live Chess Chess.com (6.1), 22.07.2020

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Lately there's been an influx of what used to be called "sidelines" against the Sicilian. It's probably Carlsen's influence. [2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 *(4...Qxd7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 e6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.e5 Ne4* goes way back and has "balanced" written all over it*.)* 5.0-0 Ngf6 6.Re1 *(*similarly *6.Qe2 Rc8)* 6...Rc8!? on the other hand is so modern there are articles on it in the last month or two.] **2...d6 3.Bb5+** An interesting relative to the Moscow Variation (2.Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+, see above). [3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Qd2 is another recent line in the same vein.] **3...Bd7 4.Bxd7+**

4...Nxd7?! [4...Qxd7 is more sensible. Compared to the line with the other White knight out, there is no longer a quick c3 to take back on d4 with a pawn. Black should try to make that work in his favor. 5.f4 Nc6 6.Nf3 g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.d3 e6 *(8...Nf6)*] **5.f4** Now it's a sort of Grand Prix closed Sicilian, where White doesn't have to decide which way to go with his light-squared bishop, as it's a done deal. Black will miss the counter in the center with ...Nd4. **5...e6** [5...g6 6.Nf3 (6.d4!? cxd4? *(6...Bg7!=)* 7.Qxd4 Ngf6? 8.e5 would really make Black wish he'd deploy differently.) 6...Bg7 7.0-0 and White still has the option of d4 or d3.] **6.Nf3 Ngf6 7.0-0 Qc7** Black is playing as if White is going to play d4, but White doesn't oblige him. **8.d3 Be7 9.Kh1** Hardly a necessary move. [9.Qe1 would start thoughts on the kingside. 9...0-0 *(9...0-0-0 10.a3* starts on the queenside as well.*)* 10.Qg3 when it's hard for Black to get any counterplay going.] **9...a6 10.a4 0-0 11.Qe1 b6?!** A "do-nothing" strategy is just not going to work, especially in a must win situation (Kyron is a half point ahead of Elliot, and everyone else is a half point behind again). **12.e5** [12.Qg3 gives both 13.e5 and 13.f5 added momentum.] **12...Ne8 13.Qg3 f5** Probably a needed reaction sooner or later. **14.Bd2?!** [14.exf6 Ndxf6 15.Qh3 Qd7 16.Re1 Nc7 17.Ng5 really leans into the weak e6 pawn.] **14...d5?!** [14...g6 15.Qh3 Ng7 is pretty solid.] **15.Qh3** [15.Ne2 right away] **15...g6 16.Be1!? Nb8 17.Ne2 Nc6 18.c3** Smoothly avoiding any action on the queenside **18...Qd7 19.Bh4 Bxh4 20.Qxh4 Nc7 21.Ng5 Qg7**

22.Rg1 The computer is all over playing on the queenside now, with some rook move to b1 or c1. But playing to open the g-file has a strong psychological effect, plus Black starts to run short on time. (less than five minutes to White's fourteen). **22...b5** [22...Rab8] **23.d4 c4 24.h3?!** [24.g4!] **24...b4** [24...Rab8! 25.axb5 Rxb5! gets some play going, when Black isn't much worse.] **25.g4 Rab8** [25...Ne7] **26.gxf5 exf5 27.Rg2** White: 10:30 Black: 1:45. Probably fatal time mismangent. **27...bxc3 28.bxc3 Rb2 29.Rag1 Kh8?!** [29...Qe7!?] **30.Ng3** [30.e6!?] **30...Rxg2 31.Rxg2 Nd8**

[31...Qe7!] **32.Rb2!** Black opened the road up for White. **32...Nce6 33.Nxe6 Nxe6 34.Rb6 Qd7** Black is in free fall. **35.Qh6** [35.Rxa6] **35...Ra8 36.Rd6** [36.Nxf5! puts Black away.] **36...Qe7?!**

[36...Qf7 37.h4] **37.Nxf5** Better late than never! **37...Qf7** [37...gxf5 38.Rxe6] **38.Ne3 Rb8 39.f5 Ng7 40.Rf6 Qe7 41.fxg6 Rb1+ 42.Kh2 Rb2+ 43.Kg3** KyronGriffith won on time. **1-0**

In an exciting game from the top section, Barbara Goodkind unloaded a vicious attack on Kevin Sun's position, and he seemed to survive the onslaught. But the advantage Goodkind had gained was too much, but it did provide a lot of entertainment on the broadcast.

(10) Barbara Goodkind (eatdinner) (1644) - Kevin Sun (kevin_mx_sun) (1443) [A45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 22.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 [Some people stop 4.e4 right away with 3...d5] **4.e4 d5** Others counter it [Then there are those who just let White have her way and let it turn into a Pirc Defense. 4...d6] **5.e5 Ng4?** [Critical was 5...Ne4 6.Nxe4 dxe4 7.c3 c5 with central counterplay.] **6.h3 Nh6 7.Qd2 Ng8 8.0-0-0** White has a winning advantage, space, development. **8...e6** Black tries to close it up a bit, so the development won't matter as much. **9.h4! Ne7** [9...h5; 9...h6] **10.h5** Always useful, whether to open the h-file (should Black dare to castle) or cramp Black further with h6, what's become known as "Alpha-Zero-style". **10...Nd7 11.hxg6** No hurry, but still good. **11...fxg6 12.Bg5 c5?!**

Out of the frying pan... [12...a6] **13.Nb5! Qb6?!** [13...0-0 14.f4] **14.Nd6+ Kf8 15.Qf4+ Nf5 16.g4** Now it's all but over. But that "but" can be a danger, as Kevin fights back in the center. **16...cxd4 17.gxf5 Bxe5 18.Bh6+?!** [18.Qf3 exf5 19.Nxf5! gxf5 20.Qxf5+ Kg8 21.Rh6 does it.] **18...Kg8** [18...Ke7!? 19.Nxc8+ Raxc8 20.Bg5+] **19.Qh4** [19.Qg5!] **19...Bxd6** [19...Qxd6 keeps the bishop on g7 and f6] **20.fxg6** [20.fxe6 destroys Black's main advantage, the center pawns.] **20...hxg6 21.Bd3 e5**

[After 21...Bf8! 22.Qg5 e5! 23.Nf3! *(23.Bxg6?* transposes to the game*.)* 23...Qf6 24.Qxf6 Nxf6 25.Bxf8 White still has an advantage (the center is coming down), but Black can play on] **22.Bxg6?** A critical position with only one way to win! [It turns out White had a shot, quite unexpected and hard to see: 22.Qe4!! Nf8 **a)** 22...dxe4 23.Bc4+ Kh7 24.Bf8#; **b)** 22...Rxh6 23.Qxd5+ Kg7 24.Bc4! *(24.Rxh6 Kxh6 25.Qg8* is less precise but still wins*)* 24...Rxh1 25.Qg8+ Kh6 26.Qh8+ Kg5 27.Nf3+ and 28.Rxh1 with queen, rook and bishop vs. lone king.;] **22...Bf8! 23.Qg5**

23...Qf6? Overlooking a tactic to continue White's attack. [23...Rxh6! (or the bishop first) 24.Rxh6 Bxh6 25.Qxh6 Nf8 is Black taking over. 26.Nf3 Qxg6 27.Rg1 Bg4! 28.Qxg6+ Nxg6 29.Rxg4 Kf7-+] **24.Bh7+!** Double check! **24...Kf7** [24...Kxh7 25.Bxf8+ Qh6 26.Rxh6#] **25.Qh5+ Ke6**

26.Bxf8? This must have been frustrating for Barbara -- is Black getting away? [26.Bd2! still targets Black's king, keeping all the pieces on and ready for 27.f4. Black can't hold it together.] **26...Rxf8** Black is a pawn up but still has to mobilize all those queenside pieces. The computer makes it around even (!). **27.Nh3 Kd6 28.Rhg1 Kc7** [28...Qe7!? 29.f4 Nf6! 30.fxe5+ Qxe5 31.Qxe5+ Kxe5 Black finally gets the queens off so doesn't mind the centralized king so much, but White can't turn it in her favor either.] **29.f4! exf4 30.Qxd5 Qd6?!** [30...Qe5 31.Qxd4 Qxd4

(31...a5!? with the "beginner" rook development*.)* 32.Rxd4 f3 33.Rc4+ might still cause Black's king grief.] **31.Qc4+?!** [31.Qxd6+ Kxd6 32.Rxd4+ Kc7 33.Rg7 f3 34.Nf2 doesn't let go.] **31...Qc5** [31...Kb8!] **32.Qd3** [32.Rxd4!] **32...Ne5!** Developing with tempo! The break Kevin was looking for. **33.Rg7+ Kb8 34.Qf1**

34...Bxh3? [Black had a shot: 34...d3! 35.Bxd3 Qe3+ 36.Kb1 Qxh3 winning.] **35.Qxh3** Black is still all right but time shortage must be getting to Kevin, as he drifts into a loss. **35...Qd6 36.Bd3?** [36.Be4 is a very nice bishop!] **36...Nxd3+** [36...Qd5! The same couuld be said for this queen!] **37.Rxd3 Qf6?!**

[37...a5! 38.Rb3 Ra7 39.Qh7 Qd5] **38.Rd7?!** [38.Qh7! is crushing; and 38.Qd7! Qc6 39.Qxd4 is as well;; even 38.Rxb7+!? Kxb7 39.Qd7+ Kb8 otherwise mate in three 40.Rb3+ Qb6 41.Qe7 manages to scoop up those pawns with checks, for a good queen vs. two rooks.] **38...a5! 39.R7xd4** [39.Qf3 Qc6 40.Qxc6 bxc6 41.R7xd4 is a good rook and pawn ending] **39...Ra6 40.Qf3 Re6** Kevin has held his game together and now should be okay; a blunder in time trouble was probably the rest. **41.b3 Re1+ 42.Kb2 Ka7 43.a3 Re7 44.b4 axb4 45.axb4 Rd7 46.Qf2 Rxd4 47.Rxd4 Rd8 48.c3 Rxd4 49.cxd4 Kb8 50.Kc3 f3 51.Kd3 Kc7 52.Ke4 Kd6 53.Qxf3**

53...Qxf3+?? It's hard for beginners and masters alike to get a grip on the impulse to trade, but keeping the queens on the board is a draw. This on the other hand... **54.Kxf3 Kd5 55.Ke3 b5** [55...Kc4 56.Ke4 and White definitely queens first.] **56.Kd3 Kd6 57.Ke4 Ke6 58.d5+ Kd6 59.Kd4 Kd7 60.Kc5** eatdinner won by resignation. What a battle! The advantage changed hands several times, and only at the end was it finally decided. Both players have a lot to be proud of, and also to inspect for what could have been. **1-0**

In the under 1600 section, one game stood out as instructive to watch. It was the 5th round game between Rama Chitta and Liora Ginzburg.

(9) Rama Chitta (draidus) (1488) - Liora Ginzburg (pegasus1015) (1338) [A45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 22.07.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.c3 0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nbd2 [White usually plays 6.h3 to be able to save the bishop] **6...Nh5** and Black decides to exchange it. **7.Bg3 Bg4!?** a new move. [Most often Black just trades, 7...Nxg3 8.hxg3 and then starts softening up the long diagonal with 8...e5] **8.Be2 Nxg3 9.hxg3 e5 10.Qb3!**

10...Nc6?! [10...Qc8?! is surprisingly in troubleafter 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Bc4!; 10...exd4 11.Qxb7 Nd7; 10...Nd7! 11.Qxb7 Rb8 12.Qxa7 Rxb2 13.Qa3 exd4! 14.cxd4 Rb8 15.0-0 White doesn't have much advantage, but does have a pawn.] **11.Qxb7 Qd7 12.Qb3** [12.Bb5!? Rab8 13.Qxc6 Rxb5 14.Qxd7 Bxd7 15.b3 also holds the pawn, without permitting Black much counterplay.] **12...Rab8 13.Qc2?!** [Nobody's going to bother the queen after 13.Qa3!] **13...exd4 14.cxd4 Nb4** [14...Bf5!?] **15.Qc3?** Now there is bother. **15...c5!** White is in big trouble. **16.a3 Nd5?** Black didn't have to retreat! [16...cxd4 crasheds through to c2 17.Nxd4 Bxd4 18.exd4 Bxe2 19.Kxe2 Rfc8 White's king in the center is a big target.] **17.Qc2** Holding onto that pawn may yet cost. [17.Qd3 Rxb2 18.0-0 keeps it managable.] **17...cxd4 18.Nxd4 Bxe2?!** [18...Bxd4! 19.Bxg4 Qxg4 20.exd4 Rfe8+ and again, the king is stuck between the rooks and in trouble.] **19.Kxe2?** [19.Nxe2 Rxb2 20.Qd3 might yet survive.] **19...Rfc8?** [19...Bxd4 wins again. It's a common phobia, giving away the great fianchettoed bishop, but getting at White's king is a much more important matter.] **20.Qd3 Qg4+** [20...Rxb2! is still an advantage.] **21.N4f3!**

21...Nxe3? [21...Qe6 dares White to take the repetition (and her probably should).] **22.fxe3** [22.Rh4!] **22...Bxb2** [22...Qxg3 23.Rag1 *(23.Rhg1)*] **23.Ra2** [23.Rab1; 23.Rh4! Qxg3 24.Rg1] **23...Qxg3 24.Nh4?** [The other knight could help out - 24.Ne4 Qg4 25.Rb1 Bg7 26.Rxb8 Qxg2+ 27.Ke1 Qh1+ 28.Kf2 Rxb8 29.Qxd6] **24...Rc3?!** [24...d5! 25.Qxd5? Rd8 26.Qf3 Qd6 27.Rd1 Bf6 is quite an attack still.] **25.Qe4 d5! 26.Qf3 Qxf3+ 27.Nhxf3 Rxa3 28.Rxa3 Bxa3** The game has simplified to equal material in the ending, but White has the edge because the black pawns are targets. **29.Ra1 Bc5 30.Ne5 Re8 31.Ra5! Bb6 32.Rxd5 f6 33.Nec4 f5 34.Rb5?!** [34.Nxb6] **34...Bxe3! 35.Nxe3 f4** White is still better, but there is only one white pawn left. **36.Rb7 fxe3 37.Nc4 Ra8 38.Kxe3! a5 39.Rb2 Ra6 40.Ra2 a4 41.Nb2 a3 42.Nc4 Ra4! 43.Nxa3 Kf7** [43...Kg7 would keep the pin on the knight] **44.Kd3** [44.Rf2+ Kg7 45.Nc2] **44...Ke6 45.Kc3 Kd5 46.Kb3 Ra8 47.Rd2+ Ke6 48.Nc4 Rb8+ 49.Kc3 Ke7 50.g4 Rd8 51.Re2+?!** [51.Rxd8! Kxd8 52.Kd4 should win the game] **51...Kf6 52.Ne3 Rc8+ 53.Kd4 Rd8+ 54.Ke4 Kg5 55.Kf3 Rf8+ 56.Kg3 Re8 57.Re1 Re7 58.Kf3** Now the game is just a draw. The last white pawn will be exchanged. **58...Re6 59.Re2 Rf6+ 60.Kg3 Re6 61.Kf3 h6 62.Kg3 h5 63.gxh5 gxh5 64.Kh3 Re5 65.Rg2+** Game drawn by agreement
[65.Rg2+ Kh6 66.Rg3 Rg5 67.Rf3 Ra5 68.Ng2 Kg5 0.75/0] **1/2-1/2**

The Tuesday Night Marathon online was a terrific success. In total, 62 players participated in this 6-round, G/35 +2 event. We paired the games manually on Chess.com and did so according to USCF standard rating. We played 2 rounds per week, and players could take byes and we posted pairings the afternoon before the games. Special thanks goes to Chief Tournament Director Judit Sztaray for providing all the TD support as well as player support during the rounds. Special thanks also to my co-commentator FM Paul Whitehead for an amazing job bringing the games of the online event to life.

To watch the broadcast of the final round, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSPRflfgTWQ
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSPRflfgTWQ)

For full standings, follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-july-2020
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-july-2020)

Mechanics' Online Events Recap

Friday Night Blitz July 17: Winner: NM Conrado Diaz (canonjamaicaella) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online-1313694
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online-1313694)

Saturday Matinee: July 18: Winner: NM Conrado Diaz (canonjamaicaella) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1313693
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1313693)

Saturday Night Blitz July 18: Winner: Clarence Lehman (FrankJamesMarshall) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-night-blitz-1313696
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-night-blitz-1313696)

Sunday Matinee July 19: Winner: Jeffery Wang (twangbio) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-matinee-1316320
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-matinee-1316320)

Sunday Evening Blitz July 19: Winner: Adam Mercado (A-Boy415) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1316321
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-late-night-showdown-1316321)

Monday Night Arena: Winner July 20: Winston Leung (TM_TheMaster) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-night-arena-263346
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-night-arena-263346)

Wednesday Matinee July 22: Winner: Kevin Fong (chessappeals) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-matinee-1327511
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-matinee-1327511)

Wednesday Late Night Showdown July 22: Winner: NM Conrado Diaz (canonjamaicaella) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1327510
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1327510)

Thursday Night Blitz: July 23: Winner: Christopher Bradley (ifyoustayreti) https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-night-blitz-1327513
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-thursday-night-blitz-1327513)

Selected Games

(1) Andrew Schley (andrewschley) (1770) - Adam Mercado (A-boy415) (1829) [B33]

Live Chess Chess.com, 19.07.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 The Sveshnikov Sicilian is one of the most respected defenses there is. Magnus (and before him Kramnik) recognized the virtue of the direct advance in the center. **6.Nb3** This avoids the main line theory that comes after the usual 6, Ndb5 but it doesn't present Black with any real difficulties. **6...Bb4! 7.Bd3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d5** Very direct, yet Black may well do better with advancing the pawn just one square to d6 and keep the center more static. **9.Qe2?!** [9.exd5 Qxd5 10.0-0 0-0 11.c4 is at least equal for White.] **9...0-0** [9...dxe4 10.Bxe4 Nxe4 11.Qxe4 0-0] **10.0-0** [10.Bg5] **10...dxe4 11.Bxe4 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 f5** Black has better pawn structure and so a little edge. **13.Qc4+ Kh8 14.Ba3 Re8 15.Rad1 Qg5** [15...Qf6! 16.Rd6 Be6] **16.f4** [16.Qf7 Qg6 17.Qxg6 hxg6] **16...exf4 17.Rxf4?!** This allows a developing tempo on the white queen. **17...Be6 18.Qf1 Ne5 19.Nd4 Bc4 20.Rxf5? Qe3+ 21.Qf2**

21...Ng4! This wins the exchange. As Black also has better pawn structure that adds up to a winning position. **22.Qxe3 Nxe3 23.Rc5?!** [23.Rb1 Nxf5 24.Nxf5 still allows White to fight on.] **23...Nxd1 24.Rxc4 Re1#** A-boy415 won by checkmate **0-1**

(2) NM Conrado Diaz (canonjamaicaella) (2519) - Ako Heidari (oka_ako) (1834) [D03]

Live Chess Chess.com, 22.07.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 d5 4.e3 Be7 5.Nbd2 White chooses a set up without c2-c4. This is a Torre Attack instead of playing the classic lines of the Queen's Gambit. **5...h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.Bd3 b6 8.Qe2!** This prevents the exchange of light-squared bishops with ...Ba6. **8...Bb7 9.0-0 c5 10.c3 Nc6** [Black may prefer to try 10...Ne4 11.Bxe7 Qxe7] **11.Rad1 Rc8 12.Ne5!** Both sides have developed in a direct manner. White jumps into e5 with the knight and plans to follow up with f2-f4. **12...Nd7** [12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nd7 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.f4 leaves White with the better bishop and attacking chances.] **13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.f4** Black has problems dealing with the e5 square. Exchanging the knights on e5 allows a strong pawn to come to that square, while not exchanging means living with the powerful knight. **14...Rfe8 15.Rf3 Nf8?!** After this the White attack just builds up. Better to bite the bullet and play [15...Ncxe5 16.fxe5 f6 17.exf6 Nxf6 with an edge to White.] **16.Rg3 f6 17.Ng4 Kh8 18.Rh3** [18.Nxh6 gxh6 19.Qh5 f5 20.Qxh6+ Nh7 21.Rg6 is a promising sacrifice] **18...f5**

19.Nxh6!? [19.Ne5 Nxe5 20.dxe5 keeps a positional edge] **19...gxh6 20.Rxh6+ Nh7** [20...Kg7 21.Qh5 Nd8! brings the knight to f7 to give Black decent defensive chances] **21.Qh5 Qg7?** [21...Rf8 22.Nf3 Rf6 23.Rxf6 Qxf6 24.Ng5 Rc7 would keep Black in the game with just a slight disadvantage] **22.Nf3** Suddenly White is just winning. There is no decent defense to the threat of Ng5. **22...Kg8 23.Rg6 Re7 24.Bb5 Qxg6 25.Qxg6+ Kf8 26.Bxc6 Rxc6 27.Ne5 Rc8 28.Rf1** The rook will enter the attack for a quick finish. There is no hope against the white queen and powerful knight on e5. **28...cxd4 29.exd4 Ba6 30.Rf3 Bc4 31.Rg3** Black resigns as mate is coming. **1-0**

Chess.com Club's League Update

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club finished off the Chess.com Club's League season in amazing fashion, defeating Club Ajedrez Jacque al Rey from Corrientes, Argentina 19-1 to finish the season with 5.5/8 and taking 9th place overall. This is an amazing accomplishment, given that the A Division in the league was composed of 61 teams from all around the world. Congratulations and thank you to all the club players that have represneted Mechanics' during this season.

In our final match, we were represented by GM Cristian Chirila, GM James Tarjan, IM Elliott Winslow, FM Kyron Griffith, FM Eric Yuhan Li, NM Ruiyang Yan, NM Michael Walder, Theo Biyiasas, Andrew Schley, and Benjamin Jiang.

Former Bay Area resident and friend GM Cristian Chirila finished both games quick. He had this fine win on board one and then won the following game as the result of a misclick by his opponent in the second game. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) FM Daniel Perez (labestia1998) (2144) - GM Cristian Chirila (TheCount) (2366) [B32]

Live Chess Chess.com, 18.07.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qb6 A little played line to avoid major Sicilian theory. Black forces the knight on d4 to move, but will likely give back a tempo by having to move the queen from b6 soon. **5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Be3** There is no rush for this move. White could be more flexible by playing 7. Bd3 and 8. 0-0 then see where Black places the pieces. **7...Qc7 8.Bd3 d6 9.0-0 a6 10.a4 b6 11.f4 Be7 12.Kh1 0-0** We have now reached a typical Sheveningen style pawn structure. Black has gotten a reasonable opening. White must now choose a plan on how to advance on the kingside and center. **13.Qf3 Nd7?!** [13...Bb7! would also be fine.] **14.Rad1 Nb4** Ready to eliminate the d3 bishop means White will not have an effective light-square attack on the black king. There are still the dark squares though. **15.Qg3 Re8 16.Nd4 Bf8 17.f5 Ne5**

18.Bh6?! [18.f6! g6?! 19.Qh4! with the pla of Bh6 (to exchange dark squared bishop) would give White a terrific attack. Black would be hard pressed to defend, and 19...h5 24. Be2! would threaten to sacrifice on h5.] **18...Kh8! 19.Bf4?**

walking into a pawn fork. Sometimes one gets confused with the complications of these Sicilian postions and it is easy to blunder. **19...Nexd3 20.cxd3 e5 21.Be3 exd4 22.Bxd4 f6** White is a piece down for a center pawn and objectively lost. Still there are attacking chances, especially in rapid chess. **23.Rc1 Qb7 24.Rf3 d5!** Opening the center gets the black pieces into the fight. You can't let White have a free hand on the kingside or the attack will build very quickly. **25.e5?! Nc6!** The return of the knight to c6 hits the center squares just in time to turn the game into a rout. **26.Bg1 Nxe5 27.Rf4 Nf7 28.Qh3 Ng5 29.Qh5 Qf7 30.Qg4 Bd6 31.Rff1 Rb8 32.Qd1 h6 33.Qb3 d4** Forcing the trade of queens to reach a piece up endgame. labestia1998 resigned. **0-1**

Another fun player to follow is NM Ruiyang Yan. Her agressive attacking style always delivers action, as it did in this game.

(6) Jose Aguirre (tryako) (1651) - NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2159) [B50]

Live Chess Chess.com, 18.07.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 e6 5.c3 Be7 6.Bg5?! 0-0 White has played one type of closed Sicilian. It's fairly reasonable but the black pieces have all gone to natural Sicilian squares and already Black is for choice. **7.Nbd2 Nc6 8.Bb3 d5** [hitting in the center. Another good plan would be to expand on the queenside with 8...b5] **9.exd5** [More natural seems to be advancing in the center with 9.e5 yet Black is also doing well in this line after 9...Ng4! 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.d4 cxd4 12.cxd4 Qb4!] **9...exd5** [9...Nxd5! 10.Bxe7 Ndxe7 would be a safe and simple, leaving better pawn structure for Black. 11.a3] **10.0-0 Bf5 11.d4 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 h6 14.Bh4 Re8 15.Re1 Ne4 16.Bxe7 Rxe7** The pawn structure is symmetrical and all is back to being even. Both sides are rightly focusing their pieces on the central squares and the e-file. **17.h3 Qd6 18.Nf3 Kh8 19.Rc1 Rae8 20.Ne5 f6 21.Qh5!?** White throws in a tactic instead of retreating the knight. Both plans are good. **21...fxe5 22.Qxf5 g6?!** This creates a little weaking of the black king's shelter. Instead [22...exd4 23.Qxd5 Qf4 24.Qxd4 Ng3 25.Qxf4 *(25.Rxe7 Qxc1+ 26.Kh2 Nf1+ 27.Kg1 Ng3+* would be a draw*)*] **23.dxe5! Rxe5 24.Qf7 Rf8 25.Qxb7?!** [25.Qc7! leaves White an advantage in the endgame of middle game. Black could not take the f2 pawn because of the pin on the e-file.] **25...Nxf2 26.Rf1?**

[26.Rxe5 Qxe5 27.Qc7! Nxh3+ 28.gxh3 Qe3+ 29.Kh1 Qxh3+ 30.Kg1 Qe3+ should be a draw] **26...Ref5!** This powerful move is decisive. Black covers the knight on f2 and sets up the winning battery on the f-file. **27.Rc8 Nxh3+! 28.gxh3 Qg3+** jij2018 won by resignation **0-1**

It was fun for Mechanics' to showcase our players against club's from other parts of the world in friendly competition. We had a steady group of players that played almost every week and we can say we are among the top 10 competitive online clubs in the world. Congratulations to the team!

Here are the final standings:

Division A Standings

#	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Pts	TB	Place
1	Kyiv Chess Club	W26	W12	W27	W10	W2	W14	W4	W5	8.0	42	1st
2	Bursa Buyuksehir Belediyespor	W35	W3	W56	W15	L1	W10	W5	W11	7.0	41	2nd
3	Batubey Chess Club	W48	L2	W12	W11	W16	W31	W6	W10	7.0	39	3rd
4	Thomas Jefferson Chess Club	W61	W6	W7	W21	L5	W19	L1	W14	6.0	42.5	4th
5	The Flaming Tigers Chess Club	W55	W34	W8	W22	W4	W11	L2	L1	6.0	42	5th
6	Club De Ajedrez Par de Alfiles	W46	L4	W9	W7	W13	W34	L3	W15	6.0	40	6th
7	Clube De Xadrez de Curitiba	W37	W20	L4	L6	W9	W21	W28	W24	6.0	38	7th
8	Uttara Central Chess Club	W51	W28	L5	W39	W34	W29	L10	W23	6.0	32.5	8th
9	Mechanics' Institute Chess Club	D24	W17	L6	W52	L7	W30	W21	W20	5.5	37	9th
10	Chess Club Politika	W49	W38	W29	L1	W15	L2	W8	L3	5.0	42	10th
11	Chess School Etud	W56	W36	W35	L3	W25	L5	W16	L2	5.0	38	
12	Amo Galaxias Thessaloniki	W18	L1	L3	W43	L28	W39	W29	W31	5.0	37.5	
13	Rio Grande Valley Rising Stars	L21	W19	W30	W17	L6	L20	W40	W27	5.0	35.5	
14	Echecs 16	W23	W42	L15	W56	W26	L1	W34	L4	5.0	35	
15	SK Sarajevo	B---	W25	W14	L2	L10	W26	W27	L6	5.0	35	
16	Mykolaiv Chess Club	W36	L56	W18	W25	L3	W47	L11	W26	5.0	34	
17	Toronto Kaiqi Chess Club	D60	L9	W52	L13	W41	W49	W37	D19	5.0	30	
18	Lviv State Chess Club	L12	W48	L16	W36	W22	L27	X47	W28	5.0	28.5	
19	ChessKidsNation Club	W40	L13	W24	W20	L21	L4	W38	D17	4.5	35.5	
20	Club Jaque al Rey	W41	L7	W37	L19	W30	W13	D24	L9	4.5	35.5	
21	Stevenson High School Chess Club	W13	W40	W45	L4	W19	L7	L9	H---	4.5	32.5	
22	Bangladesh Univ of Eng & Tech	L28	W51	W39	L5	L18	D25	W44	W35	4.5	30.5	
23	SSZ Olimpia Goleszow	L14	L26	W54	W33	D56	W50	W31	L8	4.5	29.5	
24	S. Ariz Chess Assn / Eastside CC	D9	W57	L19	W30	W37	H---	D20	L7	4.5	28.5	
25	SSDE- Societa Scacchistica Epor.	W58	L15	X43	L16	L11	D22	W50	W36	4.5	27	
26	Klub Szachowy Dwie Wieze Krakow	L1	W23	W42	W27	L14	L15	W32	L16	4.0	37.5	
27	Wasa SK	W32	W59	L1	L26	W38	W18	L15	L13	4.0	37	
28	Golden Sporting Club	W22	L8	L34	W55	W12	W35	L7	L18	4.0	35	
29	Bay Tigers Chess Club	W33	W43	L10	W32	L31	L8	L12	W38	4.0	34	
30	Iowa Pawn Stormers	W45	W53	L13	L24	L20	L9	W42	W40	4.0	32	
31	Loulé ++ Clube de Xadrez	L42	W33	X59	W38	W29	L3	L23	L12	4.0	30	
32	La Zubia	L27	W58	W47	L29	L49	W42	L26	W41	4.0	25.5	
33	MUKS SZS Cieszyn	L29	L31	L50	L23	W54	W58	W46	W37	4.0	24	
34	University Of Sydney Chess Club	W39	L5	W28	W51	L8	L6	L14	D44	3.5	35.5	
35	Bahrain Chess Academy	L2	D50	L11	W54	W44	L28	W49	L22	3.5	31	
36	Chesshouse Club	L16	L11	W48	L18	D43	W56	W55	L25	3.5	28.5	
37	Liga Regional de Xadrez	L7	W41	L20	W45	L24	W46	L17	L33	3.0	32	
38	SK Kriegshaber	W54	L10	W49	L31	L27	W43	L19	L29	3.0	29	
39	Ballarat Chess Club	L34	W55	L22	L8	W51	L12	L51	W54	3.0	28	
40	Rocky Top Chess Club	L19	L21	L44	W57	W45	W41	L13	L30	3.0	27.5	
41	Maritime Chess Club	L20	L37	W58	W46	L17	L40	W45	L32	3.0	26	
42	Nucleo Sporting. de Sao Miguel	W31	L14	L26	L47	W58	L32	L30	X57	3.0	26	
43	African Chess Lounge	W47	L29	F25	L12	D36	L38	D48	W49	3.0	24.5	
44	Club Ajedrez 64 Villalba	H---	L47	W40	L50	L35	W48	L22	D34	3.0	24	
45	Fox Valley 2020 Chess Club	L30	W46	L21	L37	L40	B---	L41	W52	3.0	22.5	
46	Waco Chess Club	L6	L45	W61	L41	W57	L37	L33	B---	3.0	22	
47	Chess Club Levice	L43	W44	L32	W42	W50	L16	F18	---	3.0	21	
48	Shamieh Chess Academy	L3	L18	L36	D49	W52	L44	D43	D51	2.5	29	
49	Port Elizabeth Chess Club	L10	W54	L38	D48	W32	L17	L35	L43	2.5	28.5	
50	UCS De Rode Loper	L59	D35	W33	W44	L47	L23	L25	---	2.5	27	
51	Karakol Chess Academy	L8	L22	W55	L34	L39	L54	W39	D48	2.5	26.5	
52	Pittsburgh Chess Club	L53	W61	L17	L9	L48	H---	W57	L45	2.5	23.5	
53	Charlotte Chess Center	W52	L30	W57	H---	U---	U---	U---	---	2.5	7.5	
54	Grassy Park Chess Academy	L38	L49	L23	L35	L33	W51	W56	L39	2.0	25	
55	Bishan Chess Club	L5	L39	L51	L28	B---	W57	L36	---	2.0	20	
56	Shakh Club	L11	W16	L2	L14	D23	L36	L54	---	1.5	32	
57	Learners Chess Academy	B---	L24	L53	L40	L46	L55	L52	F42	1.0	19	
58	Zukertort Amstelveen Jeugd	L25	L32	L41	B---	L42	L33	U---	---	1.0	17.5	
59	Halesowen Chess Club	W50	L27	F31	U---	U---	U---	U---	---	1.0	7	
60	Nashville Chess Center	D17	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	---	0.5	5	
61	GHA Chess Club	L4	L52	L46	U---	U---	U---	U---	---	0.0	11	

To watch the broadcast of this match, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bivbP0liml (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bivbP0liml)

Mechanics' Chess Social

This Friday's guest was FM Sunil Weeramantry. He is the Executive Director of the National Scholastic Chess Foundation and member of the USCF Scholastic Council. It was a fun conversation in which we discussed his stepson GM Hikaru Nakamura, his time as a chess player, his interactions with U.S. Senator Carl Levin in promoting chess to the U.S. Senate, and his work with the scholastic committee and council in helping to continue national scholastic chess championships in the time of COVID-19. He even provided an amazing story about Steve Brandwein when he visited Mechanics' Institute some twenty years ago. To watch the lively interview, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVawRWubuIg (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVawRWubuIg).

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 6:30-8PM - Online class with GM Nick de Firmian

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, July 25: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM
5SS G/15+2 USCF Rated: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=43721 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=43721)

Sunday, July 26: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5 : https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=45046 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=45046)

Monday, July 27: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=45047 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=45047)

Tuesday, July 28: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=55449 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=55449)

Wednesday, July 29: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=55450 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=55450)

Thursday, July 30: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=55452 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=55452)

Friday, July 31: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=55454 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=55454)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(3) DarkCapableCharm (1502) - CoolPowerfulGhoul (1457) [C54]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 This is about as good as the sharp 4. Ng5. It is just a choice for a quieter game to start with. **4...Bc5 5.c3 d6 6.0-0 Bg4 7.h3 h5?!** An interesting practical choice in a blitz game. Objectively this isn't good, but proving that in a quick game is a tough task. **8.hxg4 hxg4 9.Ng5!** This is the key defensive move. **9...0-0 10.Qb3** [10.b4 Bb6 11.g3 would be a direct way to shore up the kingside. Black would have clearly insufficient compensation for the piece.] **10...Qe7 11.Qxb7** The game is getting complicated with this pawn grab. It's simpler to focus on defense. [11.g3] **11...Na5 12.Qb5 Nxc4 13.Qxc4 g3 14.d4 gxf2+ 15.Rxf2 exd4 16.cxd4 Bb6 17.Qd3!** This gives White attacking chances greater than Black's. Plus he has the extra piece. **17...c5?! 18.e5! dxe5 19.Rxf6! g6 20.Qh3 Kg7**

21.Nh7?! [21.Rxf7+! Rxf7 22.Qh7+ Kf6 23.Nxf7 Qxf7 24.Bg5+ Ke6 25.d5+ wins the queen] **21...Rh8!** The best defensive chance. **22.Qh6+** [22.Bh6+ Kg8 23.Nc3 Rxh7 24.Nd5! White still has the extra piece and raging attack.] **22...Kg8 23.Bg5?** [23.Qg5 Rxh7 24.dxe5 still keeps the white advantage] **23...Qe8?** [23...Rxh7! 24.Rxb6 Qd7! 25.Rxg6+ fxg6 26.Qxg6+ Rg7 27.Qe4 Rf8 is good chances for Black] **24.Bd2?** This retreat is wrong [24.Rxg6+! fxg6 25.Nf6+ Kf7 26.Nxe8 Rxh6 27.Nd6+ Ke6 28.Bxh6 Kxd6 is a winning endgame] **24...Rxh7** suddenly Black has the advantage with the safer king and better development for the piece **25.Qg5 Bd8?!** [25...cxd4!] **26.dxe5 Bxf6 27.Qxf6 Qe6?** [27...Rd8] **28.Qf3?** [28.Qxe6 fxe6 29.Nc3 is a terrific endgame for White as the e5 pawn works wonderfully with the white bishop and knight] **28...Rd8 29.Ba5?**

29...Qxe5! This tactic threatens too much for White to handle. **30.Bxd8 Qe1+ 31.Qf1 Rh1+!** White resigned. A wonderful, wild game! **0-1**

(4) suIndu12 (1497) - CuteDynamicGargoyle (1594) [C53]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 d6?! This allows White to take the center. Better is [4...Nf6] **5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb6 7.d5** [7.Nc3; or 7.h3 hold the central ground] **7...Nb8 8.0-0 Qf6?!** It's better to develop the knight. The black queen is exposed coming out so early. **9.Re1 Ba5? 10.Bd2** [10.Qa4+ wins the bishop on a5] **10...Qxb2**

11.Qa4+! Bd7 12.Qxa5 b6 [12...Qxa1 13.Bc3 traps the queen] **13.Qc3 Qxc3 14.Bxc3** White has a piece for just one pawn, so should win the endgame with proper technique. **14...f6 15.Nbd2 a6 16.Bf1 Ne7 17.Nb3 Bg4 18.Nbd4 Nd7 19.h3!** Now the light squares in Black's camp are becoming weak. **19...Bh5 20.Ne6 Bxf3 21.Nxc7+!** The simplest way to take home the point. **21...Kd8?!** [21...Kf7 at least connects the rooks.] **22.Nxa8 Bh5 23.Rac1 a5 24.Bd4** With an extra rook and targets to hit, White is just cruising. **24...Nc8 25.Rc2 Re8 26.f3 f5 27.g4 Bg6 28.Nc7! Re7 29.Ne6+** Ouch **29...Rxe6 30.dxe6 Nf6 31.Bxf6+ gxf6 32.exf5 Be8 33.Ba6 Ne7 34.Rec1 Ba4 35.Rc7 Bc6 36.R1xc6 Nxc6 37.Rxc6 Ke7 38.Rc7+ Kd8 39.Rxh7 Ke8 40.e7 Kd7 41.Bb5+ Kc7 42.e8R#** suIndu12 won by checkmate **1-0**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

July 25, August 2, August 8 @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Virtual Summer Chess Camps 2020

June 1 through Aug 14 on selected weeks

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp)

9AM - 12AM morning camps: Monday through Fridays
Next camp: June 29-July 3 - camp is filling up so secure your spot now!
Other Weeks: 7/13-17, 7/20-24, 8/3-7
Min 4 students, max 9 students in each camp.

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes)

1-hour intensive class followed by optional online tournament
$25/class, $45/two classes or $80/four classes package

Available classes:
Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Wednesday 3:00-4:00PM - Coach Colin
Friday 2:00-3:00PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

7/25 Saturday - Saturday Matinee
Format: 3SS G/30
Join from 2PM - https://www.chess.com/live#g=5183511363 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/live#g=5183511363)
Starts at 3PM

7/25 Saturday - 5SS G/5+2
Join from 8PM- https://www.chess.com/live#g=5183511363 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/live#g=5183511363)
Starts at 9PM

7/26 Sunday - 6SS G/15+2, USCF Online Rated
Join from 1PM- https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom)
Starts at 2PM
7/27 Monday - Monday Online Arena

Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=275941 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/live#r=275941)
Start: 6:30PM

7/28 Tuesday - Mechanics' Player Appreciation Blitz
Format: 7 rounds of G/5+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1342721 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1342721)
Start: 6:30PM

7/29 Wednesday - NEW: Afternoon Rapid
Format: 4SS G/15+2
Join from 3PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1342735 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1342735)
Start at 4PM

Wednesday Late Night Showdown
Format: 5SS G/5+2
Join the tournament from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1342736 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1342736)
Starts 9PM.

7/30 Thursday Night Blitz
Format: 8SS G/3+2
Join the tournament from 6PM -
Starts 7PM.

7/31 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172804/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Some Hazy Memories of The People's Tournaments.

I played in a total of seven People's Tournaments, stretching from 1976 to 1990, all on the UC Berkeley Campus at the Student Union Building.

My results were not that good, and some results and games have been lost in the sands of time, as you can see in highlights from this list:

- 1976. I lost to John Grefe and Jeremy Silman and drew Kim Commons. How I did I fare in my other 3 games? Who knows? The score sheets are lost.

- 1977. This year I scored a mediocre 3 – 3, losing to John Watson, C. Bill Jones and John Grefe (again).

- 1978. My best chess year overall, but another dismal turnout at the Peoples with a 3 – 3 score. No highlights at all, I'm afraid.

- 1979. Another incomplete result - 3 scoresheets, including a loss to Richard Lobo.

- 1981. Finally a half-way decent result, with a 4 – 2 score. However, I lost in the last round to someone named Adam, and I have no idea who that is!

- 1984. Yet another incomplete result, 3 scoresheets and a 1.5 score. Did I withdraw?

- 1990. My last People's Tournament, and although I finished with an OK 4 -2 score, my play was not so good. I saved what was certainly a lost game in the last round against John Donaldson (given below), and that somehow is a fitting coda to my People's Tournaments.

So the big question remains, for me, is why? Why could I never get this tournament right?

Was it the non-stop drumming coming in through the walls, part of the experience playing there? Was it the city of Berkeley itself, lulling me with good vibes and good food: a somehow too-friendly atmosphere that wreaked havoc on my competitive drive?

Looking back, I think it may have been all those things, and a bit more. I loved seeing my friends in Berkeley: Alan Benson, Mike Goodall, John Grefe, Dennis Fritzinger, Paul Enright, Kerry Lawless, Paul Cornelius – the list goes on and on. Going over to Berkeley was a social event!

Perhaps for me, the People's Tournament was more about the people, and less about the chess.

And the chess suffered!

Event "Peoples Tournament, Berkeley 1990"

White: Paul Whitehead

Black: John Donaldson

Result: 1/2-1/2

Opening "Sicilian Defense: Canal Attack, Main Line"

1. e4 { This was our second game (see MI Newsletter #890 for our first, in 1982). As usual I trotted out my favorite 3.Bb5+ which has served me so well. } 1... c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. a4 Nc6 5. O-O Nf6 6. Re1 g6 7. h3 Bg7 8. d3 O-O 9. Nbd2 b6 10. Nc4 a6 11. Bxc6 Bxc6 12. a5?! { Better was } (12. e5) 12... b5 13. Nb6 Rb8 14. Bg5 h6 15. Bd2 Nd7 16. Qc1 Kh7 17. Nd5 e6 18. Nf4 e5 19. Nd5 Bxd5 20. exd5 f5 { Black is certainly much better, but over the course of the game never seems to land a haymaker. White escapes by the skin of his teeth. } 21. b4 Rc8 22. c4 cxb4 23. Bxb4 Nc5 24. Ra3 bxc4 25. Qxc4 e4 26. dxe4 fxe4 27. Rxe4! { This exchange sacrifice seems to solve most of white's problems. } 27... Nxe4 28. Qxe4 Rc1+ 29. Kh2 Qc7 30. Bd2 Rc4 31. Qd3 Qc8 32. Rb3 Rf5 33. Rb6 Rc5 34. Qxa6 Qxa6 35. Rxa6 Rcxd5 36. Bb4 Rb5 37. Bxd6 Rxa5 38. Rxa5 Rxa5 39. g4 Kg8 40. Kg2 Kf7 41. Bc7 Rb5 42. Bf4 g5 43. Be3 Rb4 44 Kg3 Bf6 45. Kg2 Ke6 46. Kg3 Kd5 47. Bd2 Rb3 48. Be3 Rb5 49. h4 Ke4 50. hxg5 hxg5 51. Nd2+ Kd3 52. Kf3 Bd4 53. Bxd4 Kxd4 54. Kg3 Kd3 55. Nf3 Ra5 56. Ng1 Kd2 57. Nh3 Ke2 58. f3 Ke1 59. Kg2 Rd5 60. Kg3 Kf1 { Drawn here or a few moves later. White could play 61.Nxg5! and make black nervous... } 1/2-1/2

Position after 27.Rxe4!

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

GM Nick de Firmian's column will return in August

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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Chess Room Newsletter #928

Gens Una Sumus!

- << Previous
- Next >>

Newsletter #928

August 1, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- People's Tournament
- Fred and Pat Mayntz Memorial TNM
- Mechanics' Player Appreciation Event
- July 26 Mechanics' Rapid
- Blitz Tournament of the Americas
- US Chess National Invitationals Report
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Short History of the People's Tournament: Part 3

The Players and Reflections Through Berkeley 2009

Tournament Information: 27th Annual People's Tournament

Posted by Alan Glasscoe

- 1. We are using the June 1996 rating list because the printing is more legible.
- 2. Players may play down one section for an additional fee.
- 3. Rule variations:

    a. All rook and pawn endings will be declared drawn.

b. You must say "I adjust" before taking back a move.

c. You may request a half point bye before the first time control.

- 4. If you leave the playing area for longer than 15 minutes during your game, please bring back pizza and Cokes for the directors.
- 5. If you must discuss your game in progress, do it in a language the directors don't understand.
- 6. The directors attempt to equalize and alternate colors, except when they are tired.
- 7. While your game is in progress, please do not disturb skittles players and players analyzing their completed games near you.
- 8. If you are in time trouble, add a few irrelevant moves to your scoresheet.
- 9. You may take home any pieces you capture.
- 10. To expidite payment of prizes, checks will be taped to a blind turtle which will be spun around three times and dropped a second floor window of the Oakland Mail Center.

From California Chess Journal Winter 2000, courtesy of Chess Dryad

The People's Tournament has always had a uniqueness unto itself, much like the city of Berkeley. Known to many back in the day (and even today) by the nickname "People's Republic of Berkeley" because of its extreme liberalism, it has always embraced differences in style and personality, and celebrated among other things, individuality and acceptance. It is fitting then that in the year 2000, from which this tournament announcement at the beginning was taken, that the first and only woman to win the People's Tournament was crowned. Camille Baginskaite took clear first at the People's, and then went on that same year to win the U.S. Women's Championship.

The People's Tournament over the years has seen some great local legends compete. Among the past winners of this event have been GM Walter Browne, GM Larry Christiansen, GM James Tarjan, and IM's Jeremy Silman and Jay Whitehead. Among these also are our very own GM Nick de Firmian (five-time champion) and IM John Donaldson (six-time champion) and along with IM Ricardo de Guzman, tied for the most titles. This is a pretty impressive list of chess Americana. What is also interesting are the names that have played the People's who have not won, players like GM Yasser Seirawan. In addition to national chess legends like those mentioned, however, many local legends were also winners, players like FM Craig Mar, NM Michael "fpawn" Aigner, and GM Vinay Bhat.

More recent years have not had repeat champions, the last one being de Guzman, who won three years in a row from 2010-2012. Top GM's like Conrad Holt (2017) and Parimarjan Negi (2016) have won it, but no one has been consistently dominant in close to a decade.

The Chess Dryad has been in invaluable resource in learning about the People's Tournament, as well as for learning about our California chess history. Thank you to Kerry Lawless and the many other contributors like Richard Shoreman and the many others. The link to the California Chess Journal for issues from 1986-2004 is here: http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/ccp/ccj/index.htm. For past issues of Chess Voice from 1968-1985 covering the local chess scene, follow this link: http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/ccp/chessvoice/index.htm. Here you can find coverage of the local historical events, as well as the games of the past from our local players.

When I think about the People's Tournament, it makes me reflect on the value our chess community places on an event like this. We have been lucky to attract premier national and state championship events to the Bay Area with great participation. This has no doubt been good for our chess community, as it has filled a need in providing our players, particularly our scholastic players, many opportunities to compete at a high level. Tournaments like the People's Tournament, though it has always had a competitive prize pool relative to other events, was really a Bay Area event, a Berkeley event, an event that harkened to the memory of the original founders and chess players and organizers of the 1970's and 1980's. What has struck me in what I have read, and what has impacted me is the importance of local chess, the importance of the stories and history of the local players and events, and the memorial events dedicated to the people that have built and promoted chess.

I am not saying state and national events are not as important. On the contrary, we support growth at the Mechanics' Institute and bringing high quality events, and we will continue to strive to continue organizing national events. Just as the Mechanics' Institutue is itself a preservation of chess history, however, it is incumbent on us to place just as high a value on promoting and supporting events like the People's Tournament. It is important that it not be just another tournament with the name People's plastered on the marquee. Even if just some stories are told of the event, the people remembered who made the event, it can now serve as a memorial and remembrance honoring the local organizers and players, those that passed and those still living, that made the event what it was, made it different, made it unique, made it very Berkeley.

Fred and Pat Mayntz Memorial
Tuesday Night Marathon Online - Aug 2020
USCF Online Rated!

via Chess.com, Open for everyone!

Aug 4 - Aug 25

Event Schedule:

2 rounds of G/35+2 each night: Round times are: 6:30PM & 8PM

Time control: 8SS G/35+2. (Game in 35 minutes with 2 second increement with each move.)

MUST Register in order to play:
Registration deadline in order to be paired in Round 1: 3PM on 8/4. Anyone registering after that will get a 0.5 point bye. Late registrations *might* be paired for extra rated games, but it's not guaranteed.

Eligibility - Players must have:

- current US Chess Federation membership
- chess.com account that is part of Mechanics' Chess Club (free account is perfectly sufficient) -- Don't have one yet? Easy to make, just follow the instructions below.

Format:

- 8 rounds of G/35+2 - more details on tournament details here.
- 2 Sections: 1600+ & u1600
- paired based on OTB Aug 2020 supplemental regular rating!
- paired based on swiss tournament rules
- NEW: pairing will be done manually using match command on chess.com. You'll need to be on chess.com/live and wait for your game to pop up!
- NEW: Pairing will be posted for Round 1, Round 3, Round 5 and Round 7 on Tuesdays 4:30PM
- if you register after Tuesday 3:00PM, you'll still be able to join the tournament, but you'll be paired as an extra rated, and will be given a 0.5 point bye for the first round.
- Players have to be online on chess.com/live when Round 1 starts, and their game will be started by the Chief TD.
- Chief TD will have a list of match commands needed to be executed one by one: IF players are not online when pairing is executed, they'll be put at the end of the list, and match command will be tried one more time. Two times not present on chess.com/live will automatically get a 0F.
- Late registraitons *might* be paired up for extra rated games, but it's not guaranteed.
- Games will be US Chess Online regular rated - tournament will be submitted 5-7 days after the tourament to allow all games to be screened for fair play.

Rules: standard USCF rules apply.

Mouse slips count, no takebacks.

If player is not logged in to live chess when pairings occur, we will assign a 0 point bye.

Section prizes will be awarded based on USCF standard rating.

Prizes: $600 based on 40 paid entries

	1600+	u1600+
1st Place	$150	$100
2nd Place	$75	$75
Best under2000	$50	
Best under1800	$50	
Best under1400		$50
Best Female	$50	

Fair Play

US Chess online rated tournament - most USCF rules and consequences apply.
Players should not use any outside assistance: not have other browsers open and not be talking to other people during their games
Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their kids' activity during the tournament to ensure fair play.
All games will be carefully reviewed by chess.com and Mechanics' Institue Chess club staff during and after the event.
Players found or believed to be violating fair play are not eligible for a prize and their account will be removed from Mechanics' group.

Players who are confirmed to be using outside assistance will be reported to US Chess and restricted from future Mechanics' online and over-the-board events.

Parents - Please help us educate your child that IT'S SIMPLY NOT WORTH THE RISK!

For some helpful links regarding fair play, please check these out:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KHWnA9snAQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2UAZBQvHRyTlc1f7t9UtcwEJW43YmPOgb22fXeP_imQ4Nga07Knx2Dyws
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knvySXCNfd8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7PI9Q9uoSE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5KaxBW7rlU

Fair play screening: all games will be screened by both Chess.com and by Dr. Kenneth W. Regan, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University at Buffalo.

The Organizer and/or the Chief Tournament Director can require players to play their games with a camera that records the player playing with a view to the screen. Players should be prepared to provide this precaution if asked to do so.

Prize distributions and rating submission will take place AFTER all games have been screened.

Entry Fee

MI library member: $30
Non-MI library member: $40

Play up fee:$10. Player 1400-1599 may play up to the top section.

Registraton deadline: 2 hours before tournament start time to be included in the pairing, any registration after - first round is not guaranteed.

Tournament Informaiton

What are the time controls mean?
Time controls are telling you how much time you have for each game.
G35+2 for example: Game in 35 minutes with 2 second increment. This means you get 35 minutes, your opponent gets 35 minutes and with each move every player gets 2 second added to the clock. So one game can last up to 70-80 minutes.

How many games/rounds?
The 6SS before the time control means how many rounds, i.e. how many games can a player play in the tournament. The tournaments are never elimination, so win or lose you can stay in the tournament.

Late joins: if you joining late, you'll get zero(0) points for each missed rounds.

Sections: Two sections: 1600+ and u1600 based on the 2020 Aug supplemental regular rating system.

Pre-requested byes: since we are pairing manually, based on OTB ratings, pre-requestd byes now available. You must let us know by Tuesday noon.

How to join us?

If you would like to play in our online tournaments, you must

1) Register for the event -- we need to know your full name, and chess.com ID

2) have an account on chess.com; -- don't have one? Sign up now!

3) join our club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated

Join tournaments: two ways to join the tournaments: 1) log in to chess.com and click on the link above; or 2) log in chess.com --> Play --> Live Chess
For this tournament only: Tournament directors will be pairing players manually, so no tournaments to join!

For players who are interested in play in our online tournament,
PLEASE fill out our online Players database: https://forms.gle/X3hChCWbusHp4Ze56
to get email notifications about last minute changes and invitational opportunities.

Mechanics' Institute Player Appreciation Tournament Draws 52 Players!

During the off week before the start of the next Tuesday Night Marathon next week, we decided to hold a free USCF online rated blitz event as a player appreciation event. This event was a thank you to players in our chess community for supporting us and playing with us during these difficult times. Prior to the tournament, we held a Zoom social for players to come on and interact with other players and ask us questions about chess events, the club, and anything o their minds. It was fun to see many of the faces of the players and letting them know the club is here and we look forward to the day live chess is back.

We also had a random drawing from among the people who registered for the event for 3 free entries into our next TNM. We used a computer random selection and here are the winners:

- 1. tazdevils2005
- 2. CocoKat
- 3. draidus

These players have been notified via email, congratulations to them!

As far as the tournament goes, we had 52 players participate. The winner was Eric Hon (microbear) with 6.5/7. In sole 2nd place was Tejas Mahesh (ChessTX9) with 6/7, and tied for 3rd were WCM Omya Vidyarthi (harkerchess), who flagged FM Kyron Griffith in the final round, and pineapplepro123, both with 5.5/7. Omya is currently the 3rd ranked girl in the country in the age 10 category.

Eric Hon won the event with this final round win against Javier Silva, who also had a fine tournament with 5/7. Mechanics' volunteer Tejas Mahesh was playing strong blitz this evening, and had this win over tournament favorite FM Kyron Griffith. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Tejas Mahesh (ChessTX9) (2020) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2368) [A40]
Live Chess Chess.com, 28.07.2020
[de Firmian]

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.e4 e6!? This is an unusual move in the King's Indian. For decades Black has always gone ...d6 to hit back on the dark squares with the aid of the fianchettoed bishop. **4.Nf3 Ne7 5.Be2** [5.Nc3 d5 6.Bd3 is a reasonable plan for White] **5...d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e5 Bg4 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 Qd7 10.Nc3 c6 11.Qd2 Nf5 12.Rad1 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Na6?!**

[13...f6 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Bxf6 Rxf6 would address the issue of the king side squares right away. Black would be only slightly worse then.] **14.g4! Ne7 15.Be2** [15.Bf6!] **15...f5 16.h3 Nc7 17.f4 Ne6 18.Bh4 b5 19.Qe3 a5 20.Nb1?!** [20.Bd3! planning Ne2 would be a good set up. Black cannot play 20...fxg4 21.hxg4 Nxd4? 22.Bxe7] **20...Rf7 21.Nd2 fxg4 22.hxg4 Nxf4??** a miscalculation. Black had gotten a good position but starts the tactics too soon. [He would be at least equal after 22...Raf8] **23.Rxf4 Bh6 24.g5 Nf5 25.Rxf5! Qxf5 26.gxh6** That's actually three minor pieces for the rook. No chance for the black side. **26...Qc2 27.Rf1 Rxf1+ 28.Nxf1 Qxb2 29.Bg4 c5 30.Be6+** ChessTX9 won by resignation **1-0**

Here are a few more games from the tournament.

(5) WCM Omya Vidyarthi (harkerchess) (2134) - Javier Silva (J3Chess24) (1899) [D13]
Live Chess Chess.com, 28.07.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 The Exchange (or Symmetrical) Variation of the Slav Defense. If both players want to, it can be pretty dry on the winning chances, but interesting things manage to happen most of the time. **4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bf4 e6** [Black could continue the "copy-cat" game with 6...Bf5] **7.e3 Bd6 8.Bg3** White would like to open the h-file if the bishops come off. **8...0-0 9.Bd3 b6 10.Rc1 Bb7 11.0-0 Rc8 12.a3 Na5 13.Bxd6 Qxd6 14.Nb5** White hopes to get some sort of concession out of Black with this not particularly well-prepared attack. [14.Qe2 just improves the position; or 14.Qa4; Or for that matter 14.Ne5 to follow with f2-f4 and some attacking stance.] **14...Qb8 15.Ne5 a6** [The better 15...Rxc1 16.Qxc1 Rc8 would take control of the c-file, at least for a bit, with balance upheld.] **16.Nc3**

16...Nc6?! [16...Nc4!? is certainly a way to play for a win, since 17.f4?? isn't possible: 17...Nxe3; 16...b5!? as well looks for complications. Consider: 17.g4!? Nc4!? 18.Bxc4 dxc4 19.g5 Ne4 20.Nxe4 *(20.Nd7!? Nxg5! 21.d5!)* 20...Bxe4 21.Nd7? *(21.f3)* 21...Qb7 22.Nc5 *(22.Nxf8?! Bf3)* 22...Qd5 23.f4 Qf5 24.Nxe4 Qxe4 25.Kf2] **17.f4!** The big difference in ...Nc6 and ...Nc4; this is a sharp move now. Now Black has to worry about a kingside attack and a queenside attack. **17...Rfd8 18.Rf3** [18.Na4!?] **18...g6** The computers actually like this but in the long run it means disaster on dark squares. **19.Rh3** [19.Qe1!?] **19...Nd7?** [19...h5!? is the computers playing with our attempts to think clearly. 20.g4!? hxg4! 21.Nxg4 Nxg4 22.Qxg4 Kg7 to contest the h-file.] **20.Qg4** Now White is building a strong attack. [20.Nxf7 is flashier but also good: 20...Kxf7 21.Rxh7+ Kg8 22.Rh6 *(*or *22.Qg4)*] **20...Ncxe5** Opening the f-file for White can't be good. [20...Nf8 21.Qh4 Qd6 would be

somewhat better] **21.fxe5 Nf8 22.Rf1 Qc7 23.Qg5** [Perhaps it's time to switch targets: 23.Rhf3 intending h4, Ne2-f4, and some crashthrough on g6.] **23...Re8 24.Qf6 Qe7 25.Qf4** of course trading queens would give away most of White's advantage. **25...Rc7**

26.e4!? dxe4? Black falls in line with White's dream, to get a knight on f6! [26...b5 27.exd5 exd5 at least give Black the e6 square for some time in the future.] **27.Bxe4! Bxe4?** [Even 27...Rxc3!? would be a drastic measure of interest (but still White is winning).] **28.Nxe4** There is simply no decent defense for Black now. **28...Nd7 29.Qh6 f5 30.exf6 Qf7 31.Ng5** harkerchess won by resignation. Well done by young Omya! **1-0**

(6) Cailen Melville (Mangonel) (1707) - PJ Liotino (CocoKat) (2123) [D70]
Live Chess Chess.com, 28.07.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 A not-so-offbeat line that slightly discourages the Gruenfeld Defense. **3...Bg7** [since after 3...d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 and Black has to retreat with the knight.; 3...c5!? 4.d5 d6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Ne2 e6 7.Nbc3 exd5 8.cxd5 0-0 9.Ng3 a6 is a type of Benoni played in Ding,L (2778)-Grischuk,A (2747) Wenzhou 2016.] **4.e4 d6 5.Nc3** The "price" White pays is it has to be the Saemisch vs. the King's Indian. **5...0-0 6.Nge2** [Another line is 6.Bg5 also "allowing" 6...c5; 6.Be3 is still the most played move here, although it no longer is thought to stop 6...c5 as taking the pawn give Black fine counterplay. 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.d5 Ne5 9.Ng3 e6 10.Be2 exd5 1/2-1/2 (52) Macias,J-Glavina,P (2405) Spain 1993] **6...c5** The most popular response. **7.d5 e6 8.Ng3** [Of course popular here (often via transposition) are 8.Bg5 exd5 9.cxd5; and 8.Be3 exd5 9.cxd5 Nbd7 10.Ng3 Ne5 11.Be2 h5 12.0-0 a6 13.a4 Rb8 14.h3 1-0 (45) Fedorowicz,J (2530)-Aguera Naredo,J Candas 1992] **8...a6** [Usually Black exchanges immediately 8...exd5] **9.a4 Re8** [9...exd5 10.cxd5 Nbd7 when e8 might be a usefulsquare for a knight (and leaving the rook on f8 helps for enforcing ...f7-f5).] **10.Be2 exd5** Black ran out of waiting moves! **11.cxd5 Nbd7 12.0-0** This can be a frustrating system against the Benoni; White's e4 is so solid, where is play going to come from? **12...Ne5** This move is a little suspect as the knight will get pushed back sooner or later Black hopes to then have some play against e4, but it's at the cost of two tempi. Better to look for queenside play or try [12...h5 13.Bg5! Qb6!? *(13...Qc7 14.Qd2 Nh7 15.Bh6; 13...c4!?)* 14.Qd2 Nh7 15.Be3 when 15...Ne5!? could be a better time for it] **13.Be3** [13.f4!? Neg4 14.h3 Nh6 (14...Nh5?! 15.Nxh5 gxh5 *(15...Bd4+ 16.Kh1 Nf2+ 17.Rxf2 Bxf2 18.Qf1 Bh4 19.g3 Be7 20.e5 gxh5 21.Bxh5* Black wins the Exchange -- with a precarious game.*)* 16.e5!) ; 13.h3 is "later" -- Black can't stop f3-f4, although White might want to get in Be3 first..] **13...Rb8 14.h3 h5!? 15.f4 Ned7**

Black is ready with ... h4 and ...b5, both indirectly affecting the e-pawn's security. It's a great plan, but it so happens that White has a standard shot. **16.e5! dxe5?!** [16...h4! a timely countershot 17.Nge4! *(17.Nh1 dxe5 18.f5 Nf8!* pulls towards Black*)* 17...Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Nxe5! *(18...dxe5 19.f5+-* is a typical rollup*)* 19.fxe5 Rxe5 looks like trouble, but White has a way out: 20.Bf3 Bf5 21.Bg5! f6 22.Bf4 Rxe4 23.Bxe4 Bxe4 24.Qg4! f5! *(24...Bf5 25.Qe2; 24...Qe8! 25.Bxd6 Rd8 26.Bxc5 Rxd5=)* 25.Qxg6 Qf6 keeps a balance] **17.f5!** The classic "Sealer-Sweeper" maneuver, stronger than usual with ...h5 in. **17...e4!?** The standard reaction to White's pawn-sac, even giving the pawn back; Black needs the e5 square. [17...h4 18.Nge4 (18.fxg6! fxg6 *(18...hxg3 19.gxf7+ Kxf7 20.d6!+-* Black's extra piece is no help.*)* 19.Nge4) 18...Nxe4 19.Nxe4 Nf6 *(19...gxf5! 20.Rxf5 Nf6)* 20.fxg6 fxg6 21.Nxf6+ Bxf6 and now 22.d6! is White crashing through for a win. for example 22...Kg7 23.Bg4 Bxg4 24.Qxg4 Qxd6 25.Rad1 Qe6 26.Rd7+ Kh8 27.Qxg6 *(27.Rxf6)*] **18.Qc2?!N** White should forget about the e-pawn and hit the accelerator! [18.fxg6 fxg6 19.d6! Qa5?! *(19...Kh8)* 20.Qc2 *(20.Nd5!* would tear into Black's flimsy kingside defence. *20...Re5 21.Nxf6+ Nxf6 22.d7! Nxd7 23.Bc4+ Kh8* computer move: *24.Nf5!!)* 20...Qb4 21.a5?! *(21.Na2 Qb6 22.Bc4+ Kh7 23.Nc3)* 21...b5! 22.Ra3 Bh6? *(22...c4!)* 23.Bxh6 Qd4+ 24.Rf2 b4 25.Ra4 1-0 (45) Fedorowicz,J (2530)-Aguera Naredo,J Candas 1992; 18.d6! , leaving the pawns, gets a bit more acc. to Stockfish. Perhaps the f7-pawn will hang after ...Kh8 and Bc4.] **18...Qe7?!** [18...Qc7!? 19.Rad1?? Qxg3] **19.Rad1 h4 20.Nh1?** [20.d6! Qf8 *(20...Qe5 21.Bf4)* 21.Ngxe4 White has a winning attack and it didn't even cost him anything. *(21.fxg6!? hxg3 22.Bc4 Re6 23.Bxe6 fxe6 24.Nxe4)*] **20...Ne5?** [20...gxf5 21.Rxf5 Ne5 puts up a better fight] **21.d6!** Better late than never! The tempo on the queen doesn't hurt either! **21...Qd8**

22.Bxc5?? [White needs to capture with the f-pawn! 22.fxg6 Nxg6 (22...fxg6 23.Bg5 Bf5 24.g4! *(24.Nd5)*) 23.Bg5 Re5 24.Bxf6 Bxf6 White has various strong moves, how about 25.Nf2 e3 26.Nfe4 Bg7 27.d7 Bxd7 28.Bc4 Nh8 29.Nd6 Help!] **22...Bxf5** Suddenly it's Black all over. White's play totall dries up. **23.Be3 Nfd7?!** [23...Nd3 puts White away; 24.Rxf5 gxf5 25.Bxd3 exd3 26.Qxd3 Re6 27.Bg5 Qb6+ 28.Nf2 Ne4 29.Ncxe4 fxe4 White just can't get that last d7 and d8Q in.] **24.Nd5?** [24.Nf2! causes just enough trouble: 24...Nf6 25.Qb3 Qa5 is no particular advantage, maybe a little for Black.] **24...Nd3** [24...Nf3+! 25.gxf3 *(25.Kf2 Rc8 26.Ne7+ Qxe7!)* 25...exf3 26.Bd3 Rxe3!] **25.Ne7+?!** [25.Nf2!] **25...Rxe7 26.dxe7 Qxe7 27.Qc7 Be5 28.Qa5 Qd6?!** [28...Nxb2] **29.Nf2**

29...Qe7? [29...Re8] **30.Nxd3!** Now it's White with the pull. **30...exd3 31.Bxd3 Bxb2 32.Bf4 Bd4+?!** [32...Bxd3 33.Rxd3 Ne5 34.Re1] **33.Kh1 Rc8? 34.Bxf5 Bb6 35.Qd5 Nf6 36.Qd3 gxf5 37.Qxf5 Rc5** CocoKat won on time in a lost position. What an outsized battle! [37...Rc5 38.Qb1!] **0-1**

(7) Barbara Goodkind (eatdinner) (1841) - Allyson Wong (Fascimate) (1746) [D00]
Live Chess Chess.com, 28.07.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 c5 3.c3 e6 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Qb6 7.Qb3 c4 8.Qc2 White has played a nice, safe London System and has an edge with an easy game to play. **8...Be7 9.h3 0-0 10.Be2 Bd8 11.0-0 Bc7 12.Ne5** Nicely keeping Black bottled up. **12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nd7 14.Nf3 f6 15.exf6 Bxf4?! 16.fxg7!** This intermezzo gives White a big advantage. **16...Rf7 17.exf4 Rxg7 18.Nd4 Nf6 19.Kh1 Ne4 20.Bf3 e5** Seeking complications in a bad position. A good practical choice even if it's objectively dubious. **21.Bxe4 dxe4 22.fxe5 Qh6 23.f4! Rg3 24.Rf2** [24.f5 stopping the c8 bishop from attacking would be an easier defense] **24...e3 25.Rf3 Rxf3 26.Nxf3 Qxf4**

White has played an excellent game up to here, fielding all of Black's attempts to confuse the game. **27.Rf1?** [White should play 27.Qe2 and 28.Re1, getting rid of enemy #1 on e3.] **27...Bf5** Black gains the tempo needed to keep the game equal. **28.Qa4 e2?!** [28...Bxh3! 29.gxh3 e2 30.Rg1+ Kh8 is ready with the perpetual after 31.Ne1 Qe4+ 32.Kh2 *(32.Rg2 Rf8 33.Qxa7! Rf1+ 34.Kh2 Qf4+ 35.Rg3 Rf2+ 36.Ng2 Rxg2+! 37.Kxg2 e1N+! =* is the only way to stay afloat at this point.*)* 32...Qf4+] **29.Qxc4+??** [29.Re1! Bxh3 30.Rxe2! is an advantage after 30...Bg4 31.Qd1 Bxf3 32.gxf3 Kh8 *(32...Qxf3+?? 33.Rg2+!)* 33.Re4] **29...Qxc4** Fascimate won by resignation. A tragedy for White after playing so well for so long. **0-1**

We want to thank everyone again for being a part of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club. We value our community and look forward to the day we can gather both online and live.

To watch the broadcast for this event, click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7reNV98_72w&t=5527s

For full results, click here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-institute-player-appreciation-tournament-1376767

4-Way Tie in July 26 Mechanics' Online Rated Rapid

We held a USCF rated rapid on Sunday, 6 rounds of G/15 +2. 24 players participated in a tournament that provided some dramatic moments that livened up the show. When it was all over, four players tied for first; Eric Hon (microbear), Manas Paldhe (manaspaldhe12), FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith), and Shaaketh Sivakumar (chessisveryfun1264), all with 5/6.

Eric Hon had a great tournament, and might have gone 6-0 had it not been for a slip up in time pressure against Manas Paldhe in round 5, where he had a winning position, only to fall into a mate. Here he had this fine win against a tough Austin Mei. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(8) Eric Hon (microbear) (1954) - Austin Mei (TitanChess666) (1817) [C55]
Live Chess Chess.com, 26.07.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6 Crude defense or subtle waiting move? After a bishop move Black could answer Ng5 with ...0-0 and then push the knight back. Maybe. Still, ...h6 isn't a wasted move, plus it has some aggressive aspects of its own. And when Mamedyarov, Ivanchuk, Short, Radjabov have played it more than once, it must be within the boundary of "playable." **5.c3 d6 6.Bb3 g5!?**

A radical expansion! Now both players avoid castling kingside... **7.h3 Bg7 8.Nbd2 Be6 9.Nf1 d5 10.Qe2 Qd7 11.g4!?** An overreaction? It's a sort of standoff, where neither side can push their h-pawn without disaster. In any case it's White who is ready with the knight-hop to the hole. **11...0-0-0 12.Ng3 Rhe8 13.Nf5 Bf8** [13...Bxf5! 14.gxf5 (14.exf5? e4 15.dxe4 Nxe4! *(15...dxe4 16.Nh2 Ne5* is quite strong as well, just not as strong.*)* 16.Be3 Nxc3! White collapses.) 14...Na5 15.Bc2 Kb8 when Black has the only active chances, with White's bishops inactive and ...c5.] **14.Bd2 Kb8 15.0-0-0 dxe4** [As always the computer confounds us with 15...Na5!? 16.Nxe5 Nxb3+ 17.axb3 Qc8; 15...a5 is its main move, no less inexplicable.] **16.dxe4 Bxb3** The problem is that now the knight on f5 is unopposed. **17.axb3 Qe6 18.Qc4?** This must be an oversight. [18.Kc2! Na5 19.c4 Nc6 20.Bc3! seems to keep a grip on things.] **18...Qxc4 19.bxc4 Nxe4** At least now Black has a pawn for his troubles. **20.Be3 Bc5** [Maybe the computer is broken; here it likes 20...Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 f6 22.Kc2 a5 23.Nd2 Nxd2 24.Rxd2 b6 putting every single pawn on the same color as that bishop!] **21.Nxh6?!** [21.Bxc5 Nxc5 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Nxh6 is much better timing. *(23.Kc2)*] **21...Bxe3+ 22.fxe3**

They've reached a fairly rare multi-piece endgame. Andy Soltis in his superlative "What It Takes To Become A Grandmaster" cites the Russian saying "The bishop is stronger... but the knight is more clever." If one knight is tricky, thing how sneaky four knights could be! **22...Nf2** [22...Rxd1+! 23.Rxd1 f6 looking for ...Na5] **23.Rxd8+ Rxd8?!** [23...Nxd8 24.Rf1 Ne4 25.Nd2] **24.Rh2** [24.Rf1!+/-] **24...Nd3+ 25.Kc2 f6 26.h4?** [26.Nd2!=; 26.b4? e4 27.Nd2 *(27.Nd4 Nce5 28.c5 Rh8* White folds like a house of cards.*)* 27...Ne1+ 28.Kd1 Nf3 29.Rf2 Nce5 30.Kc2 Nxd2 31.Rxd2 Rh8 32.Nf5 b6 Black gets there first.] **26...gxh4?** [26...e4! 27.Nd4 Ne1+ 28.Kc1 Nf3! works out for Black.] **27.Rxh4 e4 28.Nd4?!** [28.Nf7!] **28...Nce5 29.Nhf5 a6 30.Rh7 Nxc4 31.Ne6 Re8** [31...Rc8] **32.Nxc7 Rg8 33.Nd5 Rxg4 34.Kb3 Nd2+?!** not much going on there **35.Ka2 Nc4??**

[35...Nc1+ 36.Ka3 Nc4+ 37.Kb4 b5 Black has defensive prospects.] **36.Nfe7!** Suddenly it's Black caught in a mating net! **36...Rg2** [36...Nd6 37.Rh8+ Ka7 38.Rd8!] **37.Rh8+ Ka7 38.Nc8+ Kb8 39.Ncb6+! Ka7 40.Ra8#** microbear won by checkmate. A difficult game in all phases. **1-0**

He also had this win against FM Kyron Griffith, that under normal time controls may have been drawn.

(2) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2135) - Eric Hon (microbear)(1945) [B50]
Live Chess Chess.com, 26.07.2020
[de Firmian]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 a5 10.a4?! [10.Bb5 would be a better way to stop ...a4] **10...Nb4! 11.0-0-0 Be6 12.g4 d5! 13.g5**

13...Nxe4 14.fxe4 d4 microbear has played the opening very logically and directly. The central break with ...d5 and temporary piece sacrifice have allowed all the black pieces to become active. Black has a small edge at this point. **15.Nxd4 exd4 16.Qxd4 Qxd4 17.Bxd4** [17.Rxd4 Bc5 is also better for Black] **17...Bg4 18.Be2 Bxe2** [18...Na2+! 19.Nxa2 Bxe2 20.Rde1 Bxg5+ would gain Black the bishop pair and secure an edge] **19.Nxe2 Bxg5+ 20.Kb1 Rfe8?!** this gets into a little trouble. Safe was [20...Nc6 21.Bc3 Rae8 22.Rhg1 f6] **21.Rhg1 Bh6?!** [21...f6!] **22.Ng3 g6 23.Nh5!** Active play by Kyron highlights the weakness of the dark squares around the black king. **23...Red8 24.Nf6+ Kh8 25.Nd5+ Bg7 26.Bxg7+?!** [26.Bb6! Rd7 *(26...Rd6 27.Bc5* wins a pawn*)* 27.Nxb4 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 axb4 29.a5 is a big endgame advantage for White] **26...Kxg7 27.Nxb4 axb4 28.b3 Kf6** Now chances are back to even in this double rook endgame. **29.Rdf1+ Ke6 30.e5 Rd2 31.Rf6+ Kxe5 32.Rxf7 Rc8 33.Re1+ Kd6 34.Ree7 Rcxc2**

A curious position. Both sides have super aggressive rooks. **35.Rd7+ Ke5 36.Rxd2 Rxd2 37.Rxh7 Kd4! 38.Rc7 Rxh2 39.Rc4+ Kd3 40.Rxb4?!** [40.Rg4! would secure the draw as White would have many checks from the side.] **40...Rh7 41.a5?** [41.Rb5! Rg7 42.Kc1 would control that pesky g-pawn. After the game move White is in trouble.] **41...g5! 42.Rg4 Rg7 43.Kb2 Ke3 44.b4?** this is too slow. White needed to try [44.Kc3 Kf3 45.Ra4! g4 46.a6 bxa6 47.Rxa6 g3 48.Rf6+ which should draw with exact play] **44...Kf3 45.Rg1 g4 46.Kb3 Kf2 47.Ra1 g3 48.b5 g2 49.a6 bxa6 50.bxa6 Ra7!** By one tempo Black is able to get queen vs rook **51.Kb4 Rxa6 52.Rxa6 g1Q** Of course this is a theoretical win. It can be difficult to convert against tough defense, but the defense is very hard to do in rapid chess **53.Rf6+ Ke3 54.Rc6 Qb1+ 55.Kc5 Ke4 56.Re6+ Kf5 57.Rd6 Qc2+ 58.Kd5 Qd3+ 59.Kc5 Qa3+ 60.Kd5 Qa5+ 61.Kc6 Ke5 62.Rd7 Qa6+ 63.Kc7 Ke6 64.Rd8 Qa7+ 65.Kc6 Qa4+ 66.Kc7 Ke7 67.Rb8 Qc4+ 68.Kb6 Kd7 69.Rb7+ Kd6** good progress thus far by Black, pushing the white king to the edge **70.Ka7 Qa4+ 71.Kb6 Qb4+ 72.Ka7 Qa5+ 73.Kb8 Kc6! 74.Re7 Qb4+ 75.Ka7 Qxe7+ 76.Ka6 Qb7+ 77.Ka5 Qb5#** microbear won by checkmate **0-1**

24 players participated in all, for full results, please follow this link: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-uscf-online-rated-rapid-1354580

The Blitz Tournament of the Americas Coming Saturday August 15th! Closed Event for Titled Players from North and South America

The Mechanics' Institute and KmadaChess have partnered to organize The Blitz Tournament of the America's, a free event open exclusively to titled players (national federation or FIDE) to bring together the best players from North and South America in a celebration of chess. The event will take place on Chess.com on Saturday August 15 at 3PM Pacific time. It will be 9 rounds G/3 +2.

We want to promote chess in Latin American countries and to our Latin American community, and engaging in competition with the best players in Mexico, Cuba, Nicaragua, and many others will give our players in the U.S. and Canada the experience of playing opponents they may never have played. More importantly, the intent of the tournament is to bring new chess communities together through chess. Another important part of this event is that KmadaChess will stream the event in Spanish while Mechanics' will stream in English, and the players themselves and other streamers are encouraged to stream the event as well, with the goal of having a stream available from as many countries as we can. It will be a fun and exciting way to raise awareness of the event and expose as many people to this collaboration.

We have already received confirmation from many players to participate from the U.S. If you are a titled player wanting to participate, please fill out this form.

To see the advance entries, follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/blitz-tournament-americas. It will be updated on Mondays.

We look forward to this event, and we want to thank those that are helping make this event possible, especially KmadaChess and Chess Sin Fronteras.

Report on an Amazing Event During These Unique Times: An Inside View on the US Chess National Invitationals

by Dr. Judit Sztaray

'Desperate times call for desperate measures,' the saying goes. During these times, when over-the-board tournaments are on-hold indefinitely and when so many tournaments are cancelled or postponed, however, many organizations have taken their tournaments online. Mechanics' Institute and a few other organizations were some of the early ones to transition to virtual tournaments, and we have gained valuable experience with every event and learned how to handle fair play of online tournaments.

On an afternoon in late April, a few of us got on a call, and with the amazing support of Dewain Barber, the Dean of Scholastic Chess, the idea of the 2020 High School Senior Rapid Online event was created. What we didn't know back then was that this event will serve as a test and pilot event for the US Chess Executive Board and the Invitationals Committee to see if an online championship would be feasible.

The HS Senior Rapid Online was held on the second weekend in June, drawing almost 100 high school seniors. It was a great success, and gave them a final goodbye to their scholastic chess player career. Not only did everyone have fun, the event went without any major hiccups and the fair play screening did not find anyone in violation. Moreover, it showed US Chess that it's doable - with precautions and careful planning, we can organize events without serious fair play violations.

The invitational committee put together a detailed proposal and, after the approval of the US Chess Executive Board, the US National Invitational Online was created. The US National Invitationals have been held in conjunction with the US Open, and have been heritage events for the US Chess scholastic and senior community. When the hard but necessary choice was made to cancel the over-the-board events, the online option became the only option in these desperate times to continue the legacy of Denker, and the other four events.
Last weekend US Chess hosted three events: Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions and the Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions and the first three rounds of the National Tournament of Senior State Champions. This coming weekend the Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions, Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions, and the National Tournament of Senior State Champions will finish up with the last three rounds.

The event is run like a tight ship: the players are manually paired offline with a tournament software, as is done in live over-the-board play. Pairings are posted ahead of the round, and at the announced round times players are matched on chess.com/live platform (very similar to the Tuesday Night Marathon Online). Players are monitored through a zoom meeting by two cameras: one front facing connected to the players' computer from which they are playing, and another so called "angled" camera that shows the player and his/her computer screen. This setup allows section TDs to fully monitor the players and serves as an efficient deterrent from fair play violation. Games are also sent to Dr. Ken Regan to add an additional fair play screening measure.

I'm honored to work under the leadership of NTD Jon Haskel, with the best group of TDs from around the nation. I'm serving as the backroom TD: duties include executing matching commands, connecting with Section TDs to solve issues with players, monitoring games for fair play, and gathering results. Games are also covered with live broadcast with prestigious guests, such as GM Robert Hess, WFM Jennifer Shahade, IM Daniel Rench and GM Hikaru Nakamura. Watch the past coverage on US Chess' youtube account or this coming week on their twitch channel live.

Northern California sent five excellent representatives to the five different National Invitationals. Past weekend we had IM Andrew Hong taking 2nd place in the Denker and WIM Rochelle Wu tied for 2nd, 3rd on tiebreaks in the Haring. IM Elliott Winslow is standing at tied for 7th place, 10th place in tiebreaks in a super strong field after 3 rounds of the Seniors.

This coming weekend you can follow the Barber and Rockefeller, and see how Elliott closes in the Senior. Tune in to twitch.tv/uschess this coming weekend, and follow the exciting games.
Read more about the upcoming weekend here: https://new.uschess.org/news/us-chess-premier-invitationals-conclude-weekend-chesscom

Further event reports are here:
by WGM Tatev Abrahamyan: https://new.uschess.org/news/wgm-tatev-abrahamyan-denker-and-haring
and John Hartmann's quick report: https://new.uschess.org/news/checa-wins-denker-while-wang-takes-haring

I'll be back next week with the final report on this event and some of the conclusions and projections what this event could mean for online chess.

Any questions, my inbox is always open: jsztaray @milibrary.org

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Mechanics' Online Events Recap

Friday Night Blitz July 24: Winners: Clarence Lehman (FrankJamesMarshall) and Jonah Busch (Kondsaga)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online--1331093

Saturday Matinee: July 25: Winner: NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-matinee-1331106

Saturday Night Blitz July 25: Winners: Winston Leung (TM_TheMaster), Kevin Sun (kevin_mx_sun), Robert Smith (maturner)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-late-night-blitz-1331107

Monday Night Arena: Winner July 27: Adam Mercado (A-Boy415)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics-monday-arena-275941

Wednesday Late Night Showdown July 29: Winner: Eric Hon (microbear)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1342736

Mechanics' Chess Social

This week's Mechanics' Chess Social had GM Cristian Chirila. He currently leads the chess program at the University of Missouri and is a regular commentator with the St. Louis Chess Club. He is also winner of the 2018 National Open and a regular chess streamer. He previously lived in the Bay Area for a few years, and we had a lively discussion with a good friend on his current activities and old memories from his time in the East Bay. We will include the link for the interview in our next newsletter.

To follow GM Chirila on his livestream, click here: https://m.twitch.tv/countlive/profile

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Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead

Thursday 6:30-8PM - Online class with GM Nick de Firmian

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian

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Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom

Saturday, August 1: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/15 +2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=67013

Sunday, August 2: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM

8SS G/5+2 USCF rated :https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentAug2SUN3PM

Monday, August 3: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=56760

Tuesday, August 4: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=56761

Wednesday, August 5: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=56762

Thursday, August 6: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=56763

Friday, August 7: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=56765

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(3) RareThirdDessert (1622) - aachess4321 (1735) [A03]
Live Chess ChessKid.com
[de Firmian]

1.f4 Bird's Opening is a good way to surprise your opponent. You have to be careful though to take control of central squares as 1. f4 doesn't do that as much as 1. d4 or 1. e4. **1...Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c5 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 6.0-0 e6 7.d4?!** This doesn't fit with the strategic plan of Bird's Opening as it now directly contests the center where Black is ready. Better to fianchetto the bishop with 7. b3. **7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Be7 9.Nc3 a6 10.f5?! e5** Now Black has a beautiful classical pawn center. **11.Nb3 Nc5 12.Qe2 Nxb3 13.cxb3 0-0 14.Re1 Bc5 15.Kh1 e4** This gives White a little time to get the pieces out, Black could have been very direct with [15...d4! 16.exd4 exd4 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Qxe4 Re8 19.Qxe8+ Qxe8 20.Rxe8+ Rxe8 with a big advantage in the endgame.] **16.Bd2 Qd7 17.Rac1** [17.Rf1] **17...Bb6** [17...Qxf5! steals a clean pawn as there is no good discovery from the knight on c3] **18.Na4 Ba7 19.Bb4 Rfc8 20.Bc5 Qc7 21.Bxa7!? Qxc1 22.Nb6?**

[22.Nc3! Rxc3 23.bxc3 Qxc3 24.Bd4] **22...Qc6?** [The cold blooded 22...Rxa7! wins a piece 23.Nxc8 Qxc8] **23.Nxc8 Rxc8 24.Bd4 Qc2 25.Bc3 Qxe2 26.Rxe2** White has made it to an even endgame. **26...b5 27.h3 Nh5?! 28.Kh2! Nf6 29.Bxf6 gxf6 30.Rd2 Rc5 31.Kg3** [31.b4! chases away the rook from defending the d-pawn 31...Rc4 32.a3!] **31...Kg7 32.Kf4 b4! 33.g4 Ra5 34.g5 fxg5+ 35.Kxg5 f6+ 36.Kf4 Rxa2 37.Rxd5 Rxb2 38.Kxe4?!** [38.Rd7+ Kg8 39.Ra7 is the easiest way to make a draw] **38...Rxb3 39.Ra5?** [39.Rd7+! Kg8 40.Rd8+ Kf7 41.Rd7+ Ke8 42.Rxh7 a5 43.Ra7 would still have good drawing chances] **39...Ra3!** now Black is winning with the two passed queenside pawns. White can't

exchange rooks as the a-pawn would queen, **40.Rc5 b3 41.Rc1 a5 42.Kd4 b2 43.Rb1 Rb3 44.Kc4 a4 45.h4 Rb8! 46.Kc3 a3** a good rook ending by aachess4321 **0-1**

(4) TastyCelery (1461) - MagicOm (1357) [C44]
Live Chess ChessKid.com
[de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 [Many players prefer to decline the gamit with 3...d5 4.exd5 Qxd5] **4.Bc4** The Danish Gambit is bold sacrifice of two pawns in the opening. It is sound enough, but Black can equalize by giving back the pawns at a good moment. **4...cxb2 5.Bxb2**

5...Nc6 6.Nf3 White's two raking bishops are a force to be reckoned with. Objectively Black is quite ok, but needs to be very accurate for the next few moves. **6...Bc5??** [Black needs to develop with check 6...Bb4+ when the game would be about even. Black's next move would be 7...Nf6 after either 7. Nc3 or 7. Nbd2.] **7.Bxg7** winning a pawn and then the rook on h8. The game should be over. **7...Nf6 8.Bxh8 Nxe4 9.0-0!** When you are ahead material make sure your king is safe. **9...d5?! 10.Qxd5 Qxd5 11.Bxd5 Bf5 12.Bxe4 Bxe4 13.Re1 f5 14.Nfd2?** This is the source of the trouble that follows. White is winning and should simply develop all the pieces. Thus the other knight should come out - 14. Nbd2! **14...0-0-0 15.Nxe4 fxe4 16.Rxe4??** Oh no! Just move the bishop on h8 and White stays a rook ahead. **16...Rd1+** Back rank chekmate coming. MagicOm won by resignation **0-1**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

August 2, August 8 @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
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Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

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June 1 through Aug 14 on selected weeks

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp

9AM - 12AM morning camps: Monday through Fridays
Next camp: August 3-7 - camp is filling up so secure your spot now!
Min 4 students, max 9 students in each camp.

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes

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$25/class, $45/two classes or $80/four classes package

Available classes:
Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Friday 2:00-3:00PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

8/1 Saturday - Saturday Arena

Format: 90 mins of G/5+2 - as many games as you can.
Join from 6:00PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=319280
Start: 7:00PM

8/2 Sunday - Sunday Rapids
Format: 6SS G/15+2
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=319280
Start at 6:30PM

8/4 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Marathon Online
Format: 8 rounds of G/35+2 (Swiss) 2 games per week; 6:30PM, 8:00PM
Register here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020

8/5 Wednesday - Late Night showdown
Format: 8SS G/3+2
Join from 8PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1429412
Start at 9PM

8/7 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1429411
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1. You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

FM Paul Whitehead

The King March, Part 1: The Road to Victory.

The sight of His Royal Highness taking a stroll out in the middle of the chess board – and sometimes right into the hostile fortress of the opposing side - never ceases to amaze us.

Haven't we been told countless times to keep the king safe? It's one thing when it's the endgame. Then we all know the theory of "centralization", and proudly bring our king forward. But in the heat of a middlegame battle? What's gotten into his head…!? But the king sometimes does as he pleases – he misses the action maybe, and goes right on in. Nothing can stop him. Nonchalant and without fear, he leads the battle and demands surrender of the enemy.

In the first part of this mini-series we find the king triumphant: the battle-field is his, and he shrugs off all who oppose him.

In the second part we will take a look at the absolute master of the king march, World Champion **Tigran Petrosian**. He deserves a chapter of his own.

Finally, in part three, we give our theme a twist. The king takes a walk all right, but now he's walking the plank - and meets his doom surrounded by hostile forces.

Our first position might be well known to you:

Short-Timman 1991.

Black is tied up, and this gave Short the idea… of bringing his king to h6! After **1.Kh2! Rc8 2.Kg3! Rce8 3.Kf4! Bc8 4.Kg5!**

Black resigned.

The following sequence is far more harrowing:

Weenik-Gans 1923.

The white king starts to walk… **1.Kd1 Nb2+ 2.Ke2 Qa6+ 3.Ke3 Nc4+ 4.Kxe4! gxf6 5.Qxf6 Qb6 6.Kf4! Qc7+** (Black thinks he's the one attacking!) **7.Kg5! Bd5 8.Kh6!**

Now that's a powerful king! **Black resigned.**

For a complete record we must include this classy endgame example from the Maestro himself, Paul Morphy:

Morphy-Salmon 1858.

We all know the drill: **1.Kf2! g5 2.Ke3 g4 3.Kd3 g5 4.Bc6 gxf4 5.gxf4 Rg8 6.Kc4 Rf8 7.Kb5** (As usual the defending side is curiously helpless and must wait for the axe to fall.) **Rg8 8.Ka6 Rf8 9.Kb7 Rg8 10.Kc8 Bb6 11.Rxg8 Kxg8 12.d8(Q) Bxd8 13.Kxd8.**

Black resigned.

A very famous endgame king walk we all should know is this one:

Cohn-Rubenstein 1909

1…Kf6! (Making a bee-line to the h3 square.) **2.Kd2 Kg5 3.Ke2 Kh4 4.Kf1 Kh3 5.Kg1 e5 6.Kh1** (White is getting that helpless feeling…) **b5 7.Kg1 f5 8.Kh1 g5 9.Kg1 h5 10.Kh1 g4 11.e4 fxe4 12.fxe4 h4 13.Kg1 g3 14.hxg3 hxg3 15.fxg3 Kxg3.**

White resigned.

Another textbook example:

Alekhine-Yates 1922.

1.Kf2 Kh7 2.h4 Rf8 3.Kg3 Rfb8 4.Rc7 Bb5 5.R1c5 Ba6 6.R5c6 Re8 7.Kf4! Kg8 8.h5 Bf1 9.g3 Ba6 10.Rf7 Kh7 11.Rcc7 (This is almost as bad as it gets!) **Rg8** (The stage is set, but it's curtains for black.) **12.Nd7 Kh8 13.Nf6! Rgf8 14.Rxg7! Rxf6 15.Ke5!**

The king triumphant! **Black resigned.**

Often in these games it's hard to say who's attacking who:

Cheparinov-Sutovsky 2013.

The white king is in check and must move. **1.Kg2 Ne1+ 2.Kg3** (Here we go!) **Qf3+ 3.Kh4 Qxf2+** (I imagine black was feeling OK here…) **4.Kg5! f6+ 5.Kh6!** (But now what?) **f5 6.Rg3 Qxe2 7.Kg5!!** (Cool as a cucumber, white threatens Qh7 mate.) **Rf7** (Unfortunate…for black.) **8.gxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qxf5+ Ke8 10.Bf4! Rxa1 11.e6.**

Unable to seriously prevent Qf7 mate, **black resigned.**

Another example of dual attacks – this one is quite extreme:

Kramnik-Kasparov 1994.

1.Ka3! (White seeks safety from the barrage of queen checks by moving forward.) **Qc5+ 2.Ka4! Qc2+ 3.Kb5 Qb2+ 4.Ka6 Qe2+ 5.Kb7 Rh7+ 6.d7.**

Black resigned. After 6… Qb5+ 7.Kc7! Rxd7+ (Or 7…Nxg4 8.Qe8+ Kg7 9.Qf7+ Kh8 10.Qf8 mate.) 8.cxd7 Qc5+ 9.Kb7 Qb5+ 10.Ka8! The king finally reaches a safe square at a8 and it's all

over.

Another dark-square themed king march in a volatile situation:

Korchnoi-Tal 1962

The first three moves should be obvious by now. **1.Kg3! Rb8 2.Kh4 Qf7 3.Kg5 fxg4 4.hxg4 Bd7 5.Rc4! a4 6.Rc7 a3 7.Rxd7!** (It's going to be a photo-finish.) **Qxd7 8.e6 Qa7** (There is no defense.) **9.Qe5!!** (An exquisite centralization, denying black the …Rb5+ and …Qf2+ possibility.) **axb2 10.e7 Kf7 11.d7.**

Voila! **Black resigned.**

In our next example white checks and checks and checks the black king, inviting a direct face-off with his own monarch. Watch what happens:

Kuershner-Tarrasch 1888.

1…Kg7 (The king comes out to play.) **2.Re7+ Kg6 3.Bb3 Rg2+ 4.Kh1 h3 5.Rd1 Rc8 6.Rd7+ Kf5 7.Rxa7** (White is losing anyway, why not take a pawn?) **Rc1+ 8.Bd1 Ne2!** (Threatens …Rg1 mate.) **9.Ra5+ Kf4 10.Rf6+ Ke3 11.Re5+ Kf2! 12.Rxe2+ Kf1!**

A picturesque finale. **White resigned.**

Finally, a mind-numbing double mating attack – who will land the final blow?

Shashin-Korchnoi 1973.

1.Kh2 Qd6+? (Apparently 1…Ng4+! would have saved the game.) **2.g3 Ng4+ 3.Kg2** (Not 3.hxg4? Qh6+ 4.Kg2 Qh1 mate.) **Nh4+ 4.gxh4 Qh2+ 5.Kf3 Qxf2+ 6.Ke4 Qe2+ 7.Kf4 Rf1+ 8.Kg5 h6+ 9.Kg6! Ne5+ 10.Qxe5 Rg1+ 11.Qg5!** (A spectacular move.) **Qxb2** (11…Rxg5+ loses as well.) **12.Rxg7+.**

That's a double-check, with mate next move. **Black resigned.**

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

GM Nick de Firmian's column will return next week August 8

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA

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Hours

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Mon	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Tue	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Wed	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Thu	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Fri	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Sat	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun	Closed	Closed	Closed

Upcoming Events

Various Chess Classes
Monday, November 30, 2020 - 4:00pm to 5:30pm
The Money Plot: A History of Currency's Power to Enchant, Control, and Manipulate, on Zoom
Wednesday, December 02, 2020 - 5:30pm
Write If You Dare!
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 11:00am
Bi-Annual Members' Meeting on Zoom
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 5:30pm

Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

[parking map]

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/929

(/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/)

Chess Room Newsletter #929

Gens Una Sumus!

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Newsletter #929

August 8, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Chess Clubs from Around the Country
- Fred and Pat Mayntz Memorial TNM
- Blitz Tournament of the Americas
- National Invitational Report
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Chess Clubs From Around the Country: An Introduction

The chess club is truly a special place, and we see its importance to those who love to play or follow the game, whether it be casually or more seriously. I have experienced and witnessed how infectious chess can be to those who are truly enthusiasts. It becomes something that stays with them all their lives, and in some cases, becomes a passion that cannot be left behind. When I stopped playing chess at the age of 19, I thought I was done with it. I had played competitively for about six years, achieved an expert rating, and felt I had gone as far as I could go before life stepped in to take my attention away. I returned to chess almost 20 years later and started on a course where it would soon become not just a rekindled passion, but a way of life. One of the things that struck me upon my return aside from the very different landscape of events and organizers was that quite a few of the same people I knew when I played 20 years ago were still playing and being active in the Northern California chess scene. For many of us, whether we do it for fun or if we are "in the business", chess always stays with us, in some form or another.

When I started my own chess company in 2012 called Castling Kids, one of the things that was really special for me through that experience was our weekend class meetings. As opposed to our after-school programs, which of course were all special in their own way, the weekend class was our club, our hub, the place where the devoted come to meet and where we were able to really solidify relationships with the kids as students and parents as supporters. That was our chess club, and that is where those of us that were part of it felt we were at home, among community.

When I came to the Mechanics' Institute in 2018, I recognized just standing in the chess room that there was a profound sense of history among inside those walls. One of the many things that makes Mechanics' Institute special is the importance of preserving and remembering those that have been a part of its history. You become a part of the club, the building, the tradition, and it lives on past you in history. For the last nearly 166 years, the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club has told the stories of generations of players, all with their own tales of chess, of life and of having a central place to gather, socialize, and compete. It is a place where everyone is gathered for the same purpose, all speaking the same language of chess.

As a member of the US Chess Club's Committee, I have had the opportunity to work with others across the country in updating the Guide to a Successful Chess Club (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://new.uschess.org/news/guide-successful-chess-club-updated) and learning what other clubs across the country are doing to build membership and about how clubs operate and the importance of chess clubs in their communities. So many people all across the county work hard to develop their chess clubs, no matter how big or small, because a chess club does more than just offer a place to play, it really provides a social outlet for many, no different from what a community center means to a community.

It is with this spirit and background I will begin writing about chess clubs from around the country and world. I will pick one club weekly and briefly discuss its history, evolution, and where they are today. I have always been curious about how others structure their clubs and the people that make up a club, and I'm hoping I can bring their experience to paper. Stay tuned next week for the first article!

Fred and Pat Mayntz TNM Report

The Fred and Pat Mayntz Tuesday Night Marathon is off and running, as over 60 players have joined and more coming in starting next week. As in our last TNM, the top section was stacked with players, making up over 80% of the field. After the first 2 rounds in the 1600+ section, 12 players go into next week's round 3 & 4 with 2/2, including some of the pre-tournament favorites FM Kyron Griffith, IM Elliott Winslow, and NM Ruiyang Yan.

In the under 1600 section, Pranav Pradeep is the only player perfect thus far with 2/2.

This tournament is 8-rounds USCF online rated, with 2 rounds played per week with round times of 6:30pm and 8:00pm. Ratings are done manually on Chess.com according to each player's standard USCF rating. Because of this, players may request byes for rounds and join the tournament late.

This tournament was named in honor of Fred and Pat Mayntz, who ran the Kolty Chess Club from about 1983-1993. It was the chess club I first started playing at when I was 12 years old in 1985, and they were both very kind and loved the game and the club. The Kolty Chess Club continues to operate today on Thursdays in Cambell, CA, though it is closed now due to the shelter in place order.

If you are still interested in joing the event next week and receiving half point byes for the first two rounds, you may register by following this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/TuesdayNightMarathonONLINEAug2020 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/TuesdayNightMarathonONLINEAug2020)

To watch the broadcast of the first two rounds, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7Fmzq1Gbfl (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7Fmzq1Gbfl)

Standings can be found here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fred-and-pat-mayntz-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fred-and-pat-mayntz-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020)

Here are some games from the round, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) PJ Liotino (CocoKat) (1608) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1943) [A61]

Live Chess Chess.com, 04.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 [3.Nc3 Bb4] **3...c5** A popular Benoni move order. Black assures White it isn't going to be a Benko (so he'll probably be more likely to play 4.d4-d5). Plus, now Black doesn't have to worry about a lot of annoying lines, like aggressive ones with a quick f2-f4, or for that matter super-solid ones with f2-f3. If White likes those above lines he has to play 3. Nc3, but then he has to worry about the Nimzoindian. [Part of the game plan is that Black wants a more exciting game than might happen in the Queen's Indian. 3...b6 But the QID isn't as tepid as it used to be.; A similar psychology is the Bogoindian, 3...Bb4+] **4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Bf4** An old move, even older than first thought, but with a new life. [7.Bg5 is rare these days, but nonetheless annoying for Black.; And 7.g3 remains more than a bit popular, with theory still expanding.; While 7.e4 is the "main line," 7...Bg7 8.h3 *(8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0* is the "old" ML*)* 8...0-0 9.Bd3 and this is the "Modern" ML. 9...b5?! is fine if you're playing a strong (or stronger) grandmaster and happy to get a draw, but for a Swiss System warrior you'll want it a bit spicier, risk and all.] **7...Bg7** [7...a6 used to be at least as popular, see next note.] **8.h3!?** White's plan is subversive: Save the bishop (which pressures d6) , avoid any targets (so no e2-e4, at least not until ready), complete development and await -- well, developments. [8.Qa4+!? Bd7 9.Qb3 has been an extremely popular line over the years, but players of Black may have found an adequate antidote. 9...Qc7 10.e4 *(10.Bxd6? Qxd6 11.Qxb7 Qb6 12.Qxa8 Qxb2 13.Rb1 Qxc3+ 14.Nd2 0-0!)* 10...0-0 11.Nd2 *(11.Be2 b5! 12.Bxb5 Nxe4! 13.Nxe4 Qa5+* gets the piece back, with a pretty annoying development lead (king in the center!)*.)* 11...Nh5!? 12.Be3 f5! 13.exf5 Bxf5! *(13...gxf5?! 14.Be2 f4 15.Bxc5!! f3 16.Bxf3 Rxf3 17.gxf3!!* was Korchnoi schooling Nunn in tactics and opening analysis: 1-0 (41) Korchnoi,V (2635) -Nunn,J (2600) London 1984*)* 14.Be2 Nf6 and in the latest Benoni analysis (well, in the Doknjas book published earlier this year!) Black was holding his own. But Wesley So showed the level of *his* analysis as well, in St. Louis probably at the same time as this book was being printed: 15.Nc4 *(15.0-0; 15.h3)* 15...Ne4 16.0-0 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Bd7 (17...Nd7!? is what had been played before, and given by Doknjas in over three pages of work! 18.Bf4 Rf6 *(18...Bc2!? 19.Bxd6 Bxb3 20.Bxc7 Bxc4 21.Bxc4 Bxc3)*) 18.Nd2 b5 19.Bxb5 Bxb5 20.Qxb5 Bxc3 21.Rac1 Bxd2 22.Bxd2 Nd7 23.Rce1 Rab8 24.Qd3 Ne5 25.Qe4 c4 26.Bc3 Rbe8 27.Qd4 1-0 (39) So,W (2765)-Sevian,S (2660) PRO League Stage, chess.com INT 2020] **8...0-0 9.e3**

This is a very current variation, but also was in ... the 1950s!! **9...Nh5** [9...b6 10.Nd2 Ne8 11.Nc4 Ba6 12.a4 Bxc4 13.Bxc4 Nd7 14.0-0 Ne5 15.Be2 f5 1/2-1/2 (38) Keres,P-Tal,M Tallinn 1954; 9...Ne8 10.Be2 Nd7 11.0-0 Ne5 12.Bxe5 dxe5 13.Nd2 f5 14.Qb3 Nd6 15.Nc4 e4 16.Nb5?! *(16.Nxd6 Qxd6 17.Rfd1 Kh8)* 16...Nxb5 17.Qxb5 b6 18.d6 Bd7 19.Qb3 b5=/+ and it was that other famous (Benoni!?) player who triumphed! 0-1 (45) Tal,M-Spassky,B Leningrad 1954; Nowadays the key move is 9...Na6! 10.Be2 *(10.Bxa6!?; 10.Nd2 Nc7 11.Nc4 b5! 12.Nxd6 b4* could easily become another case of White's king caught in the center*.)*] **10.Bh2 f5 11.Be2 Qe7 12.0-0 a6 13.a4 Nd7 14.Nd2 Nhf6 15.Nc4 Ne8 16.a5**

Black's opening might just be a failure, in that he's been pushed back and White has a lock on b6. **16...Rb8 17.Qd2 Ne5 18.Nb6**

18...Bd7N [18...Nf6 was previously played] **19.Rab1! g5 20.f4** White can proceed immediately: [20.b4! c4 *(20...cxb4 21.Rxb4* covers f4*)* 21.f4 gxf4 22.exf4 Nd3 23.Bxd3 cxd3 24.Qxd3 White is doing well.] **20...Nf7?!** [20...gxf4 21.exf4 Ng6 is to be preferred. Now White prepares to attack the kingside in general and the f5-pawn in particular.] **21.Bd3 g4 22.hxg4 fxg4 23.Rbe1** White's center should be the end of Black. **23...Nc7 24.Bg3 Nh6 25.e4** [25.Nxd7 Qxd7 26.e4] **25...Bd4+ 26.Bf2 g3**

Black may have thought White had missed something, and in fact he had missed something -- a winning defense! **27.Bxd4 Qh4 28.Rf3 Bg4?**

[28...cxd4 29.Ne2 Qh2+ 30.Kf1 Bg4 31.Rxg3 Kh8 32.Kf2 still allows Black to play on] **29.Be3?** [29.Rxg3!! Qxg3 30.Bf2! Qxf4 31.Be3! is a nice snapback winning the knight on h6 and the game.] **29...Qh2+ 30.Kf1 Qh1+ 31.Bg1?** [31.Ke2! loses a rook but not necessarily the game: 31...Qxg2+ 32.Kd1 Bxf3+ *(32...Qxf3+? 33.Kc1* is good -- for White*)* 33.Kc1 and Stockfish 11 makes this a hard nut to crack.] **31...Bxf3** but now it's bad news for White's king. **32.gxf3 Qxf3+ 33.Bf2 Rxf4** [33...Ng4!] **34.Nd1** [34.Qe3 Qg4] **34...Rbf8?!** [34...g2+ 35.Kg1 Qh3] **35.Qe3 gxf2** [35...Qg4! 36.Re2 Qh4 37.Ke1 gxf2+ 38.Nxf2 Rf3] **36.Nxf2 Qxf2+** The game is quite over, butr White plays on from inertia. **37.Qxf2 Rxf2+ 38.Kg1 Rxb2 39.e5 Ne8** [39...Nf7!?] **40.exd6 Nxd6 41.Re6 Nhf5 42.Nd7 Rf7 43.Nf6+ Kg7 44.Nh5+ Kf8 45.Nf6 c4 46.Bxf5 Nxf5 47.d6 Rd2 48.d7 Rfxd7 49.Nxd7+ Rxd7 50.Kf2 c3 51.Re5 Rf7 52.Rc5 Nd6+ 53.Ke3 Nb5 54.Kd3 Kg7 55.Rg5+ Kf6 56.Rc5 Rd7+ 57.Kc2 Rd2+ 58.Kc1 Rg2 59.Rc7 h5 60.Rxb7 h4 61.Rb6+ Kg5 62.Rxa6 h3 63.Ra8 h2 64.Rh8 Na3 65.Rg8+ Kf4 66.Rf8+ Ke4 67.Re8+ Kd4 68.Rd8+ Ke3 69.Re8+ Kf2 70.a6 h1Q+** ecwinslow won by resignation **0-1**

(6) Adam Mercado (A-boy415) (1637) - Kevin Sun (kevin_mx_sun) (1469) [E99]

Live Chess Chess.com, 04.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.Bd2 Nf6 12.f3 f4

The famous Mar Del Plata Variation. The battle lines are fairly clear. White: c4-c5 and break open the c-file; Black: g6-g5-g4 and checkmate! If only it were that simple! White's defense of g4 is pretty good at the moment, while Black's defense of c5... **13.b4?!** White wants to be able to recapture on c5 with a pawn, setting up a nice front. But there's just one problem: Black doesn't have to capture, and in fact doesn't under most circumstances anyway. [Therefore, 13.c5! is the right move. White saves a tempo, and in supersharp lines like this a move can be all it takes to swing the whole game in your favor. 13...g5 14.cxd6 cxd6 15.Rc1 Ng6 16.Nb5 Rf7 17.Qc2 Ne8 18.a4 h5 *(18...Bf8 19.Nf2* 1-0 (45) Toth,B (2395)-Sartori,S Napoli 1981*)* 19.Nf2 Bf8 1-0 (64) Rashkovsky,N (2505)-Gufeld,E (2525) Daugavpils 1978 20.a5 Rg7 21.h3 Nh4 1-0 (45) Toth,B (2395)-Sartori,S Napoli 1981; 13.Rc1 g5 14.c5 Ng6 15.Nb5 *(15.cxd6)* 15...Ne8 16.Qc2 Rf7 17.Nf2 Bf8 18.b4 h5 19.a4 Rg7 20.cxd6 1-0 (35) Hirneise,T (2421)-Arvola,B (2218) Caleta 2010] **13...g5 14.c5 Rf7** Attack and defense. c7 is the weak point after the c-file opens, so Black is thinking of covering it while at the same time setting up ...Bf8 and ...Rg7. [14...h5 looks to get in ...g4 right away;; The grounds for 14...Ng6 isn't so cut and dry. There is a principle: save your options. So here Black isn't entirely sure his rook wants to step up. But on the other hand, there is an option of ...Kh8 and ...Ng8-h6. Why is this so much more popular? It's unclear.] **15.cxd6** A similar concept is at play here. [15.Rc1 is played far more often, and in fact, is the only move that hasn't lost every game! It also doesn't open up the possibility of ...Qb6+.] **15...cxd6 16.Rc1** [16.Nf2 is the only move played previously, with no score.] **16...h5** This probably is okay, although Black has to worry about White's play down the c-file still. [16...Ng6 17.Nf2 h5 18.Nb5 Bf8 19.Qc2 0-1 (56) Wolf,G (1629)-Faldum,M (1923) Frankfurt 2012; 16...Bf8] **17.Nb5 Ng6 18.Qc2 g4!?** [The only game here went 18...Ne8 The threat was 19.Nc7 Rb8 20.Ne6! Another principle is that it will be hard for Black to break through without the light-squared bishop. But note that the pawn on b4 takes that square away from White's knight, should there be a later 20...Bxe6 21. dxe6. 19.Nf2 Bf8 20.a4 *(20.Nxa7 Rc7* 0-1 (56) Wolf,G (1629)-Faldum,M (1923) Frankfurt 2012*)* 20...Rg7 21.Nxa7!? (21.a5 Nh4 22.h3 a6 23.Na3 Nf6 *(23...g4 24.fxg4 Nf6* 1-0 (45) Toth,B (2395)-Sartori,S Napoli 1981*)* 24.Be1 g4 is still a complicated situation as Black's attack reaches perfect storm level. 0-1 (52) Ager,J (2109)-Hoellrigl,W (2204) Austria 2017) 21...Rc7 22.Nc6 bxc6 23.dxc6 White has sneaked in a2-a4 "for free" and has won here twice! 23...g4 24.fxg4 Nf6 *(24...hxg4 25.Bxg4 Qh4 26.Qb3+ Kh8 27.Bxc8 Raxc8 28.b5* 1-0 (35) Hirneise,T (2421)-Arvola,B

(2218) Caleta 2010*)* 25.gxh5 Nh4 26.g3 Rh7 27.b5 1-0 (64) Rashkovsky,N (2505)-Gufeld,E (2525) Daugavpils 1978] **19.Nc7 Rb8 20.Be1** [20.Ne6!? Qe8!? 21.b5! keeps an initiative burning for White while Black doesn't have any particular threats. Taking either pawn give White plenty of compensation.] **20...gxf3 21.Rxf3?** Now Black is getting some momentum. [21.Bxf3 Bg4 lets Black live with the knight at e6, until he gets ...Nf8 in to push it out.] **21...Bg4 22.Ne6 Qe7** [22...Qe8!] **23.h3?!** Black probably won't need encouragement, but it is nice to get the bishop to commit.. . **23...Bxf3 24.Bxf3 Bh6**

[24...Qd7!] **25.Qe2? Nh4??** A disaster ruins an exciting and excellent game! One suspects that the players just ran out ot time and started blitzing. [25...Nf8! leaves Black an exchange up with a won game.] **26.Bxh4 Qe8 27.Bxf6** [27.Bxh5!] **27...Rxf6 28.Rc7 Qb5 29.Bxh5 Rxe6 30.Qg4+ Kh8 31.Qxe6 Qb6+ 32.Kh1 Qxc7 33.Qxh6+ Qh7 34.Qf6+ Qg7 35.Qxd6 Rg8 36.Qxe5 Qxe5 37.Nxe5 Rg5 38.d6 Rxe5 39.d7 Rxh5 40.d8Q+ Kg7 41.Qc7+ Kf6 42.Qxf4+** A-boy415 won by resignation. Far from perfect, but a typical rough and tumble Mar Del Plata King's Indian. This siren line continues to lure grandmaster and club player alike to treasure and shipwreck. **1-0**

(7) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2148) - Adam Mercado (A-boy415) (1636) [B31]

Live Chess Chess.com, 05.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 [3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 was the later "surprise" in the World Championship 2018 match, when Caruana played 7.Nd5!? Nxd5 8.exd5 over and over again, with all sorts of new ideas. But no wins!] **3...g6 4.Bxc6** This committal but unbalancing capture has been gaining ground in popularity, not the least because Caruana dropped it on Carlsen in their World Championship match a couple times (Games 1 & 3) [before switching to 4.0-0 in Game] **4...bxc6** [4...dxc6 is more frequently seen (certainly by Carlsen!), but it's more a matter of taste than correctness.] **5.0-0 Bg7 6.Re1 d6** [6...e5; 6...Nf6 7.e5 Nd5 8.c4 Nc7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Qxd4; 6...Nh6!? is the Big Theory move -- planning to overrun the center after ...f5 next.] **7.h3** [7.c3 Bg4 hinders White's expansion] **7...Rb8 8.c3 e5 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Ne7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Rb1 Qa5?!** The opening was about equal before this. Black needs to take care of his pawns. **14.Be3 a6 15.Qd2 Re8 16.Nb3 Qb4 17.Bf4! Be5 18.Bxe5! dxe5 19.Qe3**

White sets up a classic lock on c5 with the knights. The lack of dark square control means that Black just never gets much play. **19...Be6?! 20.Nc5 Bc8 21.a3 Qb6 22.b4! Rd8 23.Rbd1 Bb7** A sad move to make as the bishop has no scope. It's hard to play the black side here. **24.Qg5 a5?** losing a piece but life was very tough here anyway **25.Qxe7 axb4 26.N3a4 Rxd1 27.Rxd1 Qb5 28.axb4 Qxb4 29.Qxe5 Bc8 30.Rd8#** jij2018 won by checkmate. Ruiyang is filling in the gaps and becoming a seasoned competitor. **1-0**

(8) Eric Smith (edoctorsmith) (2021) - Ashik Uzzaman (ashikuzzaman) (1859) [A01]

Live Chess Chess.com, 05.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.b3 f5 2.Bb2 e6 3.e3 Nf6 These are two players who are going to play what they want no matter what! **4.d4** It's hard to make sense of this, since the dark squares seem to be in control of White already. **4...Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.g3** White is swimming around for a purpose, but each move helps to control the center. **6...d6 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.0-0 Qe8 9.c4 Ne4** Now it's starting to look like the real thing. Black is thinking ...Bf6 and sure enough, the dark squares are contested with ...e5. Perhaps Black could play more calmly, [Say, 9...Bd7; or even 9...Bd8] **10.Nc3** A new move; [10.d5 Nd8 11.dxe6 Nxe6 12.Nbd2 N6c5 13.Nxe4 fxe4 14.Ne1 Qg6 15.b4 Bg4 16.Qd2 Na4 17.Ba3 Be6 18.Qc2 Qf6 19.Rc1 Nb6 20.Bb2 Qf7 21.Bxe4 Nxc4 22.Bxh7+ Kh8 23.Bg6 1-0 (29) Muench,U-Hartmann Frobenius,A, Bayern-chA (Women) 61st, Vorra 1990] **10...Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Bf6 12.Rc1 e5 13.d5 Nb8 14.Qc2**

14...f4? Black hits the gas while undeveloped. Often a formula for disaster. [14...Qh5 followed by ...Nd7 was preferable.] **15.exf4** There follows a long sequence of exchanges, leaving Black in a mess. **15...exf4 16.Bxf6 Rxf6 17.Rfe1** [17.Rce1! Qh5 18.h3! catches Black stumbling. 18...Bxh3?! 19.Bxh3 fxg3 *(19...Qxf3 20.Re8+ Kf7 21.Rfe1; 19...Qxh3 20.Ng5 Qh5 21.Re8+ Rf8 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23.Qf5+* and mate*)* 20.fxg3! Rxf3 21.Rxf3 Qxf3 22.Re8+ Kf7 23.Bg2! Qg4 24.Rh8] **17...Qh5 18.Qe4 fxg3 19.hxg3 Bf5?!** Black should try [19...Bd7 or; 19...Bg4] **20.Qe8+ Qxe8 21.Rxe8+ Rf8 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23.Nd4 Bd7 24.Re1?!** White keeps more of an advantage with [24.b4 or; 24.c5!? dxc5 25.Ne6+ Bxe6 26.dxe6 c6 27.Rxc5 Ke7 28.Rf5! Kxe6 29.Rf8] **24...Na6** Black is trying to survive, finally bringing out the queenside. But he has to be careful, and isn't. **25.a3 Re8 26.Rxe8+ Kxe8 27.b4 b6?**

Now White puts it away. **28.Nc6! Bxc6** This must be played as losing the a-pawn isn't a saving option. **29.dxc6** The game is over. The knight is buried. **29...Nb8 30.f4 a6 31.b5 axb5 32.cxb5 Ke7 33.Kf2 Ke6 34.Be4 h6 35.Ke3 g5 36.fxg5** Keeping passed pawn options on the kingside would have made it a bit easier, but deprived us of a nice finish. **36...hxg5 37.Kd4 Kf6 38.g4 Kf7 39.Bd5+ Kf6 40.Ke4 Kg6 41.Bc4 Kf6 42.a4 Kg6 43.Be6 Kf6 44.Bf5 Kf7 45.Kd5 Ke7 46.Bc2 Kf6**

Black has been keeping the White king out, but: **47.a5! bxa5 48.b6! cxb6** [48...Nxc6 49.Kxc6 cxb6 50.Kxd6 b5 51.Bd3 b4 52.Bc2; 48...Na6 49.Ba4! Nb4+ 50.Ke4 Nxc6 51.Bxc6 cxb6 52.Kd5 Ke7 53.Ba4] **49.c7 Na6 50.c8Q** edoctorsmith won by resignation. **1-0**

(1) Ian Liao (victor6688) (1227) - Pranav Pradeep (pranavpradeep2006) (1144) [C07]

Live Chess Chess.com, 05.08.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7?! [Black could equalize with 5...cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bd7] **6.c3** [6.exd5! exd5 7.0-0 would give White a nice lead in development in a now open position] **6...a6 7.Be2 Qb6 8.Nb3?! c4?!** [8...dxe4 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Nxc5 Qxc5 11.Be3 Qf5 is an edge for Black] **9.Nbd2 Nf6 10.e5 Ng8 11.0-0 Nge7?!**

12.b3 [White has a nice shot here - 12.Bxc4! dxc4? 13.Nxc4 Qc7 14.Nd6+ Kd8 15.Nxf7+ Ke8 16.Nxh8] **12...cxb3 13.Nxb3 Nf5 14.Qd2** These next few moves by White are a little slow, giving time for Black to develop. [14.a4 taking queenside squares and planning to exchange dark squared bishops with Ba3 would be good for White] **14...Be7 15.Bb2 0-0 16.Rab1 Rac8 17.Rfe1 Na5 18.Nxa5 Qxa5 19.Rec1 b5** [19...Bb5! 20.Bxb5 axb5 trades off Black's bad bishop in the French Defense. Black would have a strategic advantage after that. 21.c4] **20.a3 Rc6 21.Ra1 Rfc8 22.Bd1 R6c7 23.a4?** This is the source of all White's trouble in thie game, giving away a pawn which soon becomes very powerful. **23...bxa4! 24.Ra2 a3 25.Rc2?** White was in trouble before this, but now loses a piece with this move. **25...Ba4** [25...axb2 26.Rxa5 b1Q is also good] **26.Rc1 axb2 27.Qxb2 Rc4 28.Qb7**

28...Qb5! neatly solving all the problems of the pin on the a4 bishop **29.Qa7 Bxd1 30.Rxd1 Rxc3 31.Rxa6 Rc1 32.Ra1 Qb2 33.h3 Rxa1 34.Rxa1 Rc1+ 35.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 36.Kh2 g6 37.g4 Qf4+ 38.Kg2 Nh4+ 39.Kf1** [39.Nxh4 Bxh4 is equally hopeless] **39...Nxf3 40.Qxe7 Nxd4 41.Qf6 Qxf6 42.exf6** White is done for. The rest requires no comment. **42...Nb3 43.Ke2 Nc5 44.Ke3 Nd7 45.g5 Kf8!** remembering to get the king in the game **46.Kd4 Ke8 47.f4 Kd8 48.h4 Kc7 49.Kc3 Kd6 50.Kd4 e5+ 51.fxe5+ Nxe5 52.Ke3 Ng4+ 53.Kd4 Nf2 54.Ke3 Ng4+ 55.Kd4 Ke6 56.Kd3 Ne5+ 57.Ke3 Nd7 58.Kf4 Nb6 59.Ke3 Kf5 60.Kf3 d4 61.Kg3 Ke4 62.Kf2 d3 63.Ke1 Nc4 64.Kd1 Ke3 65.h5 gxh5 66.g6 hxg6 67.Ke1 d2+ 68.Kd1 Nb2+ 69.Kc2 d1Q+ 70.Kxb2 Kd3 71.Ka3 Kc3 72.Ka2 Kc4 73.Kb2 Qd2+ 74.Ka3 Qc3+ 75.Ka2 h4 76.Kb1 h3 77.Ka2 h2 78.Kb1 h1Q+ 79.Ka2 Qh2+ 80.Kb1 Qe1#** checkmate - good technique by pranavpradeep2006 after he got the advantage. **0-1**

(2) Pranav Sairam (chesspilot01) (1997) - Saatvik Krishnan (saatvik1) (1742) [B07]

Live Chess Chess.com, 04.08.2020

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.Be2 e6 This opening strategy by Black has a logic to it. The light-squared bishop develops outside the pawn chain and Black sets up a defensive front on the third rank. White has a freer hand in the position and thus an edge, but it takes patience to make use of it. **7.Be3 Be7 8.Qd2** This queen move is not so useful here. [8.0-0 d5 9.e5 Nfd7 10.Ne1 saves a tempo] **8...0-0 9.0-0 d5! 10.e5 Nfd7 11.Ne1 Bxe2 12.Nxe2 c5** The opening is equal now. It is a French Defense with the light-squared bishops exchanged. **13.c3 Nc6 14.f4 Qa5 15.Qd3 Rac8 16.a3 cxd4 17.cxd4 Nb4?!** [17...Qa6 18.Qxa6 bxa6 would be a good plan. The doubled a-pawns don't hurt Black as there is play on the b-file. Black is happy to get to an endgame where the king is safe.] **18.Qd1! Nc6 19.Nd3 f6 20.g4** [20.f5! exf5 21.b4 Qa6 22.Nef4 gets an active position. e.g. 22...fxe5 23.dxe5 Ndxe5 24.Nxe5 Nxe5

25.Qxd5+ Nf7 26.Qxf5] **20...g6 21.exf6 Bxf6 22.Ne5 Ndxe5 23.fxe5 Bg7 24.Nf4 Rce8?!** [24...Bh6! gives Black more active possibilities.] **25.Qd3 Rf7 26.h4** Preparing to storm the kingside. [26.Rf2 Qc7 27.Raf1 builds up on the kingside with piece play] **26...b5?** This is too slow. Black needs to hit back on the kingside squares - [26...Qd8! 27.h5 Qh4! is enough counterplay to hold the balance] **27.h5! g5** This isn't good but Black had no decent move. The loss of one tempo on move 26 was critical. **28.Nh3 Rxf1+ 29.Rxf1 h6 30.Qg6** The black kingside is swiss cheese - full of holes. **30...Re7**

31.Bxg5! hxg5 32.Nxg5 Rf7 technically the best move as it holds off mate for the most moves **33.Qxf7+ Kh8 34.Qe8+ Bf8 35.Qxf8#** chesspilot01 won by checkmate **1-0**

The Blitz Tournament of the Americas Coming Saturday August 15th! Closed Event for Titled Players from North and South America

Working in partnership with Kmada Chess and Chess Sin Fronteras, the Mechanics' Institute will organize The Blitz Tournament of the Americas on Saturday August 15 starting at 3PM. This is a free event open to all titled players from North, Central, and South America, with the goal of showcasing our unique chess communities and cultures together in friendly competition. The event will be streamed in both English and Spanish and will unite players from differnet backgrounds in bringing top quality chess to the masses. The event will be a 9-round open swiss, G/3 +2.

If you qualify and are interested in playing, please sign up here: https://www.chess.com/club/the-blitz-tournament-of-the-americas (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chess.com/club/the-blitz-tournament-of-the-americas)

To see the current player list, click here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/blitz-tournament-americas (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/blitz-tournament-americas)

Report on an Amazing Event During These Unique Times: An Inside View on the US Chess National Invitational Championships Online Part 2 – A weekend of challenges

by Dr. Judit Sztaray

Last week I shared the brief story of the birth of the US Chess National Invitational Championships Online as well as gave a quick report on the first weekend. All three events on the weekend of July 25-26 went surprisingly smooth and were great success: Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://new.uschess.org/denker) and the Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://new.uschess.org/haring) and the first three rounds of the National Tournament of Senior State Champions (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://new.uschess.org/senior) were held.

This past weekend, Aug 1-2, the Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://new.uschess.org/barber), Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://new.uschess.org/rockefeller) were held and the National Tournament of Senior State Champions (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://new.uschess.org/senior) finished up with the last three rounds.

Saturday went similar to the first weekend - smooth, on time, without any hiccups. Surprisingly I was off from my computer by 8pm on Saturday evening. Little did we know that Sunday would be the most challenging day: from multiple chess.com server crashes to having to abort games and restart rounds, this day put all of our experience to test. I'm happy to report that both players and staff survived, but of course I always love the opportunity to share situations which can be educational for all of us, and who knows, maybe one day will come handy for everyone.

Server Crash in the middle of the round – What to do?

That little blinking icon that says server not connected, or it taking longer to load. Deep down you fear that your game might be lost by a server crash. What to do in these situations? You can panic, and say “oh well." Or you can help your TDs so they can help you continue your game. This happened with many of the players in the Senior and Barber tournaments, and one last game in the Rockefeller - yet with amazing realization, many players took a quick snapshot of their standing, either by phone or computer. These snapshots not only included the positions, but reflected whose move it was next and the times for both players. Using these snapshots, we recreated the positions, generated the FEN codes, and within a short period of time, games were manually restarted by a command in chess.com

What are FEN codes? Forsyth–Edwards Notation (FEN) is a standard notation for describing a particular board position of a chess game. The purpose of FEN is to provide all the necessary information to restart a game from a particular position.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forsyth%E2%80%93Edwards_Notation)
Here's the FEN for the starting position:

rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1

And after the move 1. e4:

rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/4P3/8/PPPP1PPP/RNBQKBNR b KQkq e3 0 1

You may recognize that it not only has the position of the pieces, but also who’s move is it, whether castling is still allowed (among a few other things.

Did you know that blind players can understand pictures on a board with set positions if we insert the FEN positions into the picture description? This is something we are planning to start doing very soon.

So next time you lose connection, or chess.com's server is about to crash, do the TD a favor and take a snapshot so they can restart your game. Of course, it goes without saying that if this happens, we need both players to agree on the position.

The other challenge was the elephant in the room: we all knew this weekend we were more likely to come across a player who was not following the fair play agreement. Indeed, reports confirmed that three different players needed to be removed from the tournament: one from Rockefeller and two from the Barber championship. While I don't want to go into the details of the pending cases, because all three are still open, I do want to use the opportunity to reiterate that whether online or over-the-board, US Chess rules apply - well most of them anyway. During the removal of one of the players, games in the next round had already been stalled. Only a few moves were made, and so per Chief TD's direction, we aborted the game. Per US Chess rules: If a game has started, but for any reason players need to restart, the TD can authorize that within 10 moves.

The day went by quick, and the tournaments concluded successfully. It was especially an entertaining day because none other than GM Daniel Naroditsky commentated on the games all Sunday long. He is not only sharp and funny, but can make any game interesting. Check out his stream channel. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.twitch.tv/gmnaroditsky)

Being an integral team member of the first big national online championship has taught me many things, including being grateful for Mechanics' Chess Club and the chance for the players to gain the depth of experience during these past few months; to be thankful for the team with whom I have the pleasure of working; and finally, to trust myself, and in an emergency situation, under time pressure, trust that it will work out.

I suggest every player should do the same: practice, gain experience, and then trust yourself!

Northern California sent five excellent representatives to the five different National Invitationals. Past weekend we had IM Andrew Hong taking 2nd place in the Denker (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-Denker-Standings.pdf) and WIM Rochelle Wu tied for 2nd, 3rd on tiebreaks in the Haring (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-Haring-Standings.pdf). IM Elliott Winslow is standing at tied for 7th place, 10th place in tiebreaks (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-Senior-Standings.pdf)in a super strong field after 3 rounds of the Seniors.

This past weekend, our very own IM Elliott Winslow finished 12th place among a super strong field (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-Senior-Standings.pdf), IM Christopher Yoo took 4th place in the Barber (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-Barber-Standings.pdf), and Jacob Liang placed 2nd place in the Rockefeller Championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-Rockefeller-Standings.pdf).

With these amazing performances, Northern California places 2nd in the team competition:

https://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-State-Team-Standings.pdf (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-State-Team-Standings.pdf)

John Hartmann's quick report: https://new.uschess.org/news/victors-crowned-barber-rockefeller-and-senior-tournaments (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://new.uschess.org/news/victors-crowned-barber-rockefeller-and-senior-tournaments)

Any questions, my inbox is always open: jsztaray@milibrary.org

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Mechanics' Online Events Recap

Friday Night Blitz July 31: Winner: Eric Hon (microbear)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics---friday-night-blitz-showdown-1428774 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics---friday-night-blitz-showdown-1428774)

Saturday Night Arena: Winner August 1: Jonah Busch (kondsaga)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics---saturday-arena-319280 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/mechanics---saturday-arena-319280)

Sunday Evening Rapid: August 2: Winner: Shaashwath Sivakumar (Dontmesswithme_2)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/sunday-evening-rapid-1376813 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/sunday-evening-rapid-1376813)

Wednesday Late Night Showdown August 5: Winners: Winston Leung (TM_TheMaster), Adam Mercado (A-Boy415), Clarence Lehman (FrankJamesMarshall)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1429412 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-wednesday-late-night-showdown-1429412)

Mechanics' Chess Social

This week's guest on the Mechanics' Chess Social will be Dr. Alan Kirshner. Dr. Kirshner is the Director of the Weibel Elementary chess team, a nationally recognized chess team that has won several state and national titles. He was also a professor of political science and history at Ohlone college, as well as tournament organizer and influential force in scholastic chess for more than 30 years. To watch the interview, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UymwpqM_Jso (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UymwpqM_Jso)

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 6:30-8PM - Online class with GM Nick de Firmian

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, August 8: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/15 +2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77879 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77879)

Sunday, August 9: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM

6SS G/10+2 USCF rated :https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentAug9SUN3PM
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentAug9SUN3PM)

Monday, August 10: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77880 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77880)

Tuesday, August 11: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77883 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77883)

Wednesday, August 12: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77885 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77885)

Thursday, August 13: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77887 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77887)

Friday, August 14: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77888 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=77888)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(3) LightIris (1326) - thecalboys (775) [B12]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 This is the Advanced Variation of the French Defense. White has a pawn chain pointed to the kingside and looks for play in that direction. **3...c6?!** This move doesn't help Black in the opening. One more square gets counterplay on the queenside - [3...c5!] **4.Nf3 f6 5.exf6** [Developing pieces with an eye towards the black king would be good. 5.Bd3 is recommended.] **5...gxf6?!** [5...Nxf6! is a lot safer. It's always good to get that knight out quickly.] **6.Bf4 e5?** This gives away an important pawn which controls key central squares. Any

developing move would be better. **7.dxe5 fxe5?** [7...Nd7 would only be a pawn down. Black now loses a piece.] **8.Bxe5 Bg7** [8...Qe7 9.Qe2!] **9.Bxg7 Qe7+ 10.Be5!** saving the extra bishop that has been won. 10. Qe2 would also have done the job. **10...Nf6 11.Bd3 Rg8 12.Qe2 Qb4+ 13.Nc3 Qxb2?!**

14.Bxf6+ That hurts. Notice White has all bishops and knights out while Black only had gotten the queen in play. **14...Kf8 15.Qe7#** LightIris won by checkmate **1-0**

(4) LateLoyalBagel (1262) - BestMiddleSun (1129) [D10]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.c5?! This pawn advance just comes closer to the black side, where the pawn will have little choice but to exchange itself after advancing two moves. **3...b6 4.cxb6 Qxb6** [4...axb6! opens the file for the rook and brings the pawn to closer to the central fight.] **5.Nc3 Bf5 6.f3 Nd7?!** [6...Nf6 is a developing move that stops White from advancing in the center with the e-pawn.] **7.e4! Bg6 8.e5?!** This opens the diagonal for the black bishop on g6. Better to win a pawn with [8.exd5] **8...e6 9.Nge2 Bb4 10.g3 Ne7 11.Nf4? Bf5?!** [11...Nf5! Causes a lot of trouble as it is difficult for White to guard the d-pawn.] **12.g4 Bg6 13.Nxg6 Nxg6 14.Bd3? Nf4?**

This should lose the knight. [14...Qxd4! White left the d4 pawn hanging with the last move, so just take it!] **15.0-0?** [15.Bxf4! Qxd4 16.Qd2] **15...Nxd3 16.Qxd3 0-0** [16...Nxe5! is a sneaky move to steal the e-pawn as White cannot capture the knight due to the pin on the d4 pawn.] **17.h4?! h6?!** [17...Nxe5] **18.h5 Rfe8 19.a3 Be7** [19...Nxe5] **20.Na4 Qb7 21.Nc5?!** miscounting the defenders on the c5 square. This would be a good move if White prepared it with 21. b2-b4. **21...Nxc5 22.dxc5 Bxc5+ 23.Kh1 a5 24.f4 Qa6 25.f5?** Oh no! Overlooking the threat of Black's last move. White was still well in the game with 25. Qf3 **25...Qxd3 26.fxe6?! Qxf1+ 27.Kh2 Rxe6** BestMiddleSun won by resignation **0-1**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

August 9, 15, 23, 30 @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Virtual Summer Chess Camps 2020

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#camps)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualSummerCamp)

9AM - 12AM morning camps: Monday through Fridays
Next camp: August 10-14 - camp is filling up so secure your spot now!
Min 4 students, max 9 students in each camp.

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes)

1-hour intensive class followed by optional online tournament
$25/class, $45/two classes or $80/four classes package

Available classes:
Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Friday 2:00-3:00PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

8/8 Saturday - USCF Rated Blitz
Format: 9SS G/5+2
Join from 6:00PM -
https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/RegularOnlineRatedTournamentSaturdayBLITZG5Aug87PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/RegularOnlineRatedTournamentSaturdayBLITZG5Aug87PM)
Start: 7:00PM

8/9 Sunday - Sunday Blitz
Format: 8SS G/3+2
Join from 7:00PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1493269 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1493269)
Start at 8:0PM

8/11 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Marathon Online
Format: 8 rounds of G/35+2 (Swiss) 2 games per week; 6:30PM, 8:00PM
Register here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020)

8/12 Wednesday - Late Night showdown
Format: 5SS G/8+2
Join from 6PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1493270 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1493270)
Start at 7PM

8/14 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -

Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171734/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

The King March, Part 2: Tigran Petrosian.

Playing at Lone Pine in 1978 was an incredible experience for me. Taking clear first place was the legendary Bent Larsen, with 7.5 from 9 games - a Lone Pine record score. More peaceably inclined was another chess immortal pushing wood in the tournament: World Champion Tigran Petrosian. His six points came from three victories and six draws.

Just being in the presence of these players, watching them play and analyze the moves, was a chess education like no other. I was particularly impressed with Petrosian – it seemed to me, watching him go over his games afterwards, that his thinking was different than the other players. It was my impression that individual moves didn't seem to interest him. There was none of that plunking a move down and then taking a look around kind of thing that I was used to. Instead he would run off long strings of moves – stuff that he'd seen during the game perhaps, or new ideas.

It seemed imaginative and spontaneous – and for me it was like watching a jazz musician.

However that may be, it was Larsen (and others) that I found myself having dinner with one evening at one of those typical cafeterias dotting the Western landscape. Meatloaf and malted milk. I remember Alan Benson was there, but I can't recall anyone else. Larsen was sitting across from me. Seeing a chance to satisfy my curiosity, I asked the Great Dane a question: Why, with both he and Petrosian claiming Aron Nimzovitch (1886-1935) as a major influence, was their play so different from each other's? Larsen's reply was quick and witty, salted with the confidence with which he was so well-known:

"I am the *attacking* Nimzovitch," he chuckled. "Petrosian is the *defensive* Nimzovitch."

It was an amazing moment.

Looking around in Nimzovitch's *Chess Praxis* (1929) we find this game the Latvian/Danish wizard played against Cohn. Along with the accompanying chapter on Nimzovitch's theory of "alternation" – attacking weaknesses in a rotating fashion – this game features a very long king march starting with 68…Kg7.

I think this rather odd and very long game must have made a deep impression on the Armenian genius in his early days.

Cohn-Nimzovitch 1911.

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 c5 4.e3 Nf6 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.O-O O-O 7.a3 cxd4 8.exd4 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nc6 10.Nc3 b6 11.Bg5 Bb7 12.Qe2 h6 13.Be3 Ne7 14.Ne5 Ned5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Qh5 Bxe5 17.Qxe5 Nf6 18.Rfe1 Bd5 19.Bd3 Rc8 20.Rac1 Ng4 21.Qg3 Nxe3 22.fxe3 Qd7 23.Ba6 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Qa4 25.Bf1 Qb3 26.Qf2 f5 27.Qd2 Rf7 28.Qc3 Qa4 29.g3 Kh7 30.Bg2 Qb5 31.Bxd5 exd5 32.Qd2 Qb3 33.Qc3 Qb5 34.Qd2 Qb3 35.Qc3 Qb5 36.Qd2 Re7 37.Qc2 Qd7 38.Qd3 Re4 39.Kf2 Qe6 40.Rf1 Qg6 41.Kg2 Qe6 42.Kf2 Qg6 43.Kg2 Qe6 44.Kf2 Kg6 45.Rc1 Kh7 46.Rc2 Qg6 47.Kg2 Qg5 48.Rf2 Qg6 49.Qe2 Qe6 50.Qf3 Kg6 51.Re2 Kh7 52.Kf2 Qc8 53.Kg2 Qe6 54.Kf2 Qg6 55.Kg2 Qg5 56.Kf2 Qf6 57.Kg2 Qg5 58.Kf2 Qg6 59.Kg2 Qe6 60.Kf2 Qc8 61.Kg2 Qe6 62.Kf2 Qc8 63.Kg2 a5 64.h4 Kg6 65.Kh2 h5 66.Kg2 Kh6 67.Rf2 g6 68.Rf1.

68…Kg7 69.Rf2 Kf7 70.Kh2 Ke7 71.Re2 Qc1 72.Qf2 Kd7 73.Re1 Qc6 74.Kg2 Rg4 75.Rf1 Qc7 76.Qf3 Kc8 77.Qf2 Kb8 78.Kh3 Ka7 79.Rg1 Qd7 80.Kh2 Qd6 81.Kh3 Qc6 82.Re1 Qe6 83.Kh2 Qe4 84.Kh3 Qe6 85.Kh2 Qe7 86.Kh3 Qe4 87.Rg1 Qe6 88.Kh2 Re4 89.Rc1 Rxe3 90.Qf4 Re2+ 91.Kh3 Ka6 92.b4 axb4 93.axb4 Kb5 94.Rc7 Qe4 95.Qxe4 Rxe4 96.Rg7 Re6 97.Rd7 Kc4 98.Kg2 Kxd4 99.Kf3 Kc4 100.b5 d4.

White resigned.

Petrosian seemed to have a unique relationship with the king, sometimes bordering on the unexplainable. How can we mere mortals understand a move like 17.Kh1?

Petrosian-Kuzmin 1973.

1. c4 Nf6 2. d4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 c5 5. Bd3 O-O 6. Nf3 d5 7. O-O dxc4 8. Bxc4 a6 9. a3 Ba5 10. dxc5 Bxc3 11. bxc3 Qa5 12. a4 Nbd7 13. c6 bxc6 14. Qc2 c5 15. e4 Qc7 16. Re1 Ng4.

17. Kh1 Re8 18. h3 Ngf6 19. e5 Nd5 20. Ng5 Nf8 21. f4 Bb7 22. Ne4 Ng6 23. Qf2 Nb6 24. Bf1 Bxe4 25. Rxe4 Qc6 26. Qc2 Nd5 27. a5 Red8 28. Kh2 Rab8 29. Rea4 Nge7 30. Bd3 Nf5 31.Bxf5 exf5 32. Qxf5 Nxc3 33. Rc4.

Drawn.

In the following two games we see essentially the same strategy. Petrosian removes his king to the safety of the queenside in order to attack on the kingside. It's the journey of a 1,000 years, and Petrosian's grip on the narrative is incredible.

Petrosian-Unzicker 1960.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. Bg5 d5 4. c4 c6 5. Qc2 Be7 6. e3 O-O 7.Nc3 h6 8. Bf4 Nbd7 9. cxd5 10. Bd3 a6 11. O-O b5 12. a4 b4 13. Na2 Ne8 14. Nc1 a5 15. Nb3 Ba6 16. Bxa6 Rxa6

17. Qd3 Ra7 18. Rfc1 Nd6 19. Bxd6 20. Rc6 Nb8 21. Rc2 Nd7 22. Rac1 Nb6 23. Qb5 Nc4 24. Nfd2 Nxd2 25. Rxd2 Qa8 26. Rdc2 Rd8 27. Rc6 g6 28. g3 Kg7.

29. Kf1 Kf8 30. h4 h5 31. R1c2 Kg7 32. Ke1 Kg8 33. Kd1 Kh7 34. Kc1 Kg8 35. Kb1 Kh7 36. Qe2 Qb7 37. Rc1 Kg7 38. Qb5 Qa8 39. f4 Kh7 40. Qe2 Qb7.

41. g4 hxg4 42. Qxg4 Qe7 43. h5 Qf6 44. Ka2 Kg7 45. hxg6 Qxg6 46. Qh4 Be7 47. Qf2 Kf8 48. Nd2 Rb7 49. Nb3 Ra7 50. Qh2 Bf6 51. Rc8 Rd7 52. Nc5 b3+ 53. Kxb3 Rd6 54. f5 Rb6+ 55. Ka2.

Black resigned.

This masterpiece is from Petrosian's first visit to Lone Pine, which he won with 5.5 from 7 games. It closely resembles the win over Unzicker 16 years earlier, I think.

Petrosian-Peters 1976.

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 c5 3. g3 Nc6 4. Bg2 e6 5. Nf3 Be7 6. d4 d5 7. cxd5 Nxd5 8. O-O 9. Nxd5 exd5 10. dxc5 Bxc5 11. a3 a5 12. Ne1 d4 13. Nd3 Bb6 14. Bd2 Re8 15. Rc1 Bg4 16. Re1 Rc8

17. h3 Bf5 18. Qb3 Be4 19. Bxe4 Rxe4 20. Qb5 Na7 21. Rxc8 Nxc8 22. Bg5 Qd6 23. Rc1 Na7 24. Qf5 Re8 25. Bf4 Qd8 26. Rc2 Nc6 27. h4 h6 28. Qb5 Na7 29. Qf5 Nc6.

30. Kf1 Re6 31. Qb5 Na7 32. Qb3 Nc6 33. h5 Ne7 34. Ke1 Nd5 35. Qb5 Nf6 36. Kd1 Nd5

37. Be5 Ne7 38. g4 Nc6 39. Bg3 Na7 40. Qb3 Nc6 41. Kc1 Re4 42. f3 Re3 43. Kb1.

43...Ne7 44. Bh4 Qd6 45. Bxe7 Rxe7 46. Rc8+ Kh7 47. Rf8 Qc7 48. f4 Bc5 49. Qd5 Re5 50. Rxf7.

Black resigned.

Petrosian's most famous king march might be this one, from his World Championship Match with Botvinnik. The white king infiltrates and paralyzes the black forces.

Petrosian-Botvinnik 1963.

1.c4 g6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.e3 O-O 6.Be2 dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.d5 e6 9.dxe6 Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 Bxe6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Ke2 Nc6 13.Rd1 Rad8 14.Rxd8 Rxd8 15.Ng5 Re8 16.Nge4 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 b6 18.Rb1 Nb4 19.Bd2 Nd5 20.a4 Rc8 21.b3 Bf8 22.Rc1 Be7 23.b4 c4

24.b5 Kf7 25.Bc3 Ba3 26.Rc2 Nxc3+ 27.Rxc3 Bb4 28.Rc2 Ke7 29.Nd2 c3 30.Ne4 Ba5.

31.Kd3 Rd8+ 32.Kc4 Rd1 33.Nxc3 Rh1 34.Ne4 Rxh2 35.Kd4 Kd7 36.g3 Bb4 37.Ke5 Rh5+ 38.Kf6 Be7+ 39.Kg7.

39…e5 40.Rc6 Rh1 41.Kf7 Ra1 42.Re6 Bd8 43.Rd6+ Kc8 44.Ke8 Bc7 45.Rc6

Rd1 46.Ng5 Rd8+ 47.Kf7 Rd7+ 48.Kg8.

Black resigned.

Along similar lines is this take-down of the Brazilian ace Henrique Mecking:

Petrosian-Mecking 1971.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 c5 4.e3 d5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 cxd4 7.exd4 Be7 8.Bd3 h6 9.Bf4 Nh5 10.Be3 Nf6 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.Bd4 Nc5 14.Bc2 a5 15.Qg4 g6 16.O-O Bd7 17.Rfe1 Qc7 18.a4 Na6 19.Qe2 Kf8 20.Nf3 Kg7 21.Be3 Nc5 22.Nd4 Ra6 23.Bc1 Raa8

24.g3 b6 25.h4 h5 26.Qf3 Qd8 27.Bd2 Qe8 28.Bg5 Qd8 29.Qf4 Rc8 30.Re3 Bxg5 31.hxg5 Ra8 32.Qf6+ Qxf6 33.exf6+ Kh7.

34.Kg2 Rae8 35.f4 Rb8 36.Ree1 Nb7 37.Rh1 Kg8 38.Nf3 Nd6 39.Ne5 Be8 40.Bd3 Rc8 41.Kf3 Bc6 42.Rh2 Be8 43.Ke3 Rc7 44.Kd4.

44…Nb7 45.b4 Nd8 46.Rh4 Nb7 47.Ra2 Nd6 48.Rh1 Nb7 49.b5 Nc5 50.Bc2 Nd7 51.Ra3 Nc5 52.c4 Nd7 53.Rc3 Nxe5 54.Kxe5 dxc4 55.Be4 Rc8 56.Kd6 Rc5 57.Rhc1.

Black resigned.

Petrosian not only used the king march as an *attacking* weapon, in his own imitable way - he was perhaps the first player to use it comprehensively as a *defensive* strategy. The following three examples I think are extraordinary in the long and crazy annals of king marches.

Here, against the young Bobby Fischer, Petrosian shows no fear in the combined white forces of queen, rook and bishop.

Fischer-Petrosian 1959.

1. e4 c6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Nf3 Bg4 4. h3 Bxf3 5. Qxf3 Nf6 6. d3 e6 7. g3 Bb4 8. Bd2 d4 9. Nb1 Bxd2+ 10. Nxd2 e5 11. Bg2 c5 12. O-O Nc6 13. Qe2 g5 14. Nf3 h6 15. h4 Rg8 16. a3 Qe7

17. hxg5 18. Qd2 Nd7 19. c3 O-O-O 20. cxd4 exd4 21. b4 Kb8 22. Rfc1 Nce5 23. Nxe5 Qxe5 24. Rc4 Rc8 25. Rac1 g4 26. Qb2 Rgd8 27. a4 Qe7 28. Rb1 Ne5 29. Rxc5 30. bxc5 Nxd3 31. Qd2 Nxc5 32. Qf4+ Qc7 33. Qxg4 Nxa4 34. e5 Nc5 35. Qf3 d3 36. Qe3 d2 37. Bf3 Na4 38. Qe4 Nc5 39. Qe2 a6 40. Kg2.

40... Ka7 41. Qe3 Rd3 42. Qf4 Qd7 43. Qc4 b6 44. Rd1 a5 45. Qf4 Rd4 46. Qh6 b5 47. Qe3 Kb6 48. Qh6+ Ne6 49. Qe3 Ka6 50. Be2 a4 51. Qc3 Kb6 52. Qe3 Nc5 53. Bf3 b4 54. Qh6+ Ne6 55. Qh8 Qd8 56. Qh7 Qd7 57. Qh8 b3 58. Qb8+ Ka5 59. Qa8+ Kb5 60. Qb8+.

60… Kc4 61. Qg8 Kc3 62. Bh5 Nd8 63. Bf3 a3 64. Qf8 Kb2 65. Qh8 Ne6 66. Qa8 a2 67. Qa5 Qa4 68. Rxd2+ Ka3.

White resigned.

This game features the king march to end all king marches, as Petrosian's king runs into danger and then back to safety in a baffling display of chess genius. Again, the combined forces of queen, rook and bishop are strangely impotent.

Cardoso-Petrosian 1975.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. g4 a6 7. g5 Nfd7 8. h4 b5 9. Bg2 Bb7 10. h5 Nc6 11. a3 Rc8 12. Rh3 Nxd4 13. Qxd4 Rc4 14. Qe3 Be7 15. f4 e5 16. f5 h6 17. g6 fxg6 18. hxg6 Nf6 19. Bd2 Qa8 20. O-O-O Nxe4 21. Bxe4 22. b3 Rd4 23. f6 Bxf6 24. Re1 d5 25. Nxe4 Rxe4 26. Qc5 Rxe1+ 27. Bxe1.

27… Kd7 28. Bb4 Qc6 29. Qa7+ Ke6 30. Rg3 e4 31. Qf7+ Ke5 32. Rc3 Qe6 33. Rc7 Kf5 34. Rd7 Re8 35. Rd6 Qc8 36. Rxd5+ Kg4 37. Rd1 Qe6 38. Rg1+ Kh3.

39. Qa7 e3 40. Qb7 Qe4 41. Qd7+ Re6 42. Qd1 e2 43. Qe1 Qe5 44. Rh1+ Kg4 45. Qg1+ Kf5 46. Qf2+ Kxg6 47. Rg1+ Kf7 48. Re1 Kg8 49. Kd2 Bg5+ 50. Kd3 Qd5+.

White resigned.

Finally, another Houdini-like escape. Using his patented bold king formula, the wily old fox confounds the one and only Garry Kasparov in his attacking prime. Black's 35th move has "Tigran Petrosian" stamped all over it.

Kasparov-Petrosian 1981.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4 5.Bxc4 e6 6.h3 Bh5 7.Nc3 a6 8.g4 Bg6 9.Ne5 Nbd7 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Bf1 c6 12.Bg2 Qc7 13.O-O Be7 14.f4 Nb6 15.g5 Nfd7 16.Qg4 O-O-O 17.Rb1 Kb8 18.b4 Nd5 19.Na4 f5 20.Qg3 Nxb4 21.Bd2 Nd5 22.Rfc1 Ka7 23.Qe1 Ba3

24.Rc2 Qd6 25.Rb3 Qe7 26.Qe2 Rb8 27.Qd3 Bd6 28.Nb2 Rhc8 29.Nc4 Bc7 30.a4 b5 31.axb5 cxb5 32.Ra2 Kb7 33.Bb4 Qe8 34.Bd6 Ra8 35.Qb1.

35...Kc6 36.Rba3 bxc4 37.Rxa6+ Rxa6 38.Rxa6+ Bb6 39.Bc5 Qd8 40.Qa1 Nxc5 41.dxc5 Kxc5 42.Ra4.

White resigned.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Legends of Chess

The Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour continued with another high profile and entertaining event. The “Legends of Chess” tournament, sponsored by Chess 24 had the greats of the near past – Kramnik, Anand, Gelfand, Ivanchuk, Leko and Svidler – competing with the top players of today, Magnus himself, Anish Giri, Ding Liren and Ian Nempomniatchi. The preliminaries produced the four semi-finalists, which saw three of today’s top players (Giri, Nepomniatchi and Magnus) qualify and only one of the “legends” (Svidler). It’s notable that chess players very rarely stay at the top nowadays after the age of 40.

Magnus cruised through the event as he always seems to do. He had an easy time qualifying, an easy time in the semi-finals against Svidler, and an even easier time in the finals against Nepomniatchi. It’s hardly news to report Magnus winning. Yet the games we give below show the greatness of the other players too. Nepomniatchi lost badly to Magnus but produced the most entertaining game with his single victory in the finals. Svidler is no longer in the top ten, but I couldn’t resist giving his victory against Magnus when Svidler was in the top 5 and Magnus just rising (the years that made Svidler a legend). This game was played on the arctic island of Svalbard in a special match where GM Simon Agdestein and your author were also participants.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Svidler,Peter [B84]

Legends of Chess Semi-final, 31.07.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 A classic (almost old school) Najdorf Sicilian. **6.Be3 e6 7.Be2** Magnus develops classically as Karpov used to do. He has a more aggressive plan in mind though as Karpov would castle kingside and steer for safer play. **7...Qc7 8.Qd2 b5 9.a3 Bb7 10.f3 Nbd7 11.0-0-0!** Magnus is looking for a real fight right from the start. The tactics will begin quickly with this set up. **11...d5!?** Svidler makes this principled center break while he can, although he is not all developed yet. If he waits a move with [11...Be7 12.g4 Then ...d5 is hard to achieve because of g4-g5,] **12.exd5 Bxd5 13.Bf4! Qb6** [not 13...e5? 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Nxb5 axb5 16.Qxd5 Rc8 17.Qe4] **14.Rhe1 0-0-0?** The black king just isn't safe over here. Svidler needed to counterattack with [14...b4 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 though White could keep an edge with 16.a4 and have the safer king.] **15.Be3 Qb7**

16.a4 Magnus tears away at the black king's shelter. Also strong was the sacrifice [16.Ndxb5! axb5 17.Nxb5 Bc5 18.Qc3 Qc6 19.Bxc5 Qxc5 20.Nd6+ Kc7 21.Qxc5+ Nxc5 22.Nxf7 winning material] **16...b4 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Nb3 Qc6 19.Qd4!** There are too many weak squares on the black queenside. **19...Bd6 20.Na5 Qc5 21.Bxa6+ Kc7 22.Nb7 Qxd4 23.Rxd4 Ra8 24.Nxd6 Kxd6 25.Bb5 N7f6 26.Bd2** The black b-pawn is doomed and so White will get three passed pawns on the queenside. Svidler resigned. **1-0**

(2) Svidler,Peter (2742) - Carlsen,Magnus (2675) [B30]

Longyearbyen m Longyearbyen (2), 02.09.2006

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 A reasonable alternative to the open Sicilian of 4. d4, upon which Magnus would play the Sveshnikov Variation. **4...Qc7 5.0-0 Nd4 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 a6** [8...Qc5 9.Qe2 Qxd5 10.Bc4 Qc6 11.b3 is reasonable play for the pawn] **9.Ba4 g6** This logical developing move is a bit slow in this position. [9...e6 is more direct in the center] **10.d3 h6?!** Magnus was a teenager at this time. His move prevents 11. Bg5 but loses valuable time - a mistake he would not make nowadays. **11.Qf3 Bg7 12.Bf4 Qa5**

13.Rfe1! Qxa4 Svidler has just given away his bishop. Now 14. Bd6 e6 isn't much compensation for the piece. What is his idea? **14.Rxe7+!**

He first gave a bishop and now adds a whole rook to the loses! An amazing idea. **14...Kxe7 15.Re1+ Kd8?** [Black needed to run the other way with 15...Kf8 16.Bd6+ Kg8 17.Re7 Kh7! 18.Qxf7 Rg8 when it seems Black can hold a draw. One line is 19.Be5 Qxc2! 20.g3 Qc1+ 21.Kg2 Qc5 22.Qxg7+ Rxg7 23.Rxg7+ Kh8 24.Rxg6+ Kh7 25.Rg7+] **16.Bd6** Now the black king is caught and can't escape. **16...Qa5** [16...Re8 17.Rxe8+ Kxe8 18.Qe4+ is mate next] **17.b4 Qb6 18.Qf4! g5 19.Be7+ Ke8 20.Bc5+** [20.Qe4 is even stronger] **20...Qe6 21.Qd2 d6 22.Bxd6 Kd7 23.dxe6+ Kxd6 24.exf7 Rf8 25.Qe2!** Black can't get the pieces out in time to save himself. On **25...Bf6** [25...Rxf7 26.Qe8 Rd7 27.Re6+ Kc7 28.Re7 Rb8 29.Rxg7! easily brings home the point] **26.Kf1 Kc7 27.Qh5 Bf5** losing a bishop, but the threat of 29. Qg6 was too strong. [27...Bd7 28.Qg6 Bh8 29.Re7 Rad8 30.a4 and Black is completely tied up. 30...Kc8 31.Qd6] **28.Qf3 Rxf7 29.Qxf5 Raf8 30.f3 Bg7 31.Qc5+** Magnus gave up in this hopeless endgame. **1-0**

(3) Nepomniatchi,Ian - Carlsen,Magnus [B90]

Legends of Chess, 03.08.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Rg1!? This strange looking move has the point of playing for g4 along the lines of an English or Keres Attack. The move has been played many times by now but is still regarded as an unusual sideline against the Najdorf. **6...b5 7.g4 Bb7 8.g5!?** Nepo makes this creative pawn sacrifice, which is very confusing to meet. **8...Nxe4 9.Nxe4 Bxe4 10.a4!** Now play ranges over the entire board. **10...e5** The computer likes keeping things closed with [10...b4] **11.axb5!**

11...Be7?! [11...exd4 12.Qxd4 Qe7 13.Rg3 would be a wild position with roughly even chances] **12.Rg4 axb5 13.Bxb5+ Nd7 14.Bd2** Now all the white pieces are in play and Black is on the defensive. Plus Magnus has used a lot of time to sort through the complications of the last moves. Nepo still had plenty of time left. **14...Bb7 15.Nf5 0-0 16.Rxa8?!** [16.Rga4! Rxa4 17.Rxa4 leaves Black with too much to defend, e.g. 17...Bxg5 18.Bxg5 Qxg5 19.Bxd7] **16...Bxa8 17.Rh4 g6 18.Qg4 Nc5 19.Qh3 h5?** with little time on the clock Magnus errs. He could have defended with [19...Bxg5 20.Rxh7 Bxd2+ 21.Kxd2 *(21.Ke2? gxf5!)* 21...Qg5+ 22.Kc3 Ne4+ 23.Kb4 gxf5 24.Rh8+ Kg7 25.Qh7+ Kf6 26.Rxf8 Qd2+ 27.Ka3 Qa5+ 28.Ba4 Qc5+ 29.Ka2 Qc4+ 30.Ka3 Qc5+ and the game should end in perpetual check. This amazing defense is impossible to find in time pressure.] **20.Rxh5!**

20...gxh5 21.Qxh5 White is a rook down but his pieces control the key kingside squares. The white attack cannot be stopped. **21...Ne6** Magnus lost on time, but he is finished. e.g. **22.g6 fxg6 23.Qxg6+ Kh8 24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.Qxe6+ Rf7 26.Nh6+ Kg7 27.Qxf7+ Kh8 28.Bd3 1-0**

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Newsletter #930

August 15, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Chess Clubs from Around the Country
- Fred and Pat Mayntz Memorial TNM
- Blitz Tournament of the Americas
- Online Events Recap
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Chess Clubs From Around the Country #1 Portland Chess Club

Portland Chess Club centennial logo

We revere that which stands the test of time, because its longevity reflects something unique and special that spans generations and survives challenges. When it comes to chess clubs, this is particualarly special because of the obstacles a brick-and-mortar chess club must overcome. Chess being what it is historically in the United States, a club is largely a volunteer effort to keep itself going, withstanding the challenges of rental space, player participation, and other elements that pose threats that many club leaders know all too well. Not many clubs in the United States have the privilege of owning their own building like the Mechanics' Institute in San Francisco and the Marshall Chess Club in New York. Even historic clubs like the Manhattan Chess Club, which was founded in 1877, closed in 2002 as they did not have the benefit of owning thier own space. There are those today looking to reopen this historic club, but it goes to show that even clubs with large histories will find time to be the greatest threat, as Delmore Schwartz writes, "..time is the fire in which we burn."

So in my first installment of Chess Clubs From Around the Country, I write about this amazing gem of a club, the Portland Chess Club. Founded in 1911 (before the Marshall Chess Club in 1915), this club has quietly promoted and represented chess in the Pacific Northwest for more than 100 years. While the club does not own their own space, they have been quite resourceful in maintaining the club.

Portland Chess Club circa 1914

I spoke to chess club president Mike Janniro and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Morris (35-year member) about some of the history of the club. They said prior to their current location, the club was in a house in a residential neighborhood purchased by the club for the club. Because on tournament evenings players left late, many in the neighborhood complained, which led them to be stripped of their zoning and were forced to leave. After selling the house, they looked to find a new location.

Today the club meets on the third level of the Lloyd Center, which is a large shopping mall in downtown Portland. They sustain themselves with membership dues as well as from the genorosity of contributions in support of the club. The Lloyd center also shares a bit of Mechanics' Institute history, as Jude Acers conducted a simultaneous exhibition at the Lloyd Center in 1974 that set the world record for most games played (117).

Jude Acers at the Lloyd Center 1974

Portland has hosted many high profile chess fugures. World champions Jose Raul Capablanca, Alexander Alekhine, and Emmanuel Lasker have held simuls there, as well as Frank Marshall. At their centeenial celebration in 2011, GM Susan Polgar attended the festivities at the club.

GM Susan Polgar at the Portland Chess Club 2011

The club held some weekday events as well as an open recreational play evening on Friday nights. They also hosted tournaments on the weekend. The Portland Chess Club is the organizer of the annual Oregon Open over the Labor Day Weekend (which this year would have been their 70th). This year, the plan is to move that event online due to the COVID-19 concerns.

What I was surprised to learn is that the club has also been an organizer of some very high profile events, such as the 2002 National Elementary Championship with over 2000 players. Their annual Oregon Open offers a $10,000 guarantee and draws well over 100 players. Past winners of the Oregon Open include Arthur Dake, Yasser Seirawan, Peter Biyiasas, John Donaldson, and James Tarjan (Portland resident). Nick Raptis and Georgi Orlov have each won it 6 times. Full ist of winners here: http://www.nwchess.com/articles/history/OR_open_champions.htm (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/http://www.nwchess.com/articles/history/OR_open_champions.htm)

What I was happy to learn was that there was a great deal of cooperation between the other organizations and clubs in the Pacific Northwest. Players from Washington will travel to Portland to play at the club for a weekday or weekend event and the organzations all coordinate with each other in terms of scheduling so that both players and organizers benefit.

The club maintains a loyal, committed group that plays regularly, and they are looking to expand scholastic events and programming. For a club really looking to engage more players and create opportunities to thrive, a marriage of regular and scholastic events is essential. With all the challenges of todays climate, it was clear after speaking with both of them that they are always thinking of ways to keep the club active and strong, and thinking of ways to keep the club together for many years ahead.

When I spoke to Mike Morris, I lastly asked him if there were any good stories he would like to share. Mike has Mechanics' blood in him, having been to the Mechanics' Intitute many times when he worked in the Bay Area years ago. He shared a story of how William Addison, who later became the Chess Director at the Mechanics' Institute from 1980-1996, defeated Samuel Reshevsky in the 1st round of the U.S. Open in 1962. I thought it was fitting that when offered the opportunity to share a good story, he chose one that would have relevance to Mechanics' Institute. This spirit is part of what has made the Portland Chess Club endure.

Here is the game, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(10) William G Addison - Samuel Reshevsky [E69]

US Championship New York, NY USA (1), 16.12.1962

Bill Addison was one of the strongest players from the west and former MI Chess Director. Reshevsky was #2 in the US at this time. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 c6 9.h3** This was trending opening theory of that time. Bronstein and others had popularized the King's Indian in the previous decade and players of the White side would try to control everything with the Fianchetto Variation. White's last move controls the important g4 square so a black knight can't cause trouble there. **9...exd4 10.Nxd4 Re8 11.Be3 a5 12.Qc2 Nc5 13.Rad1** White has move space while Black has potential for active piece play. **13...Nfd7 14.Nb3 Qe7 15.Nxc5 Nxc5 16.Qd2** The pressure on d6 gives White an edge. **16...Bf8 17.Rfe1 Be6**

18.Nd5! This tactic makes a small edge into a big edge. **18...cxd5 19.exd5 Ne4** [19...Bf5 20.Bxc5] **20.Bxe4 Bxh3 21.Bd4** material is back to even and the white pieces have taken powerful central posts. **21...Qc7 22.Qc3** [22.Qf4 Bg7 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 24.g4! may be even better] **22...Rac8 23.Bd3 a4 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 25.Re1 Rxe1+ 26.Qxe1 Qd7 27.b4 axb3 28.axb3 Qg4 29.Qe3?!** [29.Bc3 Bg7 30.Qe8+ Bf8 31.Qe3 keeps a big edge as the white queen and bishop threaten a battary.] **29...Qd1+** now chances are equal **30.Kh2 Bg4 31.Be4 Bh6! 32.Qc3 Bd2 33.Qb2 h5?**

[33...f5 34.Bg2 f4] **34.Qa3!** White comes around from the queenside to attack the black king! This unexpected direction wins the game. **34...Bh6 35.Qa8+ Bf8 36.Be3 Bf3 37.Bxf3 Qxf3 38.Kg1 h4** [38...Kg7 39.Bh6+ Kxh6 40.Qxf8+ Kh7 41.Qxd6 is an easily winning queen ending.] **39.Bh6 1-0**

While the club is currently closed due to the public health crisis, they are transitioning some vents online to keep their members together. Here is the link to join their online chess community: https://www.chess.com/club/portland-chess-club (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chess.com/club/portland-chess-club)

To learn more about the Portland Chess Club, please click to their homepage here: http://pdxchess.org/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/http://pdxchess.org/)

Fred and Pat Mayntz TNM Report

The 3rd and 4th rounds of the Fred and Pat Mayntz Tuesday Night Marathons featured some separation at the top of the leaderboard and one big upset. We had special guest commentators NM Derek Wu and Tejas Mahesh joining FM Paul Whitehead and myself in the broadcast and both did an amazing job in helping call the games.

In the top section, FM Kyron Griffith and NM Ruiyang Yan stayed perfect with two wins and both are the only 4/4 scores going into next week. Griffith had the tougher evening, as he had to grind out a long win in round 4 against Theo Biyiasas, while Rui made quick work of Nitish Nathan. It seems we are headed for a big round 5 matchup between these two attacking players, and we look forward to the potential fireworks next week.

Jonah Busch provided the upset of the evening in defeating IM Elliott Winslow. Busch played a beautiful game and manged to hang on in a somehwat tricky endgame position to close the show. Congrats to him!

Pranav Sairam and Mansoor Mohammed remain lurking with 3.5/4. However, this is an eight-round tournament so there is still plenty of chess to be played!

In the lower section, Pranav Pradeep remains dominant, scoring another two wins and is now 4/4, a full point ahead of Rahim Dharssi.

Tune in next week for rounds 5 & 6 of the Tuesday Night Marathon, there should be a lot of action as players look to make moves toward the top of the leaderboard.

For full standings, click here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fred-and-pat-mayntz-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fred-and-pat-mayntz-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020).

To watch the broadcast of rounds 3 & 4, click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0pf2VJfF8E (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0pf2VJfF8E).

Here are some games from the evening, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1930) - Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (1693) [C06]

Live Chess Chess.com, 12.08.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Qxf6 This recapture is less popular by over five to one, and probably with reason. Black will find some of the moves are fairly convoluted. [9...Nxf6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Nf3 and there are thousands of games after all three of Black's moves, 11...0-0 *(11...Qc7; 11...Qb6* usually played earlier*)*] **10.Nf3** [10.0-0 Bd6 (10...Nxd4?! 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Nf3 Qf6 13.Bg5 Qf7 14.Qc2 g6 *(14...Bd6 15.Rac1 Qh5 16.Qxc8+* 1-0 (28) Rublevsky,S (2665)-Dyachkov,S (2510) Maikop 1998*)* 15.Rac1 Nc5 16.Ne5 Qg7 17.Bb5+ Bd7 18.Bxd7+ Nxd7 19.Qc8+ 1-0 (19) Raum,S (1879)-Veelders, W (1501) Verden/Aller 2009) 11.Nf3 is likely just a transposition.] **10...h6** Black could try to do without this move but it's not recommended. [10...Bd6 11.Bg5 Qf7 12.0-0 h6 13.Qb1! Nf8 14.Bh4 Bd7 15.b4! 1-0 (27) Svidler,P (2650)-Zarubin,P (2450) Azov 1996 CBM 056 Extra [Makarichev,S]] **11.0-0 Bd6**

12.Nc3? This natural move doesn't rise to the occasion. Black will put his house in order and solve his problems (development, especially the B/c8), without any new ones. [12.Ng3 is most popular, looking to gain more time attacking the queen at the right moment. 12...0-0 13.Bc2 *(*or even *13.Bb1!?* so that after Qd3 and a defense, there is no ...Nb4 annoyance*))* 13...Rd8 (13...Rf7 14.Nh5 Qd8 15.Re1 *(15.Bg6 Re7 16.Bf4 Nf8* and Black pushes back*)*) 14.Re1 is ready for 14...Nf8 15.Ne5 with some advantage (Black can't grab the pawn!); 12.Be3 0-0 13.Rc1 , given by Shaw in the excellent series on 1.e4, is at least as effective an anticipation; White keeps open possiblities of Qd2/Bf4 (if Black's rook moves laterally) or Bb5. 13...e5 14.Nc3! continues to pressure Black.] **12...0-0 13.a3** White is drifting. Either he never took this line seriously or forgot his analysis, or forgot *to* analyze. **13...Rd8** Amazingly Black's score in the big

database is pushing 70% -- the sort of results a White player would long for! **14.Be3 Nf8 15.Re1 Bd7** Black is 4.5 out of 5 here! The bishop maneuver is reminiscent of the Stonewall Dutch -- and in fact of this line, working around the pawn chain. **16.Rc1 Rac8 17.b4 Be8 18.h3 Bg6 19.Bf1** Probably no longer a bishop worth spending time to save. **19...a6 20.Na4 Nd7 21.Nc5 Nxc5 22.bxc5 Bc7** [22...Bb8!?] **23.Qb3?!** [Too late for 23.Bd3 Be4! although it does manage to reach an equal position after 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Nd2 Nxd4 26.Nxe4 Qe5 27.Ng3 Nf5 28.Bd2] **23...Na5 24.Qb2 Bh5 25.Ne5 Bxe5 26.dxe5 Qf7**

27.g4?! Seeds of suicide. Sooner or later it's going to be too loose on the kingside. **27...Bg6 28.f4 Be4 29.Rcd1 h5! 30.Qf2 Qg6 31.Qg3 hxg4 32.hxg4**

Now the players trade errors and the advantage back and forth. (White had about three minutes, Black still almost seventeen.) **32...Kf7?!** [32...Nb3! remembers the queenside!] **33.Bg2 Rh8 34.Kf2?** [34.Bf2! bears on e4, and keeps Black's rook out after 34...Bxg2 35.Qxg2 Rce8! Black also works with anticipation 36.f5 exf5 37.gxf5 Qxg2+ 38.Kxg2 Rh5 39.Rxd5 Rxf5 keeps it even. **34...Bxg2?** [34...Nc4 35.Bc1 Bxg2 looks in at c2 with big trouble.] **35.Kxg2?** [35.f5! exf5 36.Qxg2! fxg4 *(36...Qxg4?? 37.Qxd5+* actually leads to mate in a few moves!*)* 37.Kg1 seems, again, to come out okay (staying off of dangerous squares with the king). *(37.Qxd5+ Qe6=)*] **35...Nc4?** [35...Qe4+! first is the crusher. 36.Kf2 *(36.Qf3? Rh2+)* 36...Nc4 37.Bd4 Qc2+ 38.Kg1 Rh6 Black's attack with the h-file is decisive.] **36.f5?** [36.Bf2 Qc2! is going to be no more or less than a draw after 37.f5] **36...exf5?!** [36...Nxe3+! 37.Rxe3 Qg5 is veering towards Black: 38.Rb3 b5! (The only way) 39.cxb6? *(39.Rc3 Ke7!)* 39...Rc2+ 40.Kf3 *(40.Kg1 Rh4 41.Rb4 Qh6* and mate is on the way*)* 40...exf5 41.b7 fxg4+ 42.Qxg4 Rf2+ and Black wins] **37.gxf5** [37.e6+ Qxe6 38.Bf2 stays balanced...] **37...Qxg3+ 38.Kxg3 Nxe3 39.Rxe3 Rxc5 40.Red3 Rd8** [40...Rh5 41.Rf3 d4 42.Kg4 Rh2 43.Re1] **41.Kf4 Rc4+ 42.Kg5 d4 43.e6+ Ke7 44.Kg6 Rd5 45.Rf1?!** The computer still has it pegged on "0.00" (dead drawn) for quite a few moves now, but White is running out of time -- and used half of his last minute for this move. **45...Rcc5**

46.Kg5?! Down to 12 seconds! But inexplicably taking the pressure off the g7-pawn. Any rook move was still drawn. **46...Rc3 47.Rfd1 Rxd3 48.Rxd3 b5 49.Kg6!** and again Stockfish thinks it's an unwavering draw. **49...a5 50.Kg5 b4 51.axb4 axb4 52.Kf4** [52.Kg6] **52...Kf6**

53.Ke4?? [53.Kg4! Rxf5 and now the only move would be 54.e7! Re5 55.Rxd4 b3 56.Rb4 and White's king is in front of the last pawn.] **53...Rxf5** Cut off! **54.Rxd4** [54.e7 Re5+ 55.Kxd4 *(55.Kf4 Rxe7 56.Rxd4 g5+ 57.Kf3 Rb7)* 55...Rxe7 wins.] **54...Re5+ 55.Kf4 Rb5** It's over, or would be if White had time to resign. **56.Re4 Ke7 57.Re2 b3 58.Rb2 Kxe6 59.Ke4 g5 60.Kf3 Kf5 61.Kg3 Rb4 62.Kf3 g4+ 63.Kg3 Kg5 64.Kh2 Kf4 65.Kg2 g3 66.Kf1 Kf3 67.Kg1 Ke3 68.Kg2 Kd3 69.Kxg3 Kc3** Kondsaga won by resignation. **0-1**

(2) Patrick Liu (katechen77) (1620) - NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2149) [E07]

Live Chess Chess.com, 11.08.2020

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nc3 [4.Nf3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 is the most common sequence, when White keeps options with his undeveloped knight.] **4...Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.d4 c6** Black plays the solid line, all but ignoring the move order. [6...dxc4 7.Ne5 Nc6!? is a confounding line, when *(7...Qd6!?* heading for a6 is also interesting and played at the highest levels (think Kramnik!)*.)* 8.Bxc6!? is the preferred way to go.] **7.0-0 Nbd7 8.c5?**

White caves at a bad time. Anything else was a solid plus for White! Now it's the other way around. [8.b3; 8.Qd3; 8.Qc2; 8.Nd2] **8...b6 9.b4 a5!** The standard reaction, and White's chain dissolves. **10.cxb6** [10.b5!? puts up a fight, but the resulting passed c-pawn won't survive. 10...cxb5 11.c6 Nb8 12.c7 Qxc7 13.Nxb5 Qb7 14.Bf4 Bd7 15.Nd6] **10...axb4 11.Na4 Nxb6 12.Nxb6 Qxb6** Black is up a healthy pawn, and then some. White's weak a-pawn is under pressure, while Black's c-pawn can advance at will. **13.Bf4 Ba6 14.Qc2 Rfc8 15.Rfc1 c5 16.Qd1 c4**

Not much to say -- you can't do much more with an extra pawn than set it up like this! **17.Ne1 Bb5 18.Nc2 Ba4 19.Qd2 Bxc2 20.Qxc2 Qxd4 21.Be3 Qg4 22.Bf3 Qg6 23.Qd2 Ne4 24.Qc2 Nd6 25.Qd2 c3 26.Qd3 Qxd3 27.exd3 Nb5** Nothing wrong with this! [27...c2! is unstoppable, not wasting time winning a piece!] **28.Bd1 d4 29.Bf4 g5! 30.Be5 f6 31.Bg4 Ra6 32.Re1 fxe5 33.Rxe5 Nc7** [33...b3 34.Rxb5 b2 35.Rf1 Ba3 wins two rooks for two pawns.] **34.Rae1 Kg7 35.Bxe6 Nxe6 36.Rxe6 Rxe6 37.Rxe6 c2 38.Rxe7+ Kf6 39.Re1 c1Q 40.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 41.Kg2 Rc2 42.Kf3 Rxa2 43.Ke4 b3 44.Kxd4 b2 45.f4 gxf4 46.gxf4 b1R** [46...b1Q was a lot faster.] **47.Kc4 Rxh2 48.d4 Rc2+ 49.Kd5 h5 50.Kd6 h4 51.d5 Rd1 52.Kd7 Rxd5+ 53.Ke8 Rc8#** jij2018 won by checkmate **0-1**

(3) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2153) - Theo Biyiasas (TABiyiasas) (1906) [C47]

Live Chess Chess.com, 11.08.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 The Scotch Four Knights. Some might say it's not a serious attempt at an opening advantage, but the list of great players who have tried it is impressive. Perhaps they see it as a vacation from all the theoretical lines of the Ruy, or the tense maneuvering of the modern Giuoco Piano. **5...Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 cxd5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bg5** [10.h3 got a boost when Kramnik played it against Aronian, but the text is still preferred.] **10...Be6** [and here 10...c6 is almost 10 to 1 as frequent.] **11.Qf3 c5!? 12.Rad1**

One might ask where the other rook is going to be going to. **12...h6!** [12...Re8? 13.Bb5! (suddenly winning!) was a couple of club players: 1-0 (27) Gisy,R (1589)-Mau,F (1289) Magdeburg 2006; 12...Bxc3 13.bxc3 h6 14.Bxf6 only move 14...Qxf6 15.Qxf6 gxf6 dries up the possibilities.] **13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qxf6 gxf6** Black has the aggressive c and d pawn duo and the bishop pair. The doubled pawns on the kingside are not as big a factor. **15.a3** [15.Nb5] **15...Ba5** [15...Bxc3 16.bxc3 Rab8 is a slight advantage for Black] **16.Be2 Rfd8 17.Bf3 Bxc3** [17...Rab8!? 18.Nxd5 Rxb2] **18.bxc3 Rab8 19.Rb1 Rb6** [19...Kg7 20.Rfd1 Rxb1 21.Rxb1 Rd6] **20.Rxb6 axb6 21.Rb1 Rd6** It's too easy to let a rook become passive. [21...Rd7! 22.Rxb6 Ra7] **22.Kf1 Bf5 23.Rd1 Bxc2 24.Rxd5 Bd3+?!** [24...Re6 25.Bg4 Re7 26.Rd6 Ra7 trades down and the ending is just a draw] **25.Ke1** now the white king is one step closer **25...Re6+ 26.Kd2 Bc4 27.Rd8+ Kg7 28.h4** [28.Bd5! is an advantage White can play on with.] **28...f5 29.Rd7 Kf6** [29...Bb5] **30.Bh5** [30.Bd5 Bxd5 31.Rxd5 h5 32.Kd3 Re4 33.Rd6+ Ke7 34.Rxb6 Rxh4] **30...Re4 31.Bf3 Re6** [31...Rxh4 32.Rd6+ Be6 33.Rxb6 Ra4] **32.g3 Ke5 33.Bh5 Rd6+ 34.Rxd6 Kxd6 35.Ke3 Ke5 36.Bf3 f6 37.Bb7**

White is nominally better but the game should just be a draw **37...Bb5??** Anywhere along the a2-g8 diagonal would hold. **38.Bc8?!** [38.f4+! Kd6 39.Bc8! Bd7?! 40.Bxd7 Kxd7 41.Kd3 Kc6 42.Kc4 h5 43.a4 is a basic winning pawn ending; White gets to play Kb5, a5, take take and c4.] **38...Bf1?**

[38...f4+! 39.gxf4+ Kd5 might just hold.] **39.f4+!** White has probably calculated this to the end. **39...Kd5 40.Bxf5 Kc4 41.Kf2!** forcing a winning king and pawn ending **41...Bd3 42.Bxd3+ Kxd3 43.g4 Ke4 44.g5** [Simpler is 44.Kg3!] **44...fxg5 45.fxg5 hxg5 46.hxg5 Kf5 47.Kf3 Kxg5 48.Ke4 Kg4 49.c4 Kg5 50.a4 Kg4 51.Kd5 Kf4 52.Kc6 Ke4 53.Kxb6 Kd4 54.Kb5** Black resigned. Nice endgame play by Kyron. **1-0**

(4) Pranav Pradeep (pranavpradeep2006) (1167) - Danny Cao (caodanny) (933) [B40]

Live Chess Chess.com, 12.08.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6

6.Nf3?! Quite the sideline -- the two moves that keep the edge sharp are [6.Ndb5; and 6.Nxc6] **6...Bb4** most common, hard to fault -- except for these moves that score better: [6...Bc5; 6...Qc7; 6...d6] **7.Bd3 d5 8.0-0!?** Gets a bit tricky. **8...Bxc3 9.exd5! Nxd5** [9...Bxb2?! 10.Bxb2 Qxd5 11.Qe2 gives White good compensation for the pawn. *(and 11.Qc1!* is winning acc. to Stockfish: note that *11...0-0?* gets crushed: *12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Qh6 f5 14.Ng5)*] **10.bxc3 Nxc3 11.Qe1 Nd5 12.Bb5** [12.Ba3! Don't let that king get away!] **12...Bd7?!** [12...0-0!] **13.Bb2** [13.Ba3!] **13...0-0** Black is ready for ...Qc7 and rooks to the center. **14.Bxc6?!** White tries to conquer the dark squares, but ...f6 and ...e5 seals them up, meanwhile White will miss this bishop **14...Bxc6 15.Ne5?!** [15.c4 gets the pawn back with Qe5, but Black will still stand better.] **15...Rc8** But now it's close to lost. **16.c4 Nf6?!** [16...Nb6; 16...Ne7; 16...Nf4 are all more to the point.] **17.Qe3 a6 18.Qg3 b5?** [18...Ne4! grabs the moment adn stop White setting up mating threats. Black would hold the advantage.] **19.Rad1 Qa5??**

[Black misses the lurking threats from White's dark-squared bishop. 19...Qe7 stays defended.] **20.Nxc6!** [20.Nd7!] **20...Rxc6 21.Bxf6 g6 22.Qg5** The extra bishop and mating threats make for an easy conversion. **22...e5 23.c5! Re8 24.Rd6 Rxd6 25.cxd6 Qxa2 26.Qh6** pranavpradeep2006 won on time. **1-0**

(7) Nitish Nathan (BreatheChessAlways) (1723) - Kritin Gopalakrishnan (chessboi2010) (1655) [A45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 12.08.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 The London System against the King's Indian. A solid (and now popular) choice by White. **4...0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.h3** just in time so that Black can't chase the bishop down starting with 6... Nh5. **6...c6 7.0-0 Bf5 8.c4** This makes sense here and is probably the best move. White could continue in classic "London" style with 8. Nbd2 followed by 9. c3 and 10. a4 but that is less aggressive. **8...h5** This doesn't help much **9.Nc3 Nbd7?**


This natural developing move is a mistake. Black needs to watch out in the center and 9...Ne4 was called for to exchange a piece and ease the spatial cramp. **10.Nh4!** This simply wins the bishop for the knight and weakens the black pawn structure. White has a clear edge from the opening. **10...Be6?!** [It's hard to give good advice here but the text just loses a pawn. Better would have been 10...Qa5] **11.d5 cxd5 12.cxd5 Bf5 13.Nxf5 gxf5 14.Bxh5 Qb6 15.Rb1 Rac8 16.Bf3 Nc5 17.Na4 Nxa4 18.Qxa4 Rc5 19.Rfd1 Ra5?!** trying to get the pawn back on a2, but it doesn't succeed. **20.Qc4 Rc5 21.Qd3** Now White wins a second pawn and Black is lost. **21...Rfc8 22.Qxf5 e6 23.Qg5 exd5 24.Qg3 R8c6 25.Bh6 Ne8 26.Bxg7 Nxg7 27.h4 Qb5 28.h5 Kh7 29.b4!** Strong play by White. Now the d5 pawn falls and the black position collapses. **29...Rc4 30.Bxd5 Nxh5 31.Qf3 Kg6 32.Bxf7+ Kh6 33.Rd5 Rc1+ 34.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 35.Kh2 Qf1** Threatening mate. If you could just move twice in a row.... **36.Qxh5+ Kg7 37.Qg6+ Kf8 38.Qg8+ Ke7 39.Qe8+ Kf6 40.Qe6+ Kg7 41.Rg5+** BreatheChessAlways won by resignation. The game may have continued... [41.Rg5+ Kh8 42.Qh3# #1/0] **1-0**

(8) NM Tom Maser (Talenuf) (1556) - Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1787) [C46]

Live Chess Chess.com, 12.08.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Nxe4! Black makes use of the fork trick to immediately solve all his problems in the center. **5.Nxe4 d5 6.Bd3 dxe4 7.Bxe4 Bd7!?** [7...Bd6 would be a natural continuation] **8.0-0 Bd6 9.Re1 0-0 10.c3** [10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Rxe5 Qd4 13.Re3 f5 would be compensation for the pawn] **10...Re8 11.Qc2 g6 12.d3 Kg7?!** The black king is a little exposed here. **13.Bg5?!** [13.Qd2! is a clever way to get the white queen over to the kingside] **13...f6 14.Bh4 Qc8 15.Nd2?!** This is going backwards **15...f5** [15...g5! 16.Bg3 f5 17.Bxc6 Bxc6 is pleasant for Black] **16.Bd5 Ne7 17.Bb3 Nc6 18.Re2 Be6 19.Rae1 Bxb3 20.Qxb3 Qd7 21.Nc4** [21.Qxb7 Rab8 22.Qa6 Rxb2] **21...b6 22.Ne3 Be7 23.Bxe7 Rxe7 24.Nd5 Ree8 25.Nb4 Na5?!** [25...Rad8 brings the rook to control the d-file] **26.Qd5!** now White wins a pawn **26...Qxd5 27.Nxd5 Rad8 28.Nxc7?!** [28.Rxe5 Rxe5 29.Rxe5 Nc6 30.Re6 Rxd5 31.Rxc6 Rxd3 32.Rxc7+ holds the extra pawn] **28...Re7 29.Nb5 Rxd3 30.f3 Nc6** Now material and position factors are level again. **31.Kf2 Kf6 32.Na3 Na5 33.Re3 Rxe3 34.Rxe3 Rd7 35.Ke2 h5 36.h4?!** White could maintain the balance by immediately offering the rook trade with 36. Rd3 **36...Nb7! 37.Rd3 Rxd3 38.Kxd3 Nc5+ 39.Kc4 e4?!** [39...g5! 40.hxg5+ Kxg5 would get the black king into play quickly with decisive effect] **40.b4?** [40.fxe4!] **40...exf3! 41.gxf3 Nd7?!** [41...Ne6 42.Nb5 a6 43.Nd6 g5! gets the powerful passed h-pawn] **42.Kd5? Ne5!** The knight jumps in with decisive effect to chase the white pawns. White needed to prevent this on the previous move with 42. f4! **43.f4 Nd3 44.Nb5 a6 45.Nc7 Nxf4+ 46.Kc6 Ne2** [46...g5!] **47.Nd5+ Ke5 48.c4**


48...b5! This pawn, which seemed doomed on b6, suddenly influences the battle with great effect. 49. c5? Nd4+ would win the white knight. **49.Ne7 bxc4 50.Nxg6+ Kf6 51.Nf8 c3** the black c and f pawns are too much for the white knight **52.Nd7+ Ke7 53.Nc5 c2 54.Nd3 f4 55.a4 f3 56.b5 axb5 57.axb5 f2 58.Nxf2 c1Q+ 59.Kb7 Nd4 0-1**

(9) NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) (1745) - Kevin Joe Roberts (KeRtheBarbarian) (1675) [C64]

Live Chess Chess.com, 11.08.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 Qf6?!


5.d4! exd4 6.e5! This excellent, aggressive opening play by White highlights the drawback of Black's early queen move. Now the black pieces get pushed around by the white pawns, **6...Qg6** [6...Nxe5? 7.Qe2 wins a piece] **7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 Nge7** [8...Qxg2 9.Rg1 Qh3 10.d5 would be a terrible for Black] **9.0-0 0-0?** [Black needed to get at least some hold of the center with 9...d5] **10.d5 Nd8 11.Bd3 Qh5 12.Qb3** [12.Ne2! would really make the black queen feel uncomfortable] **12...Bxc3 13.bxc3 b6 14.Re1 Bb7 15.c4** A model position for White. The advanced pawn center severerly restricts the black pieces. White has space and the bishop pair to boot. **15...Ng6 16.Bb2 Nf4 17.Bf1 c6 18.Rad1 cxd5 19.cxd5 Rc8** [19...Qg4 20.Kh1 doesn't help] **20.Rd4! Ng6 21.g4** Black resigned. He could play on with 21...Qh6 but had enough of this miserable position. **1-0**

The Blitz Tournament of the Americas Today August 15th!

The big tournament of titled players, which at this writing includes nine GM's among the more than 100 tentative participants across the Americas, is set for Saturday, August 15. The action wil be carried by Chess.com on their channel as they will be re-streaming our broadcast! This event will start at 3:00pm Pacific and is 9SS G/3 +2. To watch, tune in to our Twitch channel here: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess).

To see the current player list, click here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/blitz-tournament-americas (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/blitz-tournament-americas)

The event is organized by the Mechanics' Institute, in partnership with KmadaChess and Chess Sin Fronteras. Our mission was to bring the diverse communities of the Americas and beyond together for positive social engagement through chess. We all look forward to showcasing the talent, generosity and competitve spirit of all the players in this completely free, fun event Tune in next week for cpomplete results!

Mechanics' Online Events Recap

Friday Night Blitz August 7: Winner: IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online--1429411 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-friday-night-online--1429411)

Saturday Night Blitz: Winner August 8: Winner: Kunal Shrivastav (king_kunal)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-night-blitz--1494823 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-saturday-night-blitz--1494823)

Sunday Evening Blitz: August 9: Winner: Javier Silva (J3Chess24)

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-night-blitz-1493269 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-sunday-night-blitz-1493269)

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 6:30-8PM - Online class with GM Nick de Firmian

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian)

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Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, August 15: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM
6SS G/10 +2 USCF rated: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

Sunday, August 16: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5 : https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89128 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89128)

Monday, August 17: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=88837 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=88837)

Tuesday, August 18: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=88838 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=88838)

Wednesday, August 19: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=88839 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=88839)

Thursday, August 20: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=88840 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=88840)

Friday, August 21: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=88841 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=88841)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(5) LightIris (1293) - Nightimeninja (1305) [C20]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Qh5 This is trying for the four move checkmate, but getting the queeb out so early is against the opening principles, **2...Nc6 3.Bc4 g6 4.Qf3 Nf6** Preventing again the threatened Qxf7 mate and developing a piece. This is good, but Black could really take advantage of the white queen being out with [4...f5! 5.exf5 Nd4 6.Qd5 Qe7

which is really good for Black. White would suffer from having moved the queen exposed, e.g. 7.fxg6 hxg6 8.Bb3 Nf6 9.Qc4 d5 and White is in full retreat] **5.Nc3?!** [5.Ne2] **5...Nd4! 6.Qd3 Bg7** [6...c6! 7.Nge2 d5 attacks the center] **7.Nf3 Nxf3+ 8.Qxf3 0-0 9.d3 d6 10.Bg5 Bg4**

11.Qxg4 Nxg4 12.Bxd8 Raxd8 We have reached a level endgame after the opening threats. **13.0-0 Nf6 14.Bd5 c6** [14...Nxd5 15.Nxd5 c6 would give Black bishop vs knight] **15.Bc4?!** [15.Bb3] **15...d5 16.exd5 Nxd5** [16...cxd5] **17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.Bb5 e4!** opening the diagonal for the black bishop. White must be careful now. **19.dxe4?!** This opens the d-file also. White could keep equality with [19.c3! a6 20.Ba4 exd3 21.Rfd1] **19...dxe4 20.Rfd1** [White could save the pawn with 20.c3 Rd2 21.Rab1 Rfd8 but that would allow the black rooks to control the board] **20...Bxb2 21.Rab1 Bd4 22.c3?** This just gives away the second pawn. **22...Bxc3 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.h3 Bd4** [24...Rd2! 25.Bc4 b6 26.Bb3 Bd4 is even better.] **25.Be2 e3 26.fxe3 Bxe3+ 27.Kf1 Bb6 28.Bf3 Rd2! 29.Bxb7 Rxa2** Two pawns ahead and the active rook and bishop will be enough for Black to win with proper play. **30.Re1 Ra5** [30...Rf2+ 31.Kg1 Re2+ 32.Kf1 doesn't gain anything] **31.Re8+ Kg7 32.Ke2 Ra2+ 33.Kf3 Ra3+ 34.Kf4?!** [34.Ke2 is a safer place for the white king] **34...Bc7+ 35.Kg4?! h5+ 36.Kg5 f6+ 37.Kh4 Bg3#** A well played game by Nightimeninja. **0-1**

(6) zzng (1384) - SafeRelaxedKite (1319) [C50]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Nc3 A safe and sensible developing move, but masters prefer to use the pawns with 4. c3 or 4. d3 **4...Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.h3 h6 7.Be3 Bb6** Both sides have played logically to bring the pieces out. **8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.Bxd5 Bd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.a3 a6?!** copying White's move, but this allows the pawns to get wrecked. **12.Bxb6 cxb6 13.c4?!** [13.c3 would leave the bishop on d5 with a retreating diagonal] **13...Re8 14.Re1 Rb8 15.Nh2 Qg5 16.Qf3**

16...Nd4? missing the threat. Black would keep equal chances with 16...Be6 **17.Qxf7+ Kh8 18.Qxd7 Nc2 19.Nf3 Qe7 20.Qxe7 Rxe7** Black wins the exchange with the knight fork, yet the rook can't do much against the powerful bishop and knight. There are no open files for the rook to break through. **21.Rac1 Nxe1 22.Rxe1 Rf8 23.Nh4! Rf6 24.Nf5 Rd7 25.b4** Black can do little that is positive. It's a matter of waiting to deal with White's advance. **25...Kh7 26.Ng3 Rf8 27.Be6 Rdd8 28.Bf5+ g6 29.Be6 Rde8 30.Bd5 Re7 31.a4 Rf4 32.b5 a5 33.Ne2 Rf8 34.g3 Rf3 35.Rd1 Rf8 36.Kg2 Rf6 37.h4 Rf8 38.Ng1 Rf6 39.Nh3 Rf8 40.f4** Finally after long preparation White makes this advance. **40...exf4 41.Nxf4 Rf6 42.Kf3?!** This wins easily enough, though White didn't have to get the knight lost with the pin. **42...g5 43.hxg5 hxg5 44.Rh1+ Kg7 45.Rg1 gxf4 46.gxf4+ Kf8?** [46...Rg6 47.Rh1 Rh6 48.Rxh6 Kxh6 49.Kg4 is a clearly winning ending for White with the strong pawns. That is much better than the game move though.] **47.Rg8#!** zzng won by checkmate **1-0**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

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https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

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Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes)

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Available classes:
Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Friday 2:00-3:00PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

8/15 Saturday - Blitz Tournament of the Americas
Format: 9SS G/3+2
Join from 2:00PM -
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/blitz-tournament-americas (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/blitz-tournament-americas)
Start: 3:00PM

8/16 Sunday - Sunday Blitz
Format: 8SS G/3+2
Join from 7:00PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1497509 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1497509)
Start at 8:0PM

8/18 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Marathon Online
Format: 8 rounds of G/35+2 (Swiss) 2 games per week; 6:30PM, 8:00PM
Register here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020)

8/19 Wednesday - Late Night showdown
Format: 5SS G/8+2
Join from 6PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1508900 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1508900)
Start at 7PM

8/21 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305162603/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

The King March: Walk of Shame, Part 1.

Enough with these victorious king marches from the last two weeks, it's time to get down to the fun stuff: the walk of shame.

In these drastic examples, the king is rudely awoken up from his slumbers with a pail of ice-cold water, then quickly frog-marched to the guillotine under heavily armed guard.

There's no reprieve for His Royal Highness in these brutal and nasty games, and his fate is to die far from home.

It's hard to feel sorry for him though, as it's quite often his own conceit and carelessness that lands him in trouble.

Off with his head!

In our 1st example white tries to land a blow, but black is one step ahead:

Morgan-Shipley 1891

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 exf4 4.d4 Qh4+ 5.Ke2 d5 6.exd5 Bg4+ 7.Nf3 O-O-O 8.dxc6 Bc5 9.cxb7+ Kb8 10.Nb5 Nf6 11.c3 Rhe8+ 12.Kd3 Bf5+ 13.Kc4 Be6+ 14.Kxc5.

14… a5 15.Nxc7 Qh5+ 16.Ne5 Nd7+ 17.Kb5 Qxd1 18.Bxf4 Qxa1 19.Ka6 Nxe5 20.Nxe8 Rd5 21.Bc4 Qxh1 22.Bxd5 Qf1+ 23.Kb6 Qxf4 24.Bxe6 fxe6.

White resigned.

Paul Morphy shows us how it's done:

Schulten-Morphy 1857

1. e4 e5 2. f4 d5 3. exd5 e4 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. d3 Bb4 6. Bd2 e3 7. Bxe3 O-O 8. Bd2 Bxc3 9. bxc3 Re8+ 10. Be2 Bg4 11. c4 c6 12. dxc6 Nxc6 13. Kf1 Rxe2 14. Nxe2 Nd4 15. Qb1 Bxe2+ 16.Kf2

16... Ng4+ 17. Kg1 Nf3+ 18. gxf3 Qd4+ 19. Kg2 Qf2+ 20. Kh3 Qxf3+ 21. Kh4 Nh6 22. Qg1 Nf5+ 23. Kg5 Qh5.

Checkmate.

A beautiful sustained mating attack, featuring numerous sacrifices:

van Foreest-Benima 1885

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 g4 5.O-O gxf3 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Qxf3 Bc5+ 8.Kh1 Nf6 9.e5 d6 10.exf6 Bf5 11.d4 Bb6 12.Qxf4 Bxc2 13.Nc3 c6 14.Qf2 Bd3 15.Qg3 Bg6 16.Ne4 Bxe4 17.Qg7+ Ke6 18.f7 Rf8 19.Qg4+ Kd5.

20.Rf5+ Bxf5 21.Qxf5+ Kxd4 22.Be3+ Kxe3 23.Qf3+ Kd4 24.Qf4+ Kd5 25.Qf5+ Kd4 26.Rd1+ Kc4 27.Qe4+ Kb5 28.Qd3+ Kb4 29.a3+ Ka5 30.Qc3+ Ka6 31.Qc4+ Ka5 32.b4+ Ka4 33.b5+ Ka5 34.Qb4.

Checkmate.

The 12-year-old Garry Kasparov takes a GM scalp with this queen-less middlegame king hunt:

Romanishin-Kasparov 1975

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Bg4 4.b3 Nbd7 5.Bb2 c6 6.Be2 Qc7 7.O-O Bxf3 8.Bxf3 e5 9.d3 Bd6 10.g3 O-O-O 11.c4 dxc4 12.bxc4 h5 13.Qc2 h4 14.Nc3 hxg3 15.hxg3 exf4 16.exf4 g5 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.dxe4 Rhg8 19.e5 Bc5+ 20.Kg2 gxf4 21.g4 Nxe5 22.Qf5+ Qd7 23.Qxd7+ Nxd7 24.Kh3 Nb6 25.Bf6 Rd3 26.Rac1 Nd7 27.Ba1 f5 28.Kh4.

28…Be7+ 29.Kh5 Rg5+ 30.Kh6 Rd6+ 31.Kh7 Nf8+ 32.Kh8 Rh6.

Checkmate.

What a beautiful move 17…Ng3+ is! Another crushing attack ending in mate.

King-Maguire 1896

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.e5 Ne4 5.Qe2 Bb4+ 6.Kd1 d5 7.exd6 f5 8.dxc7 Qxc7 9.Nxd4 Nc6 10.Be3 Bd7 11.c3 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Ba4+ 13.Ke1 O-O-O 14.Qd3 Rxd4 15.Qxd4 Rd8 16.Qxb4 Rd1+ 17.Ke2.

17… Ng3+ 18.fxg3 Qe5+ 19.Kf2 Qe1+ 20.Kf3 Bc6+ 21.Kf4 Qf2+ 22.Kg5 Qe3+ 23.Qf4 Qe7+ 24.Kxf5 Bd7.

Checkmate.

14…Ba6! cutting off squares for white's king is very nice. In a scenario not often seen, the black king delivers the final move- and its mate!

Smitten-Dadian 1896

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 g4 5. Ne5 Qh4+ 6. Kf1 d5 7. Bxd5 Nf6 8. Bxf7+ Kd8 9. d4 Nc6 10. Nxc6+ bxc6 11. Nc3 f3 12. g3 Qh3+ 13. Kf2 Qg2+ 14. Ke3 Ba6 15. Kf4.

15… Bh6+ 16. Kf5 Qh3 17. Kxf6 Rf8 18. e5 Rxf7+ 19. Kxf7 Qh5+ 20. Kf6 Bg7+ 21. Kxg7 Qg6+ 22. Kf8 Kd7.

Checkmate.

A wonderful game with some sparkling moves. 9.Nxe5! was nice, and black should have declined the offer. 14.Rxd1! and 16.0-0! underscored black's helplessness. The final position, with the dead black king occupying the opposing monarch's throne, is quite hilarious!

Vucinic-Djurovic 1984

1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. exd5 Nxd5 4. Bc4 Nb6 5. Bb3 Nc6 6. Nf3 e5 7. d3 Bg4 8. h3 Bh5 9. Nxe5 Bxd1 10. Bxf7+ Ke7 11. Bg5+ Kd6 12. Ne4+ Kxe5.

13. f4+ Kd4 14. Rxd1 Qxg5 15. c3+ Ke3 16. O-O Qh4 17. Rf3+ Ke2 18. Rd2+ Ke1 19. Rf1.

Checkmate.

In this late middlegame attack black's king is run straight up the board in just a handful of moves. The only rest he finds is in a grave white has dug for him, far from home.

Pogonina-Gunina 2012

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nf3 e6 5. Be2 Ne7 6. O-O h6 7. Nbd2 Bg6 8. Nb3 Nf5 9. a4 Nd7 10. a5 a6 11. c4 Be7 12. cxd5 13. Bd3 O-O 14. g4 Nh4 15. Nxh4 Bxd3 16. Qxd3 Bxh4

17. Bd2 f5 18. h3 Rf7 19. f4 Rc8 20. Kh2 Be7 21. Rg1 Nf8 22. Rg3 Rc7 23. Rag1 Bh4 24. R3g2 Qc8 25. Bc3 Ng6 26. Qe3 Ne7 27. Nd2 fxg4 28. hxg4 g5 29. f5 exf5 30. e6 Rf6 31. gxf5 Rc6 32. Qh3 Nxf5 33. Nf3 Rcxe6 34. Nxh4 Qc7+ 35. Kh1 Re3 36. Nf3 Qf4 37. Nxg5 hxg5 38. Rxg5+ Kf8.

39. Rg8+ Ke7 40. Bb4+ Kd7 41. R1g7+ Kc6 42. Rc8+ Kb5 43. Rxb7+ Ka4 44. b3+ Kxb3 45. Rc3+ Ka2 46. Qg2+.

Black resigned.

This game is not very sound, but it is very entertaining!

Schmaltz-Har-Zvi 2001

1. e4 Nc6 2. Nc3 e5 3. g3 Bc5 4. Bg2 Nf6 5. Nge2 d6 6. h3 Bb6 7. O-O O-O 8. Kh2 Re8 9. f4 exf4 10. gxf4 Ng4+ 11. Kg3 Nf2 12. Rxf2.

12…Qh4+ 13. Kxh4 Bxf2+ 14. Ng3 Re6 15. Kg4 Nd4 16. f5 Rg6+ 17. Kf4 Rxg3 18. Qf1 g5+ 19. fxg6 Ne6+ 20. Kf5 Ng7+ 21. Kf6 Rxg6+ 22. Ke7 Re6+ 23. Kd8 Bb6 24. Nd5 Re8.

Checkmate.

Finally, a very famous checkmating attack- and another king mates king finish!

Ed. Lasker-Thomas 1912.

1. d4 e6 2. Nf3 f5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. Bxf6 Bxf6 6. e4 fxe4 7. Nxe4 b6 8. Ne5 O-O 9. Bd3 Bb7 10. Qh5 Qe7.

11. Qxh7+ Kxh7 12. Nxf6+ Kh6 13. Neg4+ Kg5 14. h4+ Kf4 15. g3+ Kf3
16. Be2+ Kg2 17. Rh2+ Kg1 18. Kd2.

Checkmate.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

An Opening for fun and profit: The Smith-Morra Gambit - 1. e4 c5 2. d4

Many gambits of the romantic era of chess in the nineteenth century are regarded as fun and action packed, where the protagonist (usually White) boldly sacrifices a pawn or two and for attacking prospects, an open game and quick clashes right out of the opening. The more scientific era of twentieth century chess saw the rise of accurate defense and put a damper on many of these gambits as the opening theory developed solid responses which side-stepped the risks and brought the defended (usually Black) a solid position and good middle game prospects.

The Smith-Morra Gambit 1. e4 c5 2. d4 exc4 3. c3 was first championed by Pierre Morra of France in the first half of the twentieth century, yet waited until the 1970s to become popular when Ken Smith of Texas wrote a book and worked tirelessly to promote his pet opening. Smith was “only” a master and didn’t get validation from the world’s top players. Famous grandmaster Bent Larsen once annotated a game of Smith’s where his opponent replied to 1. e4 with 1…e5 and Larsen gave that move a question mark, writing “a mistake against Ken Smith as 1…c5! Is know to just win a pawn against him.”

Nonetheless the Smith-Morra gained followers, and Marc Esserman’s superb book several years ago “Mayhem in the Morra” showed many powerful ideas for the white side and rejuvenated the opening. It does what gambits are supposed to do – give you development, open lines and pressure against the opponent. The Smith-Morra can be recommended against the Sicilian for active, attacking players. It has become established as a very promising opening at any level in quick play games, and thus we give those below. In club play and non-grandmaster games it is good at any time control.

(1) Mikhailovsky,Vladimir (2228) - Caruana,Fabiano (2835) [B21]

Titled Tuesday 30th June chess.com INT (2), 30.06.2020

So you are playing the great Fabiano Caruana, and he plays the Sicilian against you. Those who think the Smith-Morra is only an opening to confuse lower rated opponents must think again. See how much trouble the world #2 gets into with Black. **1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 e6 5.Nf3 a6 6.Bc4** The white-squared bishop always develops to this square. It may look a little strange with the black pawns on the light squares, but this works best for the whole system. **6...b5 7.Bb3 Bb7 8.0-0 Be7** [8...b4 9.Nd5! exd5 10.Re1 is fulll compensation for the sacrificed piece. White's open lines and lead in development compensate, e.g. 10...Be7 11.exd5 d6 12.Nd4 Kf8 13.Bf4 Nd7 14.Nf5 Ne5 15.Bxe5 dxe5 16.d6 Bf6 17.Rc1 is a winning attack] **9.Re1 d6 10.Bf4N** [Also possible is 10.Nd4 Bf6? 11.Bxe6! fxe6 12.Nxe6 Qd7 13.Nd5 Kf7 14.Nec7 Ne7 15.Nxa8 Nxd5 16.exd5 Bxa8 17.Bg5 Qf5 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Rc1 Bxd5 20.Rc7+ Kf8 21.Qe2 Qe5 22.Rc8+ Kg7 23.Qg4+ Qg5 24.Re7+ Bf7 25.Qxg5+ fxg5 26.Rxh8 Nc6 27.Rxh7+ Kxh7 28.Rxf7+ Kg6 29.Rd7 1-0 (29) Moura,E (2130)-Hoshino,K (1949) Sao Paulo 2019] **10...g5?!** Fabiano gets aggressive, but this weakens the kingside. [10...Nf6 11.Ng5 Qd7 would be double-eged] **11.Bg3** [11.Be3] **11...h5 12.h3 g4?! 13.hxg4** [13.Nd4! immediately would be good] **13...hxg4 14.Nd4 Nf6?!**

[14...Bh4 15.Qxg4 Bxg3 16.Qxg3 Qh4+/= is a better ending for White after the queen exchange.] **15.e5?** [Mikhailovsky got the right kind of position and had his chance to crash through. He needed to hit right now - 15.Bxe6! fxe6 16.Nxe6 Qd7 17.Nd5! Black would be in big trouble from the active knights.] **15...dxe5-+** suddenly all of Black's pieces become active. This one slip by White turned the game around. **16.Bxe5 Nbd7 17.Bg3 Qb6?**

[Black could keep complete control with 17...Nc5 18.Bxe6 *(18.Bc2 b4)* 18...fxe6 19.Nxe6 Nxe6 20.Rxe6 Qxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Kf7-+] **18.Nxe6! fxe6 19.Rxe6 Qc5 20.Qd6 Rh7 21.Rae1 0-0-0?** [21...Qxd6 22.Bxd6 Ng8! would leave Black equal chances] **22.Rxe7 Rxe7 23.Qxc5+ Nxc5 24.Rxe7** Now White is clearly better in the ending, but it's not so easy against Fabiano, especially in blitz. **24...Rd7 25.Rxd7 Kxd7 26.Bc2 b4 27.Ne2 Be4 28.Bd1 Bb1 29.a3 b3!?** objectively this is not great, but practically White has to think about the advanced black pawn. **30.Nd4 Ba2 31.Be5 Nfe4 32.Bxg4+ Ke7 33.Bd1 Nd2 34.Bf4 Nc4 35.Bc1 a5 36.a4?!** [36.Be2! Nxb2 37.Bxb2 Na4 38.Bc1 b2 39.Bxb2 Nxb2 should win the game] **36...Kd6 37.Bf3? Nd3! 38.Be2 Ncxb2** finally Black gets this pawn and has the monster on b3 waiting to advance. **39.Bxb2?** [White could still draw with 39.Be3 Kd5 40.Nb5 but with clocks running down this was too difficult] **39...Nxb2 40.Nb5+ Kc5** White's time ran out, but there is no stopping the black b-pawn here. This was a blitz game with a few errors, but filled with many ideas one can use in this opening. **0 1**

(2) Postny,E. (2600) - Abdusattorov,Nodirbek (2627) [B21]

PNWCC Online Blitz JP 16 lichess.org INT (6), 11.07.2020

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 d6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bc4 Nc6 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Bf4 Ng6 9.Bg3 a6 10.Qe2 Be7 11.Rfd1 0-0 12.Rac1

This is a typical postion where Black has played well. White still has pressure from the rooks on the d and c files but Black has the extra pawn and a safe king (for now). **12...b5 13.Bb3 Bb7 14.a3 Rc8 15.Ba2 Qc7 16.h4!** This takes play to the kingside while keeping the queenside face-off as it is. **16...Qb8 17.h5 Nge5 18.h6 g6 19.Ne1** objectively Black is fine - even better. Yet White has more space and mobility and there are potential problems on the black kingside. So if you are an attacking player you are probably happy with the white side, but defensive players will be happy with Black. **19...Na5** [19...b4! 20.Na4 Qa7!] **20.f4 Nec4?!** [20...Nd7] **21.Bf2 Bf6 22.Nd3 Rfd8 23.Qg4?!** eyeing a sacrifice on e6. This is a quick game so that looks very dangerous, but cold calculation would give Black the advantage. **23...Nc6?!** [23...Nxb2! 24.Nxb2 Rxc3 25.Rxc3 Bxc3 26.Nd3 Bxe4 27.Bxe6 Re8! would defend 28.Nb2 Bxb2] **24.a4 Nd4 25.axb5 axb5 26.Ne1 e5**

27.Nxb5! starting a crazy sequence of tactics **27...Nxb2 28.Nxd4 exd4** [28...Nxd1 29.Bxf7+! would be crushing] **29.Rb1?!** [29.Bh4] **29...Nxd1 30.Qxd1 Qc7?!** [30...Qa7!] **31.Bxd4 Bxe4 32.Bxf6 Bxb1 33.Qxb1-/+** With perfect play Black is better, but practically the White attack is hard to deal with. **33...Re8 34.Nf3** Now come some mistakes due to lack of time, but the continuation is very entertaining. **34...Rb8?!** [34...Qc1+! The endgame is safer.] **35.Qd3?** [35.Qa1!] **35...Qa7+ 36.Kh2 Qxa2 37.Bc3 Qe6?** [37...Re6! 38.Qd4 f6] **38.Ng5 Qf5?** [38...Qe3!] **39.Qd4 f6 40.Qc4+ Re6?** [40...d5 41.Qc7 Rb7! would hold the game] **41.Nxe6 Re8 42.Qc7!** now White wins due to the mating threats. **42...Qh5+ 43.Kg3 Qxh6 44.Qd7 Ra8 45.Bxf6** Black gets some checks but no escape from the mating threats **45...Ra3+ 46.Kf2 Ra8 47.Ng5 Qh4+ 48.Kf3 Qh5+** [48...Ra3+ 49.Ke2 Ra2+ 50.Kd3 Ra3+ 51.Bc3 Qg3+ 52.Nf3] **49.Kg3 Ra3+ 50.Nf3 Qh6 51.Qe8+ Qf8 52.Qe6+ Qf7 53.Qxd6 Ra8 54.Ng5 Qb3+ 55.Kh2 Rf8 56.Qe7** Not a perfect game, but a great illustration of the play one gets from this opening. **1-0**

(3) Postny,E. (2600) - Niemann,Hans Moke (2465) [B21]

Titled Tuesday 23rd June chess.com INT (4), 23.06.2020

Here Postny meets Hans Niemann, who spent a great deal of time in the Mechanics' Institute and had many battles with our best players in the TNM. **1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bf4 a6 7.Be2!? Nge7 8.h4** Many players are now using the h-pawn in the Smith-Morra to gain play on the kingside. Of course it weakens the white kingside a bit, but the h-pawn will also cause Black trouble. **8...Ng6 9.Bg3 d6 10.0-0 Be7 11.h5 Nge5 12.h6 gxh6 13.Nh2 Rg8 14.Bh5 Bd7 15.Kh1 Qa5 16.a3 Rc8 17.Bf4** objectivley Black is doing quite well out of the opening. 7. Be2 and 8. h4 is experimental and confusing, but not as principled as the usual Smith-Morra play. **17...Ng6 18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Bxd6 Bxd6 20.Qxd6 Qc7 21.Qd2 h5 22.f4 Kf8?!** Hans has played the game well thus far (of course he learned here at the Mechanics'). His king is in the center but the extra pawn would count after an active move such as [22...Na5! 23.Rad1 Nc4 24.Qe2 Qb6] **23.f5** Now White has active play typical of the opening. **23...exf5?** capturing the wrong way. Black could maintain equality with [23...gxf5 24.exf5 exf5 25.Qh6+ Rg7!] **24.Qh6+ Rg7 25.Nd5** The white knights jump into action with decisive effect. **25...Qe5?! 26.Nf3 Qd6 27.Rad1** All the white pieces come into play with threats. There is no defense. **27...Kg8 28.Nb6 Qc7 29.Nxd7 Qd8 30.exf5 Rh7 31.Qf4 Qe7 32.Rfe1 Qd8 33.fxg6 1-0**

(4) Lintchevski,D. (2559) - Vitiugov,N. (2722) [B22]

PNWCC Masters WOO 2020 chess.com INT (7.8), 06.07.2020

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 e6

We give this game as an alternate choice by players of the Black side. You don't have to accept a gambit (almost any gambit). If you don't wish a wild position and like things under control this it is best to decline the Smith-Morra as Vitiugov does here. He thought he was the better player and didn't want an opening battle or a crazy position. This method may suit you as Black. **6.cxd4** This move is the most usual and transposes into a 2. c3 Sicilian. That is fine but Smith-Morra players may prefer 6. Qxd4 Nc6 7. Qe4 which is the line recommended by Smith in the 1970s. **6...d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.Qe2 Nb4 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.0-0 N4d5 12.Bd3 Nb4 13.Bb5 Be7 14.exd6 Bxd6 15.Nc3** We have a "normal" position with equal chances. This type of isolated queen pawn position could arise out of several openings. Here the players just play their game. Vitiugov ended up winning a long endgame after grinding his opponent down. If you like this kind of play then the Smith-Morra declined with 3...Nf6 is for you. **0-1**

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Newsletter #931

August 22, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Chess Clubs from Around the Country
- Fred and Pat Mayntz Memorial TNM
- Blitz Tournament of the Americas
- Summer Chess Fest 2020
- TD Corner
- Alexey Root
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Chess Clubs From Around the Country #2: Chess Girls DC

This week we go clear across the country to bring you our next chess club. Chess clubs come in various forms, and sometimes those forms are shaped by the students the club serves. I first met Robin Ramson at a U.S. Chess Delegates meeting in 2018 in Madison, Wisconsin and learned about her chess club and organization in Washington, D.C. called Chess Girls DC (https://chessgirlsdc.org/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://chessgirlsdc.org/)). Robin enthusiastically talked about her club and the players and the mission, and I could feel the joy and the love she has for her kids and for her organization. Chess Girls DC is a 501c3 non profit organization whose mission is to promote getting more girls getting involved in chess. What is also special about this club is that it focuses on chess as a tool that builds self confidence in girls, in addition to enhancing critical thinking. Robin Ramson is the founder of Chess Girls DC, which provides chess classes for girls in the Washington D.C. area. The classes are held at The Catholic University of America, with whom they have partnered for several years.

Robin Ramson, Founder of Chess Girls DC

While promoting classes to bring more girls into chess, Robin also realizes that girls need to learn how to play boys. For this reason, she started DC Scholastic Chess, which is a co-ed arm and event space to Chess Girls DC. They hold several tournaments throughout the year, and her commitment to promoting tournament participation for girls got the attention of the U.S. Chess Womens Program in 2019, when it awarded her a grant to help girls with limited resources participate in their Girls and Women Regional Chess Tournament.

Girls tournament with face painting part of what makes a Chess Girls DC event a fun and festive event

Since the COVID-19 shelter-in-place, Robin says that all girls that were in live classes have transitioned to online learning, and she is pleased with the results. She says that online tools have actually enhanced learning, with resources like Chess.com and ChessKid adding a new element of learning that seems to have filled in gaps for some students, possibly by offering a new way of learning. They also care about the students they serve and make sure children have all the tools to continue practicing and playing during this pandemic. In March when the quarantine first started, Chess Girls DC mailed 82 families chess boards and books so they could continue learning and playing from home, in addition to providing the online platform to continue their education.

As with all successful clubs, she can't do it alone. She praised the work of her right hand man Coach David Bennett, an entrepreneur who has a passion for chess and believes in the power of chess and pledged to volunteer teaching chess as free service to the community. He has been coaching in his spare time at Chess Girls DC for a few years now, and remaind a dedicated volunteer who brings his passion, education and commitment to public service to help bring more girls into the game.

NM David Bennett

David Bennett (far left) with Robin Ramson, Coach and some of the kids of Chess Girls DC

What makes her club special is that she really goes out of her way to make all the kids feel special. She really belives that if a child enters one of her events, she wants to make sure that child feels the hype, exactly as if they were at a party, with swag gift giveaways that make it feel like a true clelebration.

Some of the glitzy swag giveaways offered at Chess Girls DC

Chess Girls DC has a committed base of volunteers, and a leader who truly loves chess and loves her students. In addition to leading this organization, she is a USCF delegate and also serves with Judit and I on the US Chess Clubs Committee. It is a pleasure to see people like her and David Bennett truly doing what they love to do and sharing it enthusiastically with kids. People like this help make a truly great chess club, and the infectious enthusiasm and caring for the kids help impress on their students chess as a lifelong activity.

For more information, check their website here: https://chessgirlsdc.org/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://chessgirlsdc.org/)

Fred and Pat Mayntz TNM Report

Rounds 5&6 are in the books for the Tuesday Night Marathon, and we have clear leaders in their respective sections headed to the final two rounds next week. FM Kyron Griffith showed his precision and technical play in defeating NM Ruiyang Yan, using positional pressure that led to a blunder from Yan, from which the position then unravelled. Griffith's 6th round game against Pranav Sairam was much more complex, with Griffith sacrificing the exchange to secure a positional advantage that was unclear. Sairam played well through the uncertainty, and the game ended up drawn in what was an exciting game. Another dark horse moving up the leaderboard was Jonah Busch, who had a quick win against the always tough Theo Biyiasas. He then went on to win a wild game against Ahyan Zaman, in which he was quickly two pawns down but had a great deal of space. Kyron Griffith remains at the top of the leaderboard in the top section with 5.5/6, with Jonah Busch and Pranav Sairam close behind at 5/6. A handful of players are at 4.5/6, including IM Elliott Winslow and NM Ruiyang Yan.

In the lower section, Pranav Pradeep remains far ahead of the field with 5/6, but he suffered his first defeat in round 6 against Martin Camacho. It was a wild ending in which Camacho was able to convert a King and Queen against King Rook and Pawn endgame. Pradeep leads with 5/6 with a handful of players at 3.5/6.

It was a fun night on the broadcast as we had players come in with commentary, including Kyron Griffith, Ashik Uzzaman, Ahyan Zaman and Kristian Clemens. We will look to bring more guests in after their games, as the chat became lively and the broadcast was fun to watch. Tune in next week as the final two rounds will determine TNM winners, with exciting games and players looking to make moves up the leaderboard.

For full standings, please click here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fred-and-pat-mayntz-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fred-and-pat-mayntz-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020)

To watch the broadcast for rounds 5 & 6, click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC89wAFOom0 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC89wAFOom0)

Here are some games from Tuesday evening, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2159) - Pranav Sairam (chesspilot01) (1965) [C47]

Live Chess Chess.com, 19.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 Kyron shows his allegiance to the Scotch Four Knights, with which he won last week against Theodore Biyiasas. **4...exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 cxd5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bg5 c6** [Biyiasas played the interesting and more active 10...Be6!? 11.Qf3 c5 and obtained pretty good play, only losing his way finally in a bishop ending.] **11.Qf3** "Threatening" to mess up Black's pawns, although that doesn't seem to be anyone's concern in this line (else White would worry about his own pawns and move his knight, which in fact are two popular alternatives). [11.Na4; 11.Ne2] **11...Bd6 12.Rfe1 Rb8 13.b3 Be6** Perhaps they were napping. [13...Bb4!? is mildly harrassing.] **14.Ne2 h6!?** The 12-year-old says to the seasoned technical master: "Let's see you win this ending!" **15.Bxf6 Qxf6! 16.Qxf6 gxf6**

17.Nd4 [17.Ng3 avoids...] **17...Be5!=**

Now Kyron really has to work to find a way to play on. He opts for a dangerous material and positional imbalance, given what has gone on before. **18.Nxc6!? Bxa1 19.Rxa1** The computer makes it "0.00" but for humans it's a different story. The knight on d4 will be as good as a rook on its own. **19...Rb7 20.Re1 Rc7 21.Nd4 Bd7 22.a4 Re8?**

Sairam Finally started using some time -- and missed a shot -- and Kyron (who didn't spend much time at all) missed it as well! **23.Rd1?** [23.Rxe8+ Bxe8 24.Nf5 h5 25.h4! catches the h-pawn. when White is indeed playing for a win.] **23...Kf8?!** [23...a5] **24.Kf1?!** [24.Nb5!? Bxb5 25.axb5! and White has possibilities. Note the maneuver f3, Kf2, Ra1-a4-d4/f4/h4. White is the one calling the shots. Still it's hard to let that knight be traded off.] **24...Ke7 25.Rd2 Kd6 26.f3 h5 27.h4 a5 28.Kf2 Re5** Not the happiest rook. **29.g3 Kc5 30.f4 Re8 31.Bf1 Bg4 32.Nb5?!** [32.c3 It was time for] **32...Rce7** Now it's Black playing for the win! **33.Nc3 d4 34.Nb5 Re4 35.Bc4**

Nobody is taking that f7-pawn... **35...f5?!** Erasing any advantage. [35...R8e7 36.Bf1 Rd7 37.Bc4 Re3 Computers give Black a clear plus, but it's not clear how to proceed. If Black could get in .. .Bd7xb5 he could think about it, but White might just be able to stop even that.] **36.Bf1** Back to No Way In. **36...f6 37.Bc4 Re3 38.Nxd4 Kb4 39.Nb5 Rf3+ 40.Kg2 Ree3** Black insists on a draw. **41.c3+ Kc5 42.Rd5+ Kb6 43.Rd6+ Kc5 44.Rd5+ Kb6 45.Rd6+ Kc5 46.Rd5+** Game drawn by repetition. Well held by young Pranav! **1/2-1/2**

(2) Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (1711) - Ahyan Zaman (ahyanzaman) (1496) [E11]

Live Chess Chess.com, 18.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 [4.Bd2] **4...d5** Old-style. [4...0-0 keeps options: 5.a3 Be7 6.e4 d5 *(6...d6!?* rather asks the N/d2, what are you doing there*...)* 7.e5 Nfd7 8.Bd3 c5 9.h4!? was a fun line until it was clarified that 9...g6! was the way to defend. *(*The "fun" happens after *9...cxd4?? 10.Bxh7+!)* ; Or there's 4...b6 "committing" to the Queen's Indian.] **5.a3** [5.Qa4+] **5...Bxd2+?!** This is probably White's "as good as it gets" against the Bogo-Indian. Two bishops, Black's unsolved bad LSB. [5...Be7 is almost always played.] **6.Nxd2!?** [6.Bxd2 is 7 or 8 times as common -- but the text move scores better. And it makes sense, to contest e4 (guarding c4 is almost incidental).] **6...0-0 7.g3?!**

[7.e3 is more common by a lot, if more sensible, first played at least as early as 1931! 7...b6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.b3 c5 11.Bb2 1-0 (29) Zamikhovsky,A-Rosenkrantz,K Moscow 1931] **7...dxc4!?** Looks good, since White can't take back (... Qd5...). [But 7...Nc6! 8.e3 e5 highlights the problem. Black busts open the center and puts White on the spot. 9.Bg2 exd4 10.cxd5 dxe3 11.fxe3 Nxd5] **8.Bg2 Qxd4 9.0-0 Rd8** [9...Nc6! 10.Qc2 *(10.Bxc6?! bxc6* when White will miss his king bishop even more than Black was.*)* 10...Na5 gets annoying.] **10.e3** [10.Qc2 wins back one pawn with sufficient compensation for the other (Black's queen gets kicked around more than she'd like).] **10...Qd3** Clear plus Black now. **11.Qa4 c3** [11...Bd7!? 12.Qxc4 Bc6 Who's your bad bishop now?] **12.bxc3 Qxc3?!** [12...Bd7 here also] **13.Rb1 c6** [13...Nd5] **14.Ne4** [14.Bb2! Some queen-kicking coming.] **14...Nxe4 15.Bxe4 f5** [Not a lot of humans find 15...Re8! thinking about dulling the long diagonal with ...e5 at some point.] **16.Bb2 Qc5 17.Bc2 Rd2?!** Black needed to be thinking development, defense. [17...Nd7 18.Rfd1 Re8] **18.Rfc1** [18.Bb3! thwarts.] **18...Rd7**

Black's position would be pathetic if he didn't have two pawns to show for it; but maybe that's not enough. **19.Bb3 Qe7 20.Qf4** threatens f5 [20.Qc4!] **20...Qf7 21.Qe5?!** [21.e4! fxe4 22.Qxe4 Rd8 23.Re1 Is this a Bogo-Indian -- or a Danish Gambit!?] **21...Re7 22.Rd1 Nd7** Black might consolidate now! **23.Qc3 Nf8 24.Rd6 Rd7?!** Black needs a plan. [How about 24...b6! intending ...Bb7 whether or not White takes on c6.] **25.Rbd1 Rxd6 26.Rxd6 Bd7 27.Qd4 Rd8?! 28.h4** [28.Qxa7! Qe7+/= 29.Qd4?! *(29.Qc5; 29.Rd2)* 29...c5!= 30.Qxc5? Ba4!] **28...Qe7 29.h5 c5** 3:20 remaining

The game has become critical. [29...h6!] **30.Qe5?** 6:26 remaining [30.Qxc5! Ba4? *(30...h6!=* has to, has to be played*!)* 31.Rxd8! Qxc5 32.Bxe6+ Kh8 33.h6! and White mates.] **30...Re8??** Ahyan took a good minute on this move, but it missed the danger: that Alpha pawn is zeroing in on Black's king and must be stopped! [30...h6!-/+] **31.h6!** winning! **31...Qf6** [31...Ng6 when 32.Rxe6!! *(32.Qxc5* is about as good, and wins prosaically*)* 32...Nxe5 33.Rxe7+ Kf8 34.Rxg7!+- puts some flash into it.] **32.hxg7 Qxe5 33.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 34.Bxe5** With the extra bishop (and a powerful one at that on e5) White just wins the endgame. **34...Ke7 35.Rd2 Rc8 36.Bf6+ Ke8 37.f3 c4 38.Bc2 c3 39.Rd3** [39.Rh2] **39...Bb5 40.Rxc3 Rxc3 41.Bxc3 Kd7 42.e4 fxe4 43.Bxe4 Kd6 44.Bxb7 Kc5 45.Bb4+ Kc4 46.Kf2 Kd3 47.Be4+ Kc4 48.Bxh7 Kd5 49.Be4+ Ke5 50.Ke3 Bc4 51.f4+ Kf6 52.g4 Kg7 53.Kd4 Bb5 54.Ke5 Bd7 55.Bc5 Kf7 56.Bxa7 Kg7 57.Bd4 Kf7 58.Bc2 Bc8 59.a4 Bd7 60.a5 Bc8 61.Bd3 Bb7 62.a6 Ba8 63.a7 Bd5 64.Be4 Ba8 65.Bxa8 Kg6 66.Be4+ Kf7 67.a8Q Ke7 68.Qa7+ Kf8 69.Kxe6 Ke8 70.Qe7#** Kondsaga won by checkmate **1-0**

(3) Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1793) - Patrick Liu (katechen77) (1624) [D94]

Live Chess Chess.com, 19.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 d5?! Perhaps an overly hurried jump to the Gruenfeld against White's "other" knight development. [3...Bg7! 4.Nc3 d5 is the standard story, when 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 puts more pressure on the center than could have happened.] **4.e3** Acquiescing to a quiet line. [4.cxd5!? Nxd5 5.e4 tries to take advantage of the move order. White's center is a bit stronger, even if the pawn isn't on c3 to help, thanks to the faster development.] **4...Bg7 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Be2** [6.Qb3!?; and 6.b4!? are immediate plays on the queenside.] **6...b6** [6...c5 is the main move, both in frequency and results.; 6...e6!? was the choice in Mamedyarov-Svidler, Tashkent GP 2012, followed by ...b6 as in the game.] **7.0-0** [7.cxd5!? still looks for a central advantage. 7...Nxd5 8.Nxd5!? *(8.h4!?* It's the Age of Alpha Zero! *8...h6 9.h5 g5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Ne5 Bf5 12.Bf3 Be4 13.Bxe4 Qxe4 14.f3 Qd5 15.e4 Qd6* Well, it doesn't work for everyone! 0-1 (72) Kozubov,M (1720)-Rudovskii,F (2052) St Petersburg 2018*)* 8...Qxd5 9.Ne5!? is tricky but hard to believe. 9...Bf5! Stockfish certainly doesn't. Black has the high side of equality.] **7...Bb7 8.Ne5** A further unambitious advance, just leading to exchanges. [8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bd2!? 1-0 (69) Giri,A (2793)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2744) Baku 2015 CBM 169 [Marin,M] Tries to take advantage of Black's delaying ...c5, the principled Gruenfeld counterattack.] **8...Nbd7** [8...dxc4!? and; 8...e6!? have scored ridiculously well for Black.] **9.Nxd7** [9.f4 is the Neanderthal approach, which has in fact worked well at the club level.] **9...Qxd7** White has lost time and the edge is with Black now. **10.Bf3** Setting up a slighly annoying pin which Black should be able to handle adroitly. **10...Rab8** Rather heavy-handed, maybe not realizing things have gone well. [10...Rad8 is the only previously played instance, preferred by Stockfish, which went horribly off for White: 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Qb3 e6 13.Qa3 a5 14.Qb3 Rfe8 15.Bd2 Qc8 16.Rac1 Nxc3 17.Bd1 0-1, Fazeli,A-Rabiei,E Iran 1992; 10...c6 and; 10...e6 are fine as well.] **11.Qe2**

[11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.e4 Nxc3 13.bxc3 c5 is classic Gruenfeld play.] **11...Ba6! 12.b3 Rfd8** [12...c5! looks for pressure on c4 via the c-file; Black has a working advantage.] **13.Rd1 Qe8?!** Too fanciful. [13...c6!] **14.Bb2** [14.a4!?] **14...dxc4** With no followup this just concedes the center. [Black should play 14...c6 and hunker down.] **15.bxc4 e5!?**

Finally everything comes into focus! But there is a problem or two... [15...c5] **16.dxe5! Nd7** [16...Qxe5? walks into a flurry of tactics: 17.Nd5 Qe6 18.Nxc7 Rxd1+ *(18...Bxc4 19.Nxe6 Bxe2 20.Rxd8+; 18...Qxc4 19.Nxa6)* 19.Qxd1! Qxc4 20.Nxa6 Qxa6 21.Qd6] **17.Nd5 Bxe5** [Best computer try 17...Nxe5 18.Nxc7 Rxd1+ 19.Qxd1 Qc8] **18.Bxe5 Qxe5**

19.Nb4! and too many pieces get forked by Nc6. Very nice! **19...Nc5 20.Nc6 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Qe8 22.Nxb8 Qxb8 23.Bd5** Solid as always. [But 23.Qb2! and next 24.Qf6 really puts it away.] **23...Qe8 24.Qf3 Kg7 25.h4 Bc8 26.h5 Bf5 27.g4 Bc2 28.Rd2 Be4**

29.h6+! Kxh6 30.Qf6 Qd7 31.f3 c6 32.Rh2# kclemens won by checkmate Excellently done by Kristian! **1-0**

The Blitz Tournament of the Americas Tournament Report

The Blitz Tournament of the Americas brought together 91 players from over 15 countries to this all free event with the goal of bringing diverse communities and cultures from the Americas together in a celebration of chess and the power of chess to engage and unite people. The event was organized by the Mechanics' Institute, in partnership with KmadaChess and Chess Sin Fronteras. The event was was only open to titled players (FIDE or national federation) with a few organizer exemptions for a 9-round Blitz battle with a time control of G/3+2. 9 GM's and 13 IM's were among this very strong field, including over 20 women. When the battle was over, GM Juan Carlos Obregon Rivero from Cuba took the title of America's Blitz Champion with a score of 8/9. GM Conrad Holt from the United States took second place with 7.5/9 and IM Andrew Hong and FM Kyron Griffith tied for 3rd with 7/9, both from the United States.

GM Juan Carlos Obregon Rivero

After 3 rounds, 3 players remained with perfect scores, Obregon Rivero, GM Andres Gallego from Colombia and 2-time U.S. Champion GM Patrick Wolff. Wolff would be paired against GM Conrad Holt in round 4, and Wolff showed that the Wolff can still strike deadly against some of the world's best blitz players. Game annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) GM Patrick Wolff (PGW-in-SF) (2535) - GM Conrad Holt (dretch) (2772) [C01]

Live Chess Chess.com, 15.08.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.c4 This gives some life to the Exchange Variation of the French Defense. It's still not very theatening theoretically, but the pawn structure is imbalanced and a dynamic game results. **5...Nf6 6.Nc3 dxc4!?** [6...0-0 is probably more ambitious. Black need not fear either 7,c5 or 7.cxd5. The game continuation allows the light-squared bishop to recapture immediately on c4, not wasting a tempo first with Bd3 or Be2.] **7.Bxc4 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Re1 Bg4 10.Be3 Qc8** [10...Qd7 is a more natural square for the queen.] **11.h3 Bh5 12.Rc1 a6 13.a3 Rd8 14.Bf1 Bc5?!** This move leads to trouble. The black bishop will not be able to take on d4 and so it only loses time. **15.g4! Bg6 16.Bg2** Now d4 is securely defended and the white pieces are all developed to help control the center. **16...Ba7 17.Qb3 Rb8** [taking the pawn leads to trouble - 17...Nxd4?! 18.Nxd4 Bxd4 19.Bxd4 Rxd4 20.g5! Nh5 21.Nd5 allows White to regain the material with further threats to come.] **18.Red1 Ne4?!** [18...h6] **19.Nxe4 Bxe4 20.Ng5! Bg6 21.Be4?!** [21.d5! would be hard to meet - 21...Na5 22.Qb4 Bxe3 23.fxe3 b6 24.Qf4 leaves White a dominating position.] **21...Qd7?** surprisingly this move leads to huge trouble. [21...Rd7! keeps Black in the game.] **22.Bxg6 hxg6**

23.d5! Na5 [23...Bxe3 24.dxc6] **24.Qc3 Bxe3 25.Qxe3** White threatens b4 to win the knight. Black must spend a move to save the knight on a5, which is a critical tempo White needs for a kingside attack. **25...b5 26.Qg3!** Hitting c7 and also threatening the terrible 27. Qh4 with destruction on the kingside. Black is busted. **26...Nc4** [26...f6 27.Rxc7 Qd6 28.Ne6 is crushing] **27.Qh4 Ne5 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Qh8+ Ke7 30.Qxg7** PGW-in-SF won by resignation. There is nothing Black can do. 30...Qd6 31. Re1 wins the knight. **1-0**

GM Patrick Wolff had a great blitz tournament despite being inactive, including a win over GM Conrad Holt.

Going into round 5, Gallego defeated Wolff and Obregon Rivero defeated FM Anish Vivekananthan to set up a round 6 matchup of the only two unbeatens.

After Obregon Rivero's victory, he cruised through 8 rounds undefeated and seemingly pulling away. That is until Conrad Holt delivered this exciting win to narrow the gap in the standings.

(9) GM Conrad Holt (dretch) (2776) - GM Juan Carlos Obregon Rivero (theredking89) (2652) [E90]

Blitz Tournament of the America Chess.com, 15.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 Holt is not distracted... [4...d6 5.Nf3 0-1 (27) Holt,C (2530)-Nakamura,H (2798) Saint Louis 2015] **5.Nf3 d6 6.h3** from his unshakable faith in the Makagonov System. **6...e5 7.d5** That said, he has varied over the years here and there. [For instance he's played 7.dxe5 a few times at least.] **7...Nh5** This has always been a critical line, perhaps too so. [The main move is 7...a5 (recommended in Kotronias's series). There also, Holt has tried many things at different times.; 7...Na6 has also been played against him.] **8.g3** Holt's main response, with occasional forays into [8.Nh2; and 8.Be3] **8...Qe8** [8...Na6 9.Nd2 Qe8 10.Be2 Nf6 11.h4 Nd7 12.h5 f5 0-1 (27) Holt,C (2530)-Nakamura,H (2798) Saint Louis 2015; and a few games with 8...a5 9.Nh2 Na6 10.Be2 Nf6 *(*also *10...Nc5!?)* 11.Ng4] **9.Be2 f5 10.exf5 gxf5 11.Nh4 Nf6 12.Qc2 Na6 13.a3** [13.Bd2 Nc5 14.0-0-0 c6 15.Be3 cxd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Rxd5 Be6 18.Rxd6 Rc8 19.Rhd1 b5 1/2-1/2 (63) Holt,C (2499)-Robson, R (2606) Richardson 2012] **13...Nc5 14.Be3!**

This line has done very well for White, not just for Holt. [14.b4 Nce4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.g4 Nc3!? 17.gxf5 Nxe2 18.Qxe2 Bxf5 19.Rg1 Bg6 20.Nxg6 hxg6 21.Be3 e4 1/2-1/2 (85) Holt,C (2496)-Korley,K (2280) ICC INT 2012] **14...a5!?** [14...Bd7 15.Bxc5 *(15.b4 Nce4 16.Nxe4 fxe4 17.Bg5 Qf7 18.0-0-0 Kh8 19.f3* 1/2-1/2 (54) Holt,C (2504)-Kiewra,K (2415) Richardson 2013*)* 15...dxc5 16.Nxf5 Bxf5 17.Qxf5 Nxd5 18.Qe4 Nxc3 19.bxc3 Qg6 20.Bd3 Qxe4+ 21.Bxe4 Rab8 22.a4 Rf6 23.Ke2 Rbf8 24.f3 Rb6 25.Rhb1 Rd8 26.Rxb6 axb6 27.Bxb7 e4 28.Bxe4 Bxc3 29.Rd1 Bd4 30.f4 1-0 (54) Holt,C (2574)-Bregadze,L (2435) Orlando 2014] From these games it's clear that Holt is willing to grind the endgames. This game here is no exception! But first a very sharp middlegame struggle. **15.g4!** [15.Bxc5 dxc5 16.Nxf5 *(16.0-0-0)* 16...Bxf5 17.Qxf5 Nxd5 18.Qe4 Nxc3 19.bxc3+/= is some chances for White, what with that pawn stuck on e5.] **15...e4?!** Black may be slipping here. [15...Nfe4 16.Nxe4 fxe4 17.Bxc5 dxc5 18.Qxe4 Rf4 19.Qe3+/- is another case of a King's Indian gone bad.; 15...fxg4!? (risky!) 16.Bxc5 dxc5 17.hxg4 Nxg4 18.Bxg4 Bxg4 19.f3! Bh5 20.0-0-0 Rf4 21.Rdg1 Ra6! is an interesting defensive idea; Black appears to be hanging on.] **16.Nxf5 Nd3+!?** [16...Bxf5 17.gxf5 when the opening of the g-file outweighs the weak pawn structure.] **17.Bxd3 exd3 18.Qxd3 Bxf5 19.gxf5!** [19.Qxf5?? Ne4!] **19...Qh5 20.Kd2!?** Exotic, pretty good, but others were at least as much. [20.Rg1! for example.] **20...Nd7 21.Rag1?!** [21.f4!] **21...Ne5 22.Qe2 Qxf5**

[22...Rxf5!?] **23.Bh6?** A sharp combination that leads to little. [23.f4! followed by 24. Rg5 and 25.Rhg1 is winning fairly simply.] **23...Nf3+ 24.Kc1 Nxg1 25.Rxg1 Rf7 26.Qe6! Qxe6 27.dxe6**

27...Kf8! Incredibly Black reaches a drawn ending. **28.exf7 Bxh6+ 29.Kc2 Kxf7** (1:15) **30.Nb5** (0:26) **30...Re8** Black knows to get his rook active. But [30...Bf8 31.Rg3 c6=; 30...Rc8 31.Rg4 Bg7=] **31.Kd3** [31.Nxc7!? Rc8 32.Nb5 Rxc4+ 33.Kb3 Rc6 34.Rd1 Ke7 35.Rd5 looks for a small plus.] **31...Re7 32.Rg4 Rd7 33.Rh4 Kg6 34.Rg4+ Kf7 35.b3 c6 36.Nd4?!** [36.Nc3=; 36.Rh4 Kg6 37.Rg4+ Kf7] **36...d5** [36...Bc1 isn't really anything, but it's a try] **37.c5** Still "0.00," but a feature appears in the weak a5-pawn. And White has played on the increment (0:21) while Black is down to 0:37. **37...Bc1 38.Nc2** That cost White half his time! [38.Nf3] **38...Re7?** [38...Rd8 39.Ra4 Ra8 40.b4 Bg5=] **39.Ra4** White has outplayed Black for the moment. **39...Re5 40.Rxa5 Rf5 41.Ke2 Kg6 42.Ra7 Rf7** Black has gone passive; White is winning. **43.Ne1?!** [43.a4] **43...Re7+ 44.Kf1** [44.Kd1] **44...Bb2 45.Nd3 Bd4 46.Ra4** [46.Kg2!] **46...Bf6 47.Rg4+ Kf7 48.Rf4 Kg6 49.a4**

49...Re4!? with both players on a little over ten seconds, Black alters the force. **50.a5?!** [50.Rxe4 dxe4 51.Ne1 Bd4 52.b4 Bc3 53.Nc2 and a win is problematic; 50.Rg4+!; 50.Rf3!?] **50...Rxf4 51.Nxf4+ Kf5** White's advantage has evaporated -- Black's king is taking over. **52.Nd3?!** [52.Ne2 Ke4 53.b4=] **52...Ke4?!** [52...Bc3 53.b4 Ke4 54.Ke2 Kd4] **53.Ke2** [53.Nb4 Kd4 54.Nxc6+! Kxc5! 55.Nb8 is a draw] **53...Kd4 54.Kd2 Be7 55.f4 Bxc5 56.Nxc5 Kxc5 57.Kd3 Kd6** [57...h5] **58.Kd4 c5+** [58...Ke6; 58...h5] **59.Kc3 Ke6 60.b4 cxb4+ 61.Kxb4 Kf5 62.Kc5 Kxf4** [62...Ke4! 63.f5 Ke5! 64.f6 *(64.Kb6 d4)* 64...Kxf6 65.Kxd5 Ke7=] **63.Kxd5 Kg3 64.Kc5 h5 65.Kb6 Kxh3 66.Kxb7**

66...Kg3?? Black short circuits! Perhaps he thought he was avoiding a8=Q check. But what matters is getting the king to g1 and the pawn to h2, when it's a classic Q vs. P draw. And Black had worked the two-second increment up to 0:33, while White had 0:18! **67.a6 h4 68.a7 h3 69.a8Q h2 70.Kc8 Kf2 71.Qh1** dretch won by resignation. A tragedy for Juan Carlos Obregon Rivera! But credit to Conrad Holt and his amazing will to win. **1-0**

Headed into the final round, Obregon Rivero would be matched up against IM Christopher Yoo, whose tactic solving and blitz prowess are very known. However, Obregon Rivero played strong and got the final round victory to seal the deal.

(10) GM Juan Carlos Obregon Rivero (theredking89) (2664) - IM Christopher Yoo (ChristopherYoo) (2852) [D77]

Blitz Tournament of the America Chess.com, 15.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0 5.d4 d5 6.c4 [You have to appreciate Kramnik's little sleight of hand against Nepomniatchi: 6.c3 b6 7.c4!? (he won in 49 moves).] **6...dxc4!?** [6...c6 is rather infamous for all the dry games of the Korchnoi-Karpov matches. Christopher's move sets up some interesting imbalances.] **7.Na3 a5!?** A rare move unless you're Lev Gutman, who has done well making it his specialty. [7...c3 8.bxc3 c5 is the Big Line, with familiar Gruenfeld tendencies.] **8.Nxc4 Be6 9.b3 Bd5** Christopher appears to have put in work on this line, as he's wended his way into a position with a good score for Black. **10.Bb2 a4 11.e3 Nc6 12.Rc1**

[With Black's last move the game transposes into a cluster of games, mostly going 12.Qe2 sensible, as the a-file might want contesting.] **12...e6N** [12...axb3 13.axb3 Ra2 14.Ra1 Qa8 15.Qb1 Rxa1 16.Qxa1 b5 17.Ncd2 Nb4 18.Bc3 Na2 19.Bb2 Nb4 20.Bc3 Na2 21.Bb2 Ne4 ½-½ (83), Daly,C (2295)-Jansa,V (2490) Port Erin 1998] **13.Qe2 Ra6 14.Rfd1 Qa8!** A nice geometric maneuver, with pressure on the a-file and the long diagonal. **15.Ne1** White neutralizes the latter, a typical action. **15...Bxg2 16.Nxg2 Nd5?!** "Bad-luring" White. [16...Rd8!?; or 16...axb3 17.axb3 Rd8 would keep the center under pressure, with a dynamic balance. *(or 17...Ra2)*] **17.e4!**

Finally White activates his central majority, with some problems for Black. **17...axb3!? 18.axb3!** Not even interested in taking the piece. **18...Ndb4?** [18...Nf6 , admitting his mistake, fights on.] **19.d5! exd5?!** [19...Bxb2 20.Nxb2 exd5 21.exd5 Re8 22.Qd2] **20.Bxg7 Ra2?!** Christopher continues to slide. [20...Kxg7 21.exd5 Na2!? 22.dxc6 Nxc1 23.Qb2+ Kg8 24.cxb7 Qxb7 25.Rxc1 and the knights rule. It might look like there are few good squares for them, except one is already on a nice unassailable c4, and the dark squres around Black's king are candidates for the other one.] **21.Qe3** [21.Qf3!] **21...dxc4 22.Bxf8 Qxf8 23.Rxc4**

Clear exchange up. **23...Nc2 24.Qc3 Na3 25.Ra4 Rc2 26.Qd3 Ne5 27.Qd8 Nf3+ 28.Kh1 Qxd8 29.Rxd8+ Kg7 30.Ne3 Rxf2 31.Ng4 Ra2 32.Raa8 f5 33.Rd7#** theredking89 won by checkmate. It looked like Black was getting some threats of his own, but Obregon had it all under control. **1-0**

The win was needed, as Holt defeated Gallego. A dominant event from start to finish, Obregon Rivero was the deserved winner, just barely fending off the strong comeback from Holt.

WGM Lisandra Ordaz

For the women, WGM Lisandra Ordaz from Cuba was the top scorer with 6/9, which included a final round voctory over IM Abhimanyu Mishra, who at 10 years old last year was the youngest International Master in history.

(7) IM Abhimanyu Mishra (KnightCheckShadow) (2450) - WGM Lisandra Ordaz (lisychess) (2404) [C45]

Blitz Tournament of the America Chess.com, 15.08.2020

[de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bb4+ 5.c3 Bc5 6.Be3 Bb6 7.Nf5 g6 A Scotch Game, with probably a little edge for White. **8.Bxb6 axb6 9.Ne3 Nf6 10.f3 d6 11.c4 0-0 12.Nc3** Black has fair control of the dark squares but somwehat less space. **12...Nd7 13.Be2 Nc5 14.0-0 f5 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.f4!?** [Simple development with 16.Qd2 is more natural] **16...Qe7 17.Ncd5 Qg7 18.Nxf5 gxf5! 19.b4 Ne4 20.Bf3 Rae8 21.Qd3 Nd4 22.Bxe4?** [The game has been well played thus far, but White focuses on the wrong knight. Better to chase away the one on d4 with 22.Rad1] **22...fxe4 23.Qh3 c6!** now the f-pawn falls when the white knight gets chased from its defense **24.Ne3 Ne2+ 25.Kh1 Nxf4 26.Qh4 Ng6 27.Qg3 Rxf1+ 28.Rxf1 Qe5** a practical decision to centralize and head for a pawn up endgame **29.Rd1 Qxg3 30.hxg3 Re6 31.Nf5**

31...e3! This excellent move takes full control of the game. The trouble from the black e-pawn soon becomes decisive. **32.Re1 e2 33.Nd4 Re4! 34.Nxe2 Ne5** material is equal for now but the pin on the white knight soon gains some pawns **35.Kg1 Nxc4 36.Rc1 Rxe2 37.Rxc4 Rxa2 38.Rd4 d5 39.b5 Rc2 40.bxc6 bxc6** with 3 connected passed pawns the rook endgame is a trivial win **41.Rb4 b5 42.Rf4 Rc4 43.Rf6 b4 44.Rf3 Rc3 45.Rf4 c5 46.Rg4+ Kf7 47.Kh2 b3 48.Rf4+ Ke6 49.Rf2 Rc2 50.Rf8 d4 51.Rb8 b2 52.g4 c4 53.Kg3 c3** lisychess won by resignation **0-1**

Also with a strong showing was WIM Ann Lindsay Chumpitaz Carbajal from Peru, who scored 5.5/9.

(6) WCM Patty Castillo (PattyCastillo) (1949) - WIM Ann Lindsay Chumpitaz Carbajal (Alindsay211) (2310) [D04]

Blitz Tournament of the America Chess.com, 15.08.2020

[de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 g6 4.b3 A good solid system for White that slowly builds the position. It lets Black develop easily also, so both sides get to play without too much theory. **4...Bg7 5.Bb2 0-0 6.Be2 c6 7.Nbd2 a5 8.a4 Na6 9.0-0 Bf5** Black has placed all the pieces on good squares. **10.Nh4!?** [10.Ne5] **10...Bd7 11.c3 Re8 12.Nhf3 Qb6 13.Ne5 Be6 14.Ba3 Nd7 15.Nxd7** [more aggressive is 15.f4 which tries to stake out control of the central dark squares.] **15...Bxd7 16.Rb1 e5! 17.b4?** The cause of all the trouble, leading to the loss of an important center pawn. [17.dxe5 Bxe5 is still about equal] **17...axb4 18.cxb4 exd4** This not only wins the d-pawn, it opens the lines for Black's pieces. **19.exd4 Bf5 20.Rb3 Qxd4 21.b5?!** [21.Bb2 Qf4 22.Bxg7 would open the black king a little and give more chances] **21...Nc5! 22.Rb4 Qe5 23.Re1 Ne4** [23...Qc3! is even stronger] **24.Nf3 Qc7 25.b6** [25.bxc6 would at least keep some open lines for White. It's already hard to find anything good though.] **25...Qd7 26.Bb2 Bxb2 27.Rxb2 Nc3 28.Qd2 Nxe2+ 29.Rxe2 Rxa4 30.Rxe8+ Qxe8 31.h3 Ra1+ 32.Kh2 Be4** Good technique to trade the bishop for the knight. Black is two pawns ahead, but things could still go wrong if the white queen and knight started working together. **33.Qd4?!** [33.Nd4 Qb8+ 34.f4] **33...Bxf3 34.gxf3 Qe1**

35.Rd2 [35.Kg3 Qg1+ 36.Kh4 h6 would keep the game going, but it would be no fun] **35...Qg1#** Alindsay211 won by checkmate **0-1**

Here are some more games form the event:

(11) IM Greg Shahade (GregShahade) (2674) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2381) [B11]

Blitz Tournament of the America Chess.com, 15.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 After years of Najdorfs, Kyron has decided to take it down a bit with the Caro Kann lately. **2.Nc3** [2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 **a)** 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4; **b)** 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 *(4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3)* ;] **2...d5 3.Nf3** The Two Knights Variation has always been a lesser line, but the top players have all given it a whirl, especially Vachier Lagraeve. **3...a6!?** This reminds one of the same response to the Queens Gambit, and has scored pretty well -- a plus score even in the database. [3...Bg4 right away is the main move, say ten thousand games vs. a couple hundred.] **4.d4 Bg4** Like related positions in the Center Counter, Black's strategy is almost too easy: exchange off the light-squared bishop (for a knight, then put the remaining pawns on light to cover its absence. It's very hard for White to get more than a nominal space advantage against this plan. **5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 e6 7.Bd3** [7.Be3!? could be more interesting, to castle queenside.] **7...Nf6 8.0-0 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4** [9...Qxd4?! offers White great compensation, what with the development plus and all those dark square holes being too much.] **10.Qxe4 Nd7 11.c3 g6 12.Bf4 Bg7 13.Bd6 Bf8 14.Bg3 Bg7 15.Bd6 Bf8**

16.Be5 White rejects the repetition but eventually regrets it. **16...Nxe5 17.Qxe5 Rg8 18.Rfe1 Bd6 19.Qe3 Qf6 20.a4 0-0-0** Black's king is fairly safe on the queenside. Sure, White has more space and can send the b-pawn up the board, but it's always a danger that the pawns just get weak. **21.Qe2** [21.b4!?] **21...h5** [21...Rge8 and ...e5 just equalizes. Sacrifices on a6 don't work.] **22.b4 h4?! 23.b5! Qf4 24.Kf1 a5 25.bxc6 bxc6 26.Be4** Actually, this is uncomfortable for Black. **26...Kd7 27.Rab1?!** [27.Qa6! nabs an important pawn.] **27...Bc7** [27...Rb8!? 28.Qa6 Ke7 29.Bxc6 Rxb1 30.Rxb1 Qd2 is adequate counterplay for equality.] **28.Qc4!+/- Qd6 29.Rb7** [29.Rbd1 threatens 30.d5!] **29...Rb8 30.Ra7 g5?**

[30...Ra8!=] **31.Ra6** [31.Qe2!?; 31.d5! cxd5 32.Bxd5 exd5 33.Rxc7+! Qxc7 34.Re7+ Kxe7 35.Qxc7+ isn't quite "won," but it's uncomfortable for Black to have his king getting checked this way and that.] **31...Rb6= 32.Rxb6** [32.Rxa5 Qh2 33.Qc5 g4!=] **32...Bxb6 33.Rb1** [33.Qd3] **33...Bc7 34.Bf3 Rb8 35.Rxb8 Bxb8 36.Qa6 Bc7 37.Ke2 e5 38.Kd3?!** [38.Qc4=] **38...exd4 39.cxd4 Qa3+ 40.Ke4 Qxa4** Black grabs an almost insignificant pawn, but with both sides short on time it could easily matter. **41.Bg4+ Ke7**

42.Qe2? [42.Qb7 sends Black taking a perpetual or losing the key pawn at c6.] **42...Kf6 43.Bh5?!** [43.Qf3+ Kg7 44.Qc3 Bd8] **43...Qb3** [43...Kg7! Black's king is safe] **44.Qf3+** What shelter there is. **44...Qxf3+ 45.Bxf3 a4 46.Bd1 a3 47.Bb3 Ke7 48.f3 Bb6 49.d5 c5 50.Kf5 f6** [50...Kd6!? 51.Kxg5?? *(51.Bc4)* 51...Ke5 and ...Kd4] **51.Bc4** [51.f4!?=] **51...Bd8 52.Ke4 Kd6** [52...Bc7!] **53.Kd3 Ke5** In spite of the opposite colored bishops, Kyron makes progress. **54.Ke3 f5 55.Bb3 Ba5 56.Bc4 Bc3 57.f4+?!** [57.Bb3] **57...gxf4+ 58.Kd3 Bb2** [58...Ba5!] **59.Ke2 Kd6 60.Kf3 Be5** [60...Ke5 61.d6 Bc3 62.d7 Ba5] **61.Bb3 Kc7 62.Ke2 Kb6 63.Kd3 Kb5 64.Ba2 Kb4 65.Bc4 Bd6 66.Ba2 Ka5 67.Kc4 Kb6 68.Kd3 Be5 69.Kc4 Bd4 70.Kd3 Kc7 71.Ke2 Kd6 72.Kf3 Be5 73.Ke2 Bb2 74.Kd3**

74...f3! the key to getting the black king to an aggressive spot **75.gxf3 Ke5 76.Ke2 Kf4 77.Kf2 Bd4+ 78.Kg2 Be5 79.Kf2 Bd4+ 80.Kg2 Ke3 81.d6 Bf6 82.d7 f4 83.Bd5 Kd3 84.Kf2 c4** The end. **85.Ke1 a2 86.Be4+ Kc3 87.Ke2 a1Q** KyronGriffith won by resignation. On the Twitch broadcast Kyron admitted to a fist-pump when Greg resigned! **0-1**

(12) IM Andrew Hong (SpeedofLight0) (2699) - IM Ladia Jirasek (lrjchess) (2480) [B27]

Blitz Tournament of the America Chess.com, 15.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 g6 2.Nc3 The two knights tango. **2...c5 3.e4** Which is now a Siclian Defense, Accelerated Dragon. **3...Bg7 4.h4!? h5 5.Bc4 Nc6 6.d3 a6 7.a3 Nf6 8.Be3 d6 9.Ba2 Bg4** White has developed all the minor pieces, but Black has done everything strategically well for a Sicilian and stands at least equal. **10.Qd2 b5** [10...Bxf3! 11.gxf3 Nd4 would be an edge for Black] **11.Ng5 0-0 12.f3 Bd7 13.Ne2 Qa5?!** looking for an endgame, but the black queen is not placed well here. **14.c3 b4? 15.axb4**

15...Qb6 oops. Black noticed too late that 15...cxb4 16. Bxf7+! would win the queen on a5. Now Black's positon is in ruins. **16.Nf4! a5 17.bxc5 dxc5 18.Nxg6 Rfb8?** The black position is quite lost anyway, but this allows a picturesque mate. **19.Bxf7#**

SpeedofLight0 won by checkmate **1-0**

(8) WIM Rochelle Wu (tanki97) (2205) - GM Michael Rohde (boo786) (2376) [E38]

Blitz Tournament of the America Chess.com, 15.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5 5.Nf3?! [Like it or not, 5.dxc5 is deservedly the time-worn favorite here.] **5...cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nc6** "putting the question" to the knight. **7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd2** Hoping to end up recapturing and ruling the long diagonal, but if that doesn't happen it's a bit passive, [8.a3; 8.g3; 8.e3 all get on with more relevant things.] **8...d5** [Or 8...0-0 with the idea of taking back after ...d5; cxd5 cxd5, with the bigger center and healthier pawns. White could try 9.a3 Be7 10.e4 as a counter.] **9.cxd5 exd5** The only sensible recapture, but more than good enough. **10.e3 0-0 11.Bd3 Rb8 12.0-0 Re8 13.Rad1 Qc7 14.a3 Bd6 15.h3 Be5 16.Rfe1 h6 17.f4 Bd6 18.Ne2 Ne4 19.Nc3 Nxd2 20.Qxd2 a5 21.Re2 Bc5 22.Kh1 Qa7 23.Rde1 Bd7 24.e4 dxe4 25.Nxe4 Bd4 26.Qc1 Be6 27.Nd6 Red8 28.Nc4 Bd5 29.Ne5 Qc7 30.Be4 Bxe5 31.fxe5 Bxe4 32.Rxe4 Re8 33.Rg4 Re6 34.Qc3 Rbe8 35.Rge4 Qd7 36.Qc4?** [36.Qxa5] **36...Qd2** [36...Rd8] **37.R4e2 Qg5 38.Qc5 h5 39.Qxa5 f6 40.Qc3 fxe5 41.Re4 Rg6 42.R1e2 Rge6 43.Qc4 Kh8 44.Qc5 Qg3 45.R4e3 Qg5 46.Qc4 Rf6 47.Re1 Rf2 48.Qxc6 Ref8 49.Rg1??** [49.Rb3+/- could lead to the tense line 49...Rf1+ 50.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 51.Kh2 Qf4+ 52.Rg3 h4 53.Qe8+ Kh7 54.Qg6+ Kh8 55.Qxg7#] **49...Rxb2** [49...Qxe3] **50.Re4 Rbf2 51.Qd6 R2f5 52.Rge1 R8f6 53.Qb8+ Kh7 54.Qb1 Rg6 55.R4e2 Rf4 56.Rg1 e4 57.Rxe4 Rxe4 58.Qxe4 Kh6 59.Rd1 Qg3 60.Rd3 Qg5 61.Kh2 Qc1 62.Qe3+ Qxe3 63.Rxe3 Ra6 64.g4 hxg4 65.hxg4 Kg5 66.Kg3 Ra4 67.Re5+ Kf6 68.Re3 Kg5 69.Re5+ Kf6 70.Rf5+ Ke6** is still drawn, but what is the point? [70...Kg6= demands a repetition.] **71.Rf3 Ke5 72.Kh4 Ke4 73.Rb3 Ke5 74.Kh5 Kf6 75.g5+ Kf7 76.Rf3+ Kg8 77.Rb3 Kf7 78.Rb7+ Kf8??** [78...Kg8=] **79.Kg6 Ra6+ 80.Kh7** tanki97 won on time **1-0**

It was an amazing tournament and a great deal of fun to organize and broadcast. This was an event where the chess community of the Americas came together to showcase their love and passion for chess and provide a free event for the chess community while forming new partnerships as we all work together to elevate the game. We want to thank our partners KmadaChess and Juan Cendejas from Chess Sin Fronteras for working tirelessly to organize the players. We also want to thank all the participants for giving their time to make this historic event happen.

For full standings, please click here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/the-blitz-tournament-of-the-americas-1495551
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/the-blitz-tournament-of-the-americas-1495551)

To watch the broadcast, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAm_Cy5eCkQ&t=84s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAm_Cy5eCkQ&t=84s)

Final Standings

#	Name	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9
1	GM Juan Carlos Obregon Rivero	CUB	W58	W39	W25	W3	W12	W5	W18	L2	W11
2	GM Conrad Holt	USA	W83	W32	W79	L24	D6	W25	W19	W1	W5
3	IM Andrew Hong	USA	W34	W28	D9	L1	W47	W20	D4	W30	W16
4	FM Kyron Griffith	USA	W44	L5	W58	D46	W36	W26	D3	W18	W12
5	GM Andres Felipe Gallego Gallego	COL	W13	W4	W14	W19	W24	L1	W10	D12	L2
6	GM Enrico Sevillano	USA	W7	D40	W30	W9	D2	D19	L11	W36	W21
7	FM Kelvin Sánchez	VEN	L6	W84	W45	W8	L23	W29	D21	W24	W26
8	GM Aramis Alvarez	CUB	W62	W15	L23	L7	D37	W77	W64	W19	W9
9	NM Kirk Ghazarian	USA	W56	W17	D3	L6	D15	W34	W27	W10	L8
10	CM Sriram Krishnakumar	USA	W72	D18	W11	W16	W20	D24	L5	L9	W29
11	IM Christopher Woojin Yoo	STP	W47	L25	L10	W38	W52	W28	W6	W23	L1
12	FM Anish Vivekananthan	RUS	W37	D27	W40	W23	L1	W48	W24	D5	L4
13	NM Kevin Pan	USA	L5	W44	W28	D32	W40	D46	L14	W53	W36
14	FM Javier Benitez Lozano	MEX	W68	W49	L5	L17	W63	W35	W13	L16	W25
15	WGM Lisandra Ordaz	CUB	W59	L8	D48	W75	D9	L21	W45	W31	W23
16	FM Dachey Lin	USA	W64	L19	W52	L10	W83	W59	W25	W14	L3
17	FM Alberto Salazar	NIC	W88	L9	W60	W14	L25	W50	L23	W48	W33
18	FM Guannan Song (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14248794)	CAN	W70	D10	D74	W80	W50	W23	L1	L4	W30
19	NM Linden Li	USA	W76	W16	W36	L5	W34	D6	L2	L8	W41
20	FM Ladia Jirasek (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14196222)	USA	D38	W42	W22	W26	L10	L3	L37	W56	W39
21	GM Dmitry Gurevich	USA	L45	W68	W83	L47	W49	W15	D7	W37	L6
22	WIM Ann Lindsay Chumpitaz Carbajal	PER	D61	W86	L20	L40	W38	L36	W43	W63	W53
23	IM Abhimanyu Mishra	USA	W54	W45	W8	L12	W7	L18	W17	L11	L15
24	GM Patrick Wolff	USA	W73	W52	W46	W2	L5	D10	L12	L7	D32
25	NM Jeevan Karamsetty	USA	W67	W11	L1	W37	W17	L2	L16	W51	L14
26	IM Greg Shahade	USA	W51	D74	W27	L20	W32	L4	D53	W34	L7
27	NM Marcos Ortiz	NIC	W69	D12	L26	D70	W41	W31	L9	L33	W51
28	NM Gabriel Sam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14468457)	USA	W31	L3	L13	W43	W70	L11	L51	W45	W49
29	NM Conrado Diaz (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15624626)	USA	U--	W54	L34	W42	W51	L7	W49	W47	L10
30	IM Carlos Andres Perdomo	USA	D86	W38	L6	W39	D31	W56	W46	L3	L18
31	WFM Fiorella Contreras Huaman	PER	L28	W64	W62	D74	D30	L27	W35	L15	W52
32	CM Vyom Vidyarthi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15107740)	USA	W81	L2	W33	D13	L26	L39	W68	W64	D24
33	IM Elliott Winslow	USA	L46	W87	L32	W44	L53	W69	W50	W27	L17
34	FM Andy Lee	USA	L3	W85	W29	W79	L19	L9	W70	L26	W56
35	WCM Alice Lee	USA	W57	L36	L41	W81	W78	L14	L31	W73	W50
36	FM Balaji Daggupati (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14499403)	USA	W63	W35	L19	D77	L4	W22	W39	L6	L13
37	NM Jorge de Jesus Perez Marimon	CUB	L12	W82	W53	L25	D8	W40	W20	L21	U--
38	WFM Munkhchuluu Tsegmed	MNG	D20	L30	W61	L11	L22	W66	W40	L39	W59
39	NM Michael Aigner (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12595730)	USA	W71	L1	D70	L30	W66	W32	L36	W38	L20
40	IM Ali Farahat	USA	W90	D6	L12	W22	L13	L37	L38	W54	W58
41	NM Oscar Jesus Roldan Luna	MEX	L79	W72	W35	L48	L27	D76	W75	W59	L19
42	CM Nabí Isaías Pérez Torres	MEX	W50	L20	L80	L29	L44	W82	W69	D65	W64
43	WIM Tania Regla Hernandez Alvarez	CRI	U--	D75	D78	L28	D61	W55	L22	W76	W65
44	CM Mauricio Marrujo	VEN	L4	L13	W90	L33	W42	L45	W66	D58	W63
45	CM Rohan Rajaram	USA	W21	L23	L7	W60	L59	W44	L15	L28	W67
46	FM Josiah Stearman	USA	W33	W77	L24	D4	W74	D13	L30	U--	U--

47	NM Siddharth Arun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13206647)	USA	L11	W66	W73	W21	L3	D53	D48	L29	U--
48	CM Ryan Amburgy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15437654)	USA	L49	W61	D15	W41	W77	L12	D47	L17	U--
49	FM William Alfaro	NIC	W48	L14	W59	L50	L21	W54	L29	W68	L28
50	CM Daniel Herman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14345456)	USA	L42	W67	W51	W49	L18	L17	L33	W70	L35
51	IM Benjamin Gongora Montes	MEX	L26	W69	L50	W76	L29	W67	W28	L25	L27
52	IM Alvaro Blanco	MEX	W60	L24	L16	W67	L11	W73	L56	W62	L31
53	FM Marco zapata Ferrada	CHL	U--	W90	L37	W73	W33	D47	D26	L13	L22
54	WCM Anika Rajaram	USA	L23	L29	W85	L59	W71	L49	W60	L40	W70
55	FM Jorge Arturo Vega Garcia	MEX	U--	U--	U--	U--	W86	L43	W61	W75	W68
56	WCM Claudia Munoz	USA	L9	L60	W69	W89	W80	L30	W52	L20	L34
57	NM César Arturo García Rosas	MEX	L35	L63	L67	W90	L68	L58	W82	W69	W76
58	CM Advay Bansal	USA	L1	W71	L4	L78	L76	W57	W67	D44	L40
59	NM Abhishek Mallela	USA	L15	W81	L49	W54	W45	L16	D63	L41	L38
60	WCM Alexandra Naira Prado Serrano	BOL	L52	W56	L17	L45	L81	W85	L54	W84	D62
61	NM Helen Montiel	PRY	D22	L48	L38	D62	D43	L75	L55	W87	W84
62	NM Alejandro Waldo	MEX	L8	D78	L31	D61	L69	W71	W81	L52	D60
63	CM Anthony Rozenvasser	USA	L36	W57	L77	W87	L14	W81	D59	L22	L44
64	WIM Rochelle Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14901590)	USA	L16	L31	W82	D66	W75	W74	L8	L32	L42
65	FM Lenin González Arroyo	MEX	U--	U--	U--	U--	W85	W87	W76	D42	L43
66	WIM Thais Castillo Morales	CRI	U--	L47	W91	D64	L39	L38	L44	W72	W75
67	FM Gustavo Hector Garza Ramo Maass	USA	L25	L50	W57	L52	W88	L51	L58	W71	L45
68	NMe Manas Paldhe	IND	L14	L21	L87	W86	W57	W83	L32	L49	L55
69	NM Vanessa Descarrega Zacarias	VEN	L27	L51	L56	W72	W62	L33	L42	L57	W89
70	WCM Omya Vidyarthi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15782318)	USA	L18	W91	D39	D27	L28	W84	L34	L50	L54
71	CM Nelson Muñoz	PAN	L39	L58	L81	W82	L54	L62	W89	L67	W87
72	WCM Bitia Esther Cruz Castro	HND	L10	L41	L84	L69	L82	W89	W87	L66	W78
73	CM Pranav Senthilkumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14020007)	USA	L24	W88	L47	L53	W87	L52	W84	L35	U--
74	GM Michael Rohde	USA	W85	D26	D18	D31	L46	L64	U--	U--	U--
75	NM Rodrigo Del Puerto	ARG	U--	D43	W86	L15	L64	W61	L41	L55	L66
76	NM Victor Emmanue Aguilar Mosivais	MEX	L19	L83	W88	L51	W58	D41	L65	L43	L57
77	NM Kevin Yang	USA	W87	L46	W63	D36	L48	L8	U--	U--	U--
78	NM Ismael Roberto Acosta Perez	CUB	L80	D62	D43	W58	L35	U--	U--	U--	L72
79	NM Vinesh Ravuri	USA	W41	W80	L2	L34	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--
80	NM Enrique AlfonsoFonseca Manrique	MEX	W78	L79	W42	L18	L56	U--	U--	U--	U--
81	NM Victor Salomon Vargas Sotelo	ECU	L32	L59	W71	L35	W60	L63	L62	U--	U--
82	WFM Carolina Torres Hernandez	HND	U--	L37	L64	L71	W72	L42	L57	U--	W85
83	NM Jason Metpally (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14442338)	USA	L2	W76	L21	W84	L16	L68	U--	U--	U--
84	WFM Miriam Parkhurst Casas	MEX	U--	L7	W72	L83	W89	L70	L73	L60	L61
85	WIM Andrea Ortez	SLV	L74	L34	L54	L88	L65	L60	B--	W89	L82
86	WCM Patricia Castillo	DOM	D30	L22	L75	L68	L55	W88	U--	U--	U--
87	CM Clarence Lehman	USA	L77	L33	W68	L63	L73	L65	L72	L61	L71
88	NM Javier Omar Gonzalez Carrillo	MEX	L17	L73	L76	W85	L67	L86	U--	U--	U--
89	IM Navarro Mónica Segura	VEN	U--	U--	B--	L56	L84	L72	L71	L85	L69
90	NM Michael S Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	USA	L40	L53	L44	L57	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--
91	WFM MarjoireJ. Bocangel	PER	U--	L70	L66	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--

Mechanics' Institute Summer Chess Fest 2020!

Saturday, August 29, 2020 to Sunday, August 30, 2020

Mechanics' Institute Summer Chess Festival

Series of events suitable for everyone

Aug 29-30, 2020

Event Schedule:

Mechanics' Institute Summer Championship - Saturday, Aug 29 through Sunday, Aug 30. Both days 10AM - 6PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival#champ)

Mechanics' Institute Summer Blitz Championship - Saturday, Aug 29 @ 7PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival#blitz)

Summer Fischer Random Championship - Sunday, Aug 30 @ 7PM - FREE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival#FR)

Mechanics' Summer Scholastic Championship - Sunday, Aug 30 @3PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-mechanics-summer-scholastic-championship-online)

Mechanics' Institute Summer Championship

Date: Saturday, Aug 29 - Sunday Aug 30.
USCF online rated affecting US Chess Online regular rating
Round times: 10AM, 1PM, and 4PM on both days
Format: 6SS G/60+5 inc
Section: 2000+, 1600-1999, and u1600 - based on OTB Aug 2020 supplemental rating. Play-up within max 200 rating.
Pairing method: manually paired by Chief TD on chess.com/live
Prizes: $1400 b/80

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Class
Championship (2000+)	$300	$175	$90	u2200: $75
1600-1999	$200	$125	$76	u1800: $50
u1600	$150	$70	$50	u1400: $40

Entry Fee: $30 MI member, $40 non-MI member, $10 play-up fee
Registration link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsInstituteSummerChampionshipAug2930 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsInstituteSummerChampionshipAug2930)
What do to on the day of? Be on chess.com/live ready for your game to pop-up and play!

Mechanics' Institute Summer Blitz Championship

Date: Saturday, Aug 29
USCF online rated affecting US Chess Online blitz rating
Round times: Round 1 starts at 7PM sharp, rest of the rounds are automatically starting after all games are finished in the previous round
Format: 9SS G/3+2 inc
Section: one Open section
Pairing method: automatically paired by chess.com based on chess.com blitz rating
Prizes: $200 b/40: 1st $100, 2nd $50. 3rd $25, Best under 2000 USCF OTB $25
Entry Fee: $10
Registration link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsInstituteSummerBlitzChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsInstituteSummerBlitzChampionship)
What do to on the day of? Join the tournament from 6PM onwards by click on the JOIN button on this page:

Summer Fischer Random Championship

Date: Sunday, Aug 29
Round times: Round 1 starts at 7PM sharp, rest of the rounds are automatically starting after all games are finished in the previous round
Format: 6SS G/5+2 inc
Section: one Open section for everyone
Pairing method: automatically paired by chess.com based on chess.com blitz rating
Entry Fee: FREE - no need to register.
What do to on the day of? Join the tournament from 6PM onwards by click on the JOIN button on this page:

Mechanics' Summer Scholastic Championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-mechanics-summer-scholastic-championship-online)

Date: Sunday Aug 30 @ 3PM
USCF online rated affecting US Chess Online rapid rating
Round times: 3PM and ongoing
Format: 6SS G/15+5 inc

Section: 1200+ chesskid, u1200 chesskid, u600 chesskid
Pairing method: automatically paired by chesskid.com
Reward: Trophies to Top 5 players in each section, Top Girl in each section
Entry Fee: $25
Registration link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsSummerScholasticOnlineChampionshipAug30SAT3PM
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsSummerScholasticOnlineChampionshipAug30SAT3PM)
What do to on the day of? Join tournament on cheskid.com via the following link: TBA

Eligibility - Players must have:

- current US Chess Federation membership
- chess.com account that is part of Mechanics' Chess Club (free account is perfectly sufficient) -- Don't have one yet? Easy to make, just follow the instructions below.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival#Join)
- chesskids.com account that is part of Mechanics' Chess Club (free account is perfectly sufficient) -- Don't have one yet? Easy to make, just follow the instructions below.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival#Join)

Rules: standard USCF rules apply.

Mouse slips count, no takebacks.

If player is not logged in to live chess when pairings occur, we will assign a 0 point bye

Section prizes will be awarded based on USCF standard rating

Fair Play

US Chess online rated tournament - most USCF rules and consequences apply.
Players should not use any outside assistance: not have other browsers open and not be talking to other people during their games
Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their kids' activity during the tournament to ensure fair play.
All games will be carefully reviewed by chess.com and Mechanics' Institue Chess club staff during and after the event.
Players found or believed to be violating fair play are not eligible for a prize and their account will be removed from Mechanics' group.
Players who are confirmed to be using outside assistance will be reported to US Chess and restricted from future Mechanics' online and over-the-board events.

Parents - Please help us educate your child that IT'S SIMPLY NOT WORTH THE RISK!

For some helpful links regarding fair play, please check these out:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KHWnA9snAQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2UAZBQvHRyTlc1f7t9UtcwEJW43YmPOgb22fXeP_imQ4Nga07Knx2Dyws
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knvySXCNfd8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7PI9Q9uoSE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5KaxBW7rlU

Fair play screening: all games will be screened by both Chess.com and by Dr. Kenneth W. Regan, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University at Buffalo.

The Organizer and/or the Chief Tournament Director can require players to play their games with a camera that records the player playing with a view to the screen. Players should be prepared to provide this precaution if asked to do so.

Prize distributions and rating submission will take place AFTER all games have been screened.

Tournament Informaiton

What are the time controls mean?
Time controls are telling you how much time you have for each game.
G35+2 for example: Game in 35 minutes with 2 second increment. This means you get 35 minutes, your opponent gets 35 minutes and with each move every player gets 2 second added to the clock. So one game can last up to 70-80 minutes.

How many games/rounds?
The 6SS before the time control means how many rounds, i.e. how many games can a player play in the tournament. The tournaments are never elimination, so win or lose you can stay in the tournament.

Pre-requested byes: since we are pairing manually, based on OTB ratings, pre-requestd byes now available.

How to join us?

If you would like to play in our online tournaments, you must

1) Register for the event -- we need to know your full name, and chess.com ID

2) have an account on chess.com; -- don't have one? Sign up now! (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chess.com/register?returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2F)

3) join our club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated)

Join tournaments: two ways to join the tournaments: 1) log in to chess.com and click on the link above; or 2) log in chess.com --> Play --> Live Chess
For this tournament only: Tournament directors will be pairing players manually, so no tournaments to join!

For players who are interested in play in our online tournament,
PLEASE fill out our online Players database: https://forms.gle/X3hChCWbusHp4Ze56 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://forms.gle/X3hChCWbusHp4Ze56)
to get email notifications about last minute changes and invitational opportunities.

TD Corner by Dr. Judit Sztaray FA USCF Senior TD

New Online Chess Rules, aka Chapter 10, for the USCF Rules of Chess

Part 1. The Creation

Judit was recently interviwed by US Chess about the new online rule changes on The TD Show Episode 17. Watch the broadcast with Chris Bird here:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gr0Jw3DpGJM&list=PLWz0jCeofD_E5koJAFYpxKz5EaWOHWBvn&index=2&t=0s
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gr0Jw3DpGJM&list=PLWz0jCeofD_E5koJAFYpxKz5EaWOHWBvn&index=2&t=0s)

With online chess becoming the main form of playing chess now, US Chess showed some great initiative during the first few months of the current pandemic. Among many other things, they have expanded the online rating system, and defined three different online rating categories: online regular, rapid and blitz. They have also allowed organizations to run US Chess online rated events, and US Chess also has been working with online chess vendors to give them their endorsements on cheating detection methods. Also, US Chess has voted to establish an Online Play Task Force, OPTF, that would rewrite and extend Chapter 10 of the USCF rule book, which has not been updated since 2014. I was honored to be invited to be a part of this group. The OPTF was hard at work from early May to end of June, 2020, and prepared the updated Chapter 10 by early July in time for the Delegates to approve it last weekend. This meant 7 of us met at least once, but sometimes twice a week, and had a 1.5-2 hours meeting via zoom. The group went through rule by rule, discussing wording, possible scenarios to consider, and making sure that we cover all relevant things that any TD might need to run an online event.

Read the rules, and let us know what you think:

https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/9_chapter-10-rules-for-online-chess_proposal-with-motion.pdf
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/9_chapter-10-rules-for-online-chess_proposal-with-motion.pdf)

US Chess Federation has its Annual Delegates meeting usually in connection with the US Open early August every year. This year, due to the cancellation of the over the board event, a Special Delegates Meeting will be held online this weekend, Aug 15-16.

Detailed information can be found here:

https://new.uschess.org/special-delegates-meeting (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://new.uschess.org/special-delegates-meeting)
The OTPF Chapter 10 rules had two different town hall meetings for delegates and others who are interested:

July 23 was an old fashioned slide show and explaining the new rules, and giving TDs and organizers some tips. Watch the town hall: https://youtu.be/HXPfWGRvjbc
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://youtu.be/HXPfWGRvjbc)

Aug 11 was a more dynamic, open for questions, feedback and see what the delegates think about the proposed rules. Watch it here: https://youtu.be/AmkG98dLN1w
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://youtu.be/AmkG98dLN1w)

This past weekend, as part of the Delegate meeting agenda, it was up to the delegates to discuss, amend any part, and finally vote on it.

Any change in rules need delegates' approval by 85%, so it was not a trivial task to achieve, but I'm happy to report that the motion to approve the new Chapter 10 for Rules of Chess has passed by 88%.

I'll be explaining some of the nuances in the next newsletter.

In connection, this is the time when US Chess releases its annual report:

https://new.uschess.org/news/us-chess-federations-2020-annual-report-released (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://new.uschess.org/news/us-chess-federations-2020-annual-report-released)

Happy reading and please, tune in next week for some detailed article on the new online chess rules.

Alexey Root & Michael Walder: Grandmaster Chef

Recently, WIM Alexey Root and NM Michael Walder have been combining two passions, a love of chess and a love of food, together to explore what top GM's eat and cook. They have written two follow up articles for Chessbase, one on GM Boris Gelfand: https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-boris-gelfand (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-boris-gelfand).

And one with GM Vishy Anand: https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-viswanathan-anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-viswanathan-anand).

Bravo for these original pieces combining two art forms that are both science and creativity coming together. Enjoy!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

New Session Starting August 31! **Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead**

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 6:30-8PM - Online class with GM Nick de Firmian

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithGMNickdeFirmian)

Coming Soon! The games and Tournaments of GM Nick de Firmian: Olympiads - Online class with GM Nick de Firmian

This class will be a reflective journey of some of the games and experiences of Mechanics' Institute GM in Residence and 3-time U.S. Champion GM Nick de Firmian. He will go over some of his games from Olympiads of the past where players can learn and interact while at the same time learning stories from the event and about players from the event from someone who lived it. It will be an exciting class that combines chess learning with storytelling for a fun and engaging class. Details to come!

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Offerings

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, August 22: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/15+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89838 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89838)

Sunday, August 23: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM

6SS G/10 +2 USCF rated: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

Monday, August 24: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89839 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89839)

Tuesday, August 25: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89840 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89840)

Wednesday, August 26: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89841 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89841)

Thursday, August 27: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89842 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=89842)

Friday, August 28: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90023 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90023)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(4) YellowPig357 (1304) - OnlySoreOcelot (1361) [C50]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.Nd5 d6?! Black should prevent the pine 7. Bg5 wtith 6...h6 **7.Nxf6+?!** Making life easy for Black! With [7.Bg5! Be6 8.Nxf6+ gxf6 9.Bh6 White would have caused a lot of trouble with the black king protection.] **7...Qxf6 8.Bg5?! Qg6 9.Qd2?! h6! 10.Be3** [10.h4 would be a sacrifice to take kingside squares] **10...Bxe3?** [10...Qxg2! would win either the knight on f3 or the rook on h1] **11.Qxe3 Qxg2 12.0-0-0** [12.Rg1!] **12...Kh7** [12...Bg4! 13.Nh4 Qh3 would be a safe and solid pawn ahead] **13.Rhg1 Qh3 14.Ng5+?** This aggressive move doesn't work out. White gives up a knight but the black queen is protected from far away. **14...hxg5 15.Qxh3+ Bxh3 16.Rxg5 Be6 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Rdg1**

White has the threatening doubled rooks on the g-file but Black could defend and be a piece up with 18....Rf7! **18...Rg8??** Oh no! This allows mate in one move. **19.R1g4? Nd4?** giving White a second chance for mate. 19...g6 is still a knight up ending. **20.Rh4#!** YellowPig357 won by checkmate **1-0**

(5) AquaFreezingBicycle (1596) - KeenUpbeatClock (1524) [A85]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bxf6 Qxf6 6.e3 Bb4 7.Nf3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Nc6 This is a reasonable Dutch Defense for both sides. **9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 d6 11.Qc2?!** [11.e4!] **11...e5!** White has been a little slow with a central pawn break and Black gets there first, now having the advantage in the center. **12.dxe5 dxe5 13.e4 f4 14.Nd2 Be6 15.g3?! fxg3** [15...Bh3! would win the exchange as 16.Rfe1? fxg3 would be a quick win] **16.fxg3 Qg6 17.Qb2 b6 18.Qb5 Ne7 19.c5** [19.Qxe5 Rfd8 20.Rf3 Nc6 21.Qf4 Rd7 22.Nb3 Bg4 would give Black great activity for the pawn] **19...bxc5?!** weakening the pawn structure. Black would have many threats after [19...Qg5!] **20.Qxc5 Qg5?** Now this doesn't work so well as the white queen covers the check on e3 **21.Nf3! Rxf3?!** [21...Qg4] **22.Rxf3 c6 23.Raf1 Bxa2?! 24.Bc4+** [24.h4 Qg4 25.Qxe7 wins the knight] **24...Bxc4 25.Qxc4+ Kh8 26.Rf7** White is still well ahead with the exchange up and the powerful rooks cruising on the f-file **26...Qe3+ 27.Kh1 Re8**

28.Qb4 [28.Rxg7! Kxg7 29.Qf7+ Kh8 30.Qxe8+ Ng8 31.Qxe5+ would wrap things up quickly] **28...Ng6 29.Rb7 a5 30.Qxa5?** now the white king comes under fire. Better to keep control with 30 Qc4 **30...Qxe4+ 31.Kg1 Qe3+ 32.Kg2 Qe2+ 33.Rf2 Qe4+ 34.Kh3 Nf4+! 35.gxf4 Qe3+ 36.Kg2 Qe4+ 37.Kg3 exf4+ 38.Rxf4 Qe3+?** [38...Qe1+ 39.Kg2 Qe2+ would keep the draw with perpetual check. Now White gets to interpose and get shelter for the king.] **39.Rf3 Qg1+ 40.Kh3! Qd1 41.Qf5 Qd2 42.Qf7 Rd8?** Allowing mate, though Black is quite lost now with a rook dow and no good checks. **43.Qxg7#** AquaFreezingBicycle won by checkmate **1-0**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Tournaments
Twice a month

August 23, @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Continuing our Small Group Afternoon Chess Classes

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#online%20classes)

1-hour intensive class followed by optional online tournament
$25/class, $45/two classes or $80/four classes package

Available classes:
Monday 4:00-5:00PM - Coach Colin
Tuesday 3:15-4:15PM - Coach Andy
Friday 2:00-3:00PM - Coach Andy

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

8/22 Saturday - Saturday Night Arena
Format: Arena G5+2 90mins
Join from 6:00PM - https://www.chess.com/live#r=428354 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chess.com/live#r=428354)
Start: 7:00PM

8/23 Sunday - USCF Rated Rapid
Format: 6SS G/15+2
Join from 1:00PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom)
Start at 2:00PM

8/25 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Marathon Online
Format: 8 rounds of G/35+2 (Swiss) 2 games per week; 6:30PM, 8:00PM
Register here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020)

8/26 Wednesday - Late Night showdown
Format: 5SS G/8+2
Join from 6PM -
Start at 7PM

8/27 Thursday - Thursday Night Quads
Format: 3SS G/60+10
Join by 4PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-pilot)
Start at 6:30PM

8/28 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#g=5333992022 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chess.com/live#g=5333992022)
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305172416/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

The King March: Walk of Shame, Part 2.

We continue the horror (or the fun, depending on how you see it) of the long king walk: checkmate by fire or sword - or sometimes just a nasty push from behind.

These kings are goners.

This game must be considered a dream win for practitioners of the Colle System.

Marshall-Burn 1907

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bf4 Nbd7 4.e3 g6 5.Bd3 Bg7 6.Nbd2 O-O 7.h4 Re8 8.h5 Nxh5 9.Rxh5 gxh5.

Now it's time to draw the king out:

10.Bxh7+ Kxh7 11.Ng5+ Kg6 12.Ndf3 e5 13.Nh4+ Kf6 14.Nh7+ Ke7 15.Nf5+ Ke6 16.Nxg7+ Ke7 17.Nf5+ Ke6 18.d5 Kxf5 19.Qxh5+ Ke4 20.O-O-O.

Black resigned.

The following two games share an uncanny resemblance: the queen is sacrificed on h6 and then a knight delivers mate on f4! Nothing is new under the sun. I'd like to point out that Blackburne forced the mate in 20 moves, while it took Tarrasch a whole 21 moves to get the job done.

Blackburne-Gifford 1874

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.Ng5 Nh6 6.Qh5 Qe7 7.f4 O-O 8.O-O d6 9.f5 d3

10.Kh1 dxc2 11.Nc3 Ne5 12.Nd5 Qd8 13.f6 Ng6 14.fxg7 Kxg7.

Once again the king is lured forward with a pretty sacrifice:

15.Qxh6+ Kxh6 16.Ne6+ Kh5 17.Be2+ Kh4 18.Rf4+ Nxf4 19.g3+ Kh3 20.Nexf4.

Checkmate.

Here's the companion game to Blackburne's masterpiece. Though not quite as dramatic, it shows the importance of learning the classics.

Tarrasch-Romberg 1893

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Bc4 Bc5 5. Ng5 Nh6 6. Qh5 O-O 7. f4 Qe8 8. O-O d3+ 9. Kh1 dxc2 10. Nc3 d6 11. f5 Ne5 12. Nd5 Kh8 13. f6 Bg4 14. fxg7+ Kxg7.

Now the same pieces, the same square – even the same move number!

15. Qxh6+ Kxh6 16. Ne6+ Kh5 17. Ndf4+ Kh6 18. Ne2+ Kg6 19. Rf6+ Kxf6 20. Bg5+ Kg6 21. N2f4.

Checkmate.

Here's Tarrasch striking again, this time against a far stronger opponent.

Nimzovitch-Tarrasch 1914

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 c5 3. c4 e6 4. e3 Nf6 5. Bd3 Nc6 6. O-O Bd6 7. b3 O-O 8. Bb2 b6 9. Nbd2 Bb7 10. Rc1 Qe7 11. cxd5 exd5 12. Nh4 g6 13. Nhf3 Rad8 14. dxc5 bxc5 15. Bb5 Ne4 16. Bxc6 Bxc6 17. Qc2 Nxd2 18. Nxd2 d4 19. exd4 Bxh2+ 20. Kxh2 Qh4+ 21. Kg1 Bxg2 22. f3 Rfe8 23. Ne4 Qh1+.

The white king gets forced out.

24. Kf2 Bxf1 25. d5 f5 26. Qc3 Qg2+ 27. Ke3 Rxe4+ 28. fxe4 f4+ 29. Kxf4 Rf8+ 30. Ke5 Qh2+ 31. Ke6 Re8+ 32. Kd7 Bb5.

Checkmate.

Nimzovitch was fond of the lengthy king march, but this was too much even for him.

Here's a master class in attack – from the 17th century!

Greco-NN 1620

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 g4 5. Bxf7+ Kxf7 6. Ne5+ Ke6 7. Qxg4+ Kxe5 8. Qf5+ Kd6 9. d4 Bg7 10. Bxf4+ Ke7 11. Bg5+ Bf6 12. e5 Bxg5 13. Qxg5+ Ke8 14. Qh5+ Ke7 15. O-O Qe8 16. Qg5+ Ke6.

17. Rf6+ Nxf6 18. Qxf6+ Kd5 19. Nc3+ Kxd4 20. Qf4+ Kc5 21. b4+ Kc6 22. Qc4+ Kb6 23. Na4.

Checkmate.

I love this miniature – it has snap, crackle and pop. Unbelievably, it was a *correspondence* game.

Biegler-Peperle 1952

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e5 3. d5 Bc5 4. h3 Bxf2+ 5. Kxf2 Ne4+ 6. Kf3.

Qh4 7. g3 Qxg3+ 8. Kxe4 f5+ 9. Kxf5 d6+ 10. Ke4 Bf5+ 11. Kxf5 Qg6.

Checkmate.

A witty little miniature.

Hoffman-Petrov 1844

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 Ne4 7.Bd5 Nxf2 8.Kxf2 dxc3+ 9.Kg3 cxb2 10.Bxb2 Ne7 11.Ng5 Nxd5 12.Nxf7 O-O 13.Nxd8 Bf2+ 14.Kh3 d6+ 15.e6 Nf4+ 16.Kg4.

And now a slow yet deadly continuation:

16…Nxe6 17.Nxe6 Bxe6+ 18.Kg5 Rf5+ 19.Kg4 h5+ 20.Kh3 Rf3.

Checkmate.

Here is a real king march! It's almost comical how proudly the king marches forward to his own doom.

Matschego-Falkbeer 1853

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. h4 g4 5. Ne5 Nf6 6. Nc3 d6 7. Nc4 Be7 8. d4 Nh5 9. Be2 Bxh4+ 10. Kd2 Qg5 11. Kd3 Nc6 12. a3 Bf2 13. Nd5 Bxd4 14. Nxc7+ Kd8 15. Nd5 f5 16. Nxd6 fxe4+ 17. Kc4.

Now comes a really brilliant shot:

17… Qxd5+ 18. Kxd5 Nf6+ 19. Kc4 Be6+ 20. Kb5 a6+ 21. Ka4 b5+ 22. Nxb5 axb5+ 23. Kxb5 Ra5+ 24. Kxc6 Bd5+ 25. Kd6 Ne8.

Checkmate.

Finally!

This is a sort of companion game to the one above: a slashing attack and the king driven from pillar to post.

Reinisch-Traxler 1890

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5.

The famous Traxler Variation.

5.Nxf7 Bxf2+ 6.Ke2 Nd4+ 7.Kd3.

Black's continuation now is incredibly inspired:

7… b5 8.Bb3 Nxe4 9.Nxd8 Nc5+ 10.Kc3 Ne2+ 11.Qxe2 Bd4+ 12.Kb4 a5+ 13.Kxb5 Ba6+ 14.Kxa5 Bd3+ 15.Kb4 Na6+ 16.Ka4 Nb4+ 17.Kxb4 c5.

Checkmate.

Not just the provenance of the old-timers, here is a modern-day example of the king hunt.

Topalov-Bareev 1994

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.c3 Nd7 8.Qc2 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.f4 Ng6 11.g3 O-O 12.Bd3 Qd5 13.a3 Nxf4 14.Nxf6+ gxf6 15.Bxh7+ Kg7 16.Qe4 Re8 17.Qxe8 Bf5 18.Qxa8 Qe4+ 19.Kf2.

Here we go!

19… Qg2+ 20.Ke3 Nd5+ 21.Kd4 Qd2+ 22.Kc5 Qe3+ 23.Kc4 Nb6+.

White resigned.

It's a forced mate in 4 moves.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Finals of the Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour – a true heavyweight fight.

The cream of the chess world gathered for Magnus's invitational chess tour. (We note that this was a great source of entertainment for the chess world, and even very casual chess players. Other sports had simply stopped.) The finals ended up with the two clearly best rapid and blitz players in the world. That Magnus reached the finals is simply expected. There are a few of the world's top players that you would expect to meet him there, but only one player will make it a true battle – America's Hikaru Nakamura. Now Nakamura has faded from the top 10 in classical chess, but remains a monster when the time limit is reduced. His confident approach and a willingness to live through mistakes is the perfect recipe for success in blitz and rapid.

The finals was an online match, best of 7 mini-matches. Each mini-match was 4 rapid games (15 minutes to each side with 10 second increment) and if the mini-match was tied after the 4 games then it was decided with two blitz games (5 min + 3 sec increment). If still tied the mini-match would come down to one Armaggedon blitz game where White has an extra minute but needs to win. This format is something like tennis, where the winner needs to win best of 5 sets and each set can be determined by a tie-breaker.

The heavyweight battle did not disappoint. Though Magnus has been very dominant of late (even more than usual), Hikaru put him on the defensive throughout the match. Naka scored first to take the first mini-match 2.5-1.5. Magnus bounced back the next day to win 3.5.2.5. Again Naka took the lead in the 3rd mini-match, with Carlsen taking the 4th to tie everything again. The important 5th mini-match was a great struggle tied after 6 games, so had to be decided by the Armaggedon game. Naka with black needed only a draw, but closed out with a win. On the brink of elimination Magnus showed what happens when he is angry and decidedly won the 6th mini-match to even the score 3-3 going into the deciding 7th day the heavy fight is in the final round. The final match was a great struggle that could have gone either way. First Carlsen scored in the rapid time control, but Nakamura evened it up to go into the blitz games. Naka took the first blitz game but couldn't hold the second. The match came down to one Armaggedon game with Nakamura as White needing to win. Though he got a queen against rook and bishop, Carlsen built a fortress that couldn't be breached and so won the match by the smallest possible margin. We look forward to a heavyweight rematch between these two combatants.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Nakamura,Hikaru [C54]

Finals MC Chess Tour, 17.08.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.c3 This Guico Piano position has become very popular. **6...h6 7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2 a5** Stopping White from advancing on the queenside. **9.Nf1 Be6 10.Bb5! Ne7 11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 Bb6 13.Ng3** White has gotten a small edge from the opening. His center pawns control space. **13...d5 14.e5 Ne4 15.Bd3 Nxg3 16.hxg3 a4 17.Bc2 a3 18.bxa3 Bg4 19.a4 Qd7 20.Ba3 Rfe8 21.Bxe7!** It seems strange to trade the bishop but the black knight was coming to f5 with pressure against d4. **21...Qxe7 22.Qd3** The threat of mate from the queen and bishop causes a weakeness on the black kingside. **22...g6 23.Nh4!** 24. e6 Bxe6 25 Nxg6 is the threat. **23...Qb4**

24.Nxg6! Qxd4 25.Ne7+! Kf8 [25...Rxe7 26.Qh7+ Kf8 27.Qh8#] **26.Nxd5 Qxf2+?** This looks aggressive but it's White who gets the attack. [Black needed to trade into the endgame with 26...Qxd3 27.Bxd3 Ba5 28.Re3 Red8] **27.Kh2 Rad8 28.Rf1!**

28...Rxe5 [There was no good in retreating - 28...Qc5 29.Rxf7+! Kxf7 30.Rf1+] **29.Rxf2 Rdxd5 30.Rxf7+! Ke8** [30...Kxf7 31.Rf1+ Ke7 32.Qh7+] **31.Qxd5** It's simplest to trade into a winning edgame. **31...Rxd5 32.Bg6** stopping ...Rh5 mate **32...Kd8 33.Re1 c6 34.Rxb7 Bc7 35.Re8+ Kd7 36.Rh8 1-0**

(2) Nakamura,Hikaru - Carlsen,Nagnus [C65]

Finals MC Chess Tour, 18.08.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nbd2 Nakamura likes the white side of this opening. Black has doubled pawns but also the bishop pair. Like most versions of the Exchange Variation the chances are about equal. **6...0-0 7.Qe2** [7.Nxe5? Qd4] **7...Re8 8.Nc4 Nd7 9.Bd2 b5 10.Ne3 Nf8 11.h4!?** The h-pawn takes kingside territory. Perhaps Black does best to respond on the queenside with 11...a5 and ignore the advance. **11...Ne6?**

ready to jump into the d4 square, but there is a problem. **12.Nxe5!** courageously just taking the pawn and calculating carefully that it works. **12...a5?!** admitting things went wrong though the game move does nothing to help [12...Nd4 13.Nxf7! *(13.Qh5 g6 14.Nxg6 Bd6!* is good for Black*)* 13...Qf6 14.Qh5 keeps a solid pawn ahead fro White as the c5 bishop is attacked.] **13.Qh5 g6 14.Qf3 f6 15.Nxc6! Qd7 16.Qxf6! Qxc6 17.Bc3**

17...Rf8 There is no way out. The white queen and bishop battary take down the black kingside. **18.Qh8+ Kf7 19.Qxh7+ Ke8 20.Qxg6+ Kd7?! 21.d4 b4 22.dxc5** Black resigned. 23. Rd1+ is going to be a real killer. **1-0**

(3) Nakamura,Hikaru - Carlsen,Magnus [C65]

Finals MC Chess Tour, 16.08.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.Qe2 Re8 8.Nc4 Nd7 9.h4 a5 10.h5 b5 11.Ne3 Nf8 12.Bd2 Ne6 13.a4 b4?! 14.b3 The black pawns have no way to break through on the queenside. **14...Ba6 15.g3 Bxe3 16.Bxe3 f5 17.Rh4** [17.exf5? Nd4!] **17...f4 18.Bd2 Nd4?! 19.Nxd4 Qxd4 20.Rc1! fxg3 21.fxg3 Qg1+?! 22.Qf1 Qxg3+ 23.Qf2**

23...Qxf2+ Black trades into a pawn up bishops of opposite color ending. That sounds good, but the black pawns are targets while the white pawns are strong and solid. **24.Kxf2 Re6 25.Rg1 Rf8+ 26.Ke1 Bc8 27.h6! g6 28.Bg5 Ree8 29.Rh2 Rf3?! 30.Rf2** The trade of rooks will happen because both sides want the f-file. **30...Rxf2 31.Kxf2 Rf8+ 32.Ke3 Kf7?!** making the trade of the last pair of rooks easy. Some defensive chances could be had by [32...Re8 33.Bf6 Kf7 34.Rf1 Kg8] **33.Rf1+ Ke8 34.Rxf8+ Kxf8 35.Bd8 c5** Black is a pawn up, bishops of opposite color, and completely lost. **36.Bxc7 Ke7 37.Bxe5 Kd7 38.Bf6 Bb7 39.Kf4 Bc6 1-0**

(4) Nakamura,Hikaru - Carlsen,Magnus [C65]

Finals MC Chess Tour, 20.08.2020

It all came down to this Armageddon game to decide the match. Naka had White and an extra minute on the clock but needs to win the game. A draw gives Carlsen the tournament victory. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6** These players have given this opening variation a great work out in this match. **6.Nbd2 Be6 7.h3 Nd7 8.Nf1 f6** Carlsen finally has found a solid set-up for the Black side against Naka's opening ideas. **9.g4 Qe7 10.Ng3 0-0-0!** The black king is safer over on the queenside. **11.Qe2 Kb8 12.a3 Bb6 13.Be3 Nf8 14.0-0-0 Ng6 15.Nh5 Bxe3+ 16.Qxe3 c5 17.Nd2 b6 18.Nb1 Nh4 19.Rhg1 g5!** now black holds an edge due to control of the f4 square. His light-squared bishop can exchange for any white knight that hops into f5. **20.Nc3 Ng6 21.Kb1 Nf4 22.Nxf4 gxf4 23.Qe2 h5 24.f3 hxg4 25.hxg4 Rh3 26.Rg2 Rdh8 27.Rdg1 Rh1 28.b3 c4 29.dxc4 Qxa3 30.g5?! fxg5?!** [30...Rxg1+ 31.Rxg1 fxg5 would give Black a serious edge as White cannot capture on g5 here - 32.Rxg5? Rh1+ 33.Nd1 Qd6 34.Kc1 Qd4 35.Rg2 Qc3 36.Kb1 Qe3 leaves White in dire straits.] **31.Rxg5 a5 32.Qd3 Kb7 33.Rg7 Rxg1+ 34.Rxg1 Rh7 35.Na4 Qd6 36.Qc3 Bd7 37.Nb2 Rh3 38.Rd1 Qe7?!** [38...Qc6] **39.Nd3?!** [39.c5!] **39...Rxf3 40.Qxe5**

40...Rxd3! 40...Qe6 might be objectively better, but Magnus sees he will get fortress in a situation where he only needs to draw. **41.Qxe7 Rxd1+ 42.Kb2 Bc6 43.e5 f3 44.Qf6 Rd2 45.e6 f2 46.e7 Re2 47.Qf7 Rxe7 48.Qxf2** The queen cannot win with all the pawns on one side. The rook and bishop easily hold off any white advance. **48...Rg7 49.Qf4 Rg2 50.Qe5 Rg6 51.c3 Rg2+ 52.Kc1 Rg4 53.Qe6 Re4 54.Qf7 Re1+ 55.Kd2 Re4 56.b4 axb4 57.cxb4 b5! 58.cxb5 Bxb5 59.Qd5+ Bc6 60.Qc5 Re6 61.Kc3 Rd6 62.b5 Bd7 63.Qe5 Bc8 64.Kc4 Rb6 65.Kc5 Kb8**

The black rook simply shuffles from b6 to d6 for the rest of the game and White can do nothing. Draw agreed, so Magnus wins the tournament but a fantastic battle from Hikaru. **1/2-1/2**

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Newsletter #932

August 29, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Chess Clubs from Around the Country
- Fred and Pat Mayntz Memorial TNM
- August 23 Rapid Report
- Olympiad Report by John Donaldson
- Summer Chess Fest 2020
- TD Corner
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Chess Clubs From Around the Country: A Reflection

I recently watched a documentary on Netflix called The Surrounding Game (https://www.netflix.com/title/81006598 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.netflix.com/title/81006598)). It is about an effort by Go organizers, players, and enthusiasts to promote the game of 'Go' in the United States and establish the first American Go professional. As a chess player and organizer, I was uniquely drawn to this film. It follows the path of young teenagers at the top of their game trying to balance the pursuit of excellence in their craft while considering their future plans. It also follows Go organizers trying to make the most of an opportunity to elevate Go in the United States and raise awareness of the game among the general public. While watching, there are so many similarities to chess, in terms of the tournaments, the players, the goal of organizers, and the hope that one day American Go will find their Bobby Fischer.

As a member of the US Chess Clubs committee, I have interacted with others passionate about chess clubs in their respective commmunities from all over the country. Whether clubs are big or small, live or online, own their own space or rent or borrow, all clubs would not exist without a collective buy in from the people that make up the club. The community is what makes the soul of any club, and gives it life and builds loyalty that transcends time. What attracted me to writing about chess clubs from around the country is in trying to understand the comunity of players from other parts of the country, and how clubs go about addressing the needs of their community and how these clubs go about building community.

There is another part that makes communities of people special, though, and that is the passion and drive of the players. At the Mechanics' Institute there are a number of passionate players that love chess. They have played chess for a great part of their lives, play in our events and at our club, participate in our classes, and all do it for the love of the game and wanting to be among other like minded people. I could go on and on listing names of Mechanics' players, but they know who they are.

They love chess, but they are also someone else outside of chess. Even though they may also belong to other social, professional, or recreational groups, they bring the totality of their life expereinces with them to add value and enhance and illuminate our own chess community, helping to make us collectively one. I see this as our goal as organizers and club directors: to provide opportunities for people to play chess, to offer exciting unique ways for players to play, to host rated events and bring marquee events. It is also equally important to bring in new players, to raise awareness of our club outside of "rated" chess because there are so many people that also love the game that play in parks and coffee houses or with friends, that would love to join the Mechanics' Institute chess community if only they were aware of it. I believe this to be a key for us to engage more underrepresented groups into chess. Men and women of color are out there ready to play, we just need to raise awareness of the opportunities and provide pathways for participation, regardless of socioeconomic circumstances. Our chess club will have a goal of engaging new communities in San Francisco not only to our club and the Institute, but also to the game of chess. We will work to not only find players and make them aware of our club and community, but also find non-chess players and introduce them to the game and the many benefits it brings. Although there are challenges in community engagement during these times, it is not impossible, and we are working to find unique ways to reach out to our diverse communities.

Back to the Surrounding Game. At the end of the documentary, we see the first 2 American Go professionals established - Andy Liu and Gansheng Shi - after advancing through a tournament series to earn the Professional 1-dan title. The player that made me the most curious was Ben Lockhart, who from the film was a young American who loved the game so much, he even move from the United States to live in Korea for the sole purpose of being able to train and play with stronger players not available in the United States. From his interviews, he was a pure player, devoting his life to the game and its excellence, setting aside the expectations of the world and following his own path. As chess tournament organizers, we know those players - it often seems it is just in the blood, and chess becomes a way of life. For that type of person, the Mechanics' Institute is a truly special place, and if you have been inside the club, you know and feel why.

As I was learning more about Ben Lockhart, I was surprised to learn he had passed away last year of cancer at the age of 26. Life is short, but he clearly followed his passion and dreams. Incidentally, one of the director's of this fil is Will Lockhart, Ben's brother.

If you have the opportunity, watch this film. As chess players, we will certainly relate and watch in admiration as the players and organizers follow their passion and pursuit of excellence, and seeing the community of players and the atmosphere it delivers. We all may be a little crazy, but we have our own community of crazies, and we are truly fortunate. Our crazy community has rallied together and we have had a home together every week during COVID.

The sentiment of this piece is summed up perfectly in a quote from the film Million Dollar Baby, said by Morgan Freeman's character regarding a female boxer looking to win the world title. It goes: "It's the magic of risking everything for a dream that nobody sees but you." For the Go players in The Surrounding Game and for chess players in any chess community, there is truth in this.

I will continue next week with my 3rd chess club profile.

Fred and Pat Mayntz TNM Report

The Fred and Pat Mayntz Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon concluded with FM Kyron Griffith dominating the field wire-to-wire and scoring an impressive 7.5/8 to take sole first place. He had to survive a final round challenge against IM Elliott Winslow, who was looking for a win to tie for first, but a sharp game and a misstep led to a rather quick victory for Griffith. Winslow had been on a run of some extraordinary games lately, but he came up just a bit short on this occasion. NM Ruiyang Yan defeated Kristian Clemens in round 8 to secure sole 2nd place finish as well as the top female prize. Pranav Sairam, who was the only mild blemish for Griffith in the tournament, played very well throughout to take sole 3rd place.

In the under 1600 section, Pranav Pradeep was the clear winner with a dominating 7/8. Ian Liao takes 2nd with 5.5/8 and Martin Camacho is 3rd with 5/8.

The final rounds had many interesting games that we followed on the broadcast, and it was almost a shame that the event had to end. We had several guests come on and join Paul and I, including Kyrong Griffith (who provided round 8 commentary after his game with Elliott), Jonah Busch, and Elliott Winslow (who showcased how to mate with a King, Bishop and Knight in round 7). We had 64 players in total for this TNM, and we would like to thank all the participants for playing our event and for their support of the Mechanics' Institute.

The next TNM will start on September 8th. It will be 6 rounds over 3 weeks, with 2 sections; 1800+ and under 1800. Stay tuned for more details.

To watch the broadcast of rounds 7&8, please click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQBhr3N705c (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQBhr3N705c)

Full results can be found on our event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fred-and-pat-mayntz-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fred-and-pat-mayntz-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon-online-aug-2020)

Here are some games from the evenings action, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(8) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2167) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1962) [B99]

Live Chess Chess.com, 25.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Kyron has tried some of the recent sidelines but here returns to the main line. [6.Bd3 and; 6.Nb3] **6...e6 7.f4 Be7** [7...h6 8.Bh4 Be7 9.Qf3 Nbd7 10.0-0-0 0-1 (50) Kavalek,L-Weinstein,R Leningrad 1960] **8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 h6** Black avoids some lines but allows others. [9...Nbd7 10.g4 being the main one avoided. *(10.Bd3 h6 11.Bh4 g5* is the game*; 10.Be2 b5* is a lot better for Black without ...h6 in*)* 10...b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 The "modern move" is 13...0-0!?] **10.Bh4 Nbd7 11.Bd3** Overall the most popular. [11.g4 is possible here too.; But 11.Be2! is the problem move, and its popularity will overtake 11.Bd3.]

11...g5!? Back before databases this was known as the Kavalek Variation. Six-time U.S. champion Walter Browne then lived and died by it, and it became the Kavalek-Browne Variation, now it's often just called the Browne Variation. But it was really Bobotsov who first brought it to the world stage. In fact Kavalek lost a game as White to it in 1960, to Raymond Weinstein. [Well not quite: that game went like this: 11...Rb8 12.Rhe1 g5 13.fxg5 Ne5 14.Qe2 Nfg4 15.h3 hxg5 16.Bg3 Nf6 17.Nf3 Nh5 18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.Qf3 b5 20.Rf1 Nf4 21.Bxf4? exf4! with a probably winning advantage. Kavalek so wanted open lines and the e4 square that he pushed the e-pawn, but carefully Weinstein used that pawn and other plusses to get the win. 22.e5 Qxe5 23.Rfe1 Qc7 24.Re2 Bb7 25.Be4 Kf8 26.Red2 f5 0-1 (50) Kavalek,L-Weinstein,R, World Students Team, Leningrad 1960] **12.fxg5 Ne5 13.Qe2 Nfg4 14.Nf3** The most direct line. [One also tries 14.h3 hxg5 15.Bg3 Nf6; and the occasional 14.Kb1] **14...hxg5** [14...Nxf3 15.Qxf3 hxg5 0-1 (49) Kusmierek,J (2068)-Wantoch Rekowski,J (2246) ICCF email 2008] **15.Bg3** [15.Bxg5?! Bxg5+ 16.Nxg5 Qc5 when White isn't happy with either 17.Nh3 on the rim(or 17.Nf3 losing an exchange, albeit it for some compensation. 17...Nf2 18.Nxe5 *(18.Na4 Nfxd3+! 19.Rxd3 Nxd3+ 20.Qxd3 Qc7)* 18...Nxd1! *(18...dxe5?! 19.Na4 Qa720.Bb5+! axb5 21.Qxb5+ Ke7 22.Qb4+ Kf6* and White's attack is very dangerous after *23.Nb6)* 19.Nxf7 Nxc3 20.Qf3 Rf8 0-1 (29) Supancic,D (2335)-Tarjan,J (2510) Maribor 1978)] **15...Nxf3** [15...Bd7 could well be the way to go. 16.h3 Nxf3 *(16...Nf6 17.Nxe5 dxe5 18.Bf2 Bc6 19.Rhf1 Nh5 20.g3* 1-0 (33) Ivanchuk,V (2752)-Quan,Z (2396) Edmonton 2005*)* 17.hxg4 Rxh1 18.Rxh1 Nh4 isn't the end of the story; Black can be quite resilient.] **16.Qxf3** [16.gxf3 Ne5 17.f4 gxf4 18.Bxf4 is dynamically balanced; White has a passed h-pawn, Black the e5-square.] **16...Ne5 17.Bxe5!? dxe5 18.Rdf1 f6** [18...Rh7!? 19.h4!? gxh4 20.Qg4 Rh8! 21.g3 Bd7 22.gxh4 0-0-0 23.Rxf7 Rdg8 24.Rg7 Rxg7 25.Qxg7 Rxh4 The computers favor White a bit, but Black is fairly well blocked in and should hold.] **19.h4 gxh4 20.Qg4**

20...Kf7?? Winslow must have miscalculated here. [20...Bd7 got beat up pretty bad; after 21.Qg6+ Kd8 White can choose: 22.Rxf6 *(22.Qg7)* ; 20...Qc5 21.Rxh4 Rxh4 22.Qxh4 0-1 (49) Kusmierek,J (2068)-Wantoch Rekowski,J (2246) ICCF email 2008 22...Kd7!? 23.Qh7 Kc6 24.Kb1! b5 25.a4 b4 26.Na2 sees White still causing trouble for the beleagured Black king.] **21.Rxh4 Bd7 22.Rfh1** White is just invading on the kingside. Nothing to be done. **22...Rxh4 23.Rxh4 Bf8 24.Rh7+ Ke8 25.Qg6+** KyronGriffith won by resignation **1-0**

(9) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2127) - Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1808) [C42]

Live Chess Chess.com, 25.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nf6!? [Most but not all the games now go 5...Nxc3 6.dxc3 with White castling queenside and throwing his pawns at Black's kingside -- except that Black players have learned their lesson and now castle long as well.; 5...Bf5? 6.Qe2 was infamously 1-0, Zapata - Anand, Biel 1988.] **6.d4 Be7** This is similar to the line 5.d4 Be7 6.Bd3 Nf6, but here White is committed to Nc3, so the c-pawn can't participate so readily in the center. **7.Bd3 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.Bf4 Nbd7 10.Qd2 c6 11.0-0-0** White does have a slight space advantage -- and there's that opposite-sides castling again. **11...d5 12.g4** White takes away even the option of ... Bxf3. **12...Bg6 13.Bxg6 hxg6 14.Qd3 Nf8 15.Ng5!? N6h7 16.Nxh7 Nxh7 17.Rde1 0-0**

18.h4! Bd6 [18...Bxh4?! would be very daring, but Black might well get away with it! 19.Bd2! g5 20.f4 f6 *(20...gxf4 21.g5!* sees White sacrificing three pawns for a winning attack*!)* 21.Kb1 Black is teetering on the edge, with his bishop rather out of play.] **19.Be3?!** [19.Be5!] **19...Re8 20.g5!** Making sure lines open up when h4-h5 happens. **20...Qd7 21.h5 Nf8** [21...Qf5!? 22.hxg6 Qxd3 23.gxf7+ Kxf7 24.cxd3 Nf8 drops a pawn but not much of one; Black could try to defend this.] **22.h6?!** [22.hxg6 is advantage White however Black recaptures.] **22...Qf5** The game is threatening to turn in Black's favor! **23.Qxf5 gxf5 24.Bd2?! Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Ne6 26.g6?! Nxd4** [26...gxh6 27.Bxh6 Nxd4-+] **27.h7+** [27.gxf7+ Kxf7 28.hxg7-/+] **27...Kh8 28.gxf7**

28...Kxh7?? Kristian's defensive powers let him down on this occasion! [Black had one move to win but win it would: 28...Rf8! 29.Re8 Kxh7!] **29.Re8** Black's rook is on the wrong side of the gun. **29...Kg6 30.Rxa8 Kxf7 31.Rxa7** jij2018 won by resignation. Rui is not to be underestimated! **1-0**

(10) Pranav Sairam (chesspilot01) (1967) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1966) [B92]

Live Chess Chess.com, 25.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Be6 10.f3 Pranav is fond of this move here, although it seems somewhat passive and committal. [10.a4 Nc6!?; It is similar to Karpov's line, 10.Qd2 Nbd7 11.a4 Qc7 *(11...Rc8 12.Rfd1 Qc7 13.f3* 1/2-1/2 (30) Sznapik,A (2460)-Sigurjonsson,G (2455) Oslo 1983*)* 12.a5 Rac8 13.Rfd1 but White retains the option of Bf3 (and has saved a move for the moment).; 10.Nd5 is the rage these days, with yet another instance of the Caruana-Carlsen pawn structure from their 2018 World Championship match. 10...Nbd7 11.Qd3 Bxd5 12.exd5] **10...Nbd7 11.a4 Qc7 12.Qd2 Rfd8 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.a5** This takes the a5 square away from the White queen (!!), allowing a surprising combination which has been seen quite a few times.

14...d5!? Black can play this! But should he? When playing for a win there is the danger of a bland equality. The first occasion was Bradvarevic-Bertok, Yugoslav ch Final 1963. **15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Bxd5 17.Qxd5 Nf6** There are 56 games here in the Chessbase online database! **18.Qc4 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Qxc4 20.Bxc4 Rxc4** Black has regained his piece and we are in a fairly level endgame. **21.c3** [21.Bc5!? Bxc5+ led to a draw between two fairly strong players: (21...Rxc5!? 22.Nxc5 Bxc5+ 23.Kf1 Kf8 *(23...Be7 24.Rd3! Kf8 25.Rb3 Bd8 26.Rxb7 Bxa5 27.Ra7* is not what Black wants; White's passed pawns could get annoying*.)* 24.Rd8+ Ke7 25.Rb8 Nd7 26.Rxb7 peters out to the dreaded 0.00.) 22.Nxc5 Kf8 23.Nxb7 Rxc2 24.b4 Rb2 25.Nd8 Rxb4 26.Nc6 Rc4 27.Rd8+ Ne8 28.Nxe5 Rc1+ 29.Kf2 Ke7 30.Rd2 Nd6 1/2-1/2 (30) Sznapik,A (2460)-Sigurjonsson,G (2455) Oslo 1983] **21...Kf8 22.Kf2** Meanwhile, Stockfish 11 has taken a bit of a liking to White's position. **22...Ke8 23.Ke2 Nd7 24.Kd3** [24.Nd2!?] **24...Ra4!?** with the slightest pressure on White's defenses. **25.Ra1**

allowing another central combination, which, like 16...d5, is more bark than bite. **25...e4+! 26.Kc2?** [26.fxe4 Ne5+ 27.Ke2 Rxe4 28.Nd2 Rg4 29.g3 and as often, nothing much.] **26...Rxa1 27.Nxa1 exf3 28.gxf3 Ne5** Black makes it into something tangible as the white pawns are weak on the kingside. **29.f4 Nc4 30.Bd4 Nxa5** [30...Bd6!? 31.Bxg7 Bxf4 32.h3 Nxa5] **31.Bxg7 Bd6 32.Bh6 Nc4 33.Bg5 Kd7 34.Nb3 Ne3+ 35.Kd3 Ng4 36.Nd4 h6?!** This time it's just too clever. [36...Nxh2! is a simple clear pawn ahead] **37.Bh4 Bxf4 38.h3 Ne5+ 39.Ke4 Ng6 40.Bf6 a5 41.b3 Bd2 42.c4 Bc3 43.Kd3**

[43.Bg7!? Ne7! keeps the tricks coming.] **43...Bb2** [43...Bxd4! 44.Bxd4 Nf4+ 45.Ke3 Nxh3 46.Bb6 a4! 47.bxa4 h5 still is close to winning but one can't be sure.] **44.Ke4 h5 45.Kf5? Bc1?** [45...Ne7+! 46.Bxe7 *(46.Kg5 Ng8!* Who saw that coming?*)* 46...Kxe7 47.Nc2 Kd6 is winning] **46.Nf3** [46.Ne2! Bd2 47.Ng3] **46...Kd6?!** [46...Nf4] **47.Bc3 b6 48.Bd4** 0.00. Black has let his win slip away. **48...Kc6 49.Kf6?** [49.Bf2=] **49...Nf4! 50.Ne5+ Kb7?!** [50...Kc7! 51.Nxf7 Nxh3 52.Kf5 Bd2 is still problematic; it's not at all clear if it's a win or a draw.] **51.h4 Ne6**

52.Ba1? [52.Bf2= keeps sentry on c5.] **52...Nc5** Now Black is definitely winning. **53.Nxf7 Nxb3 54.Be5 a4** Now the passed a-pawn should win the game **55.Kg6 a3 56.Nd6+ Kc6 57.Nb5 Bb2** [57...Nd2!] **58.Nxa3 Bxe5 59.Kxh5 Kc5 60.Kg4 Bb2 61.Nc2 Kxc4?!** [61...Nd4 62.Ne3 Bc1] **62.h5** [62.Ne3+ Kc5] **62...Nd4** Trying to make it hard!? [62...Bc1] **63.Ne3+ Kc5 64.h6 Ne6 65.Kf5 Nf8 66.Ke4 b5 67.Ng4 b4 68.Kd3 Bd4 69.Nh2 b3 70.Nf3 Bf6 71.Nd2 Kb4 72.Nxb3 Kxb3**

Black has a wall; White loses the h-pawn; then it's just a question of mating with bishop and knight in a minute... **73.Ke4 Kc4 74.Kf5 Bh8 75.Kg5 Kd5 76.Kf5 Kd6 77.h7 Kd5 78.Kg5 Ke6 79.Kh6 Kf7 80.Kg5 Kg7 81.Kf5 Kxh7 82.Kf4 Kg6 83.Ke4 Kg5 84.Kd5 Kf5 85.Kd6 Bf6 86.Kd5 Be5 87.Kc6 Ke6 88.Kb7 Kd7 89.Ka8 Ne6 90.Kb7 Bd4 91.Ka8 Kc6 92.Kb8 Nc7 93.Kc8 Ba7 94.Kd8 Nd5 95.Ke8 Kd6 96.Kd8 Ne7 97.Ke8 Ke6 98.Kf8 Nf5 99.Kg8 Bc5 100.Kh7 Kf7 101.Kh8 Be7 102.Kh7 Bg5 103.Kh8 Kg6 104.Kg8 Bh6 105.Kh8 Bg7+ 106.Kg8 Nh6#** Checkmate. Well done by Winslow with little time! **0-1**

(1) Martin Camacho (camachom) (1426) - Rahim Dharssi (rahimftd) (1356) [A01]

Live Chess Chess.com, 25.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 d5 4.Bb5 Bd6 A classic Larsen/Nimzovitch Attack where White seeks to pressure the center squares with the bishops - one pins the knight on c6 and the other attacks on the long a1-h8 diagonal. **5.f4**

5...e4? A blunder. Black needed to hold the center squares with [5...f6 6.Nc3 *(6.fxe5?! fxe5 7.Nf3 Qe7 8.Nc3 Nf6* leaves Black in control of the center*.)* 6...Nge7 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Qf3 a6 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 and everything is guarded.] **6.Bxg7** Ouch. The bishop does its job and grabs a lot of material. **6...a6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Bxh8 Nf6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nc3 Bb4 11.Na4 Bf5 12.Ne2 Ke7** Black is a rook and pawn down, but plays logically to get all the pieces out and hope for a shot. **13.Nd4 Bd7 14.c3 Bd6 15.b4!** An important move to hold the squares for the white knights. If Black had gotten to play ...c5 the game would have become complicated. **15...Rg8 16.Qe2 Bxf4** This is objectively bad but as Black is lost anyway you may as well try something active. **17.exf4 Qxf4 18.0-0-0!** White has plenty of material, so it is good to give a little back and get the king to saftey. **18...Bg4 19.Qxa6 Bxd1 20.Nxc6+** Now the extra material translates to a winning attack for White. **20...Kd7 21.Nc5+ Kd6 22.Rf1 Qxh2 23.Rf6#**

camachom won by checkmate **1-0**

(2) PJ Liotino (CocoKat) (1682) - Arul Viswanathan (Shouldbedoincalchw) (1663) [A61]

Live Chess Chess.com, 26.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 c5 2.d5 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 Bg7?! A known mistake once played by Bobby Fischer. Black needs to prevent the check on a4 with [7...a6 8.a4 and only then 8...Bg7] **8.h3** [8.Qa4+! Bd7 9.Qb3 misplaces the black pieces as d6 needs defending and the bishop on d7 occupies the square a knight wants to be at.] **8...0-0 9.e3 a6 10.a4 Qc7 11.Be2 Nbd7 12.0-0 Rb8 13.Bh2** A Benoni position where White has only moved to pawn to e3 instead of e4. This is very solid for White and lets him try to pressure the d6 pawn with help from the bishop on a2. **13...b6?!** [13...Re8 14.Nd2 Ne5 keeps the central squares contested.] **14.Nd2 Nh5?** This creates weakenesses for no reason. **15.Bxh5 gxh5 16.Nde4! Ne5 17.f4 Nc4 18.Qxh5?** [18.f5! Nxe3 19.Qxh5 gets to the game continuation without allowing a good defense.] **18...Nxe3?**

[18...f5! 19.Ng5 h6 allows Black to defend] **19.f5!** This terrific move turbocharges the white attack! Material doesn't matter with White terrible threat of 20. f6. **19...Nxf5** [19...Nxf1 would be too much fun for White, e.g. 20.f6 Ne3 21.fxg7 Kxg7 22.Qg5+ Kh8 23.Qf6+ Kg8 24.Bxd6 Qd8 25.Be7 Qd7 26.Qg5+ Kh8 27.Bf6#] **20.Rxf5 Bxf5 21.Qxf5** Technically material is even, but the white minor pieces completely control the board. **21...Rbd8 22.Ng5 Bd4+ 23.Kh1 f6 24.Ne6**

The monster knight is worth at least a rook. Cocokat wraps the game up efficiently. **24...Qf7 25.Ne4 Bxb2 26.Rb1 Be5 27.Nxd8 Rxd8 28.Bxe5 dxe5 29.Rxb6 c4 30.Nxf6+ Kh8 31.Rc6 e4 32.Qxe4 c3 33.Qe5! Rf8 34.Qxc3 Rb8 1-0**

(3) Ashik Uzzaman (ashikuzzaman) (1849) - Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (1713) [B03]

Live Chess Chess.com, 26.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Rc1 0-0 9.Nf3 [White gets an endgame advantage after 9.b3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Qxd8 Rxd8 12.c5] **9...Bg4 10.b3 Nc6 11.Be2 e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.0-0 Qe7?!** [13...Qb8!? would keep the disadvantage to a minimum.] **14.Bxb6?** giving up dark square control. Instead [14.Nxe5! wins a clean pawn - 14...Bxe2 15.Nxc6 Qxe3 16.fxe3 Bxd1 17.Ne7+ Kh8 18.Rfxd1] **14...axb6 15.Nd5 Qc5** Black is happy now. **16.a4 Rad8 17.Ng5 Rxd5?** This doesn't work right and gives up material. [17...Bf5!] **18.cxd5 Bxe2 19.Rxc5?!** [19.Qxe2 Qxd5 20.Qc4 Is simply ahead for White an exchange for a pawn.] **19...Bxd1 20.Rxc6?!** [20.Rc1 Bxb3 21.dxc6 bxc6 22.Rxc6 Bxa4 23.Rxb6 leaves White winning chances in the endgame] **20...bxc6 21.Rxd1**

21...Rd8! Suddenly Black takes over the advantage. White must advance the pawn, but it becomes weak. **22.d6 Rd7 23.Kf1 Bf8 24.Ne4 Kg7 25.g4 f5! 26.gxf5 gxf5 27.Ng3 Kg6** [27...Kf6 is a more centralized square] **28.Ke2 Rxd6** A clear extra pawn for Black means that White must struggle for the draw. **29.Rg1 Kf6 30.Nh5+ Kf7 31.Rg5 Ke6 32.Ng3 f4 33.Ne4 Rd4 34.f3 Rb4 35.Rh5** [perhaps more chances are offered by 35.Nd2 Bc5 36.Rh5 Be3 37.Nc4] **35...h6 36.Nf2?!** [36.Nd2] **36...Rxb3 37.Ng4 Bg7 38.Nxh6 Ra3** Black has a winning position anyway but [38...e4! 39.fxe4 f3+ 40.Kf1 Bd4 would win quickly] **39.Ng4 Rxa4 40.Rh7 Bf8 41.h4 Rd4?** [41...Ra2+ 42.Kd3 b5 keeps Black well ahead] **42.h5!** This pawn is great counterplay. **42...b5 43.h6 b4 44.Rb7 Rd7**

45.h7! Bg7 46.Rxb4 Now White has enough play to hold the game. Note the white knight is superior to the black bishop. **46...Bh8 47.Rb6 Kd5 48.Rb8 Rxh7 49.Rd8+?** [49.Kd3! keeps the black king passive and would hold easily] **49...Kc4! 50.Re8 c5 51.Nxe5+ Bxe5 52.Rxe5 Rh2+ 53.Ke1 Kd4 54.Re4+ Kd3 55.Rxf4 Ke3?** [55...c4 56.Rf8 Rh1+ 57.Kf2 c3 and Black wins the rook ending - 58.Rd8+ Kc4 59.Rc8+ Kb3 60.Rb8+ Ka4! 61.Ra8+ Kb5 62.Rb8+ Ka6 63.Rc8 c2! White loses the rook and the f-pawn and white king are not advanced enough to make a draw.] **56.Re4+! Kxf3 57.Rc4 Rh5 58.Kd2** Now this is a simple draw. **58...Rd5+ 59.Kc3 Ke3 60.Kb3 Kd3 61.Rc3+ Kd2 62.Rc2+ Kd1 63.Rc4 Kd2 64.Ka4 Kd3 65.Kb5 Rd4 66.Rxc5 Ke4 67.Rc6 Rd5+ 68.Kb6 Ke5 69.Rc5 Rxc5 70.Kxc5** Game drawn by insufficient material **1/2-1/2**

SwissSys Standings. TNM Online August new: 1600+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7
1	FM Kyron Wa Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	W53	W22	W30	W10	W2	D3	W5
2	Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)	15462690	2242	W54	W19	W35	W11	L1	D8	X17
3	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	15424820	2087	W15	W32	D16	W5	W17	D1	L6
4	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	D37	L24	W20	W23	W35	W9	W8
5	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	W33	W26	W6	L3	W10	W25	L1
6	IM Elliott C Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	W45	W9	L5	D35	W24	W21	W3
7	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	L35	W46	W31	W13	L8	W26	W16
8	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	1929	W46	F35	W26	W42	W7	D2	L4
9	Peter Joh Liotino (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15915496)	15915496	1889	W20	L6	W41	W32	D11	L4	W21
10	Theodore Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	13989054	2175	W31	W18	B--	L1	L5	W15	W19
11	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	W14	W13	W24	L2	D9	D16	W25
12	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1940	W40	H--	W14	L24	L21	W33	W35
13	Jwalin Shah (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14379732)	14379732	1832	W49	L11	W36	L7	D33	D38	W28
14	Imran Champsi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16176854)	16176854	1663	L11	W28	L12	W51	L34	W39	W42
15	Ryan Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15991187)	15991187	1725	L3	L39	W48	W27	X29	L10	W38
16	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1664	W47	W23	D3	L17	W22	D11	L7
17	Mansoor Mohammed (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16086550)	16086550	1893	H--	W37	W34	W16	L3	W32	F2
18	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1869	W43	L10	W51	L25	L26	W27	D32

19	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	W44	L2	W50	L30	W39	W28	L10
20	Gan Mathrubootham (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15183473)	15183473	1494	L9	D45	L4	W46	W40	W22	L29
21	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1866	H---	H---	W44	D47	W12	L6	L9
22	Rudolph Fr Breedt (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13701346)	13701346	1884	W51	L1	W27	H---	L16	L20	W4(
23	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	X48	L16	H---	L4	W41	W37	W2
24	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1506	X---	W4	L11	W12	L6	W30	L23
25	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1699	X38	F30	W38	W18	W30	L5	L11
26	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1679	B---	L5	L8	W44	W18	L7	L30
27	Daniel R Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)	16465203	1364	L34	W54	L22	L15	W31	L18	W4
28	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1241	H---	L14	D46	W43	W42	L19	L13
29	Arul Viswanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14490424)	14490424	2071	H---	H---	L32	W37	F15	W51	W2(
30	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	W52	X25	L1	W19	L25	L24	W2(
31	Kevin Joe Roberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12735690)	12735690	1739	L10	W43	L7	L33	L27	W52	W4
32	Saatvik Krishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15210955)	15210955	1797	W39	L3	W29	L9	W47	L17	D18
33	Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1572	L5	L38	W49	W31	D13	L12	W3
34	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	W27	H---	L17	H---	W14	H---	U---
35	Patrick Peiju Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1719	W7	X8	L2	D6	L4	X47	L12
36	Andrew Yuech Gong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16947137)	16947137	1221	H---	H---	L13	D40	L37	L45	W5
37	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	D4	L17	W45	L29	W36	L23	L33
38	John W Jaffray (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10495920)	10495920	2008	F25	W33	L25	D41	W50	D13	L15
39	Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	17350313	unr.	L32	W15	L42	W52	L19	L14	W5
40	Ishaan Kodarapu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16128527)	16128527	1607	L12	W49	L47	D36	L20	W50	L22
41	Isaac Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17058192)	17058192	1508	H---	H---	L9	D38	L23	W46	D45

42	Scott E Poling (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12745555)	12745555	1800	H---	H---	W39	L8	L28	W49	L14	
43	Wentao Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16629782)	16629782	1411	L18	L31	L52	L28	B---	W44	L27	
44	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1009	L19	W52	L21	L26	L46	L43	B---	
45	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	L6	D20	L37	L50	D48	W36	D41	
46	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	16408266	1569	L8	L7	D28	L20	W44	L41	L48	
47	Rohan Das (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15263634)	15263634	1979	L16	X48	W40	D21	L32	F35	U---	
48	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	F23	F47	L15	L49	D45	B---	W4	
49	Andy Yueduo Xu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16732301)	16732301	1312	L13	L40	L33	W48	W52	L42	L31	
50	Jonathan Yic Gong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16947143)	16947143	994	H---	H---	L19	W45	L38	L40	U---	
51	Bruce Wishard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13994342)	13994342	1462	L22	X53	L18	L14	X53	L29	L39	
52	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1610	L30	L44	W43	L39	L49	L31	L36	
53	Barbara Goodkind (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12778604)	12778604	1791	L1	F51	H---	H---	F51	U---	U---	
54	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1776	L2	L27	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	

SwissSys Standings. TNM Online August new: u1600

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Tota
1	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1252	W9	W2	W4	W7	W6	L3	W5	B---	7.0
2	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1054	W8	L1	B---	L6	W5	D7	W9	W4	5.5
3	Martin Camacho (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248027)	17248027	1031	H---	H---	L7	L9	B---	W1	W8	W6	5.0
4	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	749	D10	X5	L1	L5	W8	W6	W7	L2	4.5
5	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	H---	F4	W8	W4	L2	B---	L1	W9	4.5
6	Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)	12693378	595	H---	H---	W9	W2	L1	L4	B---	L3	4.0
7	Danny Du Uy Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	843	X5	L10	W3	L1	W9	D2	L4	L8	3.5
8	Kwee Kuntjara (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17220740)	17220740	unr.	L2	H---	L5	B---	L4	W9	L3	W7	3.5
	Andrew Ballantyne											

9	(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	948	L1	B–	L6	W3	L7	L8	L2	L5	2.0
10	Andrew Yuech Gong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16947137)	16947137	1221	D4	W7	U–	U–	U–	U–	U–	U–	1.5

SwissSys Standings. TNM Online August new: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total	T-So
1	Ryan Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15991187)	15991187	1725	W11	W12							2.0	0
2	Patrick Peiju Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1719	W9	W11							2.0	0
3	Rohan Das (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15263634)	15263634	1979	W12	U–							1.0	0
4	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	W10	U–							1.0	0
5	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1506	W13	U–							1.0	0
6	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	U–	W15							1.0	0
7	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1054	W15	U–							1.0	0
8	Jonathan Yic Gong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16947143)	16947143	994	W14	U–							1.0	0
9	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	L2	U–							0.0	0
10	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1699	L4	U–							0.0	0
11	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	L1	L2							0.0	0
12	Bruce Wishard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13994342)	13994342	1462	L3	L1							0.0	0
13	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1241	L5	U–							0.0	0
14	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	948	L8	U–							0.0	0
15	Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)	14708926	827	L7	L6							0.0	0

Mechanics' Institute August 23 Rapid Tournament Recap

We held a 1-day USCF rated rapid tournament on Sunday August 23, and had 22 players. There was a 3-way tie for first place with 5/6 between IM Elliott Winslow, FM Josiah Stearman, and Eric Hon. Here are a couple of interesting games from the event, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(6) FM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2128) - Eric Hon (microbear) (2036) [B30]

Mechanics' USCF Online Rated Rapid Chess.com, 23.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 The famous Tiviakov line, which no one understands. **3...Nd4 4.Nf3 a6 5.Bd3** A curious move which gets the bishop out of the way. **5...e6 6.0-0 g6** [6...Nc6 7.Be2 Nd4 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.b3 (They almost repeated!) 1-0 30, Grischuk - Gelfand, London GP 2012.] **7.Rb1**

[7.Nxd4 cxd4 8.Ne2 Bg7 9.c3 is the standard continuation; Josiah tries a unique path to activate his pieces (or try to).] **7...Bg7 8.b4 cxb4 9.Rxb4 Nc6 10.Rb3 Nge7 11.Re1 0-0 12.Bf1 d5 13.d4**

13...dxe4?! This opens up the game. [13...Qc7 holds the line in the center.] **14.Nxe4 b5** Further weakening the dark squares (there will be no ...b6). [14...Nxd4?! 15.Nxd4! Qxd4 *(15...Bxd4? 16.Rd3 Nc6 17.c3)* 16.Ba3! Nc6 *(16...Re8?! 17.Rd3 Qb6 18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Rd8+ Bf8 20.Nf6+ Kg7*

White has a lot of good moves here, but the most interesting is *21.Re5!! Kxf6 22.Qa1* Deadly! And the fruition of a major theme (think back to White's 7.Rb1 and 8.b4!).*)* 17.Rd3 Qb6 18.Bxf8 nabs rook for bishop when Black doesn't have much in the way of compensation, certainly the dark squares are still a problem.] **15.Bg5! h6** [15...f6 16.Bc1! f5 (or else 17.Nc5) 17.Neg5 perforates Black's position.] **16.Bf6! Bxf6** Nothing better really. **17.Nxf6+ Kg7 18.Ne4** There was another move, see next note. **18...Bb7?** Looks natural but what square does it weaken? [18...Nd5 isn't entirely a blockade of the IQP. For one thing, it isn't an IQP! The c-pawn! Still, it's impractical to play for c2-c3,a2-a4 and after the b5-pawn goes away, c3-c4. For all that, 19.Qa1! could well be best.; 18...Na5! 19.Rd3 Nc4 Yes, Black has some great squares for his knights but so does White. And the danger on the dark squares around his king remain. 20.Qa1!]

19.Nc5? Too soon. [19.Qa1!+- breaks through! (And that's what White missed a move ago.) 19...Na5 *(19...Nd5 20.c4! Na5!? 21.cxd5 Nxb3 22.axb3 Bxd5 23.Bd3* when White's "extra" piece (two knights for one rook) are ready to pick on Black's king.*)* 20.d5+! f6 21.Nc5! Bxd5 22.Rd3 It's e6 collapsing. 22...Qb6 23.Rxd5! Nxd5 24.Nxe6+ Kh7 25.Qd1! Qd6 26.Nxf8+ Rxf8 27.h4! would have been classic Josiah, working over the Black kingside after provoking weaknesses.] **19...Na5! 20.Rbe3** [20.Qa1? Nxb3 21.axb3 Bxf3 Black just gets his king to h7 safe.] **20...Bd5** Securing e6 and blocking the d-pawn solidly. White has very little now. **21.Ne5 Nc4?!** Handing some advantage back to White. [21...Nf5 22.Rh3 Nc6 Now that the bishop does its lighthouse imitation on d5, exchanges work for Black.] **22.Bxc4 bxc4 23.c3** [23.Rc3! Not much that Black can do.] **23...Nf5 24.Rh3** [24.R3e2! is more respectful of the center.] **24...Qg5 25.f3 Rfb8** [25...h5 is probably best, even if it does put that last pawn on a light square.] **26.Ne4** [26.Qe2] **26...Qe7 27.g4** [27.Qd2 gets Black to place a rook passively: 27...Rh8 28.g4 Nd6 *(28...Nh4!? 29.Qf2 g5 30.Ng3* is only slightly annoying.*)* 29.Nxd6 Qxd6 30.Rxh6! Qe7! 31.g5 Rxh6 32.gxh6+ Kh7 33.Qf4 is still pressure.] **27...Nh4 28.Qd2 g5**

29.f4? White loses his patience and immediately regrets it. [29.Ng3 first keeps everything balanced. Of course the f-pawn can't be taken.] **29...Bxe4!** And suddenly it's all over: Black swarms in on the b-file and the long diagonal. **30.Rxe4 Rb1+ 31.Re1** [31.Kf2 Qb7 32.Qe3 Rb2+ 33.Kf1 *(33.Kg3 Rg2#)* 33...Rxa2] **31...Rab8 32.Rxh4?!** A desperate removal of that knight that is so bothering him. [32.Nc6 Qb7 33.d5 (33.Nxb8 Rxe1+ 34.Kf2 *(34.Qxe1 Qg2#)* 34...Rb1) 33...Qb2 34.Qxb2 Rxe1+ 35.Kf2 Rxb2+ 36.Kxe1 exd5] **32...gxh4 33.Nc6 Qb7** Remember when it was White who was crashing through on the long diagonal!? **34.Nxb8 Rb2!** And Black mops up. **35.Qxb2 Qxb2 36.Nc6 Qxc3 37.Kf2 Qd2+** What an exciting game! A spectacular win for Eric Hon. **0-1**

(7) Eric Hon (microbear) (1998) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1954) [B90]

Mechanics' USCF Online Rated Rapid Chess.com (5), 23.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 This has established as a major battleground. There is a logic: The Najdorf (5...a6) was a refinement on the Scheveningen (5...e6), holding it off a move to hinder the annoying Keres Attack (6.g4); so White simply reactivates the "threat" to play it. Only fair! **6...e5 7.Nde2 h5!?** And this has risen to the top as a logical continuation of that battle. The pawn can get weak after Black castles, the price he pays. **8.Bg5** And this line is at the front line. White returns to positional considerations, trying to conquer d5 The most glaring aspect is that Black won't ever have ...h6. But oddly that's not what it's about in the modern lines. [Anand has also played the blunt occupation 8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.Qxd5 *(9.exd5!?* could well catch on after all those Caruana-Carlsen games in the Sveshnikov with this formation.*)* 9...Nc6 10.Qd1 *(10.Nc3?* --too blunt!-- *10...Nd4-+* is an embarrassment.*)* 10...Be6 11.Nc3 But the move Eric played uses his bishop as well for the key d5 fight.; 8.g3 is another way to go, with harmonious development while keeping a thought to that h-pawn. It was very popular, only recently overtaken by the game continuation. 8...Be6 9.Bg2 Nbd7 10.a4 is all but universal.; If one just brings up the position in a modern games database and looks for the best percentage, one would find that 8.Ng1!? is that move. That some superstars have essayed this classic "stooping to conquer" is a testament to something.] **8...Be6** [8...Nbd7?! 9.Nd5 White has scored over 90%. Enough said.] **9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nd5** This doesn't look too refined! White goes for the d5 square. **10...Bxd5?!** Eliminating White's biggest problem. [10...Qd8 is almost always played. 11.-- White's problem is that he has too many pieces to control d5! He can only put one there. So by not trading, Black keeps all of White's pieces from finding good locations.**a)** 11.Nec3 is the obvious continuation, aim at d5, prepare to bring out the bishop. 11...g6 (keeping options for the knight, d7 or c6) 12.Bc4 Bh6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd3 Nc6 15.Rad1 Rc8 16.Bb3 Nd4 (now that Black can answer 17.Ne2 Nxb3 White just can't keep all his hopes afloat. 18.Qxb3 *(18.axb3 Bxd5)* 18...b5! 19.a4 Rb8 Vigorito attributes this to Vachier-Lagraeve, and still: White can't make more of his d5 square than a trophy knight there.; **b)** 11.Qd3!? was Anand's more recent idea, to tuck the king at b1. Perhaps young Hon knows about this line, and perhaps there will be further battles here!;] **11.Qxd5 Nc6 12.c3?!** Now that one knight is gone, the other would love to head to d5. But this takes away its most realistic route there. **12...Qe6!** Black hopes to conquer the d5 square one way or another. Either get ...d5 in, or force White to recapture with the e-pawn followed by ...f5, or as in the game. **13.Qxe6+ fxe6 14.0-0-0?!** Weakening f2. [14.h4; 14.Ng1!?] **14...0-0-0?!** Ignoring f2! [14...Be7 when a rook on f8 will provoke the stiff f2-f3.] **15.h4 Be7 16.g3** Now White hopes to get in f2-f2 and recapture with the pawn. **16...g5!?** Now White's pawns are the more compact (pawn islands!). But Black does work up some targets. **17.hxg5 Bxg5+ 18.Kc2** [18.f4! Be7 19.Kc2 with thoughts of Bh3, f5, at least taking over the light squares (from a different direction for a change).] **18...Kd7?** [18...Rdf8!? since 19.Rxd6?! *(19.Bh3 Rxf2 20.Bxe6+ Kc7 21.Bc4 b5 22.Bd3* comes around for equality*)* 19...Rxf2 20.Rxe6? Rd8! *(20...Rhf8 21.Rxh5* is still pretty complicated*)*] **19.f4! Bf6 20.f5** [20.Bh3!? first] **20...exf5 21.Bh3** [21.exf5] **21...Ne7** looking to play ... d5!? **22.Rdf1 h4** Trading off a liability **23.Bxf5+** [23.g4?! Looks great except then what? (Black doesn't take!) 23...Rhg8 24.gxf5 *(24.exf5 Nd5* is not the plan White had for his bishop*!)* 24...d5 Finally the break Black is always looking for.] **23...Nxf5 24.Rxf5 Ke6 25.gxh4 Bxh4=** Black doesn't want to have to worry about the pawn advancing, so removes it. The clocks are 9 minutes White, 12 minutes Black. [25...d5!?= gets going, since 26.h5?! dxe4 27.Ng3 e3! is also a dangerous pawn.] **26.c4** White remembers the Prime Directive: find that knight a good square! **26...Be7?!** Black on the other hand, slips into a passive state. [26...d5? 27.cxd5+ Rxd5? 28.Nf4+! wins; 26...b5!? 27.cxb5 axb5 28.Rf3 Bg5 sets up a repetition: 29.Rxh8 Rxh8 30.Rb3 Rh2 31.Kd1 Rh1+ 32.Kc2 Rh2; 26...Rdg8!? 27.Nc3 Bd8 keeps the balance as well.] **27.Rxh8** [27.Rfh5!? Rxh5 28.Rxh5 Rg8 29.Rh6+ Kd7 30.Rh7 Rg4 31.Nc3 Rh4 in confidence that the good knight bad bishop ending is holdable.] **27...Rxh8 28.Nc3 Rh4**

29.a4!? 6:17 vs. 11:08 **29...Bd8!?** At first a blunder, but maybe a practical decision? Black took 45 seconds to either eschew or overlook [29...Rxe4! 30.Nxe4 Kxf5 31.Kd3 The only move but it's good enough. White has to hold square e4! *(31.Nc3? e4* is won *32.Ne2* (else ...Bg5) *32...Kg4!)* 31...Ke6 32.Nc3 a5 (else 33.b4 is useful for White) 33.Ke4 when there is no way to make progress. You can tell when you use an engine that it is a blockade, when every move has the same evaluation, almost whatever it is. (in this case -0.53, although sometimes it's rather drastic Put a drawn bishop plus wrong rook pawn vs. king in front of the pawn on the engine and see what the evaluation is!] **30.Rf3 Ba5 31.Re3 Bxc3 32.Kxc3**

This position is quite drawn, or would if they clocks weren't a factor (3:17 vs. 9:30), working against Eric. **32...Kd7** [32...a5 33.b4 axb4+ 34.Kxb4 Rh1 is nothing.] **33.a5** Still "0.00" everywhere -- but he took over a minute of his time on this move! **33...Kc6 34.Kd3 Kc5 35.Kc3 Rh1 36.b4+ Kc6 37.Rg3 Rc1+ 38.Kd3 Rd1+ 39.Kc3 Rd4 40.Rg4** [Or 40.Re3] **40...b5!? 41.axb6** Without the en passant rule he'd be worse! **41...Kxb6 42.Rh4 a5** Black tries to create ghost threats. **43.bxa5+ Kxa5**

[43...Kc5 is still 0.00. Black's problem will be winning some 2 vs 1 rook ending, which are mostly just drawn.] **44.Rg4?!** White took two seconds on this obvious slip, but who can blame him? He's down to 1:00 vs. 8:06. [44.Rh3! reduces the game to nothing. Note: 44...-- **a)** 44...Rxe4 45.Rd3! That's that. Draw.; **b)** 44...Kb6 45.Rd3! Rxd3+ 46.Kxd3 Kc6 47.Kc2! *(*Or *47.Kd2!;* Just not *47.Kc3?? Kc5-+* and Zugzwang.*)* ; ; 44.Rh2! also has the same tactic.] **44...Kb6 45.Kb4** [45.Rh4 Kc5 is probably lost. The rook got caught in a passive position.] **45...Kc6 46.Rh4 Rd1 47.Rh8** The active rook is an important component of successful defense in rook endings. **47...Re1 48.Rh4 Rb1+ 49.Kc3 Kc5 50.Rh8 Rc1+ 51.Kd3 Rd1+ 52.Kc3?!** [52.Ke2; 52.Ke3] **52...Re1?** [52...Rd4 when the tablebase shows that White must give up the e-pawn with a draw, while losing the e-pawn is a loss. Maybe next time.] **53.Rc8+ Kb6 54.Kd3 Rh1 55.Kc3 Rh3+ 56.Kd2 Rg3 57.Kc2?!** [57.c5+ dxc5 *(57...Kb7 58.Re8)* 58.Re8= is a bit hard to be sure about when you have 14 seconds left (vs. 6:23). 0.00/0] **57...Re3 58.Kd2 Rxe4** Yes, like this. Lomonosov: drawn. **59.Kd3 Rd4+ 60.Kc3[]** [60.Ke3? Kb7 61.Rd8 Kc7 gets to rook plus two connected passed pawns, which is a win in most situations.] **60...Rh4 61.Rd8 Kc7 62.Rg8 Kc6 63.Rc8+ Kd7 64.Rg8 Rh3+ 65.Kd2 Kc6 66.Rc8+ Kb6 67.Rd8!** [or 67.Kc2 , the only two drawing moves.] **67...Kc5**

68.Rc8+?? Believe it or not, White had two moves that drew: [68.Kc2!; and 68.Ke2!] **68...Kd4** Black is winning now. The problem is that the two "extra" pawns (White's c-pawn, Black's d-pawn) now get in the way of rear checks -- so Black can engineer mate on the edge or queening unharassed. **69.Rd8** [69.Rc6 is a sharper situation, when after 69...Rh6 it is mutual Zugzwang!! Black on move draws. White on move loses. 70.Ke2 e4 71.Kd2 *(71.Kf2 e3+ 72.Kf3 Kd3)* 71...e3+ 72.Ke2 Rh2+ 73.Ke1 *(73.Kf3 Rf2+ 74.Kg3 Rf6)*

And now the key tactic: 73...d5!!] **69...Rh6 70.Rc8 e4 71.Re8 Rh2+** [71...e3+ also wins, by going into a won king and pawn ending: 72.Rxe3 Rh2+ 73.Re2 Rxe2+ 74.Kxe2 Kxc4 75.Ke3 d5 76.Kd2 Kd4 Instructive.] **72.Kd1 Kd3 73.Ke1 e3 74.Kf1 e2+ 75.Kg1 Rh4 76.Re6 Re4 77.Rxd6+ Kxc4** [77...Kc3!] **78.Rc6+ Kd5** ecwinslow won by resignation. This lined up for a three-way first place tie, as joseywales beat ecwinslow in Rd. 3 and microbear beat joseywales in Rd. 4. **0-1**

Full results found by following this link: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-uscf-online-rated-rapid-1523941
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-uscf-online-rated-rapid-1523941)

2020 FIDE Online Olympiad (Part One) by US Captain IM John Donaldson

The United States has qualified for the quarterfinals in the FIDE Online Olympiad held July 24-August 30. The American team won its preliminary group in this event, which has replaced the traditional Olympiad.

The U.S. team scored 15 out of a possible 18 match points (two points for each match win and one point for drawn matches). Greece matched this score but trailed on game points by a wide margin (39.5 to 32) in the ten-team round robin.

The event is being held at a time control of 15 minutes per game plus 5 second increment, and features competition on two open boards, two women's boards, one junior board and one junior girls board. Among those competing for the United States are 2018 US Champion Sam Shankland of Walnut Creek who is well known to Mechanics' Chess Club members.

US Team Individual Scores:

Open

Wesley So – 6/9

Sam Shankland – 3½/5

Ray Robson – 2½/4

Women's Boards

Carissa Yip – 4/6

Anna Zatonskih – 4½/6

Tatev Abrahamyan – 4½/6

Junior

Jeffery Xiong – 7½/9

Junior Girls

Annie Wang – 7/9

Here is an attractive miniature won by U.S. first board Wesley So against the other "Yasser".

Wesley So – Yasser Quesada Perez

2020 FIDE Online Olympiad

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Bd6 6.0–0 0–0 7.c4 c5!?

Here 7...c6, 7...Bxe5, 7...Nc6 and 7...Nf6 are all more commonly seen. The radical text, which reestablishes the symmetry, has been successfully employed by Petroff Expert Yu Yangui on at least two occasions.

8.cxd5 Nf6 9.Bg5 cxd4 10.Re1

10.Nf3 was played in December 2019 in a game between Predke and Yu in the Chinese Team Championship.

10...Be7 11.Nd2 Nxd5 12.Qh5 g6

13.Nxg6

13.Bxe7 gxh5 14.Bxd8 Rxd8 offers White no more than equal chances.

13...fxg6 14.Bxg6 hxg6 15.Qxg6+ Kh8 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qg6+ Kh8 18.Qh5+ Kg8

19.Bh6

White makes Black solve one last problem before agreeing to a draw.

19…Rf6

Here (A) 19...Nf4 20.Bxf4 Bf5 21.Be5 Nc6 22.Qh8+ Kf7 23.Qg7+ Ke8 24.Bf6 Rf7 25.Qg8+ Rf8 and (B)19...Qe8 20.Qxd5+ Qf7 21.Qe5 Re8 22.Ne4 Nc6 23.Qg3+ Kh8 24.Nd6 Bxd6 25.Rxe8+ Kh7 26.f4 Bxf4 27.Rf1 Bxg3 28.Rxf7+ Kxh6 29.hxg3 d3 30.Rf6+ Kg7 31.Rd6 Kf7 32.Rh8 Rb8 33.Rxd3 Be6 both held the balance. In both cases Black survives by returning material. His loss i this game can be directly attributed to his failure to do so.

20.Re5

20...Rd6?

20...Rxh6 21.Qxh6 Qf8 22.Qxf8+ Kxf8 23.Rxd5 was equal.

21.Rxd5 Bf8

21...Rxd5 22.Qg6+ is the point of White's last move.

22.Rg5+ Qxg5 23.Qxg5+ Kf7 24.Qh5+ Kg8 25.Bxf8 Kxf8 26.Qh8+ Kf7 27.Qxc8 1–0

Mechanics' Institute Summer Chess Fest 2020!

Saturday, August 29, 2020 to Sunday, August 30, 2020

Mechanics' Institute Summer Chess Festival

Series of events suitable for everyone

Aug 29-30, 2020

Event Schedule:

Mechanics' Institute Summer Championship - Saturday, Aug 29 through Sunday, Aug 30. Both days 10AM - 6PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival#champ)

Mechanics' Institute Summer Blitz Championship - Saturday, Aug 29 @ 7PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival#blitz)

Summer Fischer Random Championship - Sunday, Aug 30 @ 7PM - FREE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival#FR)

Mechanics' Summer Scholastic Championship - Sunday, Aug 30 @3PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-mechanics-summer-scholastic-championship-online)

Mechanics' Institute Summer Championship

Date: Saturday, Aug 29 - Sunday Aug 30.
USCF online rated affecting US Chess Online regular rating
Round times: 10AM, 1PM, and 4PM on both days
Format: 6SS G/60+5 inc
Section: 2000+, 1600-1999, and u1600 - based on OTB Aug 2020 supplemental rating. Play-up within max 200 rating.
Pairing method: manually paired by Chief TD on chess.com/live
Prizes: $1400 b/80

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Class
Championship (2000+)	$300	$175	$90	u2200: $75
1600-1999	$200	$125	$76	u1800: $50
u1600	$150	$70	$50	u1400: $40

Entry Fee: $30 MI member, $40 non-MI member, $10 play-up fee
Registration link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsInstituteSummerChampionshipAug2930 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsInstituteSummerChampionshipAug2930)
What do to on the day of? Be on chess.com/live ready for your game to pop-up and play!

Mechanics' Institute Summer Blitz Championship

Date: Saturday, Aug 29
USCF online rated affecting US Chess Online blitz rating
Round times: Round 1 starts at 7PM sharp, rest of the rounds are automatically starting after all games are finished in the previous round
Format: 9SS G/3+2 inc
Section: one Open section
Pairing method: automatically paired by chess.com based on chess.com blitz rating
Prizes: $200 b/40: 1st $100, 2nd $50. 3rd $25, Best under 2000 USCF OTB $25
Entry Fee: $10
Registration link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsInstituteSummerBlitzChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsInstituteSummerBlitzChampionship)
What do to on the day of? Join the tournament from 6PM onwards by click on the JOIN button on this page:

Summer Fischer Random Championship

Date: Sunday, Aug 29
Round times: Round 1 starts at 7PM sharp, rest of the rounds are automatically starting after all games are finished in the previous round
Format: 6SS G/5+2 inc
Section: one Open section for everyone
Pairing method: automatically paired by chess.com based on chess.com blitz rating
Entry Fee: FREE - no need to register.
What do to on the day of? Join the tournament from 6PM onwards by click on the JOIN button on this page:

Mechanics' Summer Scholastic Championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-mechanics-summer-scholastic-championship-online)

Date: Sunday Aug 30 @ 3PM
USCF online rated affecting US Chess Online rapid rating
Round times: 3PM and ongoing
Format: 6SS G/15+5 inc
Section: 1200+ chesskid, u1200 chesskid, u600 chesskid
Pairing method: automatically paired by chesskid.com
Reward: Trophies to Top 5 players in each section, Top Girl in each section
Entry Fee: $25
Registration link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsSummerScholasticOnlineChampionshipAug30SAT3PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsSummerScholasticOnlineChampionshipAug30SAT3PM)
What do to on the day of? Join tournament on cheskid.com via the following link: TBA

Eligibility - Players must have:

- current US Chess Federation membership
- chess.com account that is part of Mechanics' Chess Club (free account is perfectly sufficient) -- Don't have one yet? Easy to make, just follow the instructions below. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival#Join)
- chesskids.com account that is part of Mechanics' Chess Club (free account is perfectly sufficient) -- Don't have one yet? Easy to make, just follow the instructions below. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival#Join)

Rules: standard USCF rules apply.

Mouse slips count, no takebacks.

If player is not logged in to live chess when pairings occur, we will assign a 0 point bye

Section prizes will be awarded based on USCF standard rating

Fair Play

US Chess online rated tournament - most USCF rules and consequences apply.
Players should not use any outside assistance: not have other browsers open and not be talking to other people during their games
Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their kids' activity during the tournament to ensure fair play.
All games will be carefully reviewed by chess.com and Mechanics' Institue Chess club staff during and after the event.
Players found or believed to be violating fair play are not eligible for a prize and their account will be removed from Mechanics' group.
Players who are confirmed to be using outside assistance will be reported to US Chess and restricted from future Mechanics' online and over-the-board events.

Parents - Please help us educate your child that IT'S SIMPLY NOT WORTH THE RISK!

For some helpful links regarding fair play, please check these out:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KHWnA9snAQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2UAZBQvHRyTlc1f7t9UtcwEJW43YmPOgb22fXeP_imQ4Nga07Knx2Dyws
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knvySXCNfd8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7PI9Q9uoSE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5KaxBW7rlU

Fair play screening: all games will be screened by both Chess.com and by Dr. Kenneth W. Regan, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University at Buffalo.

The Organizer and/or the Chief Tournament Director can require players to play their games with a camera that records the player playing with a view to the screen. Players should be prepared to provide this precaution if asked to do so.

Prize distributions and rating submission will take place AFTER all games have been screened.

Tournament Informaiton

What are the time controls mean?
Time controls are telling you how much time you have for each game.
G35+2 for example: Game in 35 minutes with 2 second increment. This means you get 35 minutes, your opponent gets 35 minutes and with each move every player gets 2 second added to the clock. So one game can last up to 70-80 minutes.

How many games/rounds?
The 6SS before the time control means how many rounds, i.e. how many games can a player play in the tournament. The tournaments are never elimination, so win or lose you can stay in the tournament.

Pre-requested byes: since we are pairing manually, based on OTB ratings, pre-requestd byes now available.

How to join us?

If you would like to play in our online tournaments, you must

1) Register for the event -- we need to know your full name, and chess.com ID

2) have an account on chess.com; -- don't have one? Sign up now! (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chess.com/register?returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2F)

3) join our club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated)

Join tournaments: two ways to join the tournaments: 1) log in to chess.com and click on the link above; or 2) log in chess.com --> Play --> Live Chess
For this tournament only: Tournament directors will be pairing players manually, so no tournaments to join!

For players who are interested in play in our online tournament,
PLEASE fill out our online Players database: https://forms.gle/X3hChCWbusHp4Ze56 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://forms.gle/X3hChCWbusHp4Ze56)
to get email notifications about last minute changes and invitational opportunities.

TD Corner by Dr. Judit Sztaray FA USCF Senior TD

US Chess Rules of Chess - Chapter 10 – Rules for Online Tournaments and Matches

https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/us-chess-rule-book-online-only-edition-chapter-10-9-1-20.pdf
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/us-chess-rule-book-online-only-edition-chapter-10-9-1-20.pdf)

1. **Chapter 10, Rule 2: Online rating**

Over the board (OTB) games can be rated in three categories: regular, quick or blitz, and there are time controls, like the commonly used G/30;d5, that are dual rated, meaning the games are rated in both categories and affect both ratings.

End Date Event ID	Event Name Section ID and Name	Reg Rtg Before / After	Quick Rtg Before / After	Blitz Rtg Before / After
2020-03-08 202003083312	FINK MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT (CA) (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202003083312-14708926) 3: FINK EXTRA GAMES	786 => **827**	747 => **754**	

Online ratings show up in the corresponding columns, but have an ONL notation before them:

End Date Event ID	Event Name Section ID and Name	Reg Rtg Before / After	Quick Rtg Before / After	Blitz Rtg Before / After

2020-07-28 202007288902	MECHANICS' PLAYER APPRECIATION (CA) (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202007288902-14708926) 1: OPEN			ONL: (Unrated) => **662** **(P1)**

US Chess has made the same rating categories for online chess, with one very important difference: any game can only be rated in one category, there are no dual rated time controls. It's also important to emphasize that online games can only affect online ratings, and OTB games can only affect OTB rating.

There will never ever be a game that can affect both OTB and Online ratings. Why is that? Because as you'll see, there are rules that are quite different for regular vs online games, and therefore the two types of games (regular and online) can never be compared.

2. **Chapter 10, Rule 4: Tournament Directors at online tournaments**

We all agree that TDs are essential for tournaments for many reasons, and ideally TDs should be present live at the location where the games are played. In the best case scenario, this is the same for online games too: if possible, a TD should be physically present where the player is playing an online game/tournament. However, we all know that this may not be possible, especially in our current situation and for most online tournaments. The rules in Chapter 10 4B clearly lay out the possible variations that are acceptable, in the order of preference. The number one reason for these guidelines is to keep the rules upheld, especially the fair play rule.
For this reason, remote observations are highly encouraged, and as well monitoring games using fair play algorithms.

3. **Chapter 10 Rule 5: Choose the hardware you are playing on carefully!**

Rule 5 covers a lot of details on the software and hardware that a player might be using during their online play. An important rule is that whatever the player chooses to use, it's the player's responsibility, and of course absolutely no other chess playing software or game analysis software is allowed! If your computer fizzles out in the middle of a game, it will be regarded the same as if you left the playing hall.

In this rule it also states that players should not be allowed to use a physical board next to their computer to visualize standings, and making moves on them.

4. **Chapter 10, Rule 6: Event rules and regulations**

The Online Play Task Force is proud to present to you the longest TD tip ever, and since I was tasked to make the first draft of this, my experience with organizing online tournaments for our club has played a major role in making sure that the tip covers all the important points.

5. **Chapter 10, Rule 7: Identities of the Players**

When organizing an online tournament, one of the important steps that any organizer has to pay attention is to ensure that players are able to view a list of registered players, which includes not only their real name, but also their usernames on the platform the tournament will be played on. Often times we only see the list of players with their real name, or the list of the account names, but after all, once the tournament is rated, it's easy to figure out. The point is to make the player's experience better, and similar to OTB tournaments, they need to know who they are facing on the online board.

A confusing but utterly important detail is which rating is used for pairing purposes. What may be obvious for the organizer, might not be so for the players, so call me out on this anytime it's not obvious for you!

To be continued next week with Rule 8 through Rule 15.

Any questions or comments, please email me at jsztaray@milibrary.org

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Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

New Session Starting August 31! **Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead**

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM - **A Journey Through Chess History - Course 1: Olympiads with GM Nick de Firmian**

This class will be a reflective journey of some of the games and experiences of Mechanics' Institute GM in Residence and 3-time U.S. Champion GM Nick de Firmian. He will go over some of his games from Olympiads of the past where players can learn and interact while at the same time learning stories from the event and about players from the event from someone who lived it. It will be an exciting class that combines chess learning with storytelling for a fun and engaging class.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/journey-through-chess-history-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/journey-through-chess-history-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory)

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM - The World Championship Match -- by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: Part 1 -- 9/3 through 10/1
Part 2 - 10/8 through 11/5

An in-depth look at the World Championship matches – the great games, styles and personalities of the World Champions and their challengers. The central idea of the class will be the study of chess ideas and theory, as practiced by the greatest players. In each class we'll look through a selection of the most famous games ever played: games where literally everything was at stake.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: Part 1: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1)
Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, August 29: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/15+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90959 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90959)

Sunday, August 30: MI Kids Summer Championship

6SS G/10 +2 USCF rated: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsSummerScholasticOnlineChampionshipAug30SUN3PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsSummerScholasticOnlineChampionshipAug30SUN3PM)

Monday, August 31: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90960 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90960)

Tuesday, September 1: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90961 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90961)

Wednesday, September 2: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90962 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90962)

Thursday, September 3: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90963 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90963)

Friday, September 4: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90964 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=90964)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(4) Aslan_Pasha (1322) - chessp9999 (1119) [C54]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2

The classic Guico Piano opening, played by Italians for the last four centuries. Black has answered White's central advance very well, but now needs to follow up to split the white pawn duo of e4 and d4. **8...0-0?!** [8...d5! 9.exd5 Nxd5 gives Black equal control of the central squares and makes the game perfectly level.] **9.0-0?!** White could have advanced with 9. e5 or 9. d5 and used the pawns to push around the black pieces. **9...d6** [9...d5!] **10.Re1 Re8 11.h3 Be6? 12.Bxe6?** [White could have won a piece with a pawn fork after 12.d5] **12...fxe6 13.e5 dxe5 14.dxe5 Nd5 15.Qb3 Nb6 16.Nc4** White has charged forward but Black has kept equal control of the board. **16...Rb8 17.Nxb6 cxb6?!** The normal rule in such pawn captures to to capture towards the center (here 17. axb6). That would leave Black with a pawn guarding the d6 square. **18.Rad1 Qc7 19.Rd6 Qf7?** allowing White to jump in. Black would only be slightly worse after [19...Nxe5! 20.Rxe6 Nxf3+ 21.Qxf3] **20.Ng5! Qf5 21.Nxe6 Qg6?** [Black is in trouble no matter what. Still better is 21...Qf7 22.Re3 Nd8] **22.Nf4+?!** This is winning, though [22.Ng5+ wins the black queen.] **22...Qf7 23.Qxf7+ Kxf7 24.e6+ Ke7 25.Rd7+ Kf8 26.Rf7+ Kg8 27.Nh5! Nd8?!** [Black holds out better with 27...Re7 28.Rxe7 Nxe7 when White needs to find 29.Rd1 and 30 Rd7 to have good winning chances in the endgame] **28.Rxg7+ Kf8**

29.Re3! Nxe6 [29...Rxe6 30.Rf3+ Ke8 31.Rxh7 Rg6 32.Nf6+ Rxf6 33.Rxf6] **30.Rf3+ Nf4 31.Rxf4#** Aslan_Pasha won by checkmate **1-0**

(5) BlueColdTooth (1446) - TastyCelery (1493) [C53]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nge7 The knight is not as active on this square as on f6. **5.Ng5** [5.d4! exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 gives White an opening advantage (if the black knight were on f6 it could take the e4 pawn, but here it can't). 7...d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0! puts the pressure on] **5...d5 6.exd5 Na5?!** [6...Nxd5 would be fine as Black attacks the white knight on g5] **7.Bb5+** [7.Qa4+! c6 8.dxc6] **7...c6 8.dxc6 Naxc6 9.Qh5 Ng6 10.Bxc6+?!** [10.Bc4! would cause trouble against f7] **10...bxc6 11.Nxh7?** It's temping to grab a pawn, but this gets into a pin where the white queen is stuck defending the knight on h7. **11...Qd6** [11...Qd5!] **12.b4 Bb6 13.0-0 Nf4?** Black forgets the rook on h8 needs to be defended. Instead 13...Qd3! keeps complete control. **14.Nf6+! Qxf6 15.Qxh8+ Ke7 16.d4!** opening up lines and developing **16...exd4?! 17.Re1+ Be6?!** [17...Ne6 would remain only the exchange down. Black gambles and gives up a rook.] **18.Qxa8 Nd3 19.Qb7+ Kd6 20.Rf1 dxc3 21.Nxc3** A good move, giving back a knight to get all the pieces out. White is still ahead a lot of material. **21...Bxf2+** [21...Qxc3 22.Be3!] **22.Kh1 Qxc3 23.Qb8+ Kd5**

A crazy position with the black king right in the middle of the board. Objectively Black is quite lost, but the active black pieces give practical chances. **24.Bg5 Bb6 25.Be7?** [25.Rad1! pins the troublesome knight and gets the last white piece into play. White should take the point without too much trouble after that.] **25...Nf2+! 26.Kg1** [26.Rxf2?? Qxa1+] **26...Nh3+! 27.Kh1 Nf2+**

28.Kg1 Nh3+ 29.Kh1 Nf2+ Game drawn by repetition. A great escape by TastyCelery! **1/2-1/2**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Twice a month

September 5, 13, 19, 27, @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays:

Absoulte Beginner class: This class is meant to teach brand new students the moves of the pieces and captures so that students may jump into the New at Chess class with knowledge of piece movements. Students may take this course as much as needed, but the same concept will be taught weekly, though it will be a different class each week. The goal is simple, teach piece movements in preparation.

Starting at Chess: This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under800.

Developing Players: This class Is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience.

Mastering Your Chess: This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800.

Please click on the day to get more information about the class structure, topics taughts, dates & fees and to register:

Absolute Beginner - Please click here to learn about the special schedule. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/absolute-beginners-course)

Class	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	
Starting at Chess	3-4PM Click for more info (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTUESDAYS34PM)	3-4PM Click for more info (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessWEDNESDAYS34PM)	
Developing Players	4-5PM More information (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/developing-players-tuesdays)	4-5PM Click for more info (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/developing-players-wednesdays)	(
Mastering Your Chess	5-6PM Click for more info (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/mastering-your-chess-tuesdays)	5-6PM Click for more info (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/mastering-your-chess-wednesdays)	(

Note: minimum 5 students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class.
Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration.
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

8/29 Saturday - Chess Fest 2020
Format: 6SS G/60+5
Manually paired, USCF rated, 2 day event. Register here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival)
Start: 10:00am

8/29 Saturday - Chess Fest 2020 Blitz Championship
Format: 9SS G/3+2
USCF rated: Register here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival)
Start: 10:00am

8/30 Sunday - Chess Fest 2020
Format: 6SS G/60+5

Join from 1:00PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-summer-chess-festival)
Start at 10:00am

8/30 Sunday - Chess Fest 2020 Fischer Random Championship
Format: 6SS G/5+2
Register here: https://www.chess.com/live#t=1537402 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1537402)
Start: 7:00pm

9/2 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Online
Format: 5SS G/10+2
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1537403 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1537403)
Start at 6:30PM

9/4 Thursday - Thursday Night Quads
Format: 3SS G/60+10
Join by 4PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-pilot)
Start at 6:30PM

9/5 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 10 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305161554/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

The King March 5: Walk of Shame, Part 3.

This is my final chapter on king marches.

I didn't expect a 5-part series, but it's like a bag of cookies to a sugar-addict:

once I got going I couldn't stop.

After all, checkmate is the name of the game - and these are some sweet examples.

Alekhine's Defense is risky business, and Larsen's Variation with 5...Nd7!? is riskier still.

Boruchovsky-Savchenko 2012

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 dxe5 5. Nxe5 Nd7 6. Nxf7 Kxf7 7. Qh5+ Ke6 8. c4 N5f6 9. d5+ Kd6 10. Qf7 Ne5 11. Bf4 c5 12. Nc3 a6 13. Bd3 g6 14. b4 Qc7 15. bxc5+ Kxc5 16. Na4+ Kd417. O-O-O Bh6 18. Bxh6 Nxd3+ 19. Rxd3+ Kxd3.

Yikes!

20. Rd1+ Ke2 21. d6 Qd7 22. Nc3+ Kxf2 23. Ne4+ Kxg2 24. Rd2+ Kf3 25. Rf2+Kxe4 26. Rxf6 e6 27. Rf4+ Kd3 28. Rf3+ Kd4 29. Be3+.

Black resigned. It's mate in 5 moves against any defense.

The only thing that makes any sense in this ridiculous game is the cruel finish.

Minchev-Velev 1994

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. Nxe5 Nxe5 5. d4 Nc6 6. d5 Ne5 7. f4 Ng6 8. e5 Ng8 9. d6 cxd6 10. exd6 Qa5 11. h4 Qb4 12. Qe2+ Kd8 13. f5 Nxh4 14. a3 Nxg2+ 15. Qxg2 Qxd6 16. Bd2 Qe5+ 17. Be2 Qxf5 18. O-O-O Qg6 19. Qxg6 fxg6 20. Nb5 Nf6 21. Bf4 Ne8 22. Be3 a6 23. Bb6+ Ke7 24. Rhe1 axb5 25. Bc4+ Kf6 26. Bd8+.

Finally, our theme begins to emerge…

Kf5 27. Rd5+ Kf4 28. Rd4+ Kg3 29. Bh4+ Kh2 30. Bd5 Bc5 31. Rh1.

Checkmate.

And well deserved, I daresay.

This is quite a brilliant finish, although black was a bit cooperative in his own demise: he might have seen this coming.

Norwood-Marsh 1992

1.g3 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.O-O Be7 5.d3 c5 6.Nbd2 Nc6 7.e4 b6 8.e5 Nd7 9.Re1 Qc7 10.Qe2 Bb7 11.h4 O-O-O 12.a3 h6 13.h5 Rdg8 14.c4 d4 15.b4 g6 16.bxc5 bxc5 17.hxg6 Rxg6 18.Rb1 h5 19.Ne4 h4 20.Bg5 Bf8 21.Nxh4 Rgg8 22.Nf3 Rh7 23.Nd6+ Bxd6 24.exd6 Qxd6 25.Bf4 Qe7 26.Rxb7 Kxb7 27.Qe4 f5 28.Qxc6+.

A beautiful shot, drawing the king out.

28... Kxc6 29.Nxd4+ Kb6 30.Rb1+ Ka6 31.Bb7+ Ka5 32.Bd2+ Ka4 33.Bc6+ Kxa3 34.Bc1+ Ka2 35.Rb2+ Ka1 36.Nc2.

Checkmate.

A wonderful coordination of the white forces!

This game is a modern classic, and a delight for all King's Indian players.

So-Nakamura 2015

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 O-O 6. Be2 e5 7. O-O Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. Ne1 Nd7 10. f3 f5 11. Be3 f4 12. Bf2 g5 13. Nd3 Ng6 14. c5 Nf6 15. Rc1 Rf7 16. Kh1 h5 17. cxd6 cxd6

18. Nb5 a6 19. Na3 b5 20. Rc6 g4 21. Qc2 Qf8 22. Rc1 Bd7 23. Rc7 Bh6 24. Be1 h4 25. fxg4 f3 26. gxf3 Nxe4 27. Rd1 Rxf3 28. Rxd7 Rf1+ 29. Kg2.

The king packs his bags…

29…Be3 30. Bg3 hxg3 31. Rxf1 Nh4+ 32. Kh3 Qh6 33. g5 Nxg5+ 34. Kg4 Nhf3 35. Nf2 Qh4+ 36. Kf5 Rf8+ 37. Kg6 Rf6+ 38. Kxf6 Ne4+ 39. Kg6 Qg5.

…but is robbed of them at the Inn.

Checkmate.

A game well worth replaying.

And here is a lesson: do not allow your opponent an easy sacrifice (15.Nxf7) as it can lead to a lonely death far from home.

Weissgerber-van Neuss 1933

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 c5 6.e3 Nf6 7.Bxc4 Nc6 8.O-O Be7 9.Qd3 O-O 10.Rd1 cxd4 11.exd4 Nb4 12.Qe2 b6 13.Bf4 Bb7 14.Ne5 Re8 15.Nxf7.

Black is in deep trouble.

15...Kxf7 16.Qxe6+ Kg6 17.Qf7+ Kf5 18.Be6+ Kxf4 19.Qxg7 Rg8 20.Qh6+ Rg5 21.Ne2+ Ke4 22.f3+ Ke3 23.Qxg5+ Kxe2 24.Rd2.

Checkmate.

Another humiliating finish!

White goes all out - all that's left at the finish is the proverbial kitchen sink.

Mikenas-Lebedev 1941

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 h6 6.Bh4 O-O 7.Rc1 c6 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.Nf3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Nd5 11.Bg3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 c5 13.O-O a6 14.Bd3 Nf6 15.Ne5 Bd6 16.Bh4 Be7 17.Bb1 Qe8 18.dxc5 g5 19.Bg3 Bxc5 20.f4 Bxe3+ 21.Kh1 Bxc1 22.fxg5 Bxg5 23.Rxf6 Kg7.

The king tries to help…

24.Qd3 h5 25.h4 Kxf6 26.Ng4+ hxg4 27.Be5+ Kxe5 28.Qd4.

…to no avail.

Checkmate.

Superb economy and geometry!

The incomparable Judit Polgar shows off her attacking skills – and some home prep – in this lively take-down of a fellow world-class grandmaster.

J. Polgar-Mamedyarov 2002

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Nxe4 6. d4 b5 7. Bb3 d5 8. dxe5 Be6 9. Nbd2 Nc5 10. c3 d4 11. Ng5 Bd5 12. Nxf7 Kxf7 13. Qf3+ Ke6.

Resembling the notorious Fried Liver Attack.

14. Qg4+ Kf7 15. Qf5+ Ke7 16. e6 Bxe6 17. Re1 Qd6 18. Bxe6 Nxe6 19. Ne4 Qe5 20. Bg5+ Kd7 21. Nc5+ Bxc5 22. Qf7+ Kd6 23. Be7+ Kd5.

Black resigned.

It's mate in 3 starting with 24.Qf3+.

This is a lovely gem of a game, very instructive.

Zuckertort-NN 1877

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Bg4 6.O-O Be7 7.d3 Nh5 8.fxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5.

A classic queen sacrifice. Add it to your repertoire!

9…Bxd1 10.Bxf7+ Kf8 11.Bxh5+ Bf6 12.Rxf6+ gxf6 13.Bh6+ Ke7 14.Nd5+ Ke6 15.Bf7+ Kxe5 16.c3.

A quiet move ends the struggle. It's mate next move.

Black resigned.

A wild attack ends with a master clinic in the art of king-hunting.

Blackburne-NN 1863

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Bc4 d6 5.Nxc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Ne5 7.Nxe5 dxe5 8.Bxf7+ Ke7 9.Bg5+ Nf6 10.Qh5 c6 11.Rd1 Qa5 12.f4 Qc5 13.fxe5 Qxe5 14.O-O h6 15.Be8 Be6 16.Rxf6 gxf6 17.Rd7+ Bxd7 18.Qf7+.

Here we go!

18… Kd6 19.Qxd7+ Kc5 20.Be3+ Kb4 21.Qxb7+ Ka5 22.b4+ Bxb4 23.Bb6+ axb6 24.Qxa8.

Checkmate.

Remarkably this was played in a 10-board blindfold simultaneous exhibition!

Our last game resembles the famous Ed Lasker-Thomas game given in a previous article, but with colors reversed. Black's final move leaves a strong impression.

NN-Crepeaux 1923

1. f4 d5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. e3 Bg4 4. b3 e5 5. fxe5 Nxe5 6. Be2 Bxf3 7. Bxf3 Nf6 8. Bb2 Bd6 9. O-O Ne4 10. Nc3 Qh4 11. Nxd5 Qxh2+.

Again, the classic "magnet sacrifice" to draw the king out of his lair.

12. Kxh2 Nxf3+ 13. Kh3 Neg5+ 14. Kg4 h5+ 15. Kf5 g6+ 16. Kf6 Kf8.

White resigned.

Another quiet yet deadly finish, forcing mate next move.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Online Chess Olympiad: Playoffs begin.

After a month, the online Chess Olympiad has reached its playoff stage with all the major contenders still in it. We started with 163 teams on July 25th and now we are down to 12. Four teams have already made it into the quarterfinals by virtue of finishing first in their division. Those four are our own USA team (captained by the MI's John Donaldson), Russia, India and Azerbaijan. The other 8 teams will face-off in the round of 16 to try to reach the quarterfinals. Those are powerhouse teams China, Armenia, Ukraine along with Germany, Hungary, Greece, Poland and Bulgaria. The winner of the Olympiad will be decided by August 30. (We note that by publication time of our MI newsletter it will be the final match.) Thus after the last month of fairly mediocre matchups we now will have the big battles of the top teams and players to enjoy.

The format for this Olympiad has been interesting and made for entertainment. Each team consists of six players including at least two women and one junior player. The time control is typical for online - all matches have 15 minutes for the game + 5 second increment per move. Thus the games are short and fun to watch, with mistakes and blunders when time is short. Many spectators will miss the serious slow games of traditional Olympiads, but these games will at least provide you with a sporting event for your leisure time during the pandemic.

(1) Mabusela,Johanes Manyedi - Shirov,Alexei [D36]

Online Olympiad RSAvsESP, 25.08.2020

Here is a common Olympiad type meeting. A player from South Africa gets to meet a famous player, here Alexei (Fire on Board) Shirov. It's always fun for the smaller chess countries to have an over the board encounter with someone they have read about for years. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Qc2** So far a typical Queen's Gambit Declined, Exchange Variation. Shirov, not to disappoint, mixes things up quickly. **6...Na6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 Nb4 9.Qb1 g6** very direct. Shirov threatens. 10...Bf5. White responds logically. **10.Qd1 g5 11.Bg3 Bf5 12.Rc1 Qa5!? 13.Be5**

13...Ne4?! Objectively this may not be best, but it's what the fans want from Shirov. A nice rook sacrifice to start the flames burning. **14.Bxh8 Nxa2 15.Nd2! Nexc3 16.bxc3 Ba3?!** [16...Nxc3 17.Ra1 Qb6 18.Qc1 Bb4 would be better somewhat better for White but complicated. Shirov's move is wild.] **17.Rc2?** Now White goes downhill. He could have tried for glory with [17.Ra1! Bb2 18.e4 Bxe4 19.Be2 Bxa1 20.Qxa1 Ke7 21.Be5 when objectively White is winning (though no doubt Shirov would have been hard to put away).] **17...Nxc3** Now the white pieces are jumbled. **18.Rxc3 Qxc3 19.Qb3 Qxb3 20.Nxb3 Bc2 21.Nc5?** [21.Nd2 a5 should win for Black anyway despite the piece down. The undevelped white pieces have trouble stopping the a-pawn.] **21...Bb4#**

0-1

(2) Noritsyn,Nikolai - So,Wesley [A01]

Online Olympiad USA vsCan, 25.08.2020

In the last round of the qualifying groups the USA met our neighbors to the North. The victory in the match gave us first in the group and qualification directly in the quarter finals. Here Wesley So shows his value to the team. **1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 d5 4.Bb5 Bd6 5.Nf3 f6 6.c4** The Nimzovich/Larsen opening is reasonable for White and gets a type of position some players very much like. Yet Black's classical development and pawns occupying the center give him few worries. **6...a6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.d4 e4 9.Ng1** Now the opening looks like a French Defense reversed Black's space advantage gives a slight edge. [9.Nfd2] **9...a5 10.Nc3 Bb4 11.Nge2 Ne7 12.0-0 0-0!?** [12...Ng6] **13.Na4! Ng6 14.c5** Well done by young Noritsyn! The black bishop on b4 is trapped. Wesley though has chances on the kingside due to the strong central pawn chain. **14...Nh4! 15.Ng3 f5 16.a3** [16.Bc1 first would do better to hold up White on the kingside.] **16...f4 17.exf4 Bd2** [17...Bh3!? 18.gxh3 Nf3+ 19.Kg2 Bd2] **18.Qxd2 Bh3**

19.f3 Bxg2 20.fxe4 dxe4 21.Rf2 Nf3+ 22.Rxf3 Bxf3 23.Nc3 Rxf4! A violent move from Wesley! Do you take the rook? **24.Re1?** [White needed to be brave and play 24.Qxf4 Qxd4+ 25.Kf1 Rf8 26.Nf5 Rxf5 27.Qxf5 Qd3+ 28.Kg1 Qe3+ 29.Kf1 Qd3+ with perpetual check. Now the Black attack breaks through.] **24...Qh4 25.d5 Rg4! 26.Nce2 Qh3** There is no defense now **27.Nf4 Rxf4 28.d6 cxd6 29.cxd6 Rf7 30.Be5 h5** With the pawn coming to h4 Black will win more material. White resigned. **0-1**

(3) Nepomniachtchi,Ian - Amin,Bassim [C90]

Online Olympiad Rus. vs Egypt, 24.08.2020

Russia crusied into the quarter finals. Their top player, Nepomniachtchi is in fine form. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 d6 7.c3 0-0 8.Re1 Re8 9.Nbd2 Bf8 10.Nf1 b5 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Bc2 c5 13.d4 exd4 14.cxd4 Bg4 15.d5** These moves in the Ruy Lopez have all been played before. 15...Nc4 is the usual move, but Amin wants to doulbe the white pawns. **15...Bxf3!? 16.gxf3 g6 17.b3! Bg7 18.Rb1** Black will have trouble getting the knight on a5 into the game. White's plans is to slowly advance with the pawns on the kingside. **18...Rc8 19.Ng3 b4 20.Bd3 Qb6 21.Be3 Qb7 22.Qe2 Ra8 23.f4**

23...Qc8 24.f5! White is coming on the kingside and the black knight is still being useless on the a-file. **24...Nd7 25.f4 Bc3 26.Rf1 c4** A bid for counterplay. **27.bxc4 Nc5 28.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 29.Kh1 Rac8 30.fxg6 hxg6 31.f5 Qd4 32.fxg6 fxg6 33.Qg4 Qg7**



34.e5! Now the white pieces invade the defenseless kingside. **34...Bxe5 35.Bxg6 Bxg3 36.Rf7! Qh6 37.Qxg3 Re3 38.Qg2 Nxc4 39.Rh7 Qxh7 40.Bxh7+ Kxh7 41.Rg1 1-0**

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Next » (/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/934)

Newsletter #933

September 5, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Chess Clubs from Around the Country
- Mechanics' Summer Championship Report
- Olympiad Report by John Donaldson
- TD Corner
- Chess & Golf
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Chess Clubs From Around the Country

It is quite an interesting thing to research other chess clubs from around the country. Most chess players are aware of the bigger clubs, but one thing we know is that there are many chess clubs across the country which meet in churches, schools, malls, coffee shops, and restaurants, more causal settings where people come together just to play chess and socialize. They don't play for rating or for titles, just purely for the love of the game. These clubs are every bit as important as any organized USCF affiliate, and the USCF and the USCF Clubs Committee recognize this. It takes a lot of work to keep these clubs growing and thriving. But there is one chess community out there which is served by the sheer will, passion, and outright hard work of one individual. This individual not only serves his chess community, but serves literally the entire state.

Todd Wolf is the President of the North Dakota Chess Association. He is also the 2015 State Champion, the North Dakota Delegate to the USCF, and organizer of the North Dakota State Championship. I spoke with him about his prolific organizing in North Dakota, and I do mean prolific. When I looked up on the US Chess website about rated events in North Dakota dating back to 2015, every single rated event in North Dakota, over 100 of them, were all organized and directed by Todd Wolf. See for yourself here: http://www.uschess.org/datapage/event-search.php?name=&state=ND&city=&date_from=&date_to=&order=D&minsize=&affil=&timectl=&rsys=ANY&mode=Find

He puts just as much effort in organizing the North Dakota State Championship as he does the Pizza Hut Open, in addition to scholastic events and camps. Todd Wolf is chess in North Dakota!

Todd lives in Bismarck and most events are organized there, but he also organizes events in other cities like Fargo and Minot. Currently, he organizes a regular weekly chess club at the Gateway Mall Food Court on Sundays 2-4pm. It is for casula games, and his local news even ran a story about Todd and his chess activities which can be found here: https://www.kxnet.com/news/local-news/a-former-chess-champ-is-taking-the-game-where-youd-least-expect-it/.

While acticities have slowed down due to COVID-19 quarantine, he has also organized events online and is looking to organize scholastic events online as well.

Todd got started in chess back in 1990, where as a teacher he started playing chess with the kids at school. He saw a flyer promoting the North Dakota State Championship, and he organized the kids for a road trip to play in the event. It seems quite early on that rallying kids up for chess was just in his blood.

Back in 2013, his son won the state scholastic championship and qualified to play in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions at the U.S. Open in Madison, Wisconsin. Todd has since organized events regularly and continuously for the past five years. Many of these events have had a few players, usually 8-10. This makes it all the more impressive. As organizers, it is tough to spend the time it takes to organize an event, set aside the time on the weekend to spend a half or full day directing an event. With so few players, there is no money to be made. To consistently organize events for the chess community takes a commitment and love for the game that goes beyond chess. Todd carries the weight of being pretty much the only person offering rated chess and organized events for the whole state.

When I asked why he thinks people play, his answer was simple - "People show up for the love of chess, kids play because its fun."

He will tell you he loves it all, and it would be genuine. But as a member of the US Chess Clubs Committee and from all us organizers out there, kudos to Todd Wolf for doing what he does, for all the kids, for the adults, and for the chess community as a whole. A person like Todd makes it possible for more kids to learn and understand the transformative power of chess, and we can see from the photos above, that communities do indeed come together through chess, and because of Todd, throughout North Dakota.

Mechanics' Instititute Summer Championship

The Mechanics' Institute hosted an online two-day Summer Championship which was USCF-rated and had a time control of G/60+5, with three games played per day, and pairings done manually on Chess.com. GM Aleksandr Lenderman dominated the field with a perfect score of 6/6 to win the event. IM Elliott Winslow finished in 2nd with 5/6, and four players tied for 3rd with 4/6; Alan Finkelstein, Rachael Tiong, Luke Widjaja and Ian Widjaja. The tournament had 20 players.

GM Lenderman showed how his technical and precise play can overwhelm even strong masters. Though some of his games were interesting out of the opening, he showed he was always in full control, and displayed top quality form throughout. Elliott Winslow had an impressive result also, with his only loss coming to Lenderman. He showed grit and fight in some of his wins, especially against Alan Finkelstein in the final round. Three other kids, Rachael Tiong, Luke Widjaja, and Ian Widjaja all perfomed exceptionally well to tie for 3rd, especially Rachael, who defeated strong A-players Ashik Uzzaman and Adam Mercado en route to her 4/6.

Here are some games from the event, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(7) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1969) - GM Aleksandr Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2459) [B10]

MI Summer Chess Festival Chess.com, 30.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 Alexander is well-versed in a number of openings; the French is as least as common by him, plus a lot of Sicilians. **2.c4** White is pretty sure Lenderman is more knowledgable on the main lines, so tries something a bit eccentric. **2...d5** [2...e5!? takes the game in quite a different direction, while the text keeps it more like what one sees in the Panov-Botvinnik Attack (2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4. c4).] **3.exd5 cxd5 4.cxd5 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Nxc3!?** [How about 6...g6 right away?] **7.bxc3 g6!?**

Played by both Tal and Petrosian in 1982! **8.h4!?** Another Alpha-Zero sycophant! [After simply 8.d4 the opening has a lot of characteristics of a Gruenfeld Defense.] **8...h6?!** We might brand this an overreaction, justifying White's last. [8...Bg7 9.h5 Nc6 **a)** 9...Qc7; **b)** 9...0-0 10.hxg6 hxg6 11.d4 or White could try various other stalling moves. *(11.Qa4; 11.Rb1)* ; 10.d4 e5!? *(10...Qc7; 10...0-0)* ; 8...Qc7!? was a principled attempt to discourage d2-d4; after 9.h5 Bg7 White made it a gambit: 10.d4!? *(*but maybe *10.Be2* is more reasonable, sticking with the waiting game: *10...Nc6 11.d4 Bf5 12.Bg5* 1-0 (33) Miezis,N (2557)-Akesson,R (2415) Norrköping 2012*)* 10...Qxc3+ 11.Bd2 Qa3 12.Bc4 Nc6 13.Rb1 Qd6!? 14.Qb3 e6 15.hxg6 hxg6 16.Rxh8+ Bxh8 and after further complications, ½-½ (32) Golod,V (2544) -Kaganskiy,G (2386) Ashdod 2003 [Golod,V]] **9.h5?!** Definitely overreacting to the overreaction! White could choose the moment better: [9.d4 Bg7 10.Bf4 (10.Be2!? Nc6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bf4 Bg4 13.Rb1 Qd7 14.Qd2 Kh7 15.d5 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Ne5 17.Be2 Rfc8 18.h5! gxh5 *(18...g5 19.Be3* followed by a kingside attack*)* 19.c4! b6 20.Rb3! Ng6 21.Rh3! 1-0 (39) Beliavsky,A (2615)-Tal,M (2605) Moscow 1982) 10...Nc6 11.Qd2 is uncomfortable] **9...g5 10.d4 Bg7 11.Bd3 Nc6 12.Qe2?!** [12.Rb1 interrupt Black's smooth deployment in the game.] **12...Be6** [12...Bg4!] **13.Rb1 Qd7 14.Qb2?** White gets himself all tangled up. **14...b6** [14...Bd5! is more refined] **15.0-0** [When the computer thinks 15.Qe2 is best, you can be pretty sure something went wrong last move.] **15...Bd5** [15...Bg4; 15...Bf5!?] **16.Nd2?** White seems to be playing with no plan. **16...0-0 17.Re1 Rac8** [Already Black could successfully attack the center with 17...e5] **18.Nf1**

18...e5! The time is ripe. **19.c4?** White hopes to confound Black in the tactics; wrong opponent for that! **19...Be6!** [19...Bxg2?! is interesting but (1) unclear (2) unnecessary.] **20.d5 e4 21.Qd2 exd3 22.dxe6 fxe6-+** This has turned out very well for Black. **23.Rb3 Rcd8** Black isn't going to give up that superpawn so readily! **24.Ne3 Nd4 25.Ra3 Ne2+** [25...e5!] **26.Rxe2 dxe2 27.Qxe2 Rf7**

Not only is Black up a clear Exchange, but White's knight has no future -- unless you consider "in the way" a profession. **28.Qc2 Qd4 29.Rb3 Qh4 30.Qe2 Qe4 31.f3 Qd4 32.Bb2 Qd2 33.Kf1 Qxe2+ 34.Kxe2 Bxb2 35.Rxb2 Rf4 36.Rb5 Rfd4 37.Ng4 Kg7 38.Re5 Rd2+ 39.Ke3 R8d3+ 40.Ke4 Ra3 41.Ne3 Re2 42.Kd4 Kf7 43.Ng4 Rxe5 44.Kxe5 Kg7 45.Kxe6 Rxa2 46.g3 Rg2** AlexanderL won by resignation **0-1**

(8) Rachael Tiong (rachael1120) (1567) - Adam Mercado (A-boy415) (1620) [B33]

MI Summer Chess Festival Chess.com, 29.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Bxf6 [The subtle "professional" move order is 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 *(*and there's also *9.Nd5)* 9...gxf6 10.Nd5] **8...gxf6 9.Na3 b5** [since here Black could try 9...f5!?] **10.Nd5 Be6?!** [The longstanding main line is 10...f5; While the more recent line is 10...Bg7 followed by ...Ne7.; Please do not play 10...Ne7?? too fast: 11.Nxf6#] **11.c4?!**

[The known problem for Black is that after 11.c3! Bg7 12.Nc2 Ne7 *(12...f5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Nce3* gains a move over the main lines*.)* 13.Nce3 sees White with a grip on d5.] **11...Qa5+!?** Into the unknown. [11...Bxd5!? 12.Qxd5 *(12.exd5?)* ; 11...Nd4!?] **12.Qd2 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Bxd5 14.exd5 Bh6+ 15.Kd1 Ne7 16.cxb5 Nxd5 17.bxa6** These long forcing lines can be harrowing! White's king is hard to approach, while that pawn on a6 is going to require a lot of attention. On the other hand, Black's pawns in the center, should they get rolling, could sweep White back. **17...Ke7!?** [17...0-0 Even with no queens on board the king could be a targe for attack, thus this might be more prudent.] **18.Nc2?!** [18.Nb5!? Rxa6? 19.Nd4! Ra4 20.Nf5+ Ke6 21.Nxh6 doesn't get out, but meanwhile on the queenside...] **18...Rhb8!**

Always a fun move to play. **19.b3 Nc3+** [19...f5 gets going right away.; 19...Nc7!? deals with the rock in Black's shoe.] **20.Ke1 Ra7?** Not part of the plan. [20...d5; 20...f5] **21.Ne3! Bxe3 22.fxe3** White's bishop is going to harrass the knight. **22...Rb4?! 23.Kd2 Ne4+ 24.Ke1?** [24.Kc2 Nc5 25.Bc4+- and White is ready for a3 and b4, the second wave of passed pawns.] **24...f5** [24...Nc5! 25.Bc4 Nxa6 26.a3 Rb8 27.b4?? Nxb4] **25.Bc4 Nc5 26.Ke2** [26.Rf1! Kf6 27.g4 d5 28.a3!] **26...Nxa6 27.Rhf1**

27...Rxc4? Black must be seeing a ghost. [27...Nc7 28.Rxf5 d5 29.Bd3 Ke6 30.Bc2 d4! 31.exd4 Rxd4 with central counterplay. White still holds an advantage, but it is yet to be decisive.] **28.bxc4 Ke6 29.Rf3** [29.a4! Nc5 30.a5 sets up another dangerous a-pawn!] **29...Nc5 30.a3** [30.a4! Nxa4 31.Kf2! threatens both 31.Rh3 and 31.e4 followed by 32.Rfa3.] **30...Ra4 31.Rh3 Rxc4** [31...Nb3! gets the pawn that's passed.] **32.Rxh7 Ne4 33.g3 Rc2+**

34.Kd3?? with 36 minutes left Rachael steps into a hole! [34.Ke1! Rc3 35.a4 Rxe3+ 36.Kf1 is no longer winning, but White does have her rook pawns] **34...Rc3+??** Poor Adam! The culmination of it all was there. He thought for four minutes (with 18 remaining) but just didn't see it. And it's not easy to see... [34...Rd2+! 35.Kc4 Rb2!! 36.Kd3 *(36.Rd1 d5+ 37.Rxd5 Rc2+)* 36...Kd5!! Mouse-trapped! *(36...d5* also works*)* 37.Rd1 Nf2+ 38.Kc3+ Nxd1+ 39.Kd3 e4#] **35.Ke2 d5** [35...Rc2+ 36.Ke1! as above.] **36.a4 Rc2+ 37.Ke1! Nc3?** [37...d4 is the best try, and White's task is difficult.] **38.Rh4! Re2+ 39.Kf1 Rxe3 40.a5 Nb5 41.Rb4** Now White's whole force is working. **41...Nc7 42.a6 d4 43.a7 Kd5 44.Rb7 Na8 45.Rb8 Ke4 46.Rxa8 Rf3+ 47.Kg2 Ke3 48.Rd8** [48.Ra3+ d3 49.Rxd3+ Kxd3 50.Kxf3 isn't a faster route to checkmate, but it's more likely Black would resign.] **48...Rf2+ 49.Kh3 e4 50.a8Q d3 51.Re8 d2**

52.Qxe4+? Now this is a hard move to explain! [52.Ra3+ Ke2 53.Qa6+ Ke1 54.Re3+ Kd1 55.Qa1+ Kc2 56.Rc3#] **52...fxe4 53.Rd8??** Even now White has more than half an hour left. And Black has 6:20, so it's not like she'll push him over timewise. [53.Ra3+! is still a win.] **53...Ke2** There they are, all those zeros: "0.00" says the new Stockfish 12. **54.Kg4 e3 55.h4 Rf1 56.Ra2 f5+ 57.Kg5 Rd1 58.h5 Kf3 59.h6**

59...e2?? Here on the brink Black loses his way and loses. [59...Rh1! was the only move to draw.] **60.Rd3+!** [or 60.h7] **60...Ke4 61.h7! Kxd3** [61...Rh1 62.Rdxd2! e1Q 63.Re2+ Qxe2 64.Rxe2+ Kf3 *(64...Kd5 65.Kg6)* 65.Re7] **62.h8Q e1Q**

Incredible -- Black is even up material and with a giant passed pawn. But it's a classic situation: exposed king, enemy queen and rook, check on the move. White wins. **63.Ra3+! Ke2 64.Qh5+! Kf1 65.Qh1+ Kf2 66.Rf3+ Ke2 67.Qg2+ Qf2 68.Qxf2#** A spectacular battle, with promising junior Rachel Tiong coming out on top at the end. **1-0**

(9) Alan Finkelstein (stratus_junior) (1867) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1979) [A62]

MI Summer Chess Festival Chess.com, 30.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 The Fianchetto against the Benoni. White calmly decentralizes his king, to ready for an eventual central pawn advance. If Black isn't ready when it happens, he gets pushed into the sea. **10.Bf4** The more modern line, the classic approach being [10.Nd2 a6 11.a4 Nbd7 12.h3 (12.Nc4 Ne5 *(12...Nb6)* 13.Na3 Nh5 when the rook might rather be on a8 than b8.) 12...b6!? is suggested in the latest Benoni book by John Doknjas.] **10...Bf5!?** This also is the rare but promising recommendation found in the abovementioned repertoire. Black hopes to play ...Ne4 and recapture with the bishop, solving the problem of that piece. **11.Nd2** [One key idea is 11.Nh4 Bg4!? *(11...Bc8 12.Nf3* would certainly ask Black if he wants a repetition.*)* 12.h3 *(12.Qd2 b5!; 12.Re1!?)* 12...Nh5!] **11...Nh5 12.Be3** [12.e4 Nxf4 13.gxf4 Bd7 isn't so easy to proceed for White] **12...Nd7 13.h3?**

13...Nxg3! "Of course" -- but as in so many lines of the Fianchetto Variation, and the Benoni in general, Black will be "encouraged" to sacrifice material. [13...Rxe3 14.fxe3 Nxg3 15.e4! is also something for Black, but even more complicated without bringing a higher dividend.] **14.fxg3 Rxe3 15.g4**

15...Bxg4! 16.hxg4 Bd4?! Hasty. [16...Qh4 17.Nf3 Qxg4 is pretty strong.; But 16...Ne5! 17.Nf3 Nxg4 18.Qe1 h5 Black's compensation for the piece is way more than enough. Stockfish 12: "-+ (-2.66)"] **17.Nb5 Be5?** [17...Bxb2! 18.Rb1 *(18.Nc4 a6!!*-+ Famous quote by Mikhail Tal in a similar situation (putting a third piece en prise): "They can only take one at a time."*)* 18...Be5-/+ again sees Black with overflowing compensation for the knight.] **18.Rf3! Qg5 19.Nc4! Re4 20.Nxe5?** [20.Qd2 Qxd2 *(20...Qxg4 21.Ncxd6+*- Black fumbles a bit*)* 21.Nxd2 Rxg4 22.Raf1 Rf8 23.Nxa7 Nb6 Black stays afloat, but there is no winning attack anymore.] **20...Nxe5 21.Rg3??** [21.Nxd6 Rd4 22.Qc1 Nxf3+ 23.exf3 *(23.Bxf3? Rxg4+ 24.Bxg4 Qxg4+ 25.Kf2 Qh4+ 26.Kg2 Rd8* Black's rook enters decisively*)* 23...Qxc1+ 24.Rxc1 Rxd5 25.Ne4 *(25.Nxb7?! Rb8* The winning chances are with Black*)* 25...Kg7=/+] **21...Rxg4 22.Rxg4**

22...Nxg4 [22...Qe3+! ends it.] **23.Qf1** The new Stockfish 12 (released the day after this game was played) sees White as still lost. [23.Qc1?! Ne3; 23.Qd3 Qf4 24.Qh3 (24.Qf3 Qh2+ 25.Kf1 Qh4 26.Kg1 Re8 27.Bh3 Re3 28.Bxg4 Rxf3 29.Bxf3 Qg3+ 30.Bg2 *(30.Kf1 h5)* 30...c4)] **23...Qe3+ 24.Kh1 Qg3** That's it. So that's why we play the Benoni! **0-1**

(10) Alan Finkelstein (stratus_junior) (1874) - Patrick Kut (pkutchess) (1780) [A11]

MI Summer Chess Festival Chess.com, 30.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d5 7.b3 An old, solid try to make something happen. [7.cxd5 cxd5 8.Ne5 e6 9.Nc3 Nfd7 is a sequence seen in many games at the highest level. Black has mostly kept things in balance.; 7.Qb3 is another way to apply pressure at d5 and b7.] **7...a5** A natural reaction. [One also sees 7...Ne4; 7...Bf5; and even 7...dxc4 8.bxc4 c5!] **8.Nc3 Ne4 9.Bb2 Nxc3** [9...Bf5] **10.Bxc3 Be6?!**

A problem square for the "problem bishop." [10...a4 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.bxa4 Bd7 0-1 (36) Ding,L (2791)-Caruana,F (2835) chess24.com INT 2020; 10...Bf5 11.e3 Be4 12.Qe2 *(12.Bh3!?)* 12...Nd7 13.Rfc1 e6 14.Bf1] **11.Ng5!? Bf5 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4**

13...Nd7N Aiming simply to develop but that won't really be good enough. [13...Bxe4 14.Bxe4 c5!? 15.Bxb7 Ra7 16.Bg2 cxd4 17.Bb2 Na6 reaches an unbalanced balance -- White has the two bishops, queenside majority; Black has advanced passed pawn, central majority, free play. ½-½ (75), Kuznetsov,V (2024)-Rozhnev,G (2102) Irkutsk 2015] **14.Re1! Nf6** [14...c5? 15.dxc5 Bxe4 16.Bxg7+- when 16...Bxg2 doesn't attack the rook at f1.; 14...Bxe4 15.Rxe4 c5 16.Qe1! is a surprising move for an advantage.] **15.Nc5!** keeping up some pressure. **15...Qc7** [15...b6 16.Na4] **16.Qe2 b6 17.Nd3** [17.Na4! e6 18.Bd2! and to f4.] **17...a4?!**

[It could be time to say adieu to the two bishops: 17...Bxd3] **18.Nb4!** Here's where White breaks through. **18...c5** [18...Bd7 19.d5 c5 20.Be5 Qc8 21.Nc6 Re8 22.Qb2 Is it hard to accept that White is already winning?] **19.dxc5 bxc5 20.Bxa8 cxb4 21.Be5 Qc5 22.Bf3** White has snipped the Exchange, and the pawns follow in short order. An impressive positional overpowering by Alan. **22...a3 23.Rad1 h5 24.Bd4 Qc8 25.Qxe7 Re8 26.Qxb4 Bg4 27.Bxg4 Nxg4 28.Rxe8+ Qxe8 29.Bxg7 Kxg7 30.h3 Ne5 31.Qc3 f6 32.Rd5 Qe6 33.Kg2 Qf5 34.Qe3 Qc2 35.Rd2** [35.Rd8!] **35...Qb1 36.f4 Nf7 37.Qd3 Qa1 38.c5 g5 39.c6 gxf4 40.gxf4 Qc1 41.Rc2 Qe1 42.Qg3+ Qxg3+ 43.Kxg3 Nd6 44.c7 Nc8 45.Rd2** stratus_junior won by resignation. **1-0**

Mechanics' Institute Summer Blitz Championship

We also hosted a summer blitz championship on the evening of August 29, and we had 20 players. GM Aleksandr Lenderman again showed his strength with a perfect 9/9 score. Tied for 2nd place were NM Greg Kotlyar, Nathan Fong, and Eric Hon, all with 6/9. The field includind a couple masters and strong experts, but Lenderman was just too tough. Here is a game from the blitz event.

(11) GM Aleksandr Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2808) - NM Greg Kotlyar (IroniaSudby) (2480) [A30]

MI Summer Chess Festival Chess.com, 29.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.g3 Bb7 4.Bg2 c5 5.0-0 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 h6 9.Rd1 0-0 10.Qf4 d6 11.Be3 Nbd7 12.Rac1 Rc8 13.b3 a6 14.a4 All standard Hedgehog/Double Fianchetto business. **14...Nc5**

15.Bxc5?! This is an odd moment to exchange like this. He must have been concerned with Black occupying e4 (not to mention the pawn on b3). But all the positional considerations go against this. [15.Nd2 Normal would be 15...Bxg2 16.Kxg2 when 16...Qe8!? is an atypical route to c6.] **15...bxc5 16.Nd2 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Qb6?!** [17...Nd7! sets up two routes (... Nb8 and ...Ne5) to get to c6 and later b4 or d4. Black would have a healthy edge.] **18.Rb1** [18.Nd5 is equal.] **18...Nh5** Black has an idea. A bad one. [18...Qc6+!? 19.Qf3 Qxf3+ 20.Nxf3 Nd7 21.Nd5 Rfe8 22.b4!? just trades off one weakness for another (or two).] **19.Qf3 f5?** Suddenly there are a lot of weaknesses in Black's position, maybe even critical ones. **20.Nd5 Qd8 21.Qe3** Black uses attack on e7 to spring into e6. **21...Kh7?!** [21...Kf7 is the best chance, stopping Qe6 for now. 22.b4! then looks to get the rook into b7 or so. 22...e6 23.Nf4 Nxf4+ 24.Qxf4 and various devices persist to open up lines on the kingside.] **22.Qxe7 Qxe7 23.Nxe7 Rce8 24.Nd5 Rxe2 25.Kf1 Ree8 26.Nf3** [26.b4 Again! The rook getting into b6 or b7 does more damage than anything Black can muster elsewhere.] **26...f4?! 27.g4 Nf6 28.Nxf6+ Rxf6**

29.b4! cxb4 30.Rxb4 Rc8 31.Rb6 a5 32.Ra6 Rc5?! [32...Rxc4 33.Rxa5 remains uncomfortable.] **33.Ra7 Re6 34.Rb1!** But this is worse. **34...Re8 35.Rbb7 Rg8**

36.Nd4 Rxc4 37.Ne6 f3 38.Rxg7+ Rxg7 39.Rxg7+ Kh8 40.Rc7 Rxa4 41.Rc1 Rxg4 42.Nc7? [42.Rc8+ Kh7 43.Rf8 gets rid of the one pawn that is causing White's grief, after which the rook and knight can take out the other ones.] **42...a4 43.Ra1 Rb4?!** [43...Kg7] **44.Nd5 Rb3 45.Ke1** No more getting checkmated. **45...a3 46.Kd2 Rb2+ 47.Ke3 a2?! 48.Nc3 g5 49.Rxa2 Rb3 50.Rc2 Kg7 51.Kxf3 Kg6 52.Kg2 g4 53.Ne4 d5 54.Rc6+ Kf5 55.Ng3+ Kg5 56.Rd6 Rd3 57.Kf1 h5 58.Ke2 Rd4 59.Nf1 h4 60.Ne3 h3 61.Rxd5+ Rxd5 62.Nxd5 Kf5 63.Ne3+ Kf4** AlexanderL won by resignation **1-0**

(6) Pranav Sairam (chesspilot01) (2282) - Nathan Fong (nathanf314) (2172) [B49]

Live Chess Chess.com, 30.08.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.0-0 Bb4 A classic Taimanov Sicilian. White has full development but Black has flexible pawn structure which restrair the white pieces. **9.Bd3?!** Moving a piece twice in the opening is a loss of time. Here 9. Na4! is the main line, looking at the b6 weakeness. **9...0-0 10.f4 Nxd4** [10...Bc5!] **11.Bxd4 Bc5 12.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 13.Kh1 d5?!** [13...d6 would help to control the dark squares and keep the game level] **14.e5 Nd7 15.Qh5 g6 16.Qh6 f5** Black needs to advance this pawn to be prepared to defend against Rf3 followed by Rh3. **17.exf6 Rxf6 18.Rf3?!** [18.Rae1!] **18...Qf8! 19.Qh4 b5 20.Rh3 Qg7** Black has managed to get back on the defense and now has a safe king position. **21.Ne2 Bb7 22.Nd4 e5 23.fxe5 Nxe5 24.Re1?!**

24...Raf8! White was so focused on his own attack that he forgot Black can pursue his own plans. Now the black pieces coordinate well and the white ones not as well. The white rook and h3 is not contributing, hence 24. Re3 would have been preferrable. **25.Kg1?** [25.Nf3 Nxd3 26.cxd3 Rf4 27.Re7 would keep White in the game. Black would have a better ending after 27...Rxh4 28.Rxg7+ Kxg7 29.Rxh4 Rc8] **25...Rf4** oops. White loses a piece. **26.Qg5 Nxd3 27.Ne6 Nxe1! 28.Nxf4** [28.Nxg7 Rf1#] **28...Qd4+ 29.Kh1 Qxf4 0-1**

For full results, follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournament-archive?y=2020&t=78&e=311594

Mechanics' Institute Summer Kids Championship

On Sunday August 30, we held our Mechanics' Kids Summer Championship on ChessKid.com. In all, 50 players participated in two sections according to Chesskid.com rating; 1200+ and under 1200. In the top section, Mechanics' regular RareThird Dessert and CritAura tied for 1st with 5/6, with RareThird Dessert taking the first place trophy on tiebreaks. In the under 1200 section, Chessp9999 took 1st place with a score of 5.5/6. Congratulations to all the kids who participated!

Here are some games from the kids event, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) SreyanGBayAreaChess (1433) - RareThirdDessert (1704) [C44]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Bc4 Boldly sacrificing two pawns! White offers the Danish Gambit. **4...Nc6** Which Black declines, preferring to take only one pawn (the Goring Gambit). [4...cxb2 5.Bxb2 is a wild and crazy game] **5.Nxc3 Bb4 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.e5 Ng8?!** Black retreats and loses time in the opening. Better was the counter attack [7...d5 8.exf6 dxc4 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.fxg7 Rg8 with an equal position] **8.a3?!** [8.Qb3 Qe7 9.0-0 is a plus for White due to extra development, e.g. 9...Na5 10.Bxf7+ Kf8 11.Qa4!] **8...Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nge7 10.0-0 h6 11.Qb3?!** [11.Bf4 leaves White with greater control of the center] **11...0-0 12.Nd4?! Na5** [12...Nxe5 would be a clean pawn ahead] **13.Qb4 Nxc4 14.Qxc4 d6 15.exd6 cxd6 16.Rd1 d5 17.Qa2 Nc6 18.Nf3 Re8** Playing for development and activity rather than guarding the d-pawn. A reasonable choice. **19.Qxd5 Qf6 20.Bb2?!** This passive square for the white bishop allows Black to gain further activity. **20...Bg4 21.h3 Be6?!** [21...Rad8! 22.Qb3 Bxf3 would be a huge advantage. The white kingside would be ruined.] **22.Qd2 Bb3 23.Rdb1 Rad8**

24.Qc1? [White couldn't find a good square for the queen. He needed to counter with 24.c4! so the Black queen was also attacked. Black would still be better, but it would be a hard fight.] **24...Rd1+ 25.Qxd1 Bxd1 26.Rxd1 Re2! 27.Rdb1 Ne5! 28.Nxe5?!** White was in big trouble no matter what, but this ends it quickly. **28...Qxf2+** RareThirdDessert won by resignation **0-1**

(4) KeenUpbeatClock (1528) - CritAura (1652) [B12]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 The Advanced Variation of the Caro-Kann. The became popular among grandmasters as it often leads to attacking possibilities. **3...c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.dxc5?!** This is not so good as White loses the pawn chain of c3,d4,e5. It would be better to develop with 5. Nf3. **5...Nxe5 6.Nf3 Bg4?**

7.Be2? [White misses a golden oppontunity to win the game with a queen sacrifice - 7.Nxe5! Bxd1 8.Bb5+ wins the queen back with interest 8...Qd7 9.Bxd7+ Kd8 10.Nxf7+ Kxd7 11.Kxd1 and the rook is trapped in the corner.] **7...Nxf3+ 8.Bxf3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 e6 10.Bf4?!** [10.Be3] **10...Bxc5 11.0-0 Nf6** Black has an extra pawn and nice solid central pawns. **12.Rd1 0-0 13.c4 Qb6! 14.cxd5 Qxb2** Fine, active play by CritAura. White is a pawn down and under pressure. **15.Nc3 exd5** [15...Nxd5] **16.Rab1 Qa3 17.Rb3 Qa5?! 18.Nxd5?** Taking this pawn leads to great trouble. There are back rank issues. [18.Rb5! Bxf2+ 19.Kh1! Would put White ahead. *(*Not *19.Kxf2 Qxc3! 20.Qxc3 Ne4+)*] **18...Nxd5 19.Rxd5?** [Black would be well ahead anyway after 19.Qxd5 Rad8 20.Qf3 Rxd1+ 21.Qxd1 Rd8 22.Qf1 Qxa2 23.Rb1 Bxf2+! 24.Kh1 Bb6] **19...Qe1#** CritAura won by checkmate **0-1**

(3) LateLoyalBagel (1201) - chessp9999 (1224) [C54]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 0-0?! [8...d5! 9.exd5 Nxd5] **9.0-0?!** [9.e5] **9...d6** [9...d5!] **10.e5** White charges ahead, which is the right strategy, but it would have been better to prepare this with 10. Re1. **10...dxe5 11.dxe5 Ng4 12.Re1 Re8** The white pawn on e5 is threatened. What to do? **13.Qe2?!** [13.e6! Bxe6 14.Bxe6 Rxe6 15.Rxe6 fxe6 16.Qb3 would get the pawn back with a good position.] **13...Qe7?!** [13...Ngxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 simply wins the pawn] **14.Qd3?!** [14.Bb5!] **14...Ngxe5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Qe3 Bf5 17.Nf3?** Initiating exchanges that are in Black's favor. **17...Nxf3+ 18.Qxf3 Qxe1+! 19.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 20.Bf1**

20...Bb1 White has the back rank problem and is in danger of losing the bishop on f1 if either the black bishop or other rook can also attack it. Note that two rooks are usually superior to a queen. They can double up to attack targets. **21.Qxb7 Rd8?!** [21...Rae8!] **22.Qxc7!** correctly grabbing another pawn as the rook on d8 can't leave the back rank. **22...Rf8 23.Qxa7?** But this is just too greedy! With 23. Qc3 White is still in the game. Now the bishop on f1 is lost. **23...Bd3! 24.g3 Rxf1+ 25.Kg2 h6** It's always nice to make "luft" so there will never be a bank rank checkmate. **26.Qe3 Rd8 27.Qe7 Rc8 28.Qe2??** A terrible blunder. White could have tried [28.Qd7 Ba6 29.Qxc8+ Bxc8 30.Kxf1 when it would take good technique from Black to win the endgame.] **28...Bxe2 29.Kh3 Rxf2 30.Kh4 Rxh2#** chessp9999 won by checkmate **0-1**

Full results can be found here:

https://www.chesskid.com/tournament/mechanics-summer-scholastic-championship---1200-101361/results

https://www.chesskid.com/tournament/mechanics-summer-scholastic-championship---u1200-101412/results

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2020 FIDE Online Olympiad (Part Two) by US Captain IM John Donaldson

The U.S. followed its division victory with a quarterfinal match with Ukraine which had upset China, one of the pre-tournament favorites. Led by Wesley So's 2-0 result on board one they won in convincing fashion 4 ½ - 1 ½ and 4-2.

Sam Shankland drew his first game with Anton Korobov where he unleashed an important theoretical novelty but missed a problem-like win. In the following round he insured his team's victory in convincing fashion.

Samuel Shankland - Evgeny Shtembuliak [A42]

Online Chess Olympiad 2020 (USA-Ukraine)

1.d4 g6 2.e4 d6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 e5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.dxe5 dxe5 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8

8.Be3 Bg4 9.Ng5

Energetic play is called for by White. Black has the potential long-term trump of the d4 square but Sam has a lead in development which he exploits in convincing fashion.

9...Ke8

White answers 9...Nh6 with 10.h3 Bd7 11.0–0–0 Kc8 12.Nd5 f6 13.Nf3 Nf7 and now either 14.c5 (gaining access to the c4 square) or 14.g4 with the advantage.

10.Nb5 h6

On 10...Rc8 11.Nxa7 Nxa7 12.Bxa7 b6? tying to trap the bishop, is met by 13.c5. Black should dispense with 12…b6? and instead treat the position as a pawn sacrifice with some compensation.

11.Nf3 Kd8 12.0–0–0+ Kc8 13.Be2 Nf6 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 h5

Black is hoping to follow up with ...Bh6 to exchange off his bad bishop.

16.g4!

This cuts across Black's plan.

16…a6 17.Nc3 Nd4 18.Bg2! hxg4 19.hxg4 Rxh1 20.Rxh1

20...c6

If Black captures the pawn with 20...Nxg4 White has strong answers in 21.Bh3 and 21.Rh7.

21.f4!

Sam opens the game to exploit his advantage in development.

21…Ne6 22.f5 Nxg4

On 22...Nd4 23.g5 Nh5 24.Na4 Kc7 25.Nc5 followed by Bxd4 is very strong.

23.fxe6

23.Bb6! was also quite strong - 23...Nf4 24.Rh7 Bh6 25.Bf3 leaves Black helpless.

23...Nxe3 24.Rh7 Bf8?

24...Nxg2 25.Rxg7 Kc7 26.Na4 Nf4 27.Nc5 b6 28.exf7 Rf8 29.Nxa6+ Kd6 was the last try but still losing in the end.

25.Rxf7 Bh6 26.Bh3

Black has no effective discovered check.

26...Kb8 27.e7 Ka7 28.Bd7 Nxc4+ 29.Kc2 Nd6 30.Rf6 Ne8 31.Rxg6 Be3 32.Rg8 Nf6

33.Rf8!

This is the simplest.

33...Bg5 34.Na4 Rb8

Black can prolong the game with 34...Ne8 but not change the final result.

35.Nb6 Bh4 36.Nc8+ Ka8 37.Rxf6 1–0

The US took, again led by Wesley So who scored 1 ½ - ½ in his match against Alexander Grischuk lost to Russia by the very narrowest of margins 2 ½ - 3 ½ and 3-3 to finish equal third with Poland, the other semi-final contestant who succumbed to India in an Armageddon game. The American team could have beaten the Russians with but a bit of luck but still had a very successful event.

Individual scores of the team members.

Wesley So 9.5/13

Sam Shankland 5.5/9

Ray Robson 2.5/4

Carissa Yip 6/8

Anna Zatonskih 5.5/10 (Anna was Black in her last six games)

Tatev Abrahamyan 4.5/8

Jeffery Xiong 10/13

Annie Wang 10/13

The team won 8 matches, drew one and lost two, both by the absolute minimum, scored 69 percent (53 ½ points in 78 game).

Tuesday Night Online Report: September 1, 2020

We held a Tuesday Night Online free event during the one week break from the start of our next TNM and it was won by IM Elliott Winslow. We had 20 playersfor this event, and full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-tuesday-night-online-1537403.

Here are some of the games, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(13) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2156) - Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (1723) [E10]

Live Chess Chess.com, 02.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.e3 e6 6.dxe6 fxe6 7.Nf3 axb5 8.Bxb5 Qa5+ 9.Nc3 Nd5 10.Be2 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Qxc3+ 12.Bd2 Qf6 13.0-0

13...Be7N [For theory hounds we cite 13...Nc6 14.Qc2 Be7 15.Bd3 Qh6 16.e4 Qh5 17.e5 Ba6 18.Bc3 0-0 19.a3?

19...Rxf3! 20.gxf3 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Qxe5 22.Bxa6 Bd6 23.Rfd1 Rxa6 24.Qe4 Qxh2+ 25.Kf1 Rc6 26.a4 c4 27.a5 c3 28.a6 Bc5 29.Qc2? Ba7 30.Rxd7 Qh1+ 31.Ke2 Qxa1 32.Rxa7 Rd6 33.Qe4 Qd1+ 0-1, Gatineau,Y (2105)-Viennot,D (2351) Avoine 2015. Instructive game!] **14.e4 Nc6 15.e5?!** [15.Bg5 Qg6 16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.Qc2 seems to be a simple edge for White] **15...Nxe5 16.Bg5 Qf5** [16...Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Qxg5 18.Bxa8 0-0 is an interesting exchange sacrifice] **17.Bxe7 Kxe7 18.Re1 Rb8 19.Rc1 Bb7 20.Nxe5 Qxe5 21.Bb5?! Qd5!** Black seeks an endgame where his king will be happy to be in the center. **22.Qg4 Qxg2+! 23.Qxg2 Bxg2 24.Rxc5 Kd6! 25.Rg5 Bd5 26.a4 g6 27.Rg3 Rhc8 28.Rh3 h5 29.Rg3 Rg8 30.h4 Rbc8 31.Ra1**

Game drawn by agreement. Black has the advantage with the centralized king and pawns, but didn't feel confident enough to continue. **1/2-1/2**

(12) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1984) - Rudolph Breedt (bobbejaan) (1789) [C87]

MI Tuesday Night Online Chess.com, 01.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5?! [5...Be7 6.Re1 (Nowadays we see other moves here, mainly *(6.d3)* 6...b5 7.Bb3 d6 *(*And of course there's the Marshall: *7...0-0 8.c3 d5)* 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 is the time-worn move order. But it doesn't really matter, White is going to play Re1 anyway.] **6.Bb3 d6 7.c3 Be7 8.d4 0-0 9.h3** [9.Nbd2 makes more sense, as 9...Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Nxf3 and Black *still* can't take on e4.] **9...Bd7 10.Nbd2 Re8 11.Re1 Bf8 12.a3?!** Everything else played here won. [(well, except this:) 12.Nf1!? 1/2-1/2 (36) Siigur,J (2530)-Wilczek,T (2538 ICCF email 2008] **12...Na5 13.Ba2**

[13.Bc2!?] **13...c5!?N** [Predecessor: 13...Bc6 was the only game here, but 14.b4 Nb7 15.Qc2 *(15.Ng5! Re7 16.Nxf7 Rxf7 17.Bxf7+ Kxf7 18.Qb3+* is crushing as it turns out*.)* 15...g6 16.Bb2 Bg7 17.c4 is very good for White but 0-1 (43) 43, Swic,W (2345)-Sygulski,A Zielona Gora 1982; 13...h6] **14.b4 Nc6**

15.bxc5!? [15.d5 Na7 16.bxc5 dxc5 17.c4 might be a better way to proceed] **15...dxc5 16.dxe5?!** [16.Bxf7+! Kxf7 17.Qb3+ c4 18.Nxc4 bxc4 19.Qxc4+ Kg6 20.Nh4+ Kh5 21.Qe2+ Kxh4 22.g3+ Kxh3 23.f3 King hunt!] **16...Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Rxe5 18.c4 Bc6 19.Bb2 Re8 20.e5 Nd7 21.f4?** [21.e6! fxe6 22.cxb5 axb5 23.Rxe6 Rxe6 24.Qg4 and White has some advantage in the two bishops and somewhat safer king.] **21...Qh4** [21...Nb6! Black starts to come out with an advantage.] **22.Qg4?** [22.e6! fxe6 23.cxb5 axb5 24.Rxe6 Rxe6 25.Bxe6+ Kh8 26.Nf3! with a clear advantage 26...Qe7 27.Ng5] **22...Qxg4 23.hxg4 Nb6 24.Rad1 Rad8 25.cxb5? axb5 26.Nf3 c4** Black is winning **27.Nd4 Bc5** [27...Bd7 28.f5 Na4] **28.Kh2 Bxd4** [28...Na4; 28...Bd7] **29.Bxd4 Na4? 30.f5? Rd5? 31.Ba1** [31.Bb1] **31...Red8 32.Rxd5 Rxd5 33.e6 fxe6 34.fxe6** [34.Rxe6!=] **34...Rd2 35.Bb1 Rxg2+ 36.Kh3 Rf2 37.e7 Kf7 38.Bxh7 Rf3+ 39.Kh4**

39...Rxa3?? [39...Nc5=] **40.Bd4** [40.Kg5!] **40...Rd3?! 41.Bxd3** [41.Kg5!! is a mating net.] **41...cxd3 42.Rd1 Be4 43.Bxg7 b4 44.Kg5 Nc3 45.Re1 d2 46.Rf1+ Kxg7 47.e8Q d1Q 48.Rxd1** ecwinslow won by resignation **1-0**

Mechanics' Institute Community Tuesday Night Marathon Starts This Week!

Mechanics' Institute Community

Tuesday Night Marathon Online

USCF Online Rated!

via Chess.com, Open for everyone!

Sept 8 - 22

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/MechanicsInstituteCommunityTNMOnline

Event Schedule:

2 rounds of G/35+2 each night: Round times are: 6:30PM & 8PM

Time control: 6SS G/35+2. (Game in 35 minutes with 2 second increement with each move.)

MUST Register in order to play:

Registration deadline in order to be paired in Round 1: 3PM on 9/8. Anyone registering after that will get a 0.5 point bye. Late registrations *might* be paired for extra rated games, but it's not guaranteed.

Eligibility - Players must have:

- current US Chess Federation membership
- chess.com account that is part of Mechanics' Chess Club (free account is perfectly sufficient) -- Don't have one yet? Easy to make, just follow the instructions below. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-community-tuesday-night-marathon-online#Join)

Here is the format:

- 6 rounds of G/35+2 - more details on tournament details here. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-community-tuesday-night-marathon-online#info)
- 2 Sections(UPDATED): 1800+ & u1800
- paired based on OTB or ONL Sept 2020 supplemental regular rating!
- paired based on swiss tournament rules
- NEW: pairing will be done manually using match command on chess.com. You'll need to be on chess.com/live and wait for your game to pop up!
- NEW: Pairing will be posted for Round 1, Round 3, and Round 5 on Tuesdays 4:30PM
- if you register after Tuesday 3:00PM, you'll still be able to join the tournament, but you'll be paired as an extra rated, and will be given a 0.5 point bye for the first round.
- Players have to be online on chess.com/live when Round 1 starts, and their game will be started by the Chief TD.
- Chief TD will have a list of match commands needed to be executed one by one: IF players are not online when pairing is executed, they'll be put at the end of the list, and match command will be tried one more time. Two times not present on chess.com/live will automatically get a 0F.
- Late registraitons *might* be paired up for extra rated games, but it's not guaranteed.
- Games will be US Chess Online regular rated - tournament will be submitted 5-7 days after the tourament to allow all games to be screened for fair play. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-community-tuesday-night-marathon-online#fair%20play)

Rules: standard USCF rules apply.

- Mouse slips count, no takebacks.
- If player is not logged in to live chess when pairings occur, we will assign a 0 point bye
- Section prizes will be awarded based on USCF standard rating

Prizes: $600 based on 40 paid entries

Fair Play

This is a US Chess online rated tournament, and therefore most USCF rules and consequences apply. Players should not use any outside assistance, including not having other browsers oper and not be talking to other people during their games. Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their kids' activity during the tournament to ensure fair play. All games will be carefully reviewed and screened by chess.com, Mechanics' Institue Chess club staff, and Dr. Kenneth W. Regan (Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Buffalo). Players found or believed to be violating fair play are not eligible for a prize, and their account will be removed from Mechanics' group. Players who are confirmed to be using outside assistance will be reported to US Chess and restricted from future Mechanics' online and over-the-board events.

Parents, please help us educate your child about fair play. This is an opportunity to engage with your children on a lesson that is very important, not just in chess. In addition, as indicated above, there are consequences, and it is simply not worth the risk of losing the opportunity to play and compete. For some helpful links regarding fair play, please check these out:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KHWnA9snAQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2UAZBQvHRyTlc1f7t9UtcwEJW43YmPOgb22fXeP_imQ4Nga07Knx2Dyws
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knvySXCNfd8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7PI9Q9uoSE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5KaxBW7rlU

Please note that the Organizer and/or the Chief Tournament Director can require players to play their games with a camera that records the player playing with a view to the screen. Players should be prepared to provide this precaution if asked to do so. Prize distributions and rating submission will take place AFTER all games have been screened.

Entry Fee

MI library member: $30
Non-MI library member: $40
Play-up for players 1600+: $10 (no play-up for u1600)

Registraton deadline: 2 hours before tournament start time to be included in the pairing, any registration after - first round is not guaranteed.

Tournament Informaiton

Late joins: if you join late, you'll get zero(0) points for each missed rounds.

Sections: Two sections: 1800+ and u1800 based on the 2020 Sept supplemental regular rating system.

Pre-requested byes: since we are pairing manually, based on OTB ratings, pre-requestd byes now available. You must let us know by Tuesday noon.

How to join us?

If you would like to play in our online tournaments, you must

1) Register for the event -- we need to know your full name, and chess.com ID

2) have an account on chess.com; -- don't have one? Sign up now! (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.chess.com/register?returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2F)

3) join our club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated)

Join tournaments: two ways to join the tournaments: 1) log in to chess.com and click on the link above; or 2) log in chess.com --> Play --> Live Chess
For this tournament only: Tournament directors will be pairing players manually, so no tournaments to join!

For players who are interested in play in our online tournament,
PLEASE fill out our online Players database: https://forms.gle/X3hChCWbusHp4Ze56 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://forms.gle/X3hChCWbusHp4Ze56)
to get email notifications about last minute changes and invitational opportunities.

Dr. Alexey Root and Reka Sztaray: Chess and Golf

ChessBase just released an article written by Dr. Alexey Root and co-authored by USCF Senior Tournament Director Reka Sztaray (daughter of Judit). In it, comparisons are made between chess and golf, and readers will find it both entertaining and informative. Click on this link to read the article:

https://en.chessbase.com/post/chess-and-golf-for-amateurs-during-the-pandemic

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Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM - A Journey Through Chess History - Course 1: Olympiads with GM Nick de Firmian

This class will be a reflective journey of some of the games and experiences of Mechanics' Institute GM in Residence and 3-time U.S. Champion GM Nick de Firmian. He will go over some of his games from Olympiads of the past where players can learn and interact while at the same time learning stories from the event and about players from the event from someone who lived it. It will be an exciting class that combines chess learning with storytelling for a fun and engaging class.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/journey-through-chess-history-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/journey-through-chess-history-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory)

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM - The World Championship Match -- by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: Part 1 -- 9/3 through 10/1
Part 2 - 10/8 through 11/5

An in-depth look at the World Championship matches – the great games, styles and personalities of the World Champions and their challengers. The central idea of the class will be the study of chess ideas and theory, as practiced by the greatest players. In each class we'll look through a selection of the most famous games ever played: games where literally everything was at stake.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: Part 1: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1)
Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, September 5: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM

6SS G/10+2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentSep5SAT3PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentSep5SAT3PM)

Sunday, September 6: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5 +5 USCF rated: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=101781 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=101781)

Monday, September 7: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=101782 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=101782)

Tuesday, September 8: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=101783 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=101783)

Wednesday, September 9: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=101780 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=101780)

Thursday, September 10: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=101784 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=101784)

Friday, September 11: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=102204

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) TopMadHat (1093) - DarkCapableCharm (1471) [C54]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+

This postion has been played for centuries (particularly in Italy in the old days). TopMadHat now makes a novelty that I have never seen before. **8.Qxd2?** Perhaps this was played in some cafe in Rome 400 years ago, but never recorded. It unfortuantely just loses the proud e-pawn. **8...Nxe4 9.Qe3 d5!** This move begs to be played. It protects the knight, attacks the white bishop on c4 and allows the development of Black's bishop on c8. **10.Bb3?!** White had an aggressive posibility to try to get the pawn back - [10.Bxd5 Qxd5 11.Nc3 though Black would maintain the advantage with 11...Qf5 12.Qxe4+ Qxe4+ 13.Nxe4 Be6 14.0-0 0-0-0] **10...0-0 11.Nc3?!** better to castle and get the white king to safety. **11...Re8!** Now Black will win material when the knight on e4 moves, uncovering the rook attack. **12.Bxd5?!**

12...Nxc3! Now Black wins the queen. If white had played 12. 0-0 Ng3 he would have only lost the exchange. **13.Qxe8+ Qxe8+** DarkCapableCharm won by resignation **0-1**

(2) AdityaKBayAreaChess (1557) - FunStyle (1469) [C01]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 More interesting is the play 3. e5, the Advance Variation of the French Defense. **3...exd5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Qe2+?!** This check is conveniently blocked by a developing move for Black. Meanwhile the white queen is in the way of the light-squared bishop coming out. **5...Be7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.g3 Re8** Here we see the queen check has lead to immediate trouble on the e-file. **8.Bg2 Bb4 9.Be3 Ng4** [9...Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 b6! planning 11...Ba6 would cause White more trouble.] **10.0-0 Nxe3 11.fxe3 Bg4** [11...c6 first, so hold the center, would be safer.] **12.h3** [12.Qb5! Bxc3 13.Ne5! would be an excellent tactical opportunity to make use of. White has several threats and would hold the advantage.] **12...Bh5 13.g4 Bg6 14.a3** [14.Ne5 is a natural move, putting the knight on a strong post] **14...Ba5** [14...Bxc3 15.bxc3 Nd7 plays against the doubled pawns] **15.b4 Bb6 16.Ne5 c6 17.Nxg6 hxg6 18.Qf3?!** [18.Rad1 defending the d-pawn and looking to get in e4 would be better. White gets stuck with the backward e-pawn now.] **18...Re7! 19.Ne2 Nd7 20.Nf4 Nf6** Now all the black pieces have good squares. **21.Qg3 Qe8 22.Rf3 Rd8 23.Kh2? Bc7!** White has placed too many important people on this long black diagonal (b8-h2). The black bishop move makes White lose material. 24...g5 is threatened. **24.Qh4** [24.g5 Nh5 25.Qf2 Rxe3 26.Rxe3 Bxf4+ 27.Qxf4 Nxf4 28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 is an easily winning endgame for Black.] **24...Rxe3! 25.Rxe3 Bxf4+** FunStyle won by resignation **0-1**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Twice a month

September 5, 13, 19, 27, @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

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Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays:

Absolute Beginner class: This class is meant to teach brand new students the moves of the pieces and captures so that students may jump into the New at Chess class with knowledge of piece movements. Students may take this course as much as needed, but the same concept will be taught weekly, though it will be a different class each week. The goal is simple, teach piece movements in preparation.

Starting at Chess: This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800.

Developing Players: This class Is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience.

Mastering Your Chess: This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800.

Please click on the day to get more information about the class structure, topics taughts, dates & fees and to register:

Absolute Beginner - Please click here to learn about the special schedule. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/absolute-beginners-course)

Class	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	
Starting at Chess	3-4PM Click for more info (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTUESDAYS34PM)	3-4PM Click for more info (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessWEDNESDAYS34PM)	
Developing Players	4-5PM More information (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/developing-players-tuesdays)	4-5PM Click for more info (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/developing-players-wednesdays)	(
Mastering Your Chess	5-6PM Click for more info (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/mastering-your-chess-tuesdays)	5-6PM Click for more info (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/mastering-your-chess-wednesdays)	

Note: minimum 5 students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class.
Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration.
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

9/6 Sunday - Mechanics' Sunday Arena
Format: Arena G/5+2, 90 min
Start: 7:00pm
Registration open 6:00pm: https://www.chess.com/live#r=453871 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.chess.com/live#r=453871)

9/8 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Community Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2 USCF rated, manually paired
Register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-community-tuesday-night-marathon-online
Start at 6:30PM

9/10 Thursday - Thursday Night Quads
Format: 3SS G/60+10
Join by 4PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-pilot)
Start at 6:30PM

9/11 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 8 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1553729
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)

2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305171359/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org

Domination, Part 1.

The chess study is not only a miniature work of logic and art, it has useful practical application – the simple studies of Lucena and Philidor are used every day by hundreds, perhaps thousands of chess players.

World Champion Vassily Smyslov composed studies, and many Grandmasters (including the Mechanics' Institutes own GM in Residence, Nick de Firmian) take a keen interest in solving these kinds of puzzles, be it a mate in 3 or a "white wins."

I have a wonderful book I look at far too infrequently: **Domination in 2,545 Endgame Studies**, by **Ghenrikh Kasparyan** (1974).

The concept of domination is essentially the bare fact of "my piece (or pieces) are better than your piece (or pieces)", which translates to an advantage – and in the chess study, a decisive advantage.

It's all about trapping pieces.

In this series we'll look at a couple of examples each week, all taken from Kasparyan's book. In the first study we will look at the problem AND the solution. The theme, idea, or key will be in this initial problem.

As for the second study: you have some of the tools - and your imagination.

But I'm afraid you're on your own.

Our first examples show the knight's domination of the bishop:

1. Troitzky 1896 - White wins.

The first move is splendid, economical: **1.Nd4!** This prevents the black king from approaching the a-pawn, and the threat is **2.Ne6+**. If **1…Kxd4 2.a6**, and the pawn cannot be stopped. Black has only two moves left then, but after **1…Bh6** (or **1…Bh8 2.Nf5** Domination. **2…Kxb5 3.Kg3 Kxa5 4.Kxh3**, and the black king can't make it back in time to help.) **2.Kf3!** black is doomed. If **2…Bg5** white wins cleanly with **3.Ne6+ Kb5 4.Nxg5 fxg5 5.Kg3. 2…Bd2/c1** is met by **3.Nb3+**, and **2…Bg7/f8** by **3.Ne6+**. And **2..Kd6 is met by 3.Nf5+!** Domination! That only leaves **2…f5**, when **3.Ke2! f4 4.Kf3!!** puts black into zugzwang.

Reti put his own spin on Troizky's composition 26 years later:

2. Reti 1922 – White wins.

Good luck!

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Hikaru Nakamura: e-sports superstar

The current US Chess Champion has been a fixture in top chess for the last 15 years, He has battled many times with the likes of Kramnik, Anand, Gelfand, MVL and the great Magnus. While the US added two top ten players in the last years, Wesley So and challenger Fabiano Caruana, Nakamura has been playing for the US his whole career. That he is current US Champion (for the 5th time) testifies to his legacy as a classical player. Yet where he truly excels is in quicker play of blitz and rapid where he plays for the shear fun of the game. Many of the great world champions have a different approach. When you think of Capablanca, Fischer or Karpov one thinks of deep strategies, long thought out ideas and slow calm plans.

When people think of Hikaru Nakamura, they may also think great chess, but the first thought would be fun! Hikaru has built up his online following with his internet play of blitz and bullet games. His record of rapid and blitz is second only to Carlsen. This has given him a great opportunity in the internet world of online gaming. He has thousands of followers who subscribe to his channel and now Hikaru has signed up with e-sports company TSM (Team SoloMid) to entertain chess players around the world. We give below some of his entertaining games.

(1) Krasenkow,Michal (2668) - Nakamura,Hikaru (2648) [A14]

Barcelona Casino Barcelona (2), 19.10.2007

At this point in time (2007) Hikaru's rating was on the rise. He was a very strong grandmaster, but not top ten yet. Here he met someone slightly higher rated, who was Poland's number one player at the time. **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0** Such classical, standard play from Hikaru, who often likes to try original plans. **6.b3 a5 7.Nc3 c6 8.d4 Nbd7 9.Qc2 b6 10.e4 Ba6 11.Nd2** [White may gain a slight edge with 11.e5! Ne8 12.Ne2] **11...c5**

The center is about to break apart with captures. Chances are equal, but accuracy is required. **12.exd5 cxd4 13.Nb5 exd5** [13...Bxb5 14.dxe6! would turn the tide in White's favor.] **14.Nxd4 Rc8 15.Re1?!** Not worrying enough about the pin on the c-file. Equal chances could be maintianed with [15.Nf5] **15...b5! 16.Bb2 Re8 17.Qd1 bxc4 18.bxc4 Qb6 19.Rb1 dxc4** Black has an extra pawn for the moment, but there is a lot going on. **20.Nc6?!** [This meets a surprising idea. White would only be slightly worse after 20.Bc3] **20...Rxc6! 21.Bxf6?**

[relatively best is 21.Rxe7 Rxe7 22.Bxf6 Nxf6 23.Rxb6 Rxb6 though Black would hold a clear edge] **21...Qxf2+!!** A shocking move! Krasenkow didn't dream of this. He must take the queen now as 22. Kh1 Rxf6 would be easily winning for Black. **22.Kxf2 Bc5+ 23.Kf3** [23.Kf1 c3+ 24.Re2 c2] **23...Rxf6+ 24.Kg4 Ne5+** The white king has been forced up the board to its doom. Now 25. Rxe5 Bc8+! is a mating attack. Krasenkov instead marches his king further up the board. **25.Kg5 Rg6+ 26.Kh5 f6** 27...Rh6 mate is threatened. **27.Rxe5 Rxe5+ 28.Kh4 Bc8** Krasenkov resigned as mate comes shortly. 29...g4 30. Bf2+ keeps the king trapped for the checkmate. **0-1**

(2) Boris Gelfand (2761) - Hikaru Nakamura (2708) [E97]

World Team Championship Bursa TUR (5), 09.01.2010

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 The King's Indian Defense is a perfect opening for Nakamura. It is agressive and complicated, with the only downside that Black can be cramped for space and suffer against a top ranked opponent. Such worries don't matter for Hikaru - he never minds some risk or even a bad position if there are good practical chances. **5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Nd2** Gelfand plays one of the old, classical continuations. Kramnik, who is the best in the world on the white side of a King's Indian, prefers the direct queenside advance with 9. b4. **9...Ne8 10.b4 f5 11.c5 Nf6 12.f3 f4 13.Nc4 g5**

A classic King's Indian position. White is advancing well on the queenside, while Black is a little slower on the kingside advance. Yet on the kingside lies the white king... **14.a4 Ng6 15.Ba3 Rf7 16.b5 dxc5 17.Bxc5 h5 18.a5 g4 19.b6?!** This looks like a nice breakthough on the queenside, but White would be safer with the bishop retreat 19. Bf2 to cover kingside squares. **19...g3** This pawn has taken up a very threatening post. **20.Kh1 Bf8 21.d6 axb6 22.Bg1 Nh4!? 23.Re1?!** [23.hxg3!? fxg3 24.Be3 could be an improvment, but this position is very complex] **23...Nxg2!** Let the action begin. Hikaru starts the fireworks, and Gelfand must try to defend. **24.dxc7?**

[24.Kxg2 Rg7 is a strong attack with at least equal chances for Black. Gelfand's move meets a surprising rejoiner.] **24...Nxe1!** The black queen can be taken two ways, but then ...g2 mate would happen. **25.Qxe1 g2+ 26.Kxg2 Rg7+ 27.Kh1 Bh3!** It's enjoyable to see the black queen stay in take for so long. **28.Bf1 Qd3!** This last queen offer wraps up the game. The game finishes after 29. Bxh3 Qxf3+ or 29. Bxd3 Bg2 mate. **29.Nxe5 Bxf1 30.Qxf1 Qxc3** Black has a winning material advantage. **31.Rc1 Qxe5 32.c8Q Rxc8 33.Rxc8 Qe6 0-1**

(3) Carlsen,Magnus - Nakamura,Hikaru [D24]

MC Chess Tour finals Online, 14.08.2020

We must give one game from the recent rapid/blitz match where Hikaru battled with Magnus in the finals. Here is the game where he drew first blood. This type of chess event may be the way of the future. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5!?** A sharp variation with new interest. Caruana has also tried the black side. **6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.a3 Nc6 9.Be3 Na5 10.Qc2 a6 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Rd1 Bb7 13.Be2 Qd7**

Here is the double-edged type of position that Nakamura loves to get. The black pawns are doubled and isolated, but the black pieces are active and there are squares to make use of (such as b3). Objectively White is a little better, but that's very hard to show in a rapid game, even for Magnus. **14.h4!?** An interesting idea to get the rook into play. **14...Bc6 15.Rh3 Rb8 16.Rg3 Ba4!?** Starting play on the queenside instead of slowing down with [16...g6 17.Ng5] **17.Nxa4 Qxa4 18.Rc1 Nb3 19.Rxg7** Magnus takes up the challenge, sacrificing the exchange for activity. **19...Nxc1 20.Qxc1 c3!?** [20...Nd5 21.Bxc4 Nxe3 22.fxe3 Kf8 23.Rg3 Rg8 was a safer alternative] **21.Qxc3 Nd5 22.Qc1 Nxe3?!** [22...Rb6] **23.fxe3 Kf8 24.Rg4 Qb3 25.Qxc7 Qxb2 26.Kf2?** Here Magnus plays a perfectly normal looking move. One cannot blame anyone for this, but here is the difference between rapid and classical chess. With a lot of time on the clock one would expect Magnus to find [26.d5! exd5 27.e6 when the protection of the black king is stripped away. Hikaru will often give his opponent chances to make a great move, but he always makes great practical difficulties.] **26...Qb7 27.Qa5 Rg8** The game starts to shift in Black's favor. Now the Black king is safe. **28.Rf4 Qc6 29.Qd2 h6 30.Qd3 Rg7 31.Qxa6 Qxa6 32.Bxa6 Rb2+! 33.Be2 Bxa3** The game should be drawn if there are no mistakes, but the black rooks are annoying and time is short. **34.g4 Be7 35.Re4 Rg8 36.Rf4 Kg7!** The second black rook prepares to come around the board. **37.g5 hxg5 38.Nxg5?!** [38.hxg5] **38...Bxg5 39.hxg5 Rh8!**

now the rooks take control **40.Kf3** [40.Ke1 Rh2 41.Bd1 Rb1 wins] **40...Rh3+ 41.Kg4 Rxe3 42.Bf3 Rd2 43.Kh4 Red3** winning another pawn. Hikaru cruises to victory now. **44.d5 exd5 45.Rf6 Re3 46.Rf5 Rd4+ 47.Kh5 Rb4 48.e6 fxe6 49.Rf6 Re5 50.Rg6+ Kf7 51.Rf6+ Ke7 52.Kh6 Rb8 53.Rf4 Rf8 54.Rxf8 Kxf8 55.g6 Kg8 56.g7 Re1 0-1**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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Chess Room Newsletter #934

Gens Una Sumus!

- << Previous
- Next >>

Newsletter #934

September 12, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- The Unconventional Chess Club
- Community Tuesday Night Marathon Report
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- TD corner
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

The Unconventional Chess Club and The Days of Long Ago

The Mechanics' Institute has been adapting to the changes caused by this global pandemic, including what it means to play chess. I think many of us see the writing on the wall: The way we play chess may forever change, or at least it will be some time before we play and socialize through chess the way many of us remember. There have been many articles written lately about the psychological impact the shelter in place and the change of routines has had on people. For those of us that love the game of chess, the temporary loss of the thrill and enjoyment of live play, whether it be rated or non-rated casual play, is something many of us feel.

I met up in San Francisco with a coach last week for a socially-distant coffee meeting by Mechanics' Institute, and he expressed a feeling of loss at not being able to go into the club. The feeling of just being inside the chess room, with all its history and memories, was something of a personal fulfillment that felt now taken away. He has been a member of the Institute for decades, so Mechanics' is part of his life. While Mechanics' being closed may not be the biggest concern in his life, the meeting reminds me that the love we have for our club or for how we play the game of chess for chess players remains an emotion that impacts our psychologocal state.

When thinking about chess clubs, I started remembering my childhood and my start in chess. I have previously written about getting my start at the Kolty Chess Club in Campbell, California, a club that still operates to this day. What I also remember is going as a young teenager to a pizza place just down the street from Kolty on Friday nights (Kolty has always been Thursday nights) called The Garret.

The layout of the Garret pre-1993

In the 1980's, The Garret was a two story pizza place in the Pruneyard in Campbell, California. Established in 1971 in a plaza shopping center near downtown Campbell, it was a hub on Friday nights. The Garret was a special place. It's two-story building, and the sheer size attracted many people, especially on Friday nights. Pizza, sports on televisions, arcade games - it had it all. What it also had was a steady crop of chess players looking to hustle games for beers and dollars. As a chess-playing teenager, my friends and I would go there to play video games and eat pizza mostly, but we would love to watch the adults play blitz with everything on the line, and by everything, I mean a glass of Budweiser or a silver dollar. If you watched them play, you would think a lot more was on the line, such the nature of chess players. There was one player in particular that I remember, he appeared to be of Irish descent, red beard and all, who was a regular there and was always playing blitz for beers. It was a form of entertainment in itself to come and watch him play. He had a unique look and character, and the way he played the game was akin to a magician that uses misdirection, charm, and storytelling to lure the audience in and dazzle them with the act. It was like watching Hulk Hogan wrestle, or Muhammed Ali box. For these athletes, it was as much about how they practiced their art as much as their raw talent. I don't remember ever playing him, but some of my friends did. They donated a healthy (or unhealthy) dose of Friday drinks to this gentleman. But for my friends, chess was no different than playing an arcade game, pushing quarters into a machine for an evening of entertainment.

I don't remember the video games I played there, but I remember the chess action. Almost every chess player has a story like this, whether it be playing at a coffee house or park, the streets of San Francisco or at a restaurant. Gatherings like this are every bit as important as any organized USCF affiliate. The US Chess Clubs Committee has affirmed this also, recognizing and offering support to any club or gathering of people that promotes the playing of chess whether it is USCF rated or not. I've walked the streets of San Francisco while heading to the CalTrain station for my ride back to San Jose and have seen people playing chess at tables outside coffee shops and games in the park. I've seen chess played literally on sidewalks. It is a special thing for us to be able to enagge in chess with people from anywhere in the world. Chess is its own universal language in which people can come together and engage in despite being from different cultures and not even needing to speak the same language. Additionally, you can play anywhere, rain or shine, and the cost of materials is relatively cheap and very portable. With people that love to play sports for example, you need a field to play. If I enjoy tennis, I have to go to a tennis court. If football or baseball, I at least need a park. Chess however, can be played anywhere, so there are no limits to how people can socialize through chess.

Street chess on Market street is no longer there, but chess played in the streets of San Francisco was alive and well, before the current shelter-in-place.

Now things ahve changed dramatically, at least for now, but playing chess online keeps the games going and the people talking. If you haven't experienced our Tuesday Night Marathons online, you should give it a try. We have 60 players participate regularly, and viewers can follow the coverage of the games and people can enter comments in the chat. Although it is differnet of course from the live experience, it is warming to see the chess community engaged, talking, joking, criticizing in some cases - all part of the human experience. It at least reminds us that we are all still an active community, and I belive this means something.

The Garret closed its doors in 1993 because of rising rents, and then reopened in 1997 at a different location, just blocks from the Pruneyard. While it has survived and preserved its own history, the feeling of the days of long ago had passed, at least for those of us that remember it for its chess action. Time changes things, and while I have fond memories of that time, in that building, with those people, time also presents new opportunities to make new memories and create new experiences. As organizers of chess events, we share a particular responsibility to provide that for players, especially during these times. This is a challenge because we also recognize that almost everything we know about a chess experience is from live over the board play, and it is uncertain when we will feel that again, or if we will ever experience it in the same way again.

We must remember that as a society, we have been through wars and pandemics before, and life has gone on to experience economic prosperity and technological innovation. It all just takes time. Chess players can be a persistent bunch, especially since chess can be played in a myriad of unconventional places. Our job is to encourage participation, offer options, and support those who want to find ways to safely play. Maybe one day someone will reflect on online clubs and events the way I remember The Garret. Ultimately, I belive that it is not the type of events or options that will be remembered, but the fact that we value community, it is not about the chess per se, it is about the people. The Garret was a special because it was a unique gathering place, it enhanced the local chess action and provided the perfect venue for the chess hustlers and blitz afficianados. Many people feel the same about the Mechanics' Institute chess room, albeit without gambling. Locations matter, but they matter because of the history before it, and this history is about the people.

Mechanics' Instititute Community Tuesday Night Marathon

The Mechanics' Institute's Community Tuesday Night Marathon, our September 2020 installment of our flagship event, kicked off on Tuesday night (football pun intended as NFL games are scheduled to start this week). We currently have 52 players currently for this 6-round G/35+2 USCF rated event. This event was named in honor of the amazing chess community at the Mechanics' Institute.

The top section is strong, with GM Aleksandr Lenderman, FM Kyron Griffith, IM Elliott Winslow, WGM Carla Heredia, and NM Ruiyang Yan representing the top 5 seeds. Although some of the games were well contested, there was only one significant upset among the top five players. Ashik Uzzaman, the cagey veteran Mechanics' player who is always good for a solid game kept his cool in a time scramble and converted a win against WGM Carla Heredia after equalizing was looked like a bad position out of the opening. Kristian Clemens put up some brave resistance in round 2 against GM Aleksandr Lenderman, but the top GM's skills and advantage proved too much. Perfect scores after the first two rounds include Aleksandr Lenderman, Kyron Griffith, Elliott Winslow, Ruiyang Yan, Alex Chin, Pranav Sairam, Arul Viswanathan, and Ashik Uzzaman.

In the under 1800 section, Erika Malykin is the top seed and closed the forst 2 rounds with 1.5/2. Previous TNM under section winner Pranav Pradeep will face some stronger competition the time around, but finishes the first couple of rounds with 2/2. Andrew Ballantyne delivered the big upset in this section on Tuesday, defeating Nursultan Uzakbaev. Pradeep, Martin Camacho and Andrew Ballantyne are at 2/2.

Here are some games from rounds 1 & 2, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) GM Aleksandr Lenderman 2717 (AlexanderL) - Kristian Celemens 1997 (kclemens) [A11]
Live Chess Chess.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 This has become a fairly regular couple of moves, even at the highest level, in recent years. The idea is to play the transposition game. To try to get Black into certain lines, and avoid others. But on principle it has a problem: about the queen's bishop. **2...Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6** This is one solid way for Black to go, thinking some sort of Meran Defense -- if/when White plays d2-d4! Black certainly has no shortage of choices though: [Bishop developments: 4...Bg4; 4...Bf5; Slav Fianchetto systems: 4...g6; Even 4...a6 is fairly popular, as in the Slav looking for ...b5 even though it makes even less sense here.] **5.b3** White solves that bishop problem first, while the a5-e1 diagonal is solid. **5...Be7** A bit misdirected. Black might show more concern for the key disputed square e5. [5...Nbd7 is, somehow, the most popular move,; while 5...Bd6 is second.] **6.Bb2 0-0 7.d4** And back to a more well-known position. **7...Nbd7 8.Bd3 dxc4** A double-edged sequence, as White now takes gets quite the pawn center. [8...b6 is the slow approach, putting the bishop along a center diagonal before undertaking action.] **9.bxc4 c5 10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 Nb6!?** Sensible, to pressure d5 so that e4-e5 is discouraged while preparing to develop that last minor piece. [But 11...Bd6 to batten down on e5 is the other way to go (and the computer's choice). There is still the long diagonal for the other bishop, perhaps with ...a6 first.] **12.e4 Bg4 13.0-0**

13...Nfd7?! Maybe not the best maneuver. [13...c4 14.Bc2 Re8 with futures for the dark-squared bishop.] **14.Rb1** [14.h3! puts Black to the fire and on the brink of lost. 14...Bxf3 gives White a dangerous two bishops to go with his center *(*but *14...Bh5 15.g4 Bg6 16.e5* risks being overrun*)*] **14...Ne5 15.Be2 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Bf6 18.Ba1** Somewhat indulgent. Moving the queen and sending up the center was straightforward. **18...Qd7 19.Qd3 Bd4** That strong bishop has to go. **20.Ne2 Bxa1 21.Rxa1**

21...f5! hoping to weaken those center pawns. **22.f3 Rad8?!** [22...Qd6 keeps rook options open, advantageously.] **23.Nf4!** A knight sinking in (eventually) to e6 will send panic

to Black's position. **23...Qd6 24.Qe3** [24.Ne6?? Qxe6; 24.g3! looking for alternatives for White's queen, not to mention exf5.] **24...Qe5** [24...Nc4! 25.Qc1 fxe4 26.fxe4 Qe5 with tactical defense based on problems with that last undeveloped rook on a1: 27.Ne6?? Rxf1+ 28.Qxf1 (28.Kxf1 Nd2+! 29.Qxd2 *(29.Kg1 Nxe4* sets up smothered mate, so there's no time to take the rook.*; 29.Ke2 Qxe4+* and ...Rxd5(+)*)* 29...Qxa1+)] **25.Rae1** Now White is secure **25...fxe4?!**

[25...Rde8 26.Ne6 Rf6 is still going to be tough.] **26.fxe4?** [26.Ne6! Nxd5 27.Qxe4 Qxe4 28.fxe4 wins material] **26...Rde8?!** [26...Rc8 Black shouldn't forget his own counterplay; White's advantage now would be nominal.] **27.g3** [Stockfish can't settle between 27.Ne6 Rxf1+ 28.Kxf1; and 27.Qg3 , but they're both clear advantages.] **27...Qc7?** Giving up the c-pawn and the game. [27...Nd7; 27...Rc8; 27...c4] **28.Ne6!** [28.e5 is also quite strong] **28...Rxf1+ 29.Rxf1 Qe5 30.Qf2!** This in-between move throws Black's game out of order. **30...Qf6 31.Qxc5 Nd7 32.Qb5 Qe7 33.Qxb7** There's nothing left. **33...a5 34.e5** The back-rank problems persist. **34...h6 35.Qc7 a4 36.Rf2 Rb8 37.Kg2 a3 38.Qc3** The queen was well posted where it was -- and, there was a shot! [38.h4; 38.Rf5; 38.Nxg7! works!] **38...Nb6 39.Qf3 Nd7 40.Qf5** Still in the win zone, according to the computer... **40...Rb2 41.d6 Rxf2+** [41...Qe8!?] **42.Kxf2 Qe8 43.Nc7 Qxe5 44.Qxe5** The "human" move, going into a winning ending. [44.Qxd7! is the computer saying "there is no perpetual."] **44...Nxe5 45.Nb5 Kf7 46.Ke3 Ke6 47.Kd4 Nf3+ 48.Kc5 Nxh2 49.Kc6 Nf3 50.Kc7 Ne5 51.Nxa3 h5 52.Nc2 g5 53.Nd4+ Kd5 54.Nf3! Nxf3 55.d7 h4 56.d8Q+ Ke4 57.gxh4 gxh4 58.Qd7 Kf4 59.Qh3 Kg5 60.Qxf3 1-0**

(6) Felix German 1976 (FelixGerman) - FM Kyron Griffith 2470 (KyronGriffith) [E24]
Live Chess Chess.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 This is a flexible move "waiting" to see how Black develops before defining White's strategy. **4...c5** [4...b6 5.Bg5 is more a Queen's Indian than a Nimzoindian now, compared to the Leningrad System (4.Bg5)] **5.a3?!** There are problems here: since Black hasn't played ...d5, White will remain stuck with doubled c-pawns. And the knight on f3 is in the way of the f-pawn. Usually White would like to deploy Bd3/Ne2. [5.e3 returns to the old main line (next Bd3, 0-0) without White having any Nge2 variations.; 5.g3!? harks back to a Kasparov-Karpov opening battle that raged across two of their world championship matches, and is still a difficult line.] **5...Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qa5** Black leans in right away. **7.Qc2 Ne4 8.Bd2** Of course taking the knight fails. **8...Nxd2 9.Qxd2**

9...cxd4!? Kyron figures the remaining c-pawn will be just as weak, not to mention that the queens coming off reduce White's attacking chances. **10.cxd4 Nc6 11.e3** [White's clearest road to equality is 11.d5 Qxd2+ 12.Nxd2 Na5 13.e4 b6 14.h4=] **11...b6 12.d5?!** [12.Bd3] **12...Qxd2+ 13.Nxd2 Na5 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.e4 d6?!** [15...Ke7!? After all, that dark-square highway is just made for the king to cruise on.] **16.0-0 Rc8 17.f4 0-0 18.f5?!** Bad bishops matter. **18...e5?!** [18...Rfe8 keeps open possibilities along the e-file.] **19.Rac1 Ba6 20.Rc3 Rc5 21.Rfc1 Rfc8** threatening ...b5 **22.a4** Black needs the famous "second weakness" (in White camp). **22...R5c7 23.Kf2 f6 24.Ke3** [24.h4] **24...g6?!** [24...g5!=] **25.fxg6?!** improving Black's pawn structure [25.h4!] **25...hxg6 26.h3 Kg7 27.Be2**

27...f5 Perhaps premature. Black didn't get anywhere with the pressure on c4, so maybe it's time to find new posts for the minors. **28.g3?** [28.exf5 gxf5 29.g4! Black is ready to swing one rook over to the kingside, but is that enough for an advantage? 29...f4+!=/+ Between ...Rh8 and ...Nb7-c5, Black has some hope to get things going.f] **28...Rh8 29.Bf1?! Nb7** [29...Rf7! 30.Nb3 f4+ borders on winning.] **30.Nb3 Rf7 31.a5!?** White is happy to trade off a weakness.



31...fxe4? [31...Nc5 32.Bg2 Na4 33.R3c2 bxa5! 34.Ra1 Rb8! 35.Nd2 Rb4 36.Rca2?! *(36.Bf3 Bc8-/+)* 36...Nb6-+] **32.Kxe4?** forgetting to capture first [32.axb6 axb6 33.Bg2 Nc5 34.h4 is equal as White is getting ready to take on c5 and then, finally, on e4 without any nasty rook penetration.] **32...bxa5!-+ 33.Ra1 Rf2** [33...Rhf8!] **34.Nxa5?** [34.Rf3 Rb2 35.Nxa5 Nc5+ 36.Ke3-/+] **34...Nc5+ 35.Ke3** Now the white king is a target and the game is lost **35...Rhf8-+ 36.Be2 Rg2 37.Bf3 Rxg3 38.Kf2 Ne4+ 0-1**

(7) Nitish Nathan 1941(BreatheChessAlways) - NM Ruiyang Yan 2242 (jij2018) [D00]
Live Chess Chess.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 Rui is often content to play quiet lines -- quiet at first. [2...g6; 2...e6; At the other end of the spectrum is the radical 2...c5 3.e3 Nd5!? 4.Bg3 Qb6!? 0-1 (47) Prie,E (2508)-Korobov,A (2647) Aix les Bains 2011 CBM 142 Extra [Marchand,A/Primel,D]] **3.e3 e6 4.Nd2 Bd6 5.Bg3 0-0 6.c3 c5 7.Ngf3 b6** [7...Qc7!? prepares ...Nbd7] **8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Qc2** [10.Qe2 Bxg3 11.hxg3 Ne7 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.e4 Ng6 14.Rad1 Qb6 15.b3 Rad8 16.e5 Nd7 17.c4 d4 18.Rfe1 h6 19.Be4 Bxe4 20.Qxe4 Qa5 21.Qc2 Qc7 22.Qe4 Qa5 23.Qc2 Qc7 1/2-1/2 (23) Harikrishna,P (2763)-Nakamura,H (2787) chess.com INT 2016] **10...Ne7**



11.e4? [Preferrable is 11.dxc5 bxc5 12.c4 leaning a bit on Black's pawn center.] **11...Bxg3 12.hxg3 c4! 13.Be2 dxe4 14.Ne5 b5** And Black has won a center pawn. **15.a4 a6 16.axb5?! axb5 17.b3? Nf5** Not bad, but [17...e3! 18.fxe3 Nf5 is won for Black. White may win on c4, but everything else collapses.] **18.g4? Nd6?** [18...Rxa1 19.Rxa1 Nxd4! Is an immediate tactical win. Playing quietly can become a dangerous habit! You miss things.] **19.bxc4 bxc4 20.Ndxc4** Black's advantage has evaporated. **20...Nxc4 21.Nxc4 Rc8?! 22.Ne3** [22.Rfb1] **22...Nd5 23.Nxd5 exd5= 24.Rfb1** [24.Qd2; 24.Ra7; 24.f3] **24...Bc6 25.Qd2 Qd7 26.Qf4 Kh8?** [26...Qd8] **27.g5+/- Qe7 28.Rb6** [28.Ra5] **28...f6** [28...Qd8] **29.gxf6+/- Rxf6 30.Qh4?!** [30.Qe5; 30.Qg5] **30...e3** [30...Qc7] **31.f3??**



[31.f4! is some advantage for White. One slip is all it takes in chess!] **31...Qc7!-+** Threatening both the rook on by and 32...Rh6 **32.Ba6 Re8 33.Rbb1 Rh6 34.Qg4 Qh2+ 35.Kf1 Rg6 36.Qh3 Qxh3** The endgame is good enough, but even better is [36...Qf4] **37.gxh3 Bd7 38.Bb5 Bxh3+ 39.Ke2 Rg2+ 40.Kd3 Rd2# 0-1**

(8) WGM Carla Heredia 2227 (mathandchess2020) - Ashik Uzzaman 1940 (ashikuzzaman) [B52]
Live Chess Chess.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.c3 Nf6 7.d4!? A sharp gambit requiring some preparation if you land here as Black. [7.Re1 and 7...e6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.e5 Ne4 11.Nbd2 Nxd2 12.Bxd2 Be7; 7.Qe2 are the quieter lines.] **7...cxd4** [7...Nxe4 8.d5 Ne5 is the critical continuation.] **8.cxd4 Nxe4** Gutman's "a bold decision"

is a euphemism -- Black takes quite a risk grabbing this pawn! [8...d5 9.e5 Ne4 10.Ne1 h6 *(or 10...f6* when *11.f3 Ng5 12.Bxg5 fxg5 13.f4* starts quite an initiative.*)* 11.f3 Ng5 12.Nc3 Black isn't comfortable yet.] **9.d5 Ne5 10.Nxe5** Gives Black an unusual spot for his knight. [10.Re1!? Nxf3+ *(10...Nf6)* 11.Qxf3 Nf6 12.Nc3 is cramped but Black could still survive.] **10...dxe5 11.Re1 Nd6 12.Rxe5 g6**

Black has given back the pawn and looks to get some time attacking the rook, but White strikes first. **13.Bg5 h6 14.Bf6 Rg8 15.Bh4?!** [15.Re2!? 0-0-0 16.Bd4 Kb8 17.Nc3 Bg7 18.Bxg7 Rxg7 19.Qd4 Rgg8 20.Rae1 Rge8 21.Qh4 Nf5 22.Qf4+ Qc7 23.Qxc7+ Kxc7 24.g4 1-0 (54) Turner, M (2325)-Demirel,T (2335) Sas van Gent 1992] **15...Nf5** and Black equalizes, finally dealing with that bishop. **16.Bg3?!** [16.Re4] **16...Bg7** [16...Rd8!] **17.Re2 Nxg3 18.hxg3 Rd8 19.Nc3 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Qxd5 21.Qa4+ Kf8 22.Qxa7 Rd7 23.Rae1 Kg7** [23...e6] **24.Qa4** Black offered White a forced line leading to perpetual. By declining White was psychologically affected to play for a win, which at this point turned reckless. [24.Rxe7 Rxe7 25.Rxe7 Qd1+ 26.Kh2 Qh5+=] **24...b5 25.Qb4 e6 26.Re5 Qxa2 27.Rxb5 Rgd8** White has two pawn islands and Black only one. **28.Qf4 Rd5 29.Rb7?!**

29...Rf5! 30.Qe3 Qd2 [30...Rd3! is even better] **31.g4 Qxe3-/+ 32.Rxe3?** [32.fxe3] **32...Rd1+ 33.Kh2 Rxf2-+ 34.Rxe6 Rdd2** The double rook ending is an easy win for Black. **35.Ree7 Rxg2+ 36.Kh3 Rgf2 37.Kg3 g5 38.c4 Rf4 39.c5 Rd3+ 40.Kg2 Rxg4+ 41.Kf1 Rf4+ 42.Ke2 Rc3 43.Rbc7 Rf5 44.c6 Rf6 0-1**

(3) CM Ethan Boldi 2120 (etvat) - Jwalin Shah 1832 (jshah1331) [A08]
Live Chess Chess.com, 09.09.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 e6 4.b3 Nf6 5.Bb2 g6 It is unusual to place the black pawns on both e6 and g6 as both moves allow the development of the dark-squared bishop so only one of them is needed, **6.d3** [6.0-0 Bg7 7.c4!?] **6...Bg7 7.Nbd2 Nc6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 b6 10.e4 Bb7** Both sides have developed with double fianchettoed bishops and pawns contesting the center. Chances are even. **11.Qe2 d4 12.c3 dxc3 13.Bxc3 Ba6** [13...Qe7 14.Nc4 Rad8 would be direct central play] **14.Nc4 Qc7 15.Qb2!** Power on the long diagonal. **15...Ne8 16.Rad1** [16.Nce5!] **16...Rd8 17.a4 Nb4?!** [17...Bxc3 18.Qxc3 Bxc4 19.dxc4 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 e5! would give Black the fine outpost on d4] **18.d4 Nd6 19.d5?** [19.Nce5!] **19...Bxc3 20.Qxc3**

20...exd5? missing the tactic [20...Nxe4! 21.Rxe4 exd5 22.Ree1 dxc4 winning a pawn with a great position] **21.exd5 Nf5 22.Nfe5** Now White is getting control of the central squares. **22...h5** [22...Nd4? 23.Rxd4 cxd4 24.Qxb4] **23.g4! Ng7?!** [Black needed to be creative to stay in the game. 23...Bxc4 24.bxc4 hxg4 25.Nxg4 Rd6 26.Nf6+ Rxf6 27.Qxf6 Nc2 28.Re4 Ncd4 would at least give Black a great knight outpost on d4 for the exchange] **24.d6 Qc8 25.gxh5 Nxh5 26.d7** This pawn has become a monster. **26...Qc7 27.Rd6! Bxc4**

28.Nxg6! Wonderful! The centralized white pieces crash through for a decisive attack. **28...fxg6 29.Qxc4+ Kg7 30.Re7+ Kh6 31.Qe6 Nf4 32.Qe5** Black is playing the best defense, but it is just complete domination from the white pieces. **32...Nbd3 33.Rxg6+ Nxg6 34.Qxc7** [The computer finds 34.Qg7+ Kh5 35.Qh7+ Kg5 36.h4+ Nxh4 37.Rg7+ Kf6 38.Qh6+ Ke5 39.Qe3+ Kf6 40.Qe7+ Kf5 41.Bh3+ Kf4 42.Qe3#] **34...Nxe7 35.Qd6+ Ng6 36.Qxd3 Rf7 37.Bc6** Anyway the monster d-pawn decides the game **37...Nf8 38.Qh3+ Kg7 39.Qg3+ Ng6 40.h4! Rf6 41.Qc7 Rff8 42.Be4 Kf7** [42...Nxh4 43.Qg3+] **43.h5 Nh8 44.Qd6 Rg8+ 45.Kf1 Rgf8 46.h6 Rb8 47.Bd5#** Great attack by etvat. **1-0**

(4) Nursultan Uzakbaev 1513 (rimus11) - Andrew Ballantyne 948 (andrewaballantyne) [C21]
Live Chess Chess.com, 09.09.2020
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 Nf6 A reasonable way to decline the gambit. Black becomes first to develop a piece. **4.e5 Qe7!?** [4...Nd5 5.Qxd4 Ne7 6.Bc4 Ng6 would be about even chances] **5.cxd4 d6 6.f4** White keeps hold of the important e5 pawn. Still, there are no white pieces developed. **6...dxe5 7.fxe5 c5 8.Be2?!** This forces the black knight on f6 to move, but it is a passive move in an open position. White should develop the pieces to aggressive squares - [8.Nf3 cxd4 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.0-0! and White has a clear edge since 10...Bxb5? 11.exf6 Qxf6 12.Re1+ is winning for White.] **8...Ne4?!** [8...Nd5 is preferrable] **9.Nf3 cxd4 10.b3?!** This is a strange move with little positive effect. White would have an edge after [10.0-0 Nc6 11.Nbd2 with Black having the king in the center] **10...Bg4 11.0-0 Qc5 12.Ba3 Qb6 13.Kh1** [There were interesting complications which could lead to a perpetual check after 13.Bxf8!? d3+ 14.Kh1 Nf2+ 15.Rxf2 Qxf2 16.Nc3! dxe2 17.Qd6 Qf1+ 18.Ng1 Nc6 19.Nd5 f6 20.e6 Bxe6 21.Qxe6+ Kxf8 22.Qd6+ Kf7 23.Qd7+] **13...Bxa3 14.Nxa3 d3**

15.Bxd3? [White choose the wrong capture. With 15.Qxd3! Nf2+? 16.Rxf2 Qxf2 17.Rf1 Qc5 18.Nc4 White would have a terrific position as the white knight comes to d6 with check unless Black gives up a piece with 18...0-0 19.Ng5 g6 20.Bxg4] **15...Nf2+ 16.Rxf2 Qxf2 17.Bb5+ Nc6** There is surprisingly just no compensation for the exchange. If Black castles he is completely safe with extra material. White decides to try to cause trouble. **18.Qd6?!**

18...Bxf3! 19.gxf3 Qxf3+ 20.Kg1 Rd8 The game is over. Black has both material and the attack. **21.Qc7 0-0 22.Qxb7 Rd2 23.Qxc6** may as well take something **23...Qf2+ 24.Kh1 Qxh2#** andrewaballantyne won by checkmate **0-1**

Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Report: Mechanics' Community TNM Online

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Community TNM Online: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	Aleksan Lenderman	12787646	2717	AlexanderL	W19	W15					2.0

2	Kyron Griffith	12860484	2470	KyronGriffith	W20	W16					2.0
3	Elliott Winslow	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W21	W17					2.0
4	Alex Paul Chin	17050697	1811	achingolf	W11	W10					2.0
5	Ruiyang Yan	15462690	2242	jij2018	W27	W12					2.0
6	Pranav Sairam	15424820	2087	chesspilot01	W28	W13					2.0
7	Arul Viswanathan	14490424	2071	Shouldbedoincalchw	W29	W14					2.0
8	Ashik Uzzaman	13178575	1940	ashikuzzaman	W33	W9					2.0
9	Carla Heredia	13935235	2227	mathandchess2020	W22	L8					1.0
10	Ethan Ikaza Boldi	15088362	2120	etvat	W23	L4					1.0
11	Michael Walder	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	L4	W26					1.0
12	Nitish Nathan	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W24	L5					1.0
13	Jonah Busch	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W25	L6					1.0
14	Vishva Nanugonda	16380312	1664	vish1080	W18	L7					1.0
15	Kristian Clemens	13901075	1997	kclemens	W30	L1			H---	H---	1.0
16	Felix German	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W31	L2					1.0
17	Nicholas Ruo Weng	15499404	1958	ninjaforce	W32	L3					1.0
18	Cailen J Melville	14006141	1940	Mangonel	L14	W28					1.0
19	Thomas F Maser	10490936	1900	talenuf	L1	W29					1.0
20	Kenneth E Fee Jr	12480902	1884	KenFee	L2	W31					1.0
21	Rudolph Fr Breedt	13701346	1884	bobbejaan	L3	W30					1.0
22	Chelsea Zhou	15239016	1866	mwncklmann	L9	W32					1.0
23	Jwalin Shah	14379732	1832	jshah1331	L10	W33					1.0
24	Ahyan Zaman	15035222	1699	ahyanzaman	L12	W27					1.0
25	Kr Gopalakrishnan	16545130	1628	chessboi2010	L13	B---					1.0
26	Ishaan Kodarapu	16128527	1607	pika0008	B---	L11					1.0
27	Nicholas Ar Boldi	15088356	1883	nicarmt	L5	L24					0.0
28	Davi Flores Gomez	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	L6	L18					0.0
29	Kevin M Fong	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L7	L19					0.0
30	Max Hao	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_fan	L15	L21					0.0
31	Patrick Peiju Liu	16667410	1719	katechen77	L16	L20					0.0
32	Pudur Ramaswamy	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	L17	L22					0.0
33	Imran Champsi	16176854	1663	Dragonfish9127	L8	L23					0.0

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Community TNM Online: u1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	T-Sonneborn	Prize
1	Pranav Pradeep	15871762	1252	pranavpradeep2006	W14	W10					2.0	2	
2	Andrew Ballantyne	17079795	948	andrewaballantyne	W8	W11					2.0	2	
3	Martin Camacho	17248027	1031	camachom	X17	W7					2.0	1	
4	Erika Malykin	12910007	1693	starserika18	W12	D6					1.5	1.75	
5	Bruce Hedman	17344551	unr.	Bruce_Hedman	W9	H---		H---		U---	1.5	1	
6	Ya Dancig Perlman	16280288	1235	noydan100	B---	D4					1.5	0.75	
7	Michael Hilliard	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	W13	L3					1.0	1	
8	Nursulta Uzakbaev	17137317	1513	rimus11	L2	W15					1.0	0.5	
9	Stephen Zhu	16412414	1331	chesspoki	L5	W16					1.0	0.5	
10	Georgios Tsolias	17266862	1679	GiorgosTsolias	W18	L1					1.0	0	
11	Gan Mathrubootham	15183473	1494	gmbchess	W19	L2					1.0	0	
12	Ella Guo	16380657	1193	SunnyCountry	L4	W19					1.0	0	
13	Yuvraj Si Sawhney	17095004	823	SaintReturns	L7	B---					1.0	0	
14	Stan Polivyanenko	17310102	unr.	MrL0cust	L1	W18					1.0	0	
15	Rama Krish Chitta	17350313	1499	draidus	D16	L8					0.5	0.25	
16	Go Dancig-Perlman	17151222	875	Gogosf	D15	L9					0.5	0.25	
17	Vedant Talwalkar	16408266	1569	serverbusy	F3	U---					0.0	0	
18	Ian Liao	16738735	1054	victor6688	L10	L14					0.0	0	
19	Danny Du Uy Cao	16939797	843	caodanny	L11	L12					0.0	0	

Chess Beyond Borders: The Chess in Slums Initiative

Chess is much more than just a game, it also serves as a cultural bridge, unifying people from different backgrounds in an increasingly diverse world.

In the wake of the global pandemic situation, we are reminded of our shared fragility as humans, and how everything and everyone is truly connected. We see that the ecological o is connected to the human condition; that eradicating the pandemic in one community will never be achieved unless it is done in all communities.

This is why the Chess in Slums initiative, in partnership with Aaron Thompson, President of the UC Merced Chess Club, is launching the Chess Beyond Borders campaign with th

aim of promoting chess education coupled with service and philanthropy across the globe. Stretching from disenfranchised communities in Lagos, Nigeria, to Merced, California, t partnership is really something historic!

The Chess in Slums initiative is a non-profit organization aimed at using the game of chess as an educational resource to help children living in poverty realize their full potential b integrating principles of the game with management of daily challenges in life, enhancing abstract thinking, creativity and innovation. The organization has been training kids fron low-income areas for more than two years and has successfully trained over 100 young players, some of whom have gone on to win chess tournaments and lifelong scholarship opportunities.

The Chess Beyond Borders campaign starts out with a virtual match slated for the 28th of September.

This match presents an incredible opportunity for the youngsters at the Chess In Slums academy to showcase their talent on a global stage and to also connect with the players fror the UC Merced team as a way to foster love and mutual respect between both communities.

Just like a pawn in the game of chess can march on to become a queen, these children that live in these slum communities also have valid dreams and hopes for their future and wi someday go to college and get a degree to pursue their dreams. This match is a great way to help build their confidence and expose them to a world of possibilities beyond the confines of their community.

- Tunde Onakoya, Chess in Slums Founder/Convener

The planning of this event, and the larger movement towards making Chess Beyond Borders a larger project has been in many ways reflective of the rise of UC Merced's chess clu and of my own chess career. A prevailing impact that chess has had on me is its amazing ability to platform individuals. Whether it is being given the excitement for chess like the notable Paul Gallegos, being a member of the local chess community over time, and then being able to lead UC Merced's chess club are all showcases of the power of chess to imp lives.

To me, organizations like Chess in Slums and getting the opportunity for the UC Merced chess club to help kids as far away as Lagos, Nigeria is really a fantastic way to further th impact of chess. From our match in late September to future events under Chess In Slums, I have never been more excited to see who chess will impact.

- Aaron Thompson, UC Merced Chess Club President/Team Captain

*Due to multiple prior organizations using the name "Chess Without Borders", we have switched our name to "Chess Beyond Borders"!

Mechanics' Chess Social with Aaron Thompson and Tunde Onakoya

We had Aaron Thompson and Tunde Onakoya as our guests for the Mechanics' Chess Social on our Twitch channel on September 4, 2020. This is our weekly Friday show in whic we talk with some chess personalities from around the country and get their thoughts on current events and what is happening in the chess world. We were very excited to talk to th about their initiative (written about in the preceeding article) and was a fascinating story about chess as a tool for social empowerment and change in Nigeria.

You can watch the interview on our YouTube channel Here

Enjoy!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM - A Journey Through Chess History - Course 1: Olympiads with GM Nick de Firmian

This class will be a reflective journey of some of the games and experiences of Mechanics' Institute GM in Residence and 3-time U.S. Champion GM Nick de Firmian. He will go over some of his games from Olympiads of the past where players can learn and interact while at the same time learning stories from the event and about players from the event fr someone who lived it. It will be an exciting class that combines chess learning with storytelling for a fun and engaging class.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/journey-through-chess-history-gm-nick-de-firmian

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM - The World Championship Match -- by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: Part 1 -- 9/3 through 10/1 **(FREE!) Click on link below to try class out free next week**
Part 2 - 10/8 through 11/5

An in-depth look at the World Championship matches – the great games, styles and personalities of the World Champions and their challengers. The central idea of the class will b the study of chess ideas and theory, as practiced by the greatest players. In each class we'll look through a selection of the most famous games ever played: games where literally everything was at stake.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead

Register at: Part 1: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1
Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2

Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom

Saturday, September 12: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=102396

Sunday, September 13: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM

8SS G/5 +2 USCF rated: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=102711

Monday, September 14: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=102758

Tuesday, September 15: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=102759

Wednesday, September 16: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=102760

Thursday, September 17: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=102761

Friday, September 18: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=102762

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) DarkCapableCharm (1498) - PinkAiryCloud (1489) [B21]
Live Chess ChessKid.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 The Smith-Morra Gambit! Favored by those who want immediate action. **2...cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 Nf6?!** This allows White to play aggressive right away. Safer is 6...e6 to block the diagonal of the bishop on c4. **7.e5!**

7...Nd7! [7...dxe5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 *(8...Nxd8 9.Nb5 Rb8 10.Nxe5)* 9.Ng5 leaves Black in trouble in the endgame] **8.Ng5?** This threatens 9. Bxf7 mate, but destroys White's position. [8.exd6 exd6 9.Qb3 Nde5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Bd5! Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Be3 Is good for White despite being a pawn down. All the white pieces have great mobility.] **8...Ndxe5** oops. This defends the attacked f7 square and takes another center pawn. Suddenly Black is winning. **9.Bb3 h6! 10.f4 hxg5 11.fxe5 Nxe5 12.0-0 Qb6+ 13.Kh1 e6 14.Ne4 g4?!** [14...f6 holds the kingside squares] **15.Bd2?!** [15.Bf4! would at least give White active pieces and chances for tactical play, e.g. 15...Bd7 16.Bxe5 dxe5 17.Rxf7 when Black should declin the sacrifice and seek saftey with 17...0-0-0!] **15...d5 16.Ng3 Bd6** Now Black has 3 extra pawns and control of the board. **17.Bc3 Bd7 18.Rc1 Bb5 19.a4 Bxf1 20.a5 Qd8** [20...Qf 21.Qxf1 Qxg3 is also very good] **21.Qxf1?!**

[21.Nxf1] **21...Qh4! 22.Kg1 Bc5+** the end **23.Qf2 Bxf2+ 24.Kxf2 Nd3+ 25.Ke2 Nxc1+ 26.Kd2** PinkAiryCloud won by resignation **0-1**

(2) OnlySoreOcelot (1445) - TopWittyGem (1642) [B75]
Live Chess ChessKid.com
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 The Yugoslav Attack against the Dragon. Both players have chosen aggressive play. **7...h6?!** This is quite strang loses a tempo in the opening race for development and it makes a weakening on the kingside where Black will castle. **8.Be2** [8.Qd2!] **8...0-0 9.Qd2 Kh7 10.0-0-0 a6 11.g4 h5?** Af this Black gets in real trouble as White gets open lines on the kingside. Best would have been to keep the position closed with [11...Nfd7 12.g5?! h5 Though White would do bette with 12 h4] **12.gxh5 Nxh5 13.Rhg1** [13.f4] **13...Qc7?** Inviting the white knight to join the party. **14.Nd5 Qd8 15.f4**

This position deserves a diagram as White has gotten all you could ask for from a Yugoslav Attack. All the white pieces are participating and the lines to the kingside are open. Bla is already lost. **15...Nf6** [15...e6 16.Bxh5 exd5 17.f5! gxh5 18.Rxg7+ Kxg7 19.Qg2+ Kh7 20.Qh3 h4 21.Qg4 will be checkmate shortly] **16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.f5!** more open lines against the king **17...Rg8 18.Bc4 gxf5 19.Qe2 Rg7**

20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Rxg7+ Bxg7 22.Bxf7+ Kf8 23.Ne6+ Bxe6 24.Bxe6 Qe8 25.Qxf5+ Bf6 26.Bh6# Nicely played attack by OnlySoreOcelot. **1-0**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments
Twice a month

September 13, 19, 27, @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

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Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered on Thursdays:

Absolute Beginner class: This class is meant to teach brand new students the moves of the pieces and captures so that students may jump into the New at Chess class with knowle of piece movements. Students may take this course as much as needed, but the same concept will be taught weekly, though it will be a different class each week. The goal is simpl teach piece movements in preparation.

Starting at Chess: This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, pie development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here to Register and for information**

Developing Players: This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience **Click Here to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess: This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical gar from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class.

Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

9/12 Saturday - Mechanics' Saturday Matinee
Format: Arena G/30
Start: 3:00pm
Registration open 2:00pm: https://www.chess.com/live#t=1554833

9/15 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Community Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2 USCF rated, manually paired
Register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-community-tuesday-night-marathon-online
Start at 6:30PM

9/17 Thursday - Thursday Night Quads
Format: 3SS G/60+10
Join by 4PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-pilot
Start at 6:30PM

9/18 Friday - Friday Evening Online Blitz
Format: 8 rounds of G/3+2 (Swiss)
Join from 5:30PM -
Start: 6:30PM sharp.

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1. You need to become a member before you can play
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org

TD Corner

US Chess Rules of Chess - Chapter 10 – Rules for Online Tournaments and Matches - Part 2.

https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/us-chess-rule-book-online-only-edition-chapter-10-9-1-20.pdf

To read Part 1. with covering Rule 1 through 7, please visit:
https://www.milibrary.org/milibrary/chess-newsletters/932

6. **Chapter 10, Rule 8: Pairings, Standings, Wall Charts and Bye requests**

Online chess is challenging, not only for the players, but for the organizers and Tournament Directors (TDs) as well. More consideration and carefulness is needed when it comes t what ratings will be used, how pairings will happen, where the pairings and standings will be posted, and considering if bye requests can be accepted or not.

Different platforms offer you different options, and depending on account status, different functions you can perform.

It's very important for any organizer and TD to be aware of what they can or cannot do, and the best customer service advice we can give to you, the players, is to be sure you are very clear on every detail of the tournament.

This rule also has a section that addresses games not played or not completed: online games award a rated loss to a player who doesn't make a move. This has to be one of the iten on any TDs check list when processing the results for rating. It is very easy to forget, I've made this mistake myself, nevertheless, it is easy to correct it with USCF office as well, since it's usually a clear TD error.

Of course abandoned games are a different category, and just as walking away from an OTB game, leaving an online game unfinished is bad sportsmanship and a rated loss is definitely valid and stands.

7. **Chapter 10, Rule 9 & 10: Clocks, and Drawn game**

I'm combining these two rules because there isn't a lot of things to explain here. Pretty straightforward and what we can expect with regards to clocks. Yes, Armageddon games st not ratable ;)

Another example why online games will never affect OTB rating is because players usually get an automatic draw declared by the system after 50 moves, stalemate, insufficient material, etc. Since players don't need to act on any draw offer, and such assistance from the online providers are allowed.

8. **Chapter 10, Rule 11: Interrupted games**

What happens when the server gets an unplanned interruption? This means your game is aborted all of a sudden, by no fault of your own, due to issues with the online game platfo TDs have a few choices, but the most important thing is not to panic: take a picture of the position, including the clocks. The online system or the TDs may or may not be able to restart the game from the known position. If this option is not available, or the last position is not known, then games should be restarted from move one.

9. **Chapter 10, Rule 12: Special moves**

Here is another list why online games will never affect OTB rating, and vice versa: online platforms prevent players to make illegal moves, we can't enforce touch move, players c make pre-move, smart move, and automatic promotion. All these are allowed assistances for players when they play online.

In this rule it also reassures that mouse slips are considered completed moves. In other words, it stands, there is no takeback, and that's part of the online play's risk that every play has to consider and agree when starting to play.

10. **Chapter 10, Rule 13: Scorekeeping**

While you are allowed to keep scores manually while playing online, you cannot use these scoresheets to make any claim. It's mostly good for practice, and for those accidental interruption of the game to get the last known position. An additional assistance that online platforms give is the automatic score keeping, so you don't have to.

11. **Chapter 10, Rule 14 & 15: Game Assistants & Event submission**

Players with disabilities may request a game assistant, who can make the moves for them online, and they can also use a physical board if their condition requires them. But of cou they have to assume the risk of any incorrect move, mouse slip, or misunderstood move, as their own.

Organizers and TDs have up to three weeks to submit an online tournament for rating. This is considerably longer than the time allowed for OTB rating submission, mostly due to time required to complete the fair play screening. It's also known that the work load to prepare the results for rating submission upload is quite a bit more than OTB tournament. S we have to give ourselves plenty of time to complete this very important step accurately and carefully.

Hope this quick and practical overview was useful for the players of the Mechanics' Institute and we can utilize this knowledge at the upcoming tournaments.

Any questions or comments, please email me at jsztaray @ milibrary.org.

FM Paul Whitehead

Domination, Part 2.

pwhitehead@milibrary.org

Rook endings are difficult, but familiarizing oneself with common themes - like domination - can clear up the fog. Pushing the opposing king to the edge of the board opens up th possibility of mate – or winning the enemy rook.

In Kasparyan's **Domination in 2,545 Endgame Studies** I found some interesting linked studies using these "simple" themes. We'll go over the first one together, and then I am o

In Kasparyan's **Domination in 2,3-4-5 Endgame Studies** I found some interesting linked studies using these "simple" themes. We'll go over the first one together, and then I'm of again leaving the second study to you. The theme (or motif, or idea) will be similar in each. This week I think the examples are not only very instructive, but even a bit easy.

These endings have real practical value – absorb them into your chess skin!

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1. Seleznyov 1940 – White wins.

1. Kf6! Obvious and direct: white threatens **2.Rd8 mate**. If Black runs one way with **1…Kg8** white chases him with **2.Kg6**, and after **2…Kf8 3.Rd8+** it's all over. Running the o way with **1…Ke8** is refuted by **2.Kg7!** Domination. **2…Rf8 3.Re5+** and wins the black rook. Note the pawn on h6 only helps in cramping the black forces.

---

2. Gulyayev 1926 – White wins.

An elegant study with some nice practical ideas. Work out the variations – it's not too hard!

An elegant study with some nice, practical ideas. Work out the variations – it's not too hard!

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

GM Yasser Seirawan

Yasser Seirawan has been one of the greatest American chess players of the last 40 years. He is still very active on the chess scene, though you will usually see him now as a commentator. His broadcast is sponsored by Rex Sinquefeld (the St. Louis Billionaire) and covers the major world chess events with the team of Jennifer Shahade and Maurice Ashley.

His career as a player has been stellar. He was World Junior Champion, 4-time US Champion, winner of many international tournaments and has victories over World Champions Karpov, Kasparov and Tal. Yasser has played 10 times for the US Olympic team and many World Team Championships. Nowadays the US has the great young talents Caruana, Wesley So and Nakamura, yet before them (and after Bobby Fischer) it was Yasser most of all who carried the torch for the US.

Born in Damascus, Syria to a Syrian father and English mother, he moved to Seattle, Washington with his family at the age of 7. He learned chess in west coast tournaments and frequently came to the Bay Area to play. We at the Mechanics' Institute consider him an old friend.

(1) Seirawan,Yasser (2635) - Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar (2765) [A43]
WchT 8th Ningbo (7), 24.07.2011

Yasser doesn't play much anymore, but even the top players of today should not underestimate him. Here at the World Team Championship several years ago he teaches Shak Mamedyarov a lesson in control of squares. **1.d4 c5 2.d5 f5!?** An interesting Dutch/Benoni hybrid. It is unusual and makes an opponent think. The danger is that one can get the trouble of both the Benoni and Dutch as Black. **3.e4** Immediately hitting in the center is principled. If White can recapture the e-pawn he will have the advantage. **3...fxe4 4.Nc3 N**

5.g4!? h6 6.h3 d6 7.Nge2 e5 8.Ng3 Be7 9.Bg2 Na6 10.Ncxe4

White has gotten what he wanted out of the opening and has good control of the central light squares. The d5 pawn is a cramping influence. **10...Bd7 11.0-0 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 0-0 13.** **exf4 14.Bxf4 Bg5 15.Qd2 c4 16.Bxg5 Qxg5 17.Qxg5** This is typical of Yasser's style. He is usually very happy to enter an endgame and he doesn't try for more than what is in the position. Black will simply have to suffer, having some weak pawns. **17...hxg5 18.Bf5 Bxf5 19.Nxf5 Nb4 20.Ne3 Rxf1+ 21.Rxf1 c3 22.bxc3 Nxa2 23.c4 a5?!** [Here Black could better by activating the knight and counting on the passed a-pawn to deliver counterplay. 23...Nc3 24.Nf5 Ne4 25.Re1 Nd2 *(25...Re8 26.Ng3)* 26.Re7 Nxc4 27.Rxg7+ Kh8 is only slightly worse for Black.] **24.Nf5 a4?** This direct charge of the a-pawn has a flaw to the strategy. Better to try [24...Ra6 25.Kf2 Nb4 26.Rc1 a4 27.Ke2 a3 28.Kd2 Though White is clearly better.] **25.Nxd6 a3 26.Nxb7!** It's not just greed to take another pawn. Now White also gets a couple of passed pawns. **26...Nb4** [26...Rb8 27.Ra1 Nb4 28.Rxa3! Black wins knight but will lose against the white pawns - 28...Rxb7 29.Rb3 Rb8 30.c5!] **27.c3 Nd3 28.c5 Nf4** [28...a2 29.Ra1] **29.d6**

1-0

(2) Seirawan,Yasser (2610) - Kasparov,Garry (2725) [D91]
Dubai ol (Men) Dubai (8), 23.11.1986

One of Yasser's greatest victories was another game playing for the US Team. This time the setting was Dubai at the Chess Olympiad. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5** Kasparov would often play the Grunfeld in these years. His opponents would try to prepare, but their analyses was usually found wanting in the opening. **4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bg5** Yasser's preferred variat The game becomes less tactical and more strategic with this continuation. **5...Ne4 6.cxd5 Nxg5 7.Nxg5 e6 8.Nf3 exd5 9.b4**

The center is stable and White aims for queenside play. Black has equalized, but now there will be a lot of maneuvering. **9...Qd6 10.a3 0-0 11.e3 c6 12.Be2 Bf5 13.0-0 Nd7 14.Na a5 15.Qb3 b5 16.Nc5 a4 17.Qc3 Nb6 18.Nd2 Rae8 19.Rfe1 Re7** Both sides have a great knight outpost on the c-file. Black now looks for kingside play. **20.Bf3 Rfe8 21.g3 Bh3 22.Bg2 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 f5 24.h4 Nc4 25.Nf3 Bf6 26.Re2 Rg7 27.Rh1 Qe7 28.Ree1 h6 29.Qd3 Rf8 30.Nd2 Qe8 31.Nxc4!?** This removes the knight but gives Black a protected passed pawn. **31...dxc4 32.Qd1 Re7 33.Ref1 Qf7 34.Qf3 Qd5 35.Qxd5+ cxd5 36.Kf3 Bg7 37.Rd1 Rff7 38.Rd2 Re8 39.Rdd1 Bf8 40.Rdg1** It is difficult for either side to break through. Kasparov, to his credit, plays for the win as usual. Yasser is psychologically in his element with a slow maneuvering endgame. **40...Bg7 41.Rd1 Kf8 42.Rd2 Ke7 43.Rdd Kd6 44.Rh2 Kc6 45.Rhh1 Bf8 46.Rd2 Bd6 47.Rdd1 Bxc5** About the only try to make progress. **48.dxc5 Re4 49.Rhe1 Rd7 50.Rd4** The game is still equal and may look a bit du at first. Yet it is a very complicated ending that is underway. **50...g5 51.hxg5 hxg5 52.Red1 Rxd4 53.Rxd4 Rh7 54.Ke2 Rh3 55.g4!** The action starts. Both sides are about to get passed pawns. The race to queen is very close. **55...f4 56.exf4 Rxa3 57.fxg5**

57...Ra2+ 58.Kf3 c3? Kasparov rushes this pawn too fast. He needed to play [58...Ra3+ 59.Kg2 Ra2 60.g6 Re2 61.Rf4 Re8 62.Rf6+ Kc7 63.Rf7+ Kc6! and Black would hold the draw (probably by repetition).] **59.Rd1 d4**

60.g6! Black has two advanced, connected passed pawns, but the sole advanced white pawn on g6 will not be stopped. **60...d3 61.Ke3 Rxf2 62.g7!** Kasparov resigned. On 62...c2 Rh1 Black has nothing that works. This victory allowed the US team to win the match 2.5-1.5. It was the second Olympiad in a row that the US beat the USSR in their head to hea match. **1-0**

(3) Vladimir Kovacevic - Yasser Seirawan [B07]
Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 26.01.1980

1.d4 g6 2.e4 d6 3.Nc3 Bg7 In his early years Yasser preferred the PIrc Defense with Black. **4.Be2 Nf6 5.g4 c6 6.g5 Nfd7 7.h4 b5 8.h5 Rg8 9.hxg6 hxg6 10.Nf3** White could well have considered holding up the Black pawn advance with 10. a3. **10...b4 11.Nb1 a5** We have a fluid, complex position with chances for both sides. There is a lot of choice for both players with where to place their pawns. **12.a4** [12.a3 may be a better choice.] **12...c5 13.d5?** giving Black more control of the central dark squares. 13. c3 is a more solid choice. **13...Nb6 14.c4**

14...Kd7! A typical Yasser move!. He would often be brave with a king march, not unlike Petrosian. Here the black king heads to the queenside where it is safe. **15.Nbd2 Rh8!** Suddenly Black has a strong initiative due to play on the h-file. **16.Rg1 Kc7 17.Rb1 Rh3 18.b3 Qh8 19.Nf1 N8d7 20.Bf4 Ne5 21.Nxe5 Bxe5 22.Bxe5 Qxe5 23.f3 Bd7 24.Qc2 Q 25.Rg2 Rh1 26.Rf2 Qh8** White has a tough defense. The dark squares are controlled by Black and the black king is much safer than the white king. **27.f4 Qh4 28.Rd1 f6 29.gxf6 exf6 30.e5** Desperation. Kovacevic didn't want to wait for the black pieces to get in position to finish the job, e.g. [30.Bf3 Rg1 31.Ke2 Re8 32.Qd2 Bh3 33.Re1 f5 and the white position is collapsing.] **30...fxe5 31.fxe5 Bf8! 32.exd6+ Kb7 33.Rd3 Re8+**

position is collapsing.] **30...fxe5 31.fxe5 Kf8! 32.exd6+ Kd7 33.Bd3 Re8+**

Kovacevic resigned as 34. Be2 Rxf1+! 35. Kxf1 Qh1 is mate. **0-1**

(4) De Firmian,Nick E - Seirawan,Yasser [B01]
USA-ch U18 Memphis (2), 1976

I can't resist giving one of the encounters I had with Yasser over the years. If he had a weakeness it would be that he would take risks with his king and would sometimes fall for tactics. This game was played long ago in the US Junior Championship. The event was held in Memphis and Elvis was still alive. **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Bb5+?! c6 7.Bc4 e6 8.h3 Bh5 9.Bd2 Qc7 10.Qe2 Bd6 11.0-0-0 Nbd7 12.g4 Bg6 13.h4** The opening is about equal. With 13...h5! Black has little worry. In the old days Yas would love to snatch pawns. **13...Nxg4? 14.Bxe6** Black shouldn't have kept the king in the center with the action starting. **14...Ngf6**

15.Bxf7+! This surprising move steals a pawn and starts the attack. **15...Kd8** [Taking the bishop would lose immediately - 15...Kxf7 16.Ng5+ Kg8 17.Qc4+ Nd5 18.Nxd5] **16.Bxg hxg6 17.Ng5 Kc8** A brave king walk, but there is no coming back from this position. **18.Qd3 Nf8 19.d5 Be5 20.dxc6 bxc6 21.Qa6+ Kb8 22.Na4 N8d7 23.Nf7 Re8 24.Nxe5 Qxe 25.Rh3 Nd5 26.Rb3+ N7b6 27.Re1 Qxe1+ 28.Bxe1 Rxe1+ 29.Kd2 Re5 30.Nc5 Kc7 31.c4 Nf6 32.Qb7+ Kd6 33.Rxb6 axb6 34.Qxa8 Kxc5 35.b3 Ne4+ 36.Kc2 Rf5 37.Qa3+ Kd4 38.Qb2+ Kc5 39.Qa3+ Kd4 40.Qb2+ Kc5 41.Qxg7 Kb4 42.Qe7+ Nc5 43.Qe1+ Ka3 44.Qc1+** Black resigned. An early game of Yasser's, but he soon became very strong, winning the US Junior the next year and going on to become World Junior Champion. **1-0**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA

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Wed	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Thu	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Fri	Closed	Closed	8 - 6
Sat	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon	Closed	Closed	8 - 6

Upcoming Events

The Money Plot: A History of Currency's Power to Enchant, Control, and Manipulate, on Zoom
Wednesday, December 02, 2020 - 5:30pm
Write If You Dare!
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 11:00am
Bi-Annual Members' Meeting on Zoom
Thursday, December 03, 2020 - 5:30pm
Turn Your Passions into Paychecks: Write and Sell Feature Articles
Friday, December 04, 2020 - 10:30am to 12:00pm

Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

[parking map]

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/935

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Next >> (/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/936)

Newsletter #935

September 19, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- US Cadet Championship
- Chess Etiquette
- Community Tuesday Night Marathon Report
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- TD corner
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Mechanics' Institutue to Organize 2020 US Cadet Championship National Online September 25-27, 2020. More than $7,000 in Prizes!

The Mechanics' Institute is proud to announce we have been approved by the US Chess Federation to organize the 2020 US Cadet National Championship September 25-27, 2020, online via Chess.com. This tournament is an 8-player invitational for the top under-16 year old players in the country. Six players are chosen by USCF rating, one player is an automatic qualifyer by winning the Barber Championship (K-8 Champion), and one player is an organizer wild card. The winner wins a $6,000 scholarship to the college or university of their choice, courtesy of Dewain Barber, Dean of Scholastic Chess, and the US Chess Federation. There will also be a $1,200 prize pool courtesy of the US Chess Federation.

This is the field:

- IM Justin Wang (USCF ID: 14930904 - rating: 2540 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14930904))
- IM Christopher Yoo (USCF ID: 15244943 - rating: 2540 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15244943))
- IM Andrew Zhang Hong (USCF ID: 14941904 - rating: 2533 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14941904))
- FM Robert Shlyakhtenko (USCF ID: 14951916 - rating: 2459 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14951916)) (Barber Champion)
- IM Arthur Guo (USCF ID: 14772092 - rating: 2446 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14772092))
- FM Maximillian Lu (USCF ID: 14732597 - rating: 2431 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14732597))
- FM Christopher Shen (USCF ID: 14432243 - rating: 2424 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14432243))
- NM Ruiyang Yan - (USCF ID: 15462690 - rating: 2242 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)) (Organizer Wildcard)

We are excited to see in the field the two previous winners of the Mechanics' Institute's Neil Falconer Award (Hong, Yoo) and a Tuesday Night Marathon regular (Yan). We know many in the Bay Area will be cheering these players on!

We will be broadcasting the event on our Twitch channel HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess). GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead will provide commentary over the weeknd for this event, joining Judit and I. We will also have GM Patrick Wolff join us for a few of the rounds.

We look forward to hosting this national championship event next weekend!

For more information, such as round times and format, please visit the event page HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-us-cadet-invitational-online-championship)

Unwritten Rules of Chess Etiquette

Just as in baseball there are unwritten rules, such as don't steal a base when you have a big lead, do not bunt to break up a no-hitter, and don't gawk at a long home run you just hit, so too does the game of chess. And just like a player can be beaned by the opposing team for violating these rules, so to can there be consequences, or at least a talking to, by the tournament director and/or organizer.

Case in point, we recently had an online event in which a very highly rated scholastic-aged player was playing a much higher rated master, and the position looked pretty even in the endgame The scholastic player offered a draw, and it was declined. This same player went on to offer about eight more draws over the next roughly 15 moves, which made the broadcast team (Paul, Judit and I) begin to discuss the etiquette of offering draws, especially when it involves a much lower rated player playing a higher rated player. FM Paul Whitehead was very clear where he stood on the issue, saying that a lower rated player may ask for a draw, but once declined, must prove his or herself to be able to hold the position to a draw, and any further offer of a draw will be perceived as an insult.

I was directing a tournament at Mechanics' Institute when a 2000-rated scholastic player offered a draw to an International Master, who took great offense at the offer. The rebuke got so loud I had to go to the table and inform the IM that the player had the right to offer the draw. In my opinion, a player has the right for the first offer without rebuke, but should not offer again and earn the draw. While *by the book* a player can offer a draw whenever within reason, repitition may earn you a reputation you probably would rather not have. The game continued until it was at last, drawn.

IM John Donaldson played a Monday Night Rapid one evening and was offered a draw in a position that clearly had much chess to play, and the quiet rebuke from the legend towards the player created a tension where you could feel the player instantly regret the offer.

While there may be other dynamics at play here, it is easy to believe that kids just are not aware, and this may be true. They at least need to be informed it is considered a violation of an unwritten rule of chess, though it sorts of does have language written down in the USCF Rules of Chess under annoying behavior.

20G. Annoying behavior prohibited. *It is forbidden to distract or annoy the opponent in any manner whatsoever. A director, upon a complaint by the opponent, has discretion to determine whether any particular behavior is in violation of this rule and to impose penalties. See also 1C2, Director discretion; 21F, Player requests for rulings; and 21K, Use of director's power. 20G1. Inadvertent annoying behavior. Sometimes a player's actions, though annoying to the opponent and possibly others, are clearly unintentional. For instance, a player may occasionally cough. While the director has the right to invoke rule 20G, this is quite harsh if the player's actions are involuntary. A partial solution is to assign such a player to a board in another room or far away from other games.*

I have had several conversations with parents and their kids regarding rules such as these, and by far most of the time it is well received. This is all a product also of proper coaching and guidance in teaching players the sportsperson-like way to play the game. I had an incident one time a few years ago where I was playing a tournament, and was crushing my opponent, mate was forthcoming, and the player offered me a draw. I politely (outwardly) declined and went on to win the game. I later had a conversation with the player's parent about it, who then had a discussion with the player. I was given an apology, and the player has since grown to earn the NM title and has been an exceptional person and player since.

I'm remembering one incident during a US Amateur Team Championship - I was playing a scholastic player and was cruising to a win in a completely won endgame, where all of a sudden, on my opponents move, he goes and starts watching other games. While it is a team event where the outcome of other games is important, this player was games from the top boards, that had nothing to do with his own team! You can imagine what went through my head at the time, and after about 10 minutes, I had decided I was going to take my time, eat lunch, observe games, all while milking time and making my opponent sit and wait until he resigned or allowed mate to be delivered. Fortunately it did not have to go that way, as we played normally until the end came. But this was an odd 10 minutes, how can anyone do that?

But now we have online chess, and new issues not really thought about before. In addition to excessive draw offers, we have one annoyance that is particular to online play, excessive chat.

Excessive chat during a game can be annoying. While some players enjoy chatting with players, most during a rated game prefer to be just playing the game. Perhaps the new online rules car allow for a broader applicability to rule 20G on annoying behavior, but something like this can cause a distraction to a player. While a player may just disable chat, why should they have to deal with that distraction in the first place?

Fortunately, these cases are rare, and when they have happened and we inform the player and/or parents, it has almost always been a productive discussion and proper sportsmanship learned. This is natural and expected. As online play will continue to be the way of chess for a little while longer, who knows what other new things will come up that could get lumped into the discussion of what is the proper etiquette. If something ever comes up for a player, immediately inform a TD. Our USCF rated events always have a TD present, available by chat, email or phone call, or in the case of many of our events as well, a Zoom help line.

Chess is art, it is also a sport. And like many sports, there are some things you just have to know, and we will help explain.

Mechanics' Instititute Community Tuesday Night Marathon

The 3rd and 4th rounds of the Mechanics' Institute Community TNM had some exciting action this week, as the top players in their sections mixed it up, producing some action-packed games and heart thumping endgames. GM Aleksandr Lenderman got through an inferior position out of the opening aganist Pranav Sairam to get the win. This led to a marquee round 4 match between Lenderaman and FM Kyron Griffith in round 4, who had earlier defeated Arul Viswanathan. The game was very sharp, but Lenderman was in top form in this game and delivered a beautiful win.

The other big game in round 4 was between IM Elliott Winslow and NM Ruiyang Yan. This hear pounding game was one of the last games remaining in the round, and from a position that looked like either player could soon deliver the knockout, it was Rui who landed the haymaker, taking advantage of a blunder to win the queen and the game.

In the under 1800 section, Pranav Pradeep continues perfection, as he defeated Erika Malykin in round 4 to take a half point lead in the section over Yali Perlman.

Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Report: Mechanics' Community TNM Online

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Community TNM Online: 1800+ (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tota
1	Aleksan Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)	12787646	2717	AlexanderL	W17	W11	W10	W3			4.0
2	Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)	15462690	2242	jij2018	W29	W16	D9	W4			3.5
3	Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	KyronGriffith	W18	W7	W6	L1			3.0
4	Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W19	W8	W12	L2			3.0
5	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	L9	W27	W30	W16			3.0
6	Arul Viswanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14490424)	14490424	2071	Shouldbedoincalchw	W33	W21	L3	W19			3.0
7	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W25	L3	W20	W15			3.0
8	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1958	ninjaforce	W34	L4	W27	W13			3.0
9	Alex Paul Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1811	achingolf	W5	W15	D2	D10			3.0
10	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	15424820	2087	chesspilot01	W31	W28	L1	D9			2.5

11	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W32	L1	W24	D12	H---	H---	2.5
12	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1940	ashikuzzaman	W26	W13	L4	D11			2.5
13	Carla Heredia (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13935235)	13935235	2227	mathandchess2020	W30	L12	W28	L8			2.0
14	Theodore Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	13989054	2175	Tabiyiasas	H---	H---	L19	W22			2.0
15	Ethan [kaza Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	etvat	W24	L9	W18	L7			2.0
16	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W20	L2	W21	L5			2.0
17	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	L1	W33	H---	H---			2.0
18	Kenneth E Fee Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12480902)	12480902	1884	KenFee	L3	W25	L15	W32			2.0
19	Rudolph Fr Breedt (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13701346)	13701346	1884	bobbejaan	L4	W32	W14	L6			2.0
20	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1699	ahyanzaman	L16	W29	L7	W30			2.0
21	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1664	vish1080	W23	L6	L16	W28			2.0
22	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1628	chessboi2010	L28	B---	W23	L14			2.0
23	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	L21	W31	L22	D24			1.5
24	Jwalin Shah (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14379732)	14379732	1832	jshah1331	L15	W26	L11	D23			1.5
25	Patrick Peiju Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1719	katechen77	L7	L18	D31	W33			1.5
26	Imran Champsi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16176854)	16176854	1663	Dragonfish9127	L12	L24	B---	D31			1.5
27	Ishaan Kodarapu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16128527)	16128527	1607	pika0008	B---	L5	L8	H---			1.5
28	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W22	L10	L13	L21			1.0
29	Nicholas Ar Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	L2	L20	L32	W34			1.0
30	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1866	mwncklmann	L13	W34	L5	L20			1.0
31	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	L10	L23	D25	D26			1.0
32	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_fan	L11	L19	W29	L18			1.0
33	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L6	L17	D34	L25			0.5
34	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	L8	L30	D33	L29			0.5

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Community TNM Online: u1800 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tota
1	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1252	pranavpradeep2006	W16	W8	W12	W6			4.0
2	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1235	noydan100	B---	D6	W15	W8			3.5
3	Gan Mathrubootham (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15183473)	15183473	1494	gmbchess	W19	L13	W20	W12			3.0
4	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1398	programmingmax	H---	H---	W16	W13			3.0
5	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1193	SunnyCountry	L6	W19	W17	W9			3.0
6	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	starserika18	W5	D2	W13	L1			2.5
7	Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	17350313	1499	draidus	D21	L9	W14	W17			2.5
8	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1679	GiorgosTsolias	W11	L1	W18	L2			2.0
9	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L13	W7	W10	L5			2.0
10	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1331	chesspoki	L15	W21	L9	W19			2.0
11	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1054	victor6688	L8	L16	W21	W20			2.0
12	Martin Camacho (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248027)	17248027	1031	camachom	X22	W17	L1	L3			2.0
13	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	948	andrewaballantyne	W9	W3	L6	L4			2.0
14	Yuvraj Si Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	823	SaintReturns	L17	B---	L7	W21			2.0
15	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	unr.	Bruce_Hedman	W10	H---	L2	H---		U---	2.0
16	Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)	17310102	unr.	MrL0cust	L1	W11	L4	W18			2.0
17	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	W14	L12	L5	L7			1.0
18	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	H---	H---	L8	L16			1.0
19	Danny Du Uy Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	843	caodanny	L3	L5	B---	L10			1.0
20	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	unr.	vincitore51745	H---	H---	L3	L11			1.0
21	Go Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17151222)	17151222	875	Gogosf	D7	L10	L11	L14			0.5
22	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	16408266	1569	serverbusy	F12	U---	U---	U---			0.0

Here are some games from the evening, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(5) GM Alexander Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2801) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2148) [E94]

MI Tuesday Night Online Chess.com (4.1), 15.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 exd4 New ideas in this seemngly concession of the center have brought this towards the forefront. [7...Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 is still a vast theoretical continent to master.] **8.Nxd4 Re8 9.f3 c6**

10.Bf4!? Not the first -- nor second! -- time Lenderman has played this! [10.Kh1!? has been the prime response for over sixty years! Probably by now the following is no longer the "latest" (if in fact 10.Kh1 is already passe): 10...d5 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Bg5 Nc6 13.Bb5 h6!? 14.Nxc6 *(14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.exd5 a6! 16.Bxc6 16...Rd8!* is a bit of IM Ntirlis' work.*)* 14...bxc6 15.Bxc6 hxg5 16.Bxa8 d4! Nikolaos Ntirlis wrote in an article in the current New In Chess Yearbook that he knew he wasn't alone to suggest this move, as it is the preferred line of Lc0, the open-source version of Alpha Zero. And sure enough, he appended the folliwing high high-level game for publication. 17.Nd5 Ba6 18.Bc6 Re6 19.Rc1 Bxf1 20.Qxf1 g4 21.Nf4 Re7 22.Nd3 gxf3 23.Qxf3 Nd7 24.Bd5 Ne5 25.Nxe5 Bxe5 26.g3 Kg7 27.Kg2 Rc7 28.Rc4 d3 29.Qxd3 Rxc4 30.Qxc4 Bxb2 31.Bxf7 Qd2+ 32.Kh3 Qh6+ 33.Kg2 Qd2+ 34.Kh3 Qh6+ 35.Kg2 Qd2+ ½-½ (35) Ding,L (2791)-Carlsen,M (2863) Chessable Masters Final chess24.com INT June 30, 2020] **10...Nh5!** Ntirlis **11.Be3 f5!** and again [11...Nd7 12.Qd2 a6 13.Rfd1 Ne5 14.Rac1 Nf6 15.Nb3 Be6 16.Qxd6 Qxd6 17.Rxd6 Bxc4 18.Na5 Bxe2 19.Nxe2 Rab8 20.Rcd1 h5 21.Ba7 Ra8 22.Bb6 Re7 23.Bd8 Rxd8 24.Rxd8+ Kh7 25.Rb8 b5 26.Rc8 Re6 27.Nf4 Re7 28.Nxc6 Nxc6 29.Rxc6 a5 30.Nd5 Nxd5 31.Rxd5 Bxb2 32.Rxb5 Bd4+ 33.Kf1 a4 34.Rb4 Be5 35.g3 h4 36.f4 Bg7 37.Rxa4 h3 38.Rb4 Rd7 39.Ke2 Ra7 40.a4 Bf8 41.Rbc4 Rb7 42.Rc7 Rb2+ 43.Rc2 Rb1 44.Rxf7+ Kg8 45.Rxf8+ Kxf8 46.Kf3 1-0 (6) Lenderman,A (2648)-Chigaev,M (2644) Chess24.com Banter Blitz Cup INT Jan 4 2020] **12.Qd2 f4 13.Bf2 Be5! 14.Rfd1**

The computers don't "get" Black's counterplay, and perhaps with good reason. [14.Nc2!? Be6 15.Ne1 Ng3 16.Bxg3 fxg3 17.f4 gxh2+ 18.Kh1 Bg7 19.Rd1 Na6 20.f5 Bf7 21.f6 Bf8 22.Nf3 Nc5 23.Qf4 a5 24.Qg3 Nxe4 25.Nxe4 Rxe4 26.Bd3 Re3 27.Qf4 Qe8 28.Qxh2 a4 29.Ng5 h6 30.Bxg6 Bxg6 31.f7+ Bxf7 32.Nxf7 Qe6 33.Qh5 Rg3 34.Rxd6 Bxd6 35.Nxh6+ Kg7 36.Nf5+ Kg8 37.Nxg3 Bxg3 38.Qg5+ Kh7 39.Qxg3 Re8 40.c5 Re7 41.Qd3+ Qg6 42.Rf5 Kg7 43.Qd4+ Kg8 44.Qc4+ Kg7 45.Qd4+ Kg8 46.Qf4 Qe6 47.Qg4+ 1-0 (47) Lenderman,A (2434)-Yermolinsky,A (2522) Foxwoods op, Ledyard April 2009] **14...Qf6?!** White in over-the-board play has 5 wins and a draw here. [14...Nd7!? Ntirlis stands behind this move based on "a few high-level correspondence games" and OTB here: W1 D4 B0 The one win: 15.Nb3+/= *(15.b4!?+/-* Stockfish*)* 15...Qe7 16.Bd4 Ng7 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.Qd6 Qxd6 19.Rxd6 Ne6 20.Rad1 Ndc5 21.Nxc5 Nxc5 22.b4 Ne6 23.c5 Kf8 24.Bc4 Ke7 25.Kf2 Nf8 26.b5 Bd7 27.bxc6 bxc6 28.g3 fxg3+ 29.hxg3 Red8 30.f4 exf4 31.gxf4 Bg4 32.R1d2 Ne6 33.f5 Nxc5 34.f6+ 1-0 (34) Baerwolf,S (1878)-Fehling,M (2200) Gelsenkirchen 2013] **15.b4** [15.Rac1 requires mention because of the Black player, a former Bay Area junior who has gone East and up (but not in this game): 15...Na6 16.a3 Nc5 17.b4 Ne6 18.Nb3 Ng3 19.Bd3 Nh5 20.Ne2 Nhg7 21.c5 dxc5 22.Nxc5 Nxc5 23.Rxc5 Ne6 24.Bc4 Kf8 25.Bxe6 Bxe6 26.Bd4 Bb3 27.Rxe5 Rxe5 28.Rb1 Bc4 29.Nxf4 1-0 (44) Rasmussen,Allan Stig (2532)-Niemann,Hans Moke (2275) Reykjavik Mar 11, 2015] **15...Be6** [15...Nd7 16.Rac1 *(16.a3; 16.Rab1)*] **16.Rac1 Bf7** [16...Ng7] **17.Nb3 Na6** The first new move. But this knight is offsides, as Black's trying to whip some play up on the kingside. [17...Qe7 18.Na4 Nd7 19.Nb2 d5 20.Rc2 Ng3 21.cxd5 Nxe2+ 22.Qxe2 cxd5 23.exd5 Nb6 24.Qb5 Rad8 25.Bxb6 axb6 26.Re2 Qf6 27.Nc4 Bc3 28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 29.Qxb6 Qg5 30.Qf2 Bxd5 31.Qc5 Qh4 32.Qxd5+ Kh8 33.Qd3 Kg7 1-0 (33) Kacheishvili,G (2612)-Markzon, G (2227) Philadelphia op, April 2012] **18.b5!+/- Nc7?** [18...Nc5!? 19.Nxc5 dxc5 20.bxc6 bxc6 21.Na4+- *(21.Bxc5?! Rad8+/=)*] **19.Na5+-**

Now Black's position loses its elasticity. White is already winning. Lenderman scores a point right out of opening preparation. How Black should have anticipated this is the question for anybody who would like to try this line as Black; was ...Be6-Bf7 worse even than a waste of time, a misplacement? Queen on c7? Or does 10.Bf4 put the whole concept at risk? **19...c5 20.Nxb7 Ng3!?** Not scarey enough -- White just ducks. **21.Bd3 a5 22.Ne2 Ra7?!** [22...Nxe2+ 23.Bxe2 Ne6 24.Nxa5 Nd4 25.Bf1 g5 26.Nb3 Ne6 Black stays right around the computer's criterion for a lost game, 1.68 at depth 24.] **23.Nxa5 Nxe2+ 24.Bxe2 Rea8 25.Nc6 Rxa2 26.Rc2 Rxc2 27.Qxc2 Be8 28.Nxe5 Qxe5 29.Qd2** Alex works his way in, forcing Kyron to relinquish the a-file. **29...Rd8?! 30.Bf1 Bf7 31.Qa5 Ne6 32.b6 Qb2**

33.Qb5! [33.Qa7! covering b7 and b8 with obvious intention.; 33.Rd2! -- geometry! -- when the Black queen can't both watch over the b-pawn and cover against e4-e5.] Those other moves (Thank you Stockfish) are quite something! But Alex's move is completely winning, and (once the details are worked out, and there aren't too many of them) straightforward. In short, the "human move." **33...Qxb5 34.cxb5 Kf8 35.e5! dxe5** [35...d5 36.b7; 35...Ke7 36.b7 Rb8 37.Rxd6 Rxb7 when most legal moves are excellent.] **36.Bxc5+ Kg7 37.Bd6** and the pawn rolls in. Grandmaster preparation! **1-0**

(8) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1978) - NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2133) [D38]

MI Tuesday Night Online Chess.com (4.2), 15.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qa4+ Not seen so often any more. [5.e3 ends up in a more Nimzoindian-like line, and indeed after 5...0-0 6.Bd3 c5 7.0-0 we have one of the main positions, where the only difference is the bishops on b4 vs d3.; 5.Bg5 is quite popular, as is; 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 *(*but *6.Bf4* seems to have caught on at the very top lately, including with Carlsen*.)*] **5...Nc6 6.Bg5** [6.e3] **6...Bd7** Hoping to get in ...Nxd4! [6...h6 seems more to the point (but not as tricky), when 7.Bxf6 is most overwhelmingly played *(*although *7.Bh4* scores better*)*] **7.Qb3**

[7.Qc2 puts a bit less pressure on Black (b4? b7!?)] **7...h6** [7...a5!? could be awkward for White; 8.a3 a4! 9.Qc2 h6!? 10.Bxf6 Bxc3+ 11.Qxc3 Qxf6 12.e3 0-0 13.Be2 dxc4 14.Bxc4 Rfc8 15.0-0 Na5 16.Ne5 Be8 17.Ba2 c5 18.d5 exd5 19.Bxd5 Ra7 20.e4 b6 21.f4 Nc6 22.Qg3 Ne7 23.Rad1 Nxd5 24.exd5 Bb5 25.Rfe1 Qd6 0-1 (30) L'Ami,E (2550)-Jobava,B (2614) Kusadasi 2006; 7...Bxc3+ 8.Qxc3 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 1-0 (52) Daly,C (2327)-O'Rourke,R (2026) Dublin 2012] **8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.e3 Bxc3+** It's not necessary to do this capture right away. **10.Qxc3** Controlling e5 but that might not matter. [10.bxc3!? "Capture towards the center" 10...Na5 11.Qb4 b6 12.Ne5 Qe7 13.Qxe7+ Kxe7 14.cxd5 exd5 when White certainly has some sort of edge.] **10...0-0 11.cxd5!?N** Fixing a pawn on the color of Black's bishop and thinking minority attack, but maintaining the tension also made at least as much sense; Black might be loathe to trade on c4. [11.Be2 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Rfe8 13.Rd1 Rad8 14.0-0 e5 15.d5 Ne7 16.Qxe5 Qxe5 17.Nxe5 Rf8 18.e4 1-0 (52) Daly,C (2327)-O'Rourke,R (2026) Dublin 2012; 11.Bd3 Rfe8 12.0-0 Rac8 13.Rfd1 Qe7 14.h3 g5? 15.b4? *(15.e4+-)* 15...g4 *(15...Nxb4=)* 16.Nd2 dxc4 17.Nxc4 b5 18.Nd2 Nb8 19.Ne4 Bc6 20.d5! Bxd5 21.Nf6+ Kf8 22.Nxd5! 1-0, Pimenta, J-Ferreira,R Mexico City 1980] **11...exd5 12.Be2+/= Qd6** [12...Bf5; 12...Rfc8!?] **13.0-0 Rae8**

Ruiyang is clearly aiming at the kingside, as the pawn structure might indicate. **14.Rfc1+/- f6?!** It's hard to see what Black was worried about with this move. [Then again, Stockfish's two favorite moves are 14...Rc8; and 14...Rb8 so you can there is no clear plan for Black.] **15.b4! a6 16.Rab1** [16.b5!? axb5 17.Bxb5 Ra8 18.a4 Rfc8 19.Qc5 and Black is under pressure and been drawn onto the defense, Minority Attack in action.] **16...Rc8?**

[16...Ra8 to use all hands on deck on the queenside.] **17.a4** [White has a tactical blow: 17.b5!+- axb5?! (On any knight move White just takes - once - on a6 and follows up with 19.h3 and lets Black sweat the weak a-pawn.) 18.Rxb5 wins at least a pawn -- don't overlook 19.Rxd5!] **17...Ne7** Black scrambles to secure the queenside **18.Qb3 Kh8** Scared of ghosts? 19.e4 wasn't really anything. [18...c6] **19.Ne1** [19.b5 axb5 20.axb5 c6 21.Ne1 Again, there's just no way for Black to turn the queenside into anything but a liability.] **19...Bf5** [19...c6] **20.Rb2 g5** Ruiyang tries to get something going, but it's not clear what it's going to be. **21.Bd3** [21.b5 axb5 22.Qxb5!? b6 23.Qb4 provokes concessions.] **21...Bd7?! 22.Rbc2** [22.b5!] **22...f5** [22...c6] **23.Nf3** [23.b5!] **23...Ng6 24.Rc5 c6 25.b5 axb5 26.axb5 g4 27.Nd2 Ra8** [27...f4 28.e4 g3] **28.Qc2?** [28.bxc6 bxc6 29.Qc3 h5 *(29...f4 30.e4 g3 31.Nf3)* 30.g3 Black remains stymied on the kingside.] **28...Ne7?** [28...b6! equalizes on the spot. 29.Rc3 *(29.Rxc6 Bxc6 30.bxc6 Ne7 31.c7 Rfc8=)* 29...cxb5 30.Rb3 b4 holding that pawn can be quite a nuisance for White.] **29.bxc6 bxc6**

30.Nb3 [30.g3!] **30...f4!?** Objectively Black is still fighting uphill, but she is fighting. **31.e4** [31.exf4!? Qxf4 32.g3 Qg5+/=] **31...g3! 32.e5?** [32.hxg3; 32.fxg3! dxe4 *(32...fxg3 33.e5 gxh2+ 34.Kh1+/-)* 33.Bxe4 fxg3 34.Re5 gxh2+ 35.Kh1+/=] **32...gxh2+ 33.Kxh2** (3:01 left) **33...Qe6=**

(7:27 left) **34.Qe2?!** [34.f3 Nf5 35.Rxc6 Bxc6 36.Qxc6 Qxc6 37.Rxc6 Ra2 38.Kh3 Ne3 39.g4 fxg3 40.Rxh6+ Kg7 41.Rg6+ Kf7 42.Kxg3=; 34.Rh1!?] **34...f3!** White's time crisis is now compounded with needing to defend accurately. **35.Qe3 fxg2 36.Rg1?** [36.Kxg2 readies a defense/ counter with Rh1 and Kf1, but it's too late -- Black is bordering on winning.] **36...Nf5-+** [36...Rxf2!?] **37.Bxf5 Rxf5 38.Rxg2 Rh5+ 39.Kg1**

39...Rh3? [39...Rg8!-+ Note White's other rook, pathetically boxed out of the game on c5.] **40.Rg3= Rg8 41.Rc3 Rhxg3+ 42.fxg3** (1:27) **42...Qh3** (2:38) Right around here it's hard to find a sensible move for White that doesn't draw. **43.Nd2 Bf5** Now White panics. **44.e6? Bxe6 45.Rxc6?? Rxg3+** jij2018 won by resignation **0-1**

(9) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2125) - Alex Chin (achingolf) (1968) [B78]

MI Tuesday Night Online Chess.com (3.4), 16.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Nxd4 Topalov's line. A somewhat simplified but no less critical way for Black to play. [11...Ne5 is the longstanding continuation, still up in the air.] **12.Bxd4 b5 13.Kb1?!** [13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.exd5 a5 16.a3 Kg8 remains unclear.] **13...b4 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Bxd4 16.Qxd4 Qc7 17.Rd2 a5 18.b3 Bb5!** White is suffering. **19.e5?** In desperation Ruiyang frees e4 for the bishop, at the cost of a valuable center pawn. [19.h4!? e6?! *(19...h6!* is a solid advantage for Black*; 19...Qc5* could be good as well*.)* 20.h5! exd5?? *(20...Qc5; 20...Qc3)* 21.hxg6 fxg6 22.Qxd5++-] **19...dxe5-+ 20.Qe3 e6 21.Be4 Qc3** [21...a4!] **22.Qxc3 Rxc3 23.Rhd1 Rfc8 24.Rd8+ Kg7 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.a4 bxa3 27.c4**

27...Bc6? [27...Be8!-+ and ...f5 is going to be pretty fast with Black's super-majority.] **28.Bxc6 Rxc6 29.Ka2 a4**

30.Kxa3?! [30.b4!? Rxc4 31.b5! f5 32.Kxa3 e4! 33.b6 Rc8 34.Kxa4 e3!? Black seems to be holding.] **30...axb3 31.Kxb3 h6 32.Rd2** [32.Kb4 Rb6+ 33.Ka5 Rb2] **32...f5 33.Kb4 Rb6+ 34.Ka5 Rb3 35.c5**

35...e4? [35...Rc3! 36.Kb5 *(36.Kb4 Rc1=)* 36...Kf6= *(36...g5=; 36...h5=; 36...Kf7=; 36...Kf8=)*] **36.fxe4 fxe4?!**

[36...Rc3 37.Kb4! Rc1 38.e5!] **37.c6?** [White could still win but it wasn't so easy to find: 37.Rc2!+- or is it? Rooks behind passed pawns, right? 37...Ra3+ 38.Kb5 Kf6 *(38...Rb3+ 39.Kc4)* 39.c6 Ke5 *(39...Ra8 40.Rc5)* 40.c7 Ra8 41.c8Q Rxc8 42.Rxc8 e3 43.Rc1! Kd4 44.Kc6 e2 45.Kd6 e5 46.Re1] **37...Rc3! 38.Kb6 Kf6 39.c7 Ke5 40.Kb7 e3 41.Rb2** [41.Rd3 Rxd3!! 42.c8Q e2= 43.Qc5+ Ke4 44.Qf2 Re3 45.Qe1 (Stockfish 12) 0.00/0] **41...Kd4 42.c8Q Rxc8 43.Kxc8 e5 44.Kd7 Kd3 45.Ke6**

45...e4?? [45...e2! 46.Rb1 when Black has two moves (only!) to draw: 46...Kc2 *(*and *46...e4)*] **46.Ke5??** [46.Rb3+!! is the only move to win -- but it does! 46...Kd2 47.Rb4! e2 48.Rxe4 e1Q 49.Rxe1 Kxe1 50.Kf6 Kf2 *(50...g5 51.g4)* 51.Kxg6 Kxg2 52.h4+-] **46...e2= 47.Rb1 e3 48.Kf4 Kd2 49.g4 e1Q 50.Rxe1 Kxe1 51.Kxe3 Kf1 52.Kf3 Kg1 53.h4 Kh2 54.Kf4 Kh3** Both players have reason to be unsatisfied with their play, but the result is a fair finish. Quite a battle! And Alex Chin joins the group of upcoming young stars! [54...Kh3 55.h5= *(55.g5=)*] **1/2-1/2**

(6) Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1802) - Jwalin Shah (jshah1331) (1698) [D59]

MI Tuesday Night Online Chess.com (3.11), 16.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.e3 b6 Peter Svidler noted in his Master Class that in the Soviet Union they called this the "TMB" Variation. Tartakower, Makagonov, Bondarevsky. They could add a few other names, for instance Kasparov after his marathon world championship matches with Karpov -- and Karpov too, as at some point they were "turning the tables" and playing each other's openings. **8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bxe7 Nxe7!?** All the greatest players in this position have captured with the queen, but this move has some logic as well. Black gets to the long diagonal right away. But that knight is not happy on e7, plus getting the queen off the back rank is useful. [9...Qxe7 is mostly routine here. Add Geller and Spassky (Bondarevsky's student) to that list above, and if you haven't committed Fischer-Spassky, World Championship Game 6, Reykjavik 1972 to memory, or at least seen it, please do so immediately. And toss in Timman-Geller, Hilversum 1973 for a lesson in play against a king in the center. (White's!)] **10.Bd3 Bb7** In fact, White doesn't even have a plus score from here! Jwalin Shah is another of the Bay Area's improving juniors, just breaking into "A" with more to come. **11.0-0 Nd7 12.Qe2 c5** Quite sensible, to equalize in the center (as so often happens in this line), maybe give his knights some better squares. **13.Rfd1** Kristian's smooth development packs some lurking danger. **13...cxd4**

[13...Bxf3 14.Qxf3 cxd4 15.Be4 dxc3 16.Bxa8 c2 17.Rd4 Nf5 18.Rd2 Ne5 19.Rxd8 Nxf3+ 20.Bxf3 Rxd8 21.Rc1 Nh4 22.Rxc2 Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 Rd7 24.Kf1 g5 25.Ke2 Kg7 26.a4 f5 27.b4 Kf6 28.Rc6 Ke5 29.Rc4 f4 30.h4 Kf5 31.h5 Ke5 32.Rc8 Rh7 33.Kd3 fxe3 34.fxe3 Rf7 35.Ke2 Rh7 36.Kf2 Kd5 37.Kg3 Ke5 38.e4 Kd4 39.a5 bxa5 40.bxa5 1-0 (40) Pachta,P (2331)-Zavadilova,J (2057) Stare Mesto 2006] **14.Bb5?** Kristian hits a false step here. [14.Nxd4 Nf6 *(14...Nc5!? 15.Bc2* (looking for b2-b4) *15...Nd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5 17.f3 Qg5=* is relaxed for Black.*)* 15.Nxe6?! Could this be a bluff? *(15.Nf3 Qb8!* Safe Square -- followed by ...Ned5 with a knight (and maybe rook) trade, nothing to worry about*.)* 15...Qc8?? *(15...fxe6!* of course *16.Bh7+ Kxh7 17.Rxd8 Raxd8-/+* is too many pieces for the queen.*)* 16.Nxf8 Kxf8 17.f3 Qe6 18.e4 Nh5 19.Bc4 Qf6 20.Qd2 Kg8 21.Nd5 Nxd5 22.Bxd5 Bxd5 23.Qxd5 Re8 24.Qxh5 1-0 (24) Juszczak,A (2025)-Kulicka,A Bartkowa 2002] **14...Bc6?** [14...Bxf3! 15.gxf3 (15.Qxf3 dxc3! 16.Rxd7 cxb2 17.Rb1 Qc8 and Black is winning; note that 18.Rxe7 Qc1+ 19.Qd1 *(19.Rxc1 bxc1Q+ 20.Bf1 Rad8)* 19...Qxd1+ 20.Rxd1 Rac8-+ White can't both get in Bd3 and defend d1.)] **15.Nxd4** Now it gets quiet again, but White's slight development lead and a few soft squares in Black's position provide something to play on. **15...Bxb5 16.Ndxb5** [16.Qxb5 a6 17.Qb4 isn't so comfortable for Black either.] **16...Qc8?** This isn't going to be a good place, what with Nd6, rooks on the c-file, loose knights. **17.Nd6** [17.Rac1 is also pretty good for White. Well, winning.] **17...Qc6 18.Rac1 Rad8**

19.Ncb5! Qa8 20.Rc7! It's over. White overruns Black's position. **20...a6 21.Ra7 Qb8 22.Rb7! axb5** [22...Qa8 23.Nc7 just wins the queen] **23.Rxb8 Nxb8 24.Nxb5** with a routine material win, as long as White remembers to make "luft" at some point. **24...Rxd1+ 25.Qxd1 Nbc6 26.Nc3 Rd8 27.Qb3 Rb8 28.g3 Kf8 29.Kg2 Ke8 30.a3** That pawn is White's "candidate." [30.a4! looking for Qb5 or Qc4, b2-b4, make a passed pawn, make another queen.] **30...Kd7 31.h4 g6 32.Qb5 Kc7 33.Qc4 Kd7 34.Qf4!** Another weakness, another pawn, another passed pawn, another queen. **34...Ke8 35.Qxh6 Nf5 36.Qf4 Kd7 37.g4 Nd6 38.Ne4** [38.h5] **38...e5 39.Qf3 Nxe4 40.Qxe4 Rh8 41.Qd5+** Black resigned. Once they both let that blip on move 14 pass Clemens poured on the technique and left no doubt. Jwalin will improve! And his ...Nxe7 does suggest that Black doesn't have to suffer so much in this line. **1-0**

(7) Nitish Nathan (BreatheChessAlways) (1934) - NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) (1839) [A43]

MI Tuesday Night Online Chess.com (4.6), 16.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 c5 2.Bf4?! Too mechanical! White has to do something about the immediate attack on his center. [2.d5 is really the only way to make something of the first move.; If you're a desperate London player then 2.c3 is the way to go.] **2...cxd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qd1 e5 5.Bg3 d5** White's opening is a disaster. And this obvious move might not even be best: [5...h5!? requires 6.h3 but White is squarely worse. *(*or *6.h4)* ; 5...Qb6 causes further disarray in White's game.] **6.c3 Nf6 7.Nf3?!** [7.e3 first] **7...Bd6** [7...e4! 8.Nd4 e3! 9.fxe3 Ne4 is unsavory.] **8.e3 0-0 9.Be2 e4** Quite a different story now. Black should solidify his center. Any developing move, [or even 9...h6 so that ...Be6 on the next move won't be harassed. And on 10.Bh4 Black has the happy choice between 10...g5 *(*and *10...Be6)*] **10.Nd4 Bxg3 11.hxg3 Ne5**

12.0-0? The classic "Castling Into It." With hxg3 having already happened, White has to be aware of the problem with square g4. If things were different, say White had already castled and there was a capture on g3, then often the interesting recapture is fxg3, opening the f-file and keeping open h2-h3 if necessary. But of course there are other problems, weakness at e3, and (after h3) g3. But here... **12...Nfg4!-/+** Natash might not be experienced enough to know about the danger, but Mike jumps right on it. **13.Nd2?!** [13.Bxg4 Nxg4 14.Re1 sets up Nd2-f1 to defend h2, as well as guards e3 so that f2-f3 can happen. But that wily computer Stockfish mentions 14...a5! setting up the wonderful rook-lift ...Ra8-a6-h6 "and mate."(14...Qg5 15.Nd2 Qh5 16.Nf1 a5 17.Ne2 Qf5! on f2 *(17...g5?? 18.Qxd5)* 18.Nf4 g5 19.f3 exf3 20.gxf3 Ne5 21.e4 *(21.Qxd5? Be6)* 21...dxe4 22.fxe4 Qg4 is looking pretty good for Black.) ; 13.Re1 Qf6 14.Bxg4 Bxg4!-+ is now the better way to go.] **13...Qf6!-+** A big number, the computers think it's over. **14.Bxg4 Nxg4 15.Qc2 Qh6 16.Rfe1 Qh2+ 17.Kf1 Qh1+ 18.Ke2 Qxg2 19.Rf1 Ne5** [19...Nh2!] **20.N2b3 b6 21.a4 Bg4+ 22.Kd2 Nd3 23.Nc1** [23.Ne2 Bxe2 24.Kxe2 Qf3+ 25.Kd2 Nxf2! may look like an unnecessary risk but it breaks White's defense.] **23...Qxf1 0-1**

(1) Marina Xiao (programmingmax) (1553) - Andrew Ballantyne (andrewaballantyne) (1296) [C54]

Live Chess Chess.com, 16.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.b4 This logical move is not played as often as one would expect. 6. Nbd2 or 6.0-0 are flexible, but this direct expansion on the queenside can't be bad. **6...Bb6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 Be6** [Here I would suggest Black play 9...g5 10.Bg3 a5 11.b5 Ne7 with the knight headed to g6 and good play on the dark squares.] **10.Nbd2 a5?!** Black is playing logical moves, but they don't fit together quite right here. **11.b5 Bxc4 12.Nxc4 Na7?!** [12...Nb8 followed by ...Nbd7 would keep the knight more in play. White is now gaining a substanstial advantage.] **13.a4 Bc5?! 14.Qe2** [There is no reason not to grap the pawn with 14.Nxa5] **14...c6**

15.d4! White breaks at the time when the black pieces are in disarray. It's nice to see such harmony in the white position. **15...exd4** Black is in big trouble. He could hang onto material with [15...Bb6 16.dxe5 dxe5 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Bxf6 gxf6 but White would be winning with the attack - 19.Nh4 Kh7 20.Nxb6 Qxb6 21.Qh5] **16.cxd4 Bb4 17.e5 dxe5 18.dxe5 g5**

19.Nxg5! hxg5 20.Bxg5 cxb5?! [Black could defend for a while with 20...Be7 21.exf6 Bxf6 22.Bxf6 Qxf6 yet 23.Ra3! Rfe8 24.Rg3+ Kf8 25.Qg4 is a crushing attack. Note that the black knight on a7 is simply out of the game and unable to help defend the black king.] **21.Bxf6 Qd4 22.Qh5 Qe4 23.Qh8# 1-0**

(2) Vishva Nanugonda (vish1080) (1998) - Nitish Nathan (BreatheChessAlways) (1949) [A16]

Live Chess Chess.com, 16.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 A choice to take the game into an open position. Black could have delayed any central action with 3....0-0 or 3...d6. **4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3** transposing to traditional Gruenfeld lines where White has the pawn center. Some players like to play the endgame with the continuation [6.dxc3 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1] **6...Bg7 7.Bc4** delaying the central advance d4. More natural is [7.d4 0-0 8.Be3] **7...0-0 8.h3?!** [8.d4] **8...c5 9.0-0 Nc6** Now White has trouble to get in d4, so Black has few worries about the center. **10.Bb2 a6** [10...Na5!] **11.d4 Qc7 12.Ba3 cxd4 13.cxd4**

13...Nxd4! starting the action. **14.Bxf7+?** The desire to get the pawn back lands White in a poor position. There would be full compensation for the pawn after. [14.Rc1 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Qe5 16.Bd5] **14...Rxf7 15.Nxd4 Qc3?!** [15...Bxh3! 16.gxh3 Rd8 gains material back with a clear advantage. 17.Qc2 Qxc2 18.Nxc2 Bxa1 19.Rxa1 *(19.Nxa1 Rd2)* 19...Rd2 is a big endgame advantage] **16.Nc2?** [16.Nb3!] **16...Be6!** now the black bishops pressure the queenside **17.Bb4 Qc4 18.Rc1 Bh6 19.Rb1?!** [19.Bd2] **19...Qxe4 20.Re1 Qf5 21.Qe2 Bd5** [Black could be greedy and snatch a pawn with 21...Bxa2 22.Nd4 Qd5 23.Rbd1 Bc4] **22.Bxe7?** here White was greedy but will get punished for it. There would only be a small disadvantage after [22.Ne3 Bxe3 23.Qxe3 Bxa2 24.Rbd1] **22...Re8 23.Nd4 Qd7** that's it. The white bishop on e7 goes and there's no coming back. **24.Qe5?! Rfxe7 25.Ne6 Rxe6 26.Qc3 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 28.Qxe1 Qe6 29.Qc3 Qc6 30.Qe5 Qc1+ 0-1**
To watch the broadcast of the evening's action, please follow this LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H-_JSvLec4).

Event page is HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-community-tuesday-night-marathon-online) for more information.

TD Corner

2020 US Cadet Online – and Invitational Round Robin Tournament Explained

TD Corner

By FA, Senior TD Dr. Judit Sztaray

The upcoming 2020 US Cadet Online is an eight (8) player round robin tournament, where the field consists of the best under Age 16 scholastic US chess players.

The round robin tournament format is also known as *all-play-all*, meaning all the players in a group play one game against every player in that round robin. It was a very popular and often used format in the past. Nowadays it's mostly used for important, invitational events, to ensure that everyone gets a chance to play with everyone else.

The upside of this format is that it's easy to pair: players are assigned numbers by lot, and the pairings are readily available from the so-called Crenshaw tables from the US Chess Rules of Chess book (Chapter 12). This means that players, TDs/organizers and spectators are fully aware of the pairings for the entirety of the tournament, and preparation can start as soon as pairings are out.

The downside is that withdrawals are strongly discouraged. When it happens, it has a negative effect on all the rest of the rounds in the tournament, unlike Swiss where it only affects one round, thus creating numerous inequities and unfair advantages to some players.

In the case of the US Cadet, we're going to have an 8-player round robin, there are seven matches in the schedule. This will result in players having different number of whites and blacks in the tournament. The pairing table can be found in US Chess Rules of Chess Chapter 12: Player 1, 2, 3 and 4 will have 4 whites and 3 blacks, while Player #5, 6, 7, and 8 will have 4 blacks and 3 whites. The player numbers are determined by a random drawing of the lots.

The table also offers us solutions if an emergency withdrawal happens, and we need to adjust the colors. Hopefully it won't happen.

Drawing of the lots for an in-person, over-the-board event, traditionally done a bit before the event, oftentimes involves a fun and entertaining process. For our online event we have the advantage to do it ahead of time, via a zoom meeting and live broadcast. We are planning to have the drawing of the lots early next week, to allow players ample time for preparation.

The online event also allows us and US Chess to have the strongest US Cadet Championship ever to be held, as all the top players accepted our invitation! Mechanics' Institute, as the organizer of the event, is also allowed to choose a player, as the organizer's wild card. We are proud of WCM Rui Yan, who has been participating in our online events since day 1 of the SIP, and has represented Mechanics' at important events. It's also important for us to have a female representative in the lineup of this prestigious event.

The time control we have chosen when bidding for the online event is the same as the US Chess National Invitationals had: G/70+10. This time control was proven to be a perfect fit for online events: long enough to produce quality games, and at the same time offer opportunity to have 3 games on the same day to ensure that the tournament can be completed over one weekend.

Fair play measures will follow the standards that have been established at other online high quality and high stakes tournaments: players will require to be live in a zoom meeting with two separate cameras: one showing their face and one showing their screen and surrounding (aka angled camera). The games will be reviewed by GMs, by Dr. Ken Regan and by chess.com fair play team. We hope that these measures combined will assure everyone that if any fair play violation occurs, we will be able to detect that and act against them in the strictest way.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM - A Journey Through Chess History - Course 1: Olympiads with GM Nick de Firmian

This class will be a reflective journey of some of the games and experiences of Mechanics' Institute GM in Residence and 3-time U.S. Champion GM Nick de Firmian. He will go over some of his games from Olympiads of the past where players can learn and interact while at the same time learning stories from the event and about players from the event from someone who lived it. It will be an exciting class that combines chess learning with storytelling for a fun and engaging class.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/journey-through-chess-history-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/journey-through-chess-history-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory)

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM - The World Championship Match -- by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: Part 1 -- 9/3 through 10/1 **(FREE!) Click on link below to try class out free next week**
Part 2 - 10/8 through 11/5

An in-depth look at the World Championship matches – the great games, styles and personalities of the World Champions and their challengers. The central idea of the class will be the study of chess ideas and theory, as practiced by the greatest players. In each class we'll look through a selection of the most famous games ever played: games where literally everything was at stake.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: Part 1: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1)
Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, September 19: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM

6SS G/15+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103348 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103348)

Sunday, September 20: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5 +5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103347 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103347)

Monday, September 21: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103631 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103631)

Tuesday, September 22: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103632 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103632)

Wednesday, September 23: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103764 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103764)

Thursday, September 24: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103765 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103765)

Friday, September 25: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103766 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=103766)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(3) aachess4321 (1696) - CoolPowerfulGhoul (1381) [C78]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Bc5 [Kramnik made the Berlin wall endgame defense famous in his world championship match with Kasparov. The black position stood solid against all of Kasparov's attempts after 4...Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8] **5.c3 a6?! 6.Ba4?!** [6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.Nxe5 just wins a pawn] **6...b5 7.Bb3 0-0?!** [It is better to anticipate the central action and hold squares with 7...d6] **8.d4! exd4 9.cxd4** now the white pawns push around the black pieces **9...Bb6 10.Bg5** [10.e5!] **10...h6 11.Bh4 Qe8?** Now the black kingside gets destroyed. The threat was 12. e5, but a better defense to that was [11...d6 or; 11...g5] **12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Re1**

13...Qe7 14.Nh4 [14.Nc3 gets everyone into the game] **14...Re8?!** The last chance was to be brave with [14...Nxd4 even though the situation is still difficult after 15.Nc3 Bb7 16.Qh5] **15.Nf5 Qb4 16.Nc3** [16.Qg4+ Kf8 17.Qg7# would have been quick and merciful.] **16...a5 17.Nxh6+ Kf8 18.Qg4 a4 19.Qg8+ Ke7 20.Qxf7+ Kd8 21.Qxf6+ Ne7 22.Nf7#** aachess4321 won by checkmate **1-0**

(4) dinosaurus333 (1381) - KindMagneticFist (1379) [D20]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nc3 Bd7 This is an odd square for the bishop to be on. It helps to get in ...b5 but doesn't blend with the overall development plan. **4.e4 b5 5.a4!** challenging the queenside squares right away gives White targets on that side **5...bxa4?!** This leaves the black pawn structure all broken up. Black would be worse but have more play after [5...b4 6.Nd5 e6 7.Ne3 Bc6] **6.Bxc4 Nf6?!** [6...e6] **7.Nf3** [7.e5!] **7...e6! 8.Bf4 Bb4 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bxc3 Nxe4** Black has boldly grabbed a center pawn. White has great compensation with the extra development the active bishops and stronger pawn structure. **11.Qd3** [11.Re1! Nxc3? 12.Qd3 would win the knight] **11...Nf6 12.Bb5?!** trading the active bishop for the passive one on d7 helps Black. [12.Bg5 Nc6 13.Ne5 keeps Black under pressure] **12...Bxb5 13.Qxb5+ c6 14.Qb7 Nbd7 15.Qxc6 Qa5?** forgetting about the rook on a8 **16.Rxa4?** [16.Qxa8+] **16...Qf5? 17.Qxa8+ Ke7 18.Qxh8 Qxf4** White is ahead a lot of material - two rooks for a knight. It is only necessary to be careful against the black queen and knights. **19.Rb1 Nb6 20.Rxa7+ Nbd7 21.Kh1** [21.h3! would be a good way to take all the worries away from the white king.] **21...Ng4**

22.Rxd7+! Kxd7 23.Rb7+ Kc6 24.Qc8+ Kd5 The black king shouldn't survive on this march, but it is a little tricky to finish the job. **25.Rd7+ Ke4 26.Qc6+ Kd3 27.g3 Qc1+ 28.Kg2 Qc2 29.Kh3?** [29.Ne1+! wins the queen] **29...Nxf2+ 30.Kh4 Ke3!**

The best fighting chance! **31.Rxf7?** [31.Ng5! with the threat of Qf3+ would still win the game easily.] **31...Qg6!** suddenly Black is winning. There is no good defense to the queen and knight attack. **32.Ne5 Qh6#** KindMagneticFist won by checkmate **0-1**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Twice a month

September 19, 27, @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

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Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered on Thursdays:

Absolute Beginner class: This class is meant to teach brand new students the moves of the pieces and captures so that students may jump into the New at Chess class with knowledge of piece movements. Students may take this course as much as needed, but the same concept will be taught weekly, though it will be a different class each week. The goal is simple, teach piece movements in preparation.

Starting at Chess: This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players: This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess: This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class.

Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

9/19 Saturday - Mechanics' USCF Rated Rapid
Format: 6SS G/10+2
Start: 7:00pm
Registration open 6:00pm:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-tournaments-chesscom)

9/22 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Community Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2 USCF rated, manually paired
Register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-community-tuesday-night-marathon-online
Start at 6:30PM

9/24 Thursday - Thursday Night Quads
Format: 3SS G/60+10
Join by 4PM -
Start at 6:30PM
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-2)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Domination, Part 3.

pwhitehead@milibrary.org

In part 1 we saw the knight dominating the bishop, in part 2 it was rook vs rook. Here we have (perhaps) the more familiar theme of the bishop dominating the knight.

I dithered a bit on which study I should let the reader solve on their own: the easier one, or the more difficult? I decided to show the easy one: after all, the essential idea is there, and I expect the reader who puts in some effort should solve the second example readily enough.

You can find these studies in **Domination in 2,545 Endgame Studies** by **Ghenrikh Kasparyan** (1974).

---

1. Dawson 1925 – White wins.

The solution is simple and direct - and completely forced: **1.f7! Kg7 2.Be7! Kxg7 3.Bb4!** The knight is immobilized (dominated!), and white's king simply marches over and scoops it up.

---

2. Troitzky 1924 – White wins.

This is a more complex study using the same ideas.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Return to Normalcy

Six months of the coronavirus pandemic and now a month of fires and smoke in California have us thinking the world has changed to a different reality. Yet the smoke has cleared and the progress of a Covid-19 vaccine gives us hope the world will fairly soon return to normal. The chess world had adapted extremely well to the new reality of online existence, but now it is preparing for the return to life as it used to be.

Already starting October 5th there will be a live tournament in Stavanger, Norway where Magnus Carlsen will try to increase his record streak of 121 classical games without a loss. The event though that will really feel like the world is getting back to normal is the re-start of the Candidates Tournament, now scheduled for November 1. It will resume at the location where it was abruptly halted in March, Ekaterinburg Russia. The eight challengers to the throne had played the first half of a double round-robin and now they will play the second round. The leaders are the Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi and the Frenchman Maxim Vachier-Lagrave, with 4.5 from 7 games. Readers must excuse me for rooting for the player who is a point behind the leaders, our American-Italian Fabiano Caruana. Fabiano still has a good shot at becoming the challenger again if he can find his great form from previous events. We give below a couple of his games from the last (real) Olympiad in Batumi in 2018. First though I can't resist showing a blitz game from this week coming from the new entertaining online rivalry between Carlsen and Nakamura.

(1) Nakamura,Hikaru - Carlsen,Magnus [B12]

St. Louis Blitz, 15.09.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 A tricky move, which would trap the black bishop after 4...e6? 5. g4 Be4 6. f3 Bg6 7. h5. **4...h5 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Bg5 Qa5+ 8.Nd2 Qa6 9.c4** Naka stays in the middlegame to keep attacking chances. **9...Ne7 10.Ngf3 Nf5 11.0-0 Nd7 12.b3 Bb4** White has more space, but it is difficult to make something of it against the solid black setup. **13.Rfd1 Nb6 14.Rac1 0-0 15.Nf1 c5** The pawn break equalizes play in the center. **16.dxc5 dxc4 17.Qb1!?** [17.bxc4 Bxc5] **17...Bxc5 18.b4 Be7 19.Ng3?!** [19.Bxe7 Nxe7 20.Ng5 g6 21.Ng3 with the idea of Nxh5 would keep enough play for White. Now Black gets the edge.] **19...Nxg3 20.fxg3 Rae8!** keeping both rooks near the king for defense. White would get more play after [20...Rfe8 21.Bxe7 Rxe7 22.Ng5 g6 23.Qe4] **21.Bxe7 Rxe7 22.Ng5 g6 23.Qe4 Nd5**

[23...Qxa2!? 24.g4 hxg4 25.h5 g3 26.Rc2 Rd7! puts bank rank tactics into play] **24.Kh1?** [White should play 24.Rxc4 Ne3 25.Qxe3 Qxc4 26.Ne4! Though he is an exchange down, the weak dark squares on the black kingside make the chances equal.] **24...c3 25.Rc2 Rc8** The black c-pawn, which has been allowed to live, is a bone in the throat. **26.Qf3 Qa4 27.Rf2 c2 28.Rc1 Rc3 29.Qe2 Qxb4 30.Kh2**

30...Rxg3 31.Kxg3 Qa3+ 32.Kh2 Qxc1 33.Qc4 [objectively better is 33.Qxc2 Qxc2 34.Rxc2 Rc7 though that is a simple endgame which is completely lost] **33...Rc7 34.Qb5 Qxg5** Nakamura resigned as the c-pawn will gain a new queen. No doubt we will see many more online encounters between these two players. **0-1**

(2) Jan-Krzysztof Duda - Fabiano Caruana [A28]

Chess Olympiad Batumi GEO (9), 03.10.2018

To win the Candidates Tournament you must play great chess, with powerful opening ideas and subtle positional maneuvers. You must also fight each game to the bitter end and grind down elite players. Here Fabi plays the talented Jan Duda of Poland and gains an endgame edge. To win the Candidates he needs to finish off with position like he gets here. **1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e3 Bb4 5.Qc2 Bxc3 6.Qxc3 Qe7 7.d4 Ne4 8.Qd3 exd4 9.Nxd4 0-0 10.Be2 Qb4+ 11.Kf1 Qe7**

The game is about equal. White has two bishop but can't castle. **12.f3 Nc5 13.Qc3 d6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.b3 a5 16.Bb2 f5 17.Rd1 Be6 18.Kf2 a4 19.b4 Nd7 20.Rd2 f4 21.Rc1 Rae8 22.Rd4 fxe3+ 23.Qxe3 c5 24.bxc5 Nxc5 25.Kg1 Qf7 26.Qf2 Bf5 27.Bf1 Re7 28.Ba3 Re5 29.Qd2 Rfe8 30.Rd5 h6 31.Bxc5 dxc5 32.Qa5 Qe7 33.Rdd1 Qg5 34.Kh1 Qe3 35.Qxc7 Qf2 36.Qa5 Qxa2 37.Ra1 Qb3 38.h3 Kh7 39.Rd5?** The game would have still been equal if Duda had taken the a-pawn. Now Black gets a substantial edge. **39...Bc2 40.Qd2 Bg6 41.Qa5 Qb4! 42.Rxa4 Qxa5 43.Rxa5 Rxd5 44.cxd5 Re1** Black wins the bishop for two pawns. **45.Kg1 Bd3 46.Rxc5 Rxf1+ 47.Kh2 Rd1 48.Kg3 Bf1 49.Kf2 Kg6 50.h4 Bd3 51.h5+ Kf5** [51...Kxh5? 52.d6+ Kg6 53.Rc1! Rxc1 54.d7 queens the pawn] **52.Rc7 Kf6 53.Rc6+ Kg5 54.Rc7 g6 55.hxg6 Bxg6 56.Rd7 Rd2+ 57.Kg3 Bd3 58.Re7 Bf5 59.Kh2 h5 60.d6 h4 61.Rg7+ Kf4 62.Rg8 Rxd6 63.g3+?!** Duda gets rid of the last white pawn, but the rook and bishp vs rook position is bad for White as the white king is trapped on the corner. **63...Kxf3! 64.gxh4 Rd2+ 65.Kg1**

here is where Fabi could have won the game. **65...Bg4?** [centralizing with 65...Be4! 66.Rf8+ Ke3 controls the board from the center. It's still tricky but White has no defense, e.g. 67.h5 Rg2+ 68.Kf1 Rg5 69.Re8 Rxh5 70.Rg8 forced, but the white rook has a problem now on this file 70...Ra5! 71.Kg1 Ra1+ 72.Kh2 Rh1+ 73.Kg3 Rg1+ winning the rook] **66.Rf8+ Kg3 67.h5 Bxh5 68.Rg8+ Bg4 69.Rf8 Rd6 70.Rf2 Rd1+ 71.Rf1** Duda manages to hold the draw now with careful defense. **71...Rd2 72.Rf8 Re2 73.Rf7 Re1+ 74.Rf1 Re2 75.Rf8 Be6 76.Rf6 Bh3 77.Rg6+ Bg4 78.Rf6 Rg2+ 79.Kf1 Rh2 80.Kg1 Re2 81.Rf8 Re5 82.Rf2 Bf3 83.Rg2+! Kf4 84.Ra2 Re1+ 85.Kf2 Rh1 86.Ra7 Rh2+ 87.Kg1 Rg2+ 88.Kf1 Be4 89.Ra3 Rb2 90.Kg1 Bf3 91.Ra7 Kg3 92.Rg7+ Bg4 93.Rf7 Rb8 94.Rf2 Bf3 95.Rg2+ Kf4 96.Ra2 Be4 97.Ra3 Rb2 98.Rh3 Rg2+ 99.Kf1 Bf3 100.Rh8 Ra2 101.Rb8 Kg3 102.Rg8+ Bg4 103.Re8 Ra1+ 104.Re1 Ra5 105.Re8 Rd5 106.Re7 Rd8 107.Re3+ Bf3 108.Re7 Kf4 109.Kf2 Rd2+ 110.Ke1 Rh2 111.Ra7 Re2+ 112.Kf1 Rd2 113.Rc7 Kg3 114.Rg7+ Bg4 115.Re7 Rf2+ 116.Kg1 Rd2 117.Kf1 Re2 118.Rxe2 Bxe2+ 1/2-1/2**

(3) Fabiano Caruana (2827) - Viswanathan Anand (2771) [E03]

Chess Olympiad Batumi GEO (4.3), 27.09.2018

Fabiano meets the previous World Champion, still one of the most difficult players to beat. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Qxc4** The Open Catalan gives active play to both sides. **6...a6 7.Be3!?** A curious development - bishops before knights. **7...Bd6 8.Qc2 0-0 9.Nh3**

Placing the knight on the rim. Yet Fabiano has an underlying harmony to the piece development. **9...e5 10.0-0 h6 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nc3 Qe7 13.Rad1 Re8 14.Nf4 c6 15.Bd4** Now all the white pieces are on normal, natural squares. White is a little more comfortable. **15...g5 16.Nd3 Nxd3?!** [16...Bf5 17.e4 Bh7! would be only a bit worse for Black] **17.Rxd3 Be5 18.Qd2 Bf5 19.e4! Bg6 20.f4 gxf4?** Surpisingly this is the losing move. The game opens up and Fabiano has calculated that Black can't hold. Needed was [20...Bxd4+ 21.Rxd4 though White has more control of the center] **21.Bxe5! Qxe5 22.gxf4 Qc5+ 23.Kh1 Nxe4** Anand grabs the center pawn. Otherwise White would advance the pawn to f5 and have a winning kingside bind. **24.Nxe4 Rxe4**

[24...Bxe4 25.Bxe4 Rxe4 26.Qg2+ wins the rook on e4] **25.Rg3!** White threatens both Bxe4 and f4-f5. **25...Rd4 26.Qe3** Black resigned as White wins a piece. **1-0**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305170255/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Next >> (/web/20210305160553/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/937)

Newsletter #936

September 26, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- US Cadet Championship
- Mechanics' Online Club
- Community Tuesday Night Marathon Report
- Mechanics' Rapid Report
- States Cup Report
- TD Corner
- Chess Staff Arena
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Dr. Alexey Root
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

2020 US Cadet Championship National Online September 25-27, 2020. More than $7,000 in Prizes!

The US Cadet Championship is underway, and we had the drawing of the lots live on our Twitch broadcast before the start of the final round of the TNM. With this drawing, the pairing numbers are set and made for all rounds of this round robin championship. Here are the pairings, according to their lot assignment:

SwissSys Wall Chart. 2020 Cadet: Cadet

#	Name/Rating/ID	St/Tm	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7
1	WCM Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)	CA	B 7	W 6	B 5	W 4	B 3	W 2	W 8
	2242 15462690 (1744)								
2	IM Andrew Zhang Hong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14941904)	CA	B 6	W 5	B 4	W 3	W 8	B 1	W 7
	2533 14941904 (1804)								
3	FM Maximillian Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14732597)	CT	B 5	W 4	W 8	B 2	W 1	B 7	W 6
	2431 14732597 (2368)								
4	IM Justin Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14930904)	TX	W 8	B 3	W 2	B 1	W 7	B 6	W 5
	2540 14930904 (1996)								
5	IM Arthur Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14772092)	GA	W 3	B 2	W 1	B 7	W 6	B 8	B 4
	2446 14772092 (1391)								
6	IM Christopher W Yoo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15244943)	CA	W 2	B 1	W 7	B 8	B 5	W 4	B 3
	2540 15244943 (2058)								
7	FM Christopher Shen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14432243)	OH	W 1	B 8	B 6	W 5	B 4	W 3	B 2
	2424 14432243 (1948)								
8	FM Robe Shlyakhtenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14951916)	CA	B 4	W 7	B 3	W 6	B 2	W 5	B 1
	2459 14951916 (2054)								

The event format, time control, and times are as follows:

Format: 7 rounds of Round Robin

Time Control: G/70+10
USCF Online regular rated - affecting online USCF Online regular rating. (not OTB rating!)

Platform: chess.com

Tournament dates & Round times:

- Virtual Opening Ceremony - Friday, Sep 25: 3PM PT / 6 ET
- Round 1 - Friday, Sep 25: 4PM PT / 7 ET
- Round 2 - Saturday, Sep 26: 9AM PT / 12 ET
- Round 3 - Saturday, Sep 26: 1PM PT / 4 ET
- Round 4 - Saturday, Sep 26: 4PM PT / 7 ET
- Round 5 - Sunday, Sep 26: 9AM PT / 12 ET
- Round 6 - Sunday, Sep 26: 1PM PT / 4 ET
- Round 7 - Sunday, Sep 26: 4PM PT / 7 ET

For more information, please visit the event page HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-us-cadet-invitational-online-championship). We will have special guest commentators throughout the event, including GM Sam Shankland (Friday @5pm, GM Melik Khachiyan on Sunday morning, GM Patrick Wolff on Saturday afternoon, and IM John Donaldson Sunday @5pm. You can follow full coverage of the championship on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess.

The US Cadet Championship is a US Chess national championship for the best under age 16 player in the country. There is a $6000 scholarship to the winner for the college or university of their choice courtesy of Dewain Barber, Dean of Scholastic Chess and US Chess Federation. There is also $1200 in cash prizes courtesy of US Chess.

You can view the drawing of lots HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LJwM8q8fB8)

Mechanics' Institute Online Chess Club: How We Operate

The Mechanics' Institute Online Chess Club went live in March, very soon after the shelter-in-place order was enacted, requiring the temporary closing of the Institute. Since then, many chess communities have moved to online platforms, but many of them operate very differently in terms of who gets admitted into the club and how members are managed. We thought it might be interesting to let our chess community and those following us know what steps we take in terms of managing the club and how we go about maintaining integrity within the membership.

First and foremost, we treat our online club as seriously as we do our live club in terms of making sure the players who participate in our events do so with the right intentions and with integrity. We do not admit everyone that requests to join. We first have people fill out a Google form that captures basic information such as a players name, email, USCF ID and their chess.com username. Doing so allows us to capture important information for player contact purposes, allowing us to more easily reach players. In the beginning we accepted almost everyone that filled out the form, and our club quickly grew to several hundred.

When we started offering USCF-rated online events, things changed. First of all we had to create a seperate club for those playing our USCF-rated tournaments as we can vet players more closely and ensure that we capture a players basic contact information and USCF ID. This is critical as we have to know for sure that the players playing the event online are the same player for which the tournament will be rated.

We always took fair play seriously, and we were vigilant in reporting suspected cheaters to chess.com from our events, even throughout our free play tournaments. But a rated event is quite different, and we want to make sure we take all the precautions we can to ensure fair play. We reached out to Dr. Ken Regan with regards to help screening games, and we thought that along with chess.com's fair play screening, this would provide a comfort level in game integrity for our events. While this has worked very well for us, we knew that it was also important now more than ever to tighten the membership requirements for our online commuity, since letting more people in whom we do not know, or people who were not USCF members, would pose significant risks. There is no point in us growing numbers in a club if we feel we have no idea who most of our players are.

Periodicially, Judit or I will review the list of members to see who had had their accounts flagged for fair play or closed for abuse. We just recently found a player whose account was closed fo fair play violations only days after joining the club. So we made the process of joining our club even more burdensome. Now, when new players request to join, we message them in chess.com to fill the Google form request. We then deny the join request and ask them to send the request again after they have completed the form. Once we verify we captured their information, we approve it.

I guess the main point I would like to communicate is that a great deal goes into the online community. Clubs that allow anyone to be a member do so at their peril. There is no advantage in showing big numbers in club membership if the participation and engagement is not there. The participation and enagement is predicated on trust that is built within the community, and it needs to be nurtured just like any other community. Sure there have been errors along the way over the last 6-7 months, but what family doesn't have their ups and downs and learning opportunities.

Mechanics' Instititute Community Tuesday Night Marathon

The Tuesday Night Marathon concluded with GM Alex Lenderman taking clear first place after a tough final round win against NM Michael Walder. Lenderman finished the tournament with 5.5/6, after a draw in round 5 against NM Ruiyang Yan from an opening position in which he initially thought he was worse. FM Kyron Griffith should the technical superiority of an IM to-be with a great final round win against Rui. Griffith finished the tournament in clear second place with 5/6. These final two games of the marathon will hopefully benefit Rui, as she will participate in the US Cadet Championship starting this Friday. No doubt she will have many of the Mechanics' regulars cheering her on.

Speaking of which, our TNM winner will be playing in the 2020 US Closed Championship next month online. It is great to see these two fine competitors getting some reps at the Mechanics' Institute online!

In the under 1800 section, Yali Dancig Perlman came from behind to defeat Pranav Pradeep, and a win in the final round gave Perlman sole first with 5.5/6. Ganesh Mathrubootham and Marina Xiao tied for second place in the section with 4.5/5.

GM Lenderman gave a great post tournament interview, and you can watch it at the 2:44:45 mark HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnEjzJtmjEU&t=9933s)

Tentative Final Standings

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Community TNM Online: 1800+ (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	St	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	Prize
1	Aleksan Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)	12787646	2717	NY	AlexanderL	W16	W11	W3	W2	D5	W7	5.5	1st Place: $150
2	Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	CA	KyronGriffith	W28	W14	W8	L1	W9	W5	5.0	2nd Place: $75
3	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	15424820	2087	CA	chesspilot01	W24	W27	L1	D4	W22	W8	4.5	
4	Alex Paul Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1811	CA	achingolf	W7	W23	D5	D3	D15	W14	4.5	Best u2000 $50

5	Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)	15462690	2242	CA	jij2018	W29	W10	D4	W13	D1	L2	4.0	
6	Theodore Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	13989054	2175	CA	Tabiyiasas	H---	H---	L17	W30	W28	W15	4.0	
7	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	CA	FlightsOfFancy	L4	W12	W18	W10	W14	L1	4.0	
8	Arul Viswanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14490424)	14490424	2071	CA	Shouldbedoincalchw	W34	W21	L2	W17	W13	L3	4.0	
9	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1958	CA	ninjaforce	W26	L13	W12	W22	L2	W20	4.0	
10	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	CA	BreatheChessAlways	W20	L5	W21	L7	W30	W16	4.0	
11	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	CA	kclemens	W25	L1	W32	D15	H---	H---	3.5	
12	Ishaan Kodarapu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16128527)	16128527	1607	OR	pika0008	B---	L7	L9	H---	W32	W23	3.5	Best u1800 $50
13	Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	CA	ecwinslow	W17	W9	W15	L5	L8	U---	3.0	
14	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	CA	FelixGerman	W19	L2	W20	W23	L7	L4	3.0	
15	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1940	CA	ashikuzzaman	W33	W22	L13	D11	D4	L6	3.0	
16	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	CA	talenuf	L1	W34	H---	H---	W21	L10	3.0	
17	Rudolph Fr Breedt (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13701346)	13701346	1884	CA	bobbejaan	L13	W25	W6	L8	D23	D19	3.0	
18	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1866	CA	mwncklmann	L22	W26	L7	L20	W27	W30	3.0	
19	Patrick Peiju Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1719	CA	katechen77	L14	L28	D24	W34	W33	D17	3.0	
20	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1699	CA	ahyanzaman	L10	W29	L14	W18	W31	L9	3.0	
21	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1664	CA	vish1080	W31	L8	L10	W27	L16	W28	3.0	
22	Carla Heredia (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13935235)	13935235	2227	CA	mathandchess2020	W18	L15	W27	L9	L3	D24	2.5	
23	Ethan [kaza Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	CA	etvat	W32	L4	W28	L14	D17	L12	2.5	
24	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	CA	PlayerCreate1	L3	L31	D19	D33	W29	D22	2.5	
25	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	CA	Joseph_Truelsons_fan	L11	L17	W29	L28	D34	W31	2.5	
26	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	CA	MatnMatt20	L9	L18	D34	L29	B---	W32	2.5	
27	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	CA	kondsaga	W30	L3	L22	L21	L18	W33	2.0	
28	Kenneth E Fee Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12480902)	12480902	1884	MO	KenFee	L2	W19	L23	W25	L6	L21	2.0	
29	Nicholas Ar Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	CA	nicarmt	L5	L20	L25	W26	L24	W34	2.0	
30	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1628	CA	chessboi2010	L27	B---	W31	L6	L10	L18	2.0	
31	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	CA	Mangonel	L21	W24	L30	D32	L20	L25	1.5	
32	Jwalin Shah (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14379732)	14379732	1832	CA	jshah1331	L23	W33	L11	D31	L12	L26	1.5	
33	Imran Champsi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16176854)	16176854	1663	CA	Dragonfish9127	L15	L32	B---	D24	L19	L27	1.5	
34	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	CA	chessappeals	L8	L16	D26	L19	D25	L29	1.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Community TNM Online: u1800 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	St	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	Prize
1	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1235	CA	noydan100	B---	D15	W19	W9	W5	W8	5.5	1st Place: $100
2	Gan Mathrubootham (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15183473)	15183473	1494	CA	gmbchess	W18	L13	W21	W12	D3	W9	4.5	2nd Place: $75; Best u1400: $50; 2-way split of $125: $62.5 each
3	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1398	CA	programmingmax	H---	H---	W14	W13	D2	W5	4.5	2nd Place: $75; Best u1400: $50; 2-way split of $125: $62.5 each Best Female: $50
4	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	CA	rimus11	L13	W8	W11	L6	W12	W14	4.0	
5	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1252	CA	pranavpradeep2006	W14	W9	W12	W15	L1	L3	4.0	

6	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1193	CA	SunnyCountry	L15	W18	W16	W4	L8	W13	4.0		
7	Yuvraj Si Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	823	CA	SaintReturns	L16	B---	L8	W20	W19	W15	4.0		
8	Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	17350313	1499	CA	draidus	D20	L4	W7	W16	W6	L1	3.5		
9	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1679	CA	GiorgosTsolias	W17	L5	W10	L1	W15	L2	3.0		
10	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	CA	swimgrass	H---	H---	L9	L14	W21	W16	3.0		
11	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1331	CA	chesspoki	L19	W20	L4	W18	L14	W17	3.0		
12	Martin Camacho (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248027)	17248027	1031	CA	camachom	X22	W16	L5	L2	L4	X---	3.0		
13	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	948	CA	andrewaballantyne	W4	W2	L15	L3	W17	L6	3.0		
14	Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)	17310102	unr.	CA	MrL0cust	L5	W17	L3	W10	W11	L4	3.0		
15	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	CA	starserika18	W6	D1	W13	L5	L9	L7	2.5		
16	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	CA	Echecsmike	W7	L12	L6	L8	W18	L10	2.0		
17	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1054	CA	victor6688	L9	L14	W20	W21	L13	L11	2.0		
18	Danny Du Uy Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	843	CA	caodanny	L2	L6	B---	L11	L16	W21	2.0		
19	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	unr.	CT	Bruce_Hedman	W11	H---	L1	H---	L7	U---	2.0		
20	Go Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17151222)	17151222	875	CA	Gogosf	D8	L11	L17	L7	B---	U---	1.5		
21	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	unr.	CA	vincitore51745	H---	H---	L2	L17	L10	L18	1.0		
22	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	16408266	1569	CA	serverbusy	F12	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0		

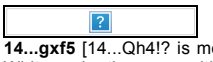
Here are some games from the final round:

(12) GM Alex Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2787) - NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) (1865) [B39]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Starts as a Reti (which is usually a transpositional step)... **1...c5** [1...d5 cuts across the hesitant English player.] **2.c4** Now White has an English having avoided 1.c4 e5. **2...g6 3.d4** Breaking symmetry as soon as possible **3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.e4** And now -- it's a Sicilan Defense, Accelerated Fianchetto (or "Accelerated Dragon" as it seems to be called now). **5...Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Ng4!?** An interesting suite of variations that has held market share since the 50s. **8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 e5!?** [9...Ne6!? isn't as "all or nothing" -- Black might play for ...g5 and dark square control, or later to c5.] **10.Bd3** [The days of 10.Nb5 have passed.] **10...0-0 11.0-0 b6** [11...d6 is the most natural and popular development.] **12.Qd2 Bb7 13.Rad1 f5 14.exf5**



14...gxf5 [14...Qh4!? is mentioned by Shaw in his 1.e4 repertoire series (and given the edge by Stockfish) 15.-- **a)** but follows with 15.f3! gxf5 16.Qf2 *(16.Ne2!)* 16...Qh5 17.Bxd4 exd4 18.Ne2 White grabs the pawn with a clear advantage, but only drew: ½-½ (64) Lein,A-Flesch,J Budapest 1963; **b)** Stockfish thinks 15.f4 is just as good or better.; **c)** 15.Bxd4 gxf5!? is a joke of sorts, but White just plays *(15...Bxg2!? 16.f4! Bxf1 17.Bf2)* 16.Be3 f4 17.Be4! Bxe4 18.Nxe4 fxe3 19.Qxe3 with a won game, which he swiftly claimed: 19...Rf7 20.Nd6 Rf4 21.g3 Rg4 22.Qf3! e4 23.Qf7+ Kh8 24.Qd5 h5 25.Qxa8+ 1-0 (28) Gonzalez, B-Mattiaccio,H Argentina 1980;] **15.Bxd4** [15.f4 d6 16.Nd5 Qd7 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Bxd4 exd4 19.Bxf5 Qd6 20.Qd3 b5 21.Bxh7+ Kh8 22.Bg6 Qe6 23.Rfe1 Qg4 24.Re4 Qg5 25.Re5 1-0 (25) Neiksans,A (2581)-Sulskis,S (2521) Liepaja 2017] **15...exd4 16.Nb5?!** [16.Ne2 prepares to round up the d-pawn while also lending a bit of kingside support.; 16.Nd5! lets the pawn alone but brings about other plusses, and seems best (if you trust computers).] **16...Qh4!** at the very least threatening ...Bxg2, but perhaps further attacking plans, not just a perpetual. **17.f3 Rf6** [17...Bc6] **18.Qf2 Qh5** Black keeps his kingside attacking chances alive. [18...Qxf2+ 19.Rxf2 Bf8 20.Nxd4 Bc5 White has won the pawn, but the well-deployed Black bishops, along with ...d5 after preparation, will make it a difficult one to win.] **19.Rde1** Grandmasters know when to hang on to their positional advantage, but computers... [Take the pawn! 19.Nxd4 Solid plus.] **19...Raf8 20.Re7 Rh6**

21.Rxg7+ This goes the wrong way. [21.h3 Rg6 22.Kh1 Qg5 23.Rxd7 Bc6 24.Rxg7+ Rxg7 25.Nxd4 Bd7 26.b4 with a little something for White, but hardly a win.] **21...Kxg7 22.Qxd4+ Kg8 23.Qf4 Qh4!** Walder sees safety in the ending -- but it cost him three of his remaining nine and a half minutes. **24.Qxh4 Rxh4 25.Rd1 d5?!** And this burned away half of his time here. (Alex had over ten minutes. [25...Bc6=/+ would leave White scrambling to hold.] **26.Nd6** [26.b3!?] **26...dxc4!** [26...Ba6! also draws: 27.Bxf5 *(or 27.Nxf5;* but not *27.cxd5?? Rd4 28.Bc2 Rxd1+ 29.Bxd1* leaves Black winning at will, with *29...Kg7* a head above the rest*.)* 27...dxc4 28.Be6+ Kh8! keeps the needle pegged on zero. *(28...Kg7?? 29.Nf5++-)*] **27.Bxc4+ Kh8?!** But here it's the other way around: [27...Kg7! 28.Be6 Kf6! *(28...Kg6?? 29.Nxb7)* 29.Bd7 Ba8! 30.Nxf5 Rb4 31.b3 *(31.Rd6+ Kg5=)* 31...Rd8 32.Kf2=] **28.Be6! Bc6 29.Rc1 Ba8!** =, but down to 24 seconds... **30.Nxf5** (White has 7:27) **30...Rf4?!** [30...Rb4 31.b3 Rb5= keeps that rook in the game causing trouble] **31.Rc7** That bishop on a8 might be a liability after all... **31...a5?** [31...Bd5! 32.Bxd5 R4xf5 33.Rd7! puts Black on the spot -- White's pawns get going sooner or later.] **32.Kf2?**

AlexanderL won on time. [32.Nh6!+-; 32.Kf2 Black is equal after 32...Bd5= *(or even 32...Be4!=)* 33.Bxd5 R8xf5] **1-0**

(8) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2133) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2166) [B11]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 [Compare to the slightly less rare 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 *(*Even against *3.Nd2 a6!* has been seen half a hundred times.*)* 3...a6 when in the Mega database White has played here SEVENTEEN moves! (Not all at once.) 4.Nf3 is the most popular and transposes to our game. *(4.h3* Take that! (28 games)*; 4.a3* And that!! (5 games)*)* ; 2.Nc3 d5 1/2-1/2 (7) Marcia,G (2266)-Vajda,A (2427) Mamaia 2015] **2...d5 3.Nc3 a6** One must search far and wide to make sense of this move. Maybe it relates to the line [3...Bg4 4.h3 Bh5 5.exd5 cxd5 6.Bb5+] **4.d4 Bg4 5.h3 Bxf3** [And indeed, 5...Bh5 is much more frequent, and has a plus score!] **6.Qxf3** [6.gxf3 e6 7.Be3 Nf6 doesn't figure, ½-½ (7) Marcia,G (2266)-Vajda,A (2427) Mamaia 2015] **6...e6 7.exd5?!** [7.Be3!? (best score) 7...Nf6 8.a3 b5 9.Bd3 b4 10.axb4 Bxb4 11.e5 Nfd7 12.Qg3 g6 13.h4 1-0 (30) Jones,G (2635)-Surtees,M (2113) Leeds 2011; 7.Bd3!? (most frequent) 7...Nf6 *(7...Qb6!?* Stockfish 12's main line, at least for a while*.)* 8.0-0 Be7 9.e5 Nfd7 10.Ne2 c5 11.c3 1/2-1/2 (129) Muzychuk,A (2560)-Zhao,X (2552) Khanty Mansiysk 2014; 7.Bf4!? (heaviest hitters) ½-½ (44) Robson,R (2567)-Jobava,B (2696) Khanty-Mansiysk 2009] **7...cxd5** White has a misplaced knight but also the two bishops, while Black's ...a6 could actually figure in with getting a minority attack going. **8.Bd3** [SF12 gives White a shade better than equality by getting the knight rerouted right away: 8.Nd1; or even 8.Ne2] **8...Nc6 9.Ne2** Now Black goes out of his way to eliminate White's king bishop. **9...Nb4 10.c3 Nxd3+ 11.Qxd3 Nf6 12.0-0** [12.Bg5!?] **12...Be7** [12...Bd6!?] **13.Bf4 0-0 14.Ng3 Bd6 15.Be5 Bxe5 16.dxe5**

This is more a Sicilian or French pawn structure than a QGD Exchange Reversed -- you can go batty thinking about transpositions! The main thing is the Black pawns coming down the board to open up files and leave a weakness. **16...Nd7 17.f4 Rc8 18.Rf2 g6 19.Qe3 Rc4 20.Rd1 Qb6 21.Qxb6 Nxb6 22.Ne2** As of this moment Black has very little, but the trend is downhill for White. **22...Nd7 23.Rf3 b5 24.Rd4 Rb8 25.Rf1 a5 26.Rc1** (11:41) **26...Rbc8=/+** (18:41) White now "takes the bull by the horns" and resolves the pawns... **27.b3?!-/+** [27.Kf2] **27...R4c7 28.a4?-+** Not only does she ruin her defense, but it cost her a lot of time! [28.Rb1 is ugly but tries to hold] **28...b4** The computer line is [28...Nc5! 29.Rb1 bxa4 30.bxa4 Ne4 31.Rb5 Nxc3 32.Nxc3 Rxc3 33.Rxa5 Rc2 looking to double rooks on the 7th.] **29.c4** But then again, no human is going to let Black take and get a pawn on c2... **29...Nb6** The pin means that Black wins a pawn (and the game). **30.c5 Rxc5 31.Rxc5 Rxc5 32.Kf2 Rc2 33.Rd3 Nd7 34.Kf3 Nc5 35.Re3 Rd2!**

36.Nc1 Rd1 37.Na2 [37.Ne2 d4!] **37...Ra1 38.Re2 Nxb3 39.Rb2 Nc5 40.Nxb4 axb4 41.Rxb4 Rxa4 42.Rb5 Ra3+ 43.Kg4 Ne4 44.Rb8+ Kg7 45.Rb2 h6 46.Re2 Rg3+ 47.Kh4 g5+ 48.fxg5 hxg5+ 49.Kh5 Rxh3+ 50.gxh3 Ng3+ 51.Kxg5 Nxe2 52.Kg4 Nd4** KyronGriffith won by resignation. **0-1**

(9) Felix German (FelixGerman) (1654) - Alex Chin (achingolf) (1970) [A67]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9.a4 [9.Bd3; 9.Be2!?] **9...0-0** [9...Na6 10.Nf3 Nb4 11.0-0 a6 gets that in before White can play Re1 and tuck the bishop in at f1. And famously Kasparov crushed Nunn with 12.Bxd7+ Bxd7 13.f5 1-0 (21) Kasparov, G (2675)-Nunn,J (2590) Luzern ol 1982, but improvements for Black have been found since then.] **10.Nf3 a6?!** [10...Na6 has fared better in practice.; as well as 10...Nf6] **11.Bd3 Re8 12.0-0**

White stands quite well. Black's problem is too many pieces, not enough squares. White should make sure ...Bg4 doesn't happen. **12...c4!?** [12...Nf6 is most frequent, as is 13.h3 in return.; 12...Qc7 is 2nd, but White does solidly with a number of replies.] **13.Bc2** [13.Bxc4! calls Black's bluff. 13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 Rxe4 gets the pawn back, but at what a price! After 15.Bd3 Re8 16.Bc2 *(*or maybe even better*, 16.f5! Ne5 17.Nxe5 Rxe5 18.fxg6 hxg6 19.Qc2* is already knocking on Black's king's door*.)* 16...Nf6 17.f5 Nbd7 18.Bg5 Black is going to miss his dark square bishop badly. 18...Qb6+ 19.Nd4 Ne4 20.Bxe4 Rxe4 21.Qf3 1-0 (32) Saeed,I (2286)-Shrestha,S (1893) Abu Dhabi 2016] **13...Nc5 14.e5?!** [14.Be3! once again dares Black to win the e-pawn, for a price. It might be the best way to go now, but White is clearly getting more than enough eompensation. 14...Bxc3 15.bxc3 Nxe4 16.Bd4] **14...Bg4 15.Be3 Nbd7 16.h3** [16.e6!? fxe6 17.dxe6 Qe7 is complicated but balanced.] **16...Bxf3 17.Qxf3 dxe5**

18.f5?! [18.d6 is a better followup, when 18...exf4 19.Qxf4 Rxe3!? 20.Qxe3 Qb6 21.Qf2 Rf8 22.Rad1 Qxb2 23.Nd5 b5 is full counterplay] **18...Rc8?** [18...e4! is the standard riposte, when it works -- as here it does. 19.Nxe4 Nxe4 20.Bxe4 Nf6! *(20...Qe7!? 21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Rae1! Qf6!)* 21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Bd4 Rxe4! 23.Bxf6 Qxd5! and it's pulling towards Black.] **19.d6?** [19.fxg6! first 19...fxg6 20.d6 e4 21.Nxe4 Ne5 22.Qd1 Ncd3 23.Bd4 Nf7! 24.Bxg7 Rxe4 25.Bxd3 cxd3 26.Qb3 favors White] **19...Qb6?** [19...e4! 20.Bxe4 Ne5 keeps it on the better side of equality.] **20.Rab1** [20.Rad1!+- keeps the scarier pawn, when 20...Qxb2 runs into 21.fxg6 fxg6 22.Bxg6! hxg6 23.Nd5! might look unclear to humans, but the computers are adamant: +-.] **20...Qxd6 21.fxg6** [21.Rbd1! Nd3 22.Ne4 Qd5 23.b3 b5 24.axb5 axb5 25.Bxd3 cxd3 26.Bh6! Bxh6 27.Rxd3 Qa8 28.Rxd7 is still going on, but not won for White (or, for that matter, Black).] **21...fxg6 22.Qf7+ Kh8 23.Qxc4** [23.Rbd1!] **23...e4** White has recovered one of the missing pawns, but that e-pawn is troublesome. **24.Qe2?!** [Still, after 24.Rbd1 White has good chances to hold.] **24...Nd3 25.Qd2?!** [25.Rbd1 N7c5 26.Kh1 Qc6 Black consolidates] **25...N7c5** [25...Nb6! 26.Bb3 Qb4 A fierce battle, typical of the Benoni!] **26.Rf7 Re7?!** [26...a5!] **27.Rxe7 Qxe7 28.b4** White fights back to equality again! **28...Ne6**

29.Nd5?? [That pawn has to go: 29.Nxe4! keeps balance.] **29...Qd6** Black doesn't let up now. **30.Nb6 Rd8 31.a5 Qg3 32.Rf1?!** [32.Nc4] Now Black finishes it off. **32...Be5 33.Bxd3 Rxd3 34.Qa2 Qxe3+ 35.Kh1 Qg3** achingolf won on time **0-1**

(10) Arul Viswanathan (Shouldbedoincalchw) (2068) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1973) [A45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 [3...d6 4.e4 transposes into the Pirc with 4.Bf4, a line that is not at all easy to deal with.] **4.e3** [4.Qd2!? Bg7 5.h4 h5 0-1 (33) 33, Najer,E (2648)-Jones,G (2670) chess.com INT 2020] **4...Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.h4?! c5 7.h5 Nc6 8.hxg6** played in 8 of 8 **8...hxg6** [8...fxg6!? 9.Bh6 Bxh6 10.Rxh6 cxd4 11.exd4 Qb6 12.Qd2 Qxd4 0-1 (38) Turzo,A (2306)-Ilincic,Z (2436) Budapest 2017] **9.Nf3 Ne4!=/+**

While White was pushing his h-pawn down the board, Black was pulling ahead in development; this is the result. [9...Qa5 10.Kf1 cxd4 11.exd4 Bg4 12.Qc1 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Nxd4 14.Bh6 Qa6+ 15.Ne2 Bh8 1-0 (26) Alarcon Casellas,R (2397)-Perpinya Rofes,L (2373) Colima Santa 2016; 9...cxd4!? 10.Nxd4!? *(10.exd4 Ne4* 0-1 (42) Koustav,C (2383)-Kushagra,M (2309) Kolkata 2018*)* 10...Qb6 11.Ndb5 e5!? *(11...Bf5!?)* 12.Bg5 d4! 13.Bxf6 dxc3 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.bxc3 Rd8=/+] **10.Bh6** A new move but suspicious. [Predecessor: 10.Kf1 Bf5 11.g3?! *(11.Kg1)* 11...e6 12.Kg1 Re8 13.Nb5 g5 14.Bc7 Qd7 15.g4 Bg6 0-1 (36) Ponomariov,R (2631)-Kuzubov,Y (2643) chess.com INT 2020] **10...Bxh6** [10...Qa5! 11.Kf1 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qxc3 13.Rb1 Bf5-+] **11.Rxh6 Kg7 12.Rh4 Qa5 13.Kf1?!** [13.dxc5 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Qxc3+ is fine for Black] **13...Nxc3** [13...Bf5! prepares right away to jump on the h-file.] **14.bxc3 Qxc3** Black shows an unhealthy addiction to pawns. [14...Bf5; 14...Be6] **15.Rb1** [15.dxc5 Be6 *(15...Bf5)*] **15...Bf5** [15...c4!-/+; 15...cxd4 16.Rb3 Qa5 17.Bb5 f6] **16.Rxb7?** [16.Bd3 Bxd3+ 17.Qxd3 Qxd3+ 18.cxd3 cxd4 19.Nxd4 Rfb8!-/+] **16...Bxc2?!** A very unhealthy addiction. [16...c4-+ 17.Ne1 Rab8 18.Rxb8 Rxb8-+] **17.Qc1** [17.Qe1 cxd4 18.Nxd4 Qxe1+ 19.Kxe1 g5 20.Rg4 Nxd4 21.exd4 Kf6] **17...Rab8!-+ 18.Rb3** [18.e4 Rh8 19.Rxb8 Rxh4 20.Nxh4 Nxb8 21.dxc5 dxe4] **18...Rxb3 19.axb3 Qxb3** [19...c4! 20.bxc4 (20.e4 Rh8[] 21.Rxh8 Kxh8 22.bxc4 *(22.Kg1 Kg8!; 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.Kg1 Nxd4)*) 20...Rb8!] **20.dxc5** [20.Ne1!?] **20...Rb8! 21.Ne1 Be4** only **22.f3**

Now Black collapses, still with time. **22...Bb1?=** [22...g5!! 23.Rg4 Bg6 24.Rxg5 a5-+ 25.e4 dxe4 26.Bc4 Qb1! 27.Qxb1 Rxb1 28.Bd5 Nd4! favors Black, although White should hold.] **23.e4 dxe4??** [23...e5=; 23...d4=] **24.Qh6+** [24.Bc4!+- is lights out.] **24...Kf6 25.Qf4+?** [25.fxe4+/- e5 26.Rh3] **25...Ke6=/+** Suddenly Black is making a run for it! **26.fxe4**

26...f5?? [26...Kd7! 27.Bg4+ f5 28.exf5 Qb5+! 29.Be2 *(29.Kg1? Qxc5+ 30.Kh2 Bxf5-+)* 29...Qxc5 30.fxg6 Bxg6 31.Bf3 Rb1=/+] **27.exf5+** Black must have overlooked the impending Bc4 **27...Kd7 28.fxg6 Bxg6 29.Bg4+ Kd8 30.Qd2+ Ke8 31.Bd7+ Kf7 32.Qf4+ Kg7 33.Qh6+ Kf6 34.Rf4+** Shouldbedoincalchw won by resignation **1-0**

(1) Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (1932) - Chelsea Zhou (mwncklmann) (1819) [E05]

Live Chess Chess.com, 23.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.d4 Nf6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 Grabbing the pawn to make it an Open Catalan. There are a lot more tactics when the game opens up. **7.Nbd2** It would be easier to get the pawn back after 7. Ne5 **7...b5 8.a4 c6 9.axb5 cxb5 10.Ne5 Nd5 11.e4 Nf6 12.d5 exd5 13.exd5 Bd6 14.Nc6?!** This helps Black develop. White would keep more chances with 14. Ndf3. **14...Nxc6 15.dxc6 Bg4 16.Qc2?!** [16.Nf3] **16...Qc7?!** [16...Be2! 17.Re1 Bd3 would leave a monster bishop in the middle of White's camp.] **17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 h6 19.b3 cxb3 20.Qxb3 Rfe8 21.Bd5 b4 22.Bb2 Re2?!** [22...a5 would keep the edge. Black should keep attention on the passes pawns.] **23.Rfe1 Rae8 24.Rxe2 Rxe2 25.Bd4 a5 26.Be3 Bf5 27.Qc4 Rc2 28.Qb5 Bh3 29.Bb6?** White has gotten back to equality, but hands the initiative back to Black who has attacking chances. [29.Rxa5 is equal] **29...Qe7! 30.Qxa5 Bc5 31.Bxc5 Rxc5 32.Qa8+ Kh7 33.Qb7?**

[33.Qa2 Qe5! 34.Rd1 Bg4 35.f3 Bf5 is good for Black, but White is still in the game. The text move blunders a piece.] **33...Qe5! 34.Bg2 Qxa1+** White resigned. **0-1**

(2) Pranav Pradeep (pranavpradeep2006) (1264) - Yali Dancig Perlman (noydan100) (1841) [C01] Live Chess Chess.com, 23.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 Bd6 6.h3 Bh5 7.Nc3 c6 Black easily gets a solid position in this Exchange Variation of the French Defense. **8.Ne5 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 Ne7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Re8 12.Bf4 Ng6**

13.Qg4? This loses a piece. White had an interesting alternative - [13.Nxc6!? Nxc6! 14.Qxe8+ Qxe8 15.Rxe8+ Rxe8 16.Bxd6 Rd8 17.Bc7 Rd7 18.Bg3 Nxd4 which would be all equal in the end.] **13...Nxf4 14.Qxf4 f6 15.Nxc6** At least White gets a pawn for the knight. **15...Rxe1+ 16.Rxe1 Nxc6 17.Qf3 Bb4! 18.a3 Nxd4 19.Qd3 Bxc3 20.Qxc3 Nc6 21.Rd1 Qd7 22.Qb3 Rd8 23.c4 Na5** Black could just advance the d-pawn, but wants even more material. **24.Qb4 Nxc4 25.b3** There's no real hope here unless Black blunders badly. **25...Nb6 26.a4 Qd6 27.Qa5 Qc6 28.Qb4 Kf7 29.a5 Nd7 30.Qd4 Nc5 31.b4 Ne6 32.Qxa7 Qa6 33.Qe3 Qc4 34.Re1 d4 35.Qe4 Qd5 36.Qxd5 Rxd5 37.Kf1 Rb5 38.Rb1 Nc5 39.Ke2 Na6 40.Kf3 Rxb4 41.Rxb4 Nxb4** noydan100 won by resignation.**0-1**

To watch the live coverage of the final round, please see the video on our YouTube channel HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnEjzJtmjEU&t=9933s)

The next TNM starts October 6, 2020, it will be an 8-round Open tournament played over 4 weeks. Registration is open and can be found HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/october-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

We look forward to seeing everyone then!

Mechanics' Saturday Night Rapid Report

The Mechanics' Institute held a 27 player USCF rated rapid last Saturday on September 19th, with GM Alex Lenderman rolling through the field for a perfect 6/6. The tournament had a strong field, including IM Elliott Winslow, NM Michael "fpawn" Aigner, Eric Hon, and Nathan Fong. Here are the tentative final standings:

Saturday, 9/19 - Rapid - TENTATIVE

Time control: 6SS G/10+2 - 70% payout
Link to result: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-uscf-rated-rapid-919-1569344 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-uscf-rated-rapid-919-1569344)

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total	T-Sonneborn	Prize
1	GM Aleksan Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)	12787646	2717	AlexanderL	W11	W14	W2	W9	W3	W5			6.0	23	70.0
2	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2186	microbear	W20	W4	L1	W15	W12	W9			5.0	15.5	52.5
3	Chad E Lieberman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814730)	12814730	1807	celieber	W21	W5	D9	W8	L1	D6			4.0	13	29.1
4	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	W18	L2	W17	L6	W8	W15			4.0	11.5	29.1
5	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	W25	L3	W13	W19	W6	L1			4.0	10	29.1
6	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	13001390	1954	nathanf314	L14	W16	W10	W4	L5	D3			3.5	12	
7	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W16	W15	L8	W10	L9	D11			3.5	10.75	
8	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1664	vish1080	W17	D10	W7	L3	L4	W18			3.5	10.25	35.0
9	NM Michael Aigner (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12595730)	12595730	2207	fpawn	W23	W13	D3	L1	W7	L2			3.5	10	
10	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	14958842	2058	stratus_junior	W19	D8	L6	L7	W21	W17			3.5	8.75	
11	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	L1	W22	L12	W23	W20	D7			3.5	7.25	
12	Isaac C . Spence (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15293854)	15293854	unr.	USA	U---	W24	W11	W20	L2	U---			3.0	7	17.5
13	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	Kondsaga	W22	L9	L5	D17	D16	W20			3.0	6.5	
14	Samik Pattanayak (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14833211)	14833211	1463	spatt07	W6	L1	L20	W25	L15	W22			3.0	6.5	17.5
15	Clarence E Lehman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10497272)	10497272	1904	FrankJamesMarshall	W26	L7	W25	L2	W14	L4			3.0	5	
16	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	L7	L6	D23	W22	D13	D21			2.5	5.25	
17	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	L8	W26	L4	D13	W19	L10			2.5	5	

18	Gan Mathrubootham (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15183473)	15183473	1494	gmbchess	L4	L20	D21	W24	W25	L8			2.5	3.5	
19	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	691	SebbyMeister	L10	D23	W24	L5	L17	W25			2.5	3.25	
20	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_fan	L2	W18	W14	L12	L11	L13			2.0	5.5	
21	Elliott Jar Regan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15032065)	15032065	943	TTVchessmaster	L3	L25	D18	W26	L10	D16			2.0	3.5	
22	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1009	kevin_mx_sun	L13	L11	W26	L16	W23	L14			2.0	2.5	
23	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	14436451	1753	chessp1234	L9	D19	D16	L11	L22	D24			1.5	3.25	
24	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1331	chesspoki	U---	L12	L19	L18	W26	D23			1.5	1.75	
25	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1506	chessboi2010	L5	W21	L15	L14	L18	L19			1.0	2	
26	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	948	andrewaballantyne	L15	L17	L22	L21	L24	B---			1.0	0	

Here are some games from this tournament, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(13) NM Michael Aigner (fpawn) (2310) - GM Alex Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2805) [B15]

Live Chess Chess.com, 20.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 A solid, underrated variation of the Caro-Kann. **6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5** The modern line, both specifically and generally; marching h-pawns is The Big Thing nowadays. **10.Be3** [10.0-0 h4 11.Bf4 and here Griffith lost his way: 11...Rxe2?? 12.Qxe2 Bxf4 13.Qe4+- Qc7?? 14.Qh7+?? *(14.Qe8#)* 14...Kf8 15.Qh8+ Ke7 16.Qxg7 Bxh2+ 17.Kh1 Be6 18.Rae1 Nd7 19.Rxe6+! and White managed to pull himself together to bank a win: 1-0 (55) ecwinslow (1858)-KyronGriffith (2070) Mechanics' Tuesday Night Marathon, Chess.com 2020] **10...Nd7 11.0-0-0 Nf8 12.g3?!** A slight weakening of the light squares. **12...Bg4 13.Rde1 Qa5 14.Kb1 Re7 15.Bf4 Qc7 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Nc1 Rae8** Black's solid central play and no attack at all for White frustrates; that's rather the point of this system. **18.Qd2 Bf3 19.Rhg1 b6 20.Re3?! Rxe3 21.fxe3** This pawn will remain backward. **21...Qe6 22.Re1 f5 23.Bc2 Be4 24.Nd3 Nh7 25.Nf4 Qh6** Black has a nagging edge with control of the e4 square. **26.Bxe4 Rxe4 27.Nd3 Qd6 28.Qf2 g6 29.Ne5 Kg7 30.Qc2 Nf6 31.Qa4?**

looking for counterplay White makes a blunder. **31...Qxe5! 32.dxe5 Rxa4 33.exf6+ Kxf6** The rook ending with an extra pawn and better position is a win. **34.a3 Re4 35.Kc2 h4 36.Kd3 hxg3 37.hxg3 Rg4 38.Rg1 g5 39.Ke2 f4 40.exf4 gxf4 41.Rf1 Kf5 42.gxf4 Rg2+ 43.Kd3 Rxb2 44.Re1 a5 45.a4 f6 46.Kc4 Rf2 47.Re8 Rxf4+ 48.Kb3 b5 49.axb5 cxb5 50.Rb8 b4 51.Rb5+ Kg4 52.Rxa5 bxc3 53.Kxc3 Re4** The white king is cut off from the advance of the black pawn. The rest is easy. **54.Kd3 f5 55.Ra1 Kg3 56.Rg1+ Kf2 57.Rg5 Re3+ 58.Kd2 f4 59.Rh5 Re8 60.Rh2+ Kg3 61.Rh7 f3 62.Rg7+ Kf2 63.Rd7 Kg2 64.Rg7+ Kf1 65.Rd7 f2 66.Rd5 Rg8 67.Ke3 Kg1** AlexanderL won on time. **0-1**

(3) GM Alex Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2803) - Eric Hon (microbear) (2215) [D79]

Live Chess Chess.com, 20.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d5 6.0-0 c6 7.Qb3 b6 Black could consider trying to get play with [7...a5 8.Rd1 a4] **8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.Bg5 e6 11.Rfc1** [11.e4!?] **11...Bb7 12.e3 h6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Ne1 Qd7 15.Nd3 Rfc8 16.Qd1 Ba6** Thus far we have a symmetrical positon and both sides are solid. **17.Bf1 Bxd3 18.Bxd3 Na5?!** Now White is able to cause some trouble on the light squares. 18...Qb7 would hold the balance. **19.Ba6! Rc7 20.Nb5 Rxc1 21.Rxc1** Now White owns the c-file. **21...Nc4 22.Qf3 Kg7?**

[22...Qd8 would avoid material loss.] **23.Rxc4!** Snagging a piece. The game is over. **23...Qe7** [23...dxc4 24.Qxa8] **24.Rc7 Qb4 25.a3 Qxb2 26.Kg2 h5 27.h4 Qb3 28.Qf4 Qa4 29.Nd6! Rf8 30.Bb5 Qxa3 31.Ne8+ Rxe8 32.Bxe8** AlexanderL won by resignation **1-0**

(4) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1982) - NM Michael Aigner (fpawn) (2312) [D30]

Live Chess Chess.com, 20.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.b3 Ne4 6.Nbd2 f5 Black has started with the Slav Defense and now transposed into a Stonewall Dutch. **7.Bd3 Nd7 8.0-0 Bd6 9.Bb2 Qf6 10.Qe2 0-0 11.a4 Bc7 12.Rfc1 Rf7 13.b4 g5**

It is a game of two flanks. White advances on the kingside while Black pushes on the kingside. Objectively White has a small edge, but it's always more fun to direct the attack at the opposing king. **14.Nf1 g4 15.N3d2 h5 16.b5 Nf8 17.Rc2 Bd7 18.Rac1 Bd6 19.bxc6 Bxc6** More solid is 19...bxc6 **20.cxd5** [20.Bxe4 fxe4 21.Nxe4! dxe4 22.d5 Qg6 23.dxc6 bxc6 24.Rd1 Bc7 25.c5] **20...Bxd5 21.Nxe4** [White may get more play from 21.Bxe4 fxe4 22.Nc4 Bc7 23.Ba3] **21...fxe4 22.Bc4 Ng6 23.Bxd5 exd5 24.Qb5 Qf5?!** [24...Qe6 would not get hit by the knight when it moves to g3] **25.Qe2?!** [25.Ng3! Bxg3 26.hxg3 is an edge for White] **25...Nh4 26.Ng3 Qe6 27.Rc5?** Looking for counterplay, but better was [27.Qb5 Nf3+ 28.gxf3 gxf3 29.Kf1 h4 30.Nh1 which looks ugly but has chances to defend] **27...Raf8! 28.Rf1?!**

28...Nf3+! the threat of this move has been looming for some time. Now it comes with decisive effect. **29.Kh1** [29.gxf3 gxf3 30.Qb5 Qh3 is of course mate] **29...Nxh2! 30.Kxh2 h4 31.f4** This doesn't help, but nothing does. **31...gxf3 32.gxf3 hxg3+ 33.Kg2 exf3+** fpawn won by resignation. **0-1**

States Cup Report by FM Kyron Griffith

On Monday September 21st, team CA-North played its third round of the 2020 States Cup against team Washington. The States Cup is an online tournament hosted on Lichess organized by Saumik Narayanan of Minnesota. See his detailed writeup on the US Chess Website: https://new.uschess.org/news/2020-states-cup-underway (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://new.uschess.org/news/2020-states-cup-underway)

There are 30 states competing in a 7-round regular season with three rounds of playoffs for the top-performing teams from each division. Each team fields a four-player lineup each week with an average USCF rating below 2200 (much like the Amateur Team Tournaments). The four player teams face off in a series of four games of 15 minutes with 2 second increment against the opposing team's full lineup each week.

Team CA-North is battling for the Western Division against teams Arizona, CA-South, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington.

Going into Monday's match, Washington was the sole leader of the Western division with a 2-0 score. CA-North was 1-1 after a tough loss last week to Arizona. Monday's match featured a big win for CA-N to catch up to Washington with a 2-1 score. The match showcased a number of Mechanic's regulars both on and off the board! The team captain, FM Josiah Stearman, fielded a lineup including FM Kyron Griffith, IM Elliott Winslow, and NM Ruiyang Yan, along with a very strong (and very underrated) board 4, Bryce Yeh. Mechanic's regulars Kevin Yanofsky and Derek O'Connor provided full match commentary on stream. Other Mechanics' players participating are NM Derek Wu, Austin Mei, NM Mike Walder and Mansoor Mohammed.

A strong performance from all four boards yielded a commanding 10-6 win over a very tough (2197.75 rating average) Washington team. After an unfortunate one game forfeit for team Washington due to a player being late in Round 1, the match was even after two rounds. A big result in Round 3 (3.5-0.5) including an exciting sacrificial win from IM Elliott Winslow over fellow IM Bryce Tiglon and a very fortunate swindle from FM Kyron Griffith over NM Derek Zhang propelled the California team to victory.

The team has another tough match next week on Thursday October 1 against Southern California.

See the Round 3 match breakdown: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MfGydxbA-2kX8ywexNl5tUhcwvJUQnHu2av881sBIOo/edit?fbclid=IwAR0Bw21_WSTrBL7IiEE-ODEj2y7E2BZbvMQ44B9Qj4-oJXwrxuTXvsQXVNc#gid=1225198290 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MfGydxbA-2kX8ywexNl5tUhcwvJUQnHu2av881sBIOo/edit?fbclid=IwAR0Bw21_WSTrBL7IiEE-ODEj2y7E2BZbvMQ44B9Qj4-oJXwrxuTXvsQXVNc#gid=1225198290)

See the full States Cup Schedule: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15wyAgtzhRkpJ4xPfbq6MOZ5Pf6tuScx4xF3lF93sclo/edit#gid=538827637 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15wyAgtzhRkpJ4xPfbq6MOZ5Pf6tuScx4xF3lF93sclo/edit#gid=538827637)

Watch Kevin and Derek's stream: https://www.twitch.tv/videos/748371358 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.twitch.tv/videos/748371358)

Here are some games from the round, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(7) FM Kyron Griffith (kyrongriffith) (2209) - NM Derek Zhang (D-Z) (1500) [C06]

Rated Rapid game https://lichess.org/nTefy4RY, 22.09.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.0-0 Bd6 A classic French, Tarrasch Variation. **11.Nf3 0-0 12.Bf4 Bxf4 13.Nxf4 Ng4** [13...Ne4] **14.Qd2 Qf6 15.Nh5 Qh6** It's reasonable to trade into the endgame. White is somewhat better in any case as he has the better bishop and more dark square control. **16.Qxh6 Nxh6 17.Rfe1 g6 18.Ng3 Nf7 19.Rad1 a6 20.h4 Kg7 21.h5** It may be better to wait with this move as it puts the pawn on a white square. **21...g5! 22.a3 Bd7 23.b4 h6 24.Nf1 Nd6 25.Ne5?! Nxe5 26.Rxe5?!** These last moves have let Black gain the initiative and now White's pawns are weaker. **26...Rf4 27.Be2?!** [27.Nd2! Rxd4?! 28.Nb3 Rf4 29.Nc5] **27...Nf5** [27...Rc8] **28.Rc1 Rc8!** Stopping counterplay before taking the white d-pawn. **29.Rxc8 Bxc8 30.Bd3 Nxd4**

with a solid pawn ahead and better king position Black should have a winning endgame **31.Re1 Nc6 32.Ne3 Bd7 33.g3 Rd4 34.Be2 e5?! 35.b5?!** [35.Rc1! Rd2 *(35...Kf7 36.Rc5)* 36.Bg4 Bxg4 37.Nxg4 gives White some activity for the pawn] **35...axb5 36.Bxb5 Kf6 37.Rc1 Ke6 38.a4 Kd6** The centralized black king is much more useful than his couterpart. **39.Kg2 Rd2 40.Ra1 Be6 41.Bxc6 Kxc6 42.Rc1+ Kd6 43.g4 Rd4?!** [43...d4 44.Nf5+ Bxf5 45.gxf5 e4! would wins easily enough] **44.Rb1 Kc6?!** [44...Kc7] **45.a5!** suddenly Kyron has gotten counterplay as the a-pawn allows the white rook to run into the black camp. **45...Bxg4 46.Rb6+ Kc5 47.Rxh6 Be2 48.Rh7 Rh4 49.h6?**

[49.Rc7+ Kd6 *(49...Kb4 50.Rxb7+ Kxa5 51.Re7!)* 50.Rxb7 would hold a draw] **49...d4?** [49...g4! sets up a mating net with ...Bf3+ coming] **50.Nf5 Rf4?** [50...Rh5 51.Rc7+ Kd5 52.Ng3 Rxh6 53.Nxe2 Ra6 gives drawing chances] **51.Rc7+ Kb5 52.h7** The h-pawn queens and that's it, **52...d3 53.h8Q Bf3+ 54.Kg3 d2 55.Qxe5+ Ka6 56.Qe3 Kxa5 57.Qxd2+** Black resigns. A great battle and an undeserved fate for D-Z. **1-0**

(11) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (CA-N) (2050) - IM Bryce Tiglon (WAChessinator) (WA) (1620) [B94]

States Chess Cup lichess.org, 22.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Bc4 The old, really ancient line, from Spassky in the 50s. [All the current energy is devoted to 7.Qe2 when the ideas are pure 21st Century: 7...h6 8.Bh4 g6 9.f4 e5 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.0-0-0 Qc7 12.Nb3 b5 13.Qf3 Bg7 14.Bd3 0-0 15.Kb1 Bb7 16.a3 Nh5 17.Be7 Rfe8 18.Bb4 Mike Walder won a nice game vs. young and rising Eric Yuhan Li in a Tuesday Night Marathon before everything went online: 1-0 (52) Walder,M (1958)-Li,E (2255) Donaldson TNM, San Francisco 2019] **7...Qb6** the modern treatment; [In the good old days it went 7...Qa5 8.Qd2 e6 9.0-0-0 *(or 9.0-0)*] **8.Bb3 e6 9.Qd2** [9.Bxf6!? Nxf6 10.Qd2] **9...Nc5** [9...Be7 is the main, GM move, but as played scores better. 10.0-0-0 Nc5 1/2-1/2 (30) Shirov,A (2723)-Dominguez Perez,L (2712) Wijk aan Zee 2010 CBM 135 [Marin,M]] **10.f3 Be7 11.0-0-0** [11.h4 Qc7 12.a4 h6 13.Be3 e5 0-1 (47) Nepomniachtchi,I (2730)-Korobov,A (2660) Warsaw 2011] **11...Qc7 12.Kb1 Bd7!** Black keeps White guessing as to where his king will end up. [12...0-0 13.g4 b5 14.a3 Rb8 15.h4 Bd7 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.g5 ½-½ (30) Shirov,A (2723)-Dominguez Perez,L (2712) Wijk aan Zee 2010 CBM 135 [Marin,M]] **13.Rhe1** [Most games went 13.g4 anyway, but Black can keep pace with 13...b5] **13...0-0 14.f4!?** [14.a3 b5] **14...h6?!** [14...Bc6!?] **15.Bh4??**

[15.h4 Even with Rhe1 in this puts Black to the test.] **15...Nfxe4! 16.Nxe4 Bxh4 17.g3 Nxe4 18.Rxe4 Bf6** Black is up a pawn for "nothing" but still needs to remain vigilant. **19.g4 Qc5** [19...d5! 20.Ree1 a5!-/+] **20.h4!?**

20...Bxh4?! Somewhat suicidal! But not necessarily so bad. [20...d5 21.Re3 Bxd4 22.Qxd4 Qxd4 23.Rxd4 healthy extra pawn, queens off, Black should win.] **21.Rh1?!** [21.g5 hxg5 22.Qh2 Rfe8 23.Rh1 d5! still favors Black] **21...g5?!** Black loses his cool and goes up in flames. [21...Bf6] **22.f5! e5?**

[22...exf5 23.gxf5 Bxf5 24.Rexh4 gxh4 25.Nxf5 *(25.Rxh4 Qe5!)* 25...Qxf5 26.Qxh6 Qg4 27.a3!? *(27.Qc1 Kh7 28.Qe1 h3* keeps resisting -- White can't quite turn the corner.*)*] **23.Rxh4! gxh4?!** Straight to mate **24.Qxh6 Qxd4 25.Rxd4 exd4 26.f6** Time forfeit **1-0**

TD Corner

Why Organizers Are Using Webcam to Monitor Players

Working towards offering a “clean” tournament with no fair play violations has been one of the main goals for organizers around the country and the world since the beginning, but especially since the online chess boom began. There are two ways to work towards this goal: preventing violations and catching violators. Several tools are available for the organizers. Data and statistics remains the tried and true method since screening can be automated by monitoring certain indicators, filters, and thresholds. It is consensus that the second major tool for both preventing and catching violations is the use of one or multiple web cameras that monitors the players, the player’s computer, and their surroundings.

Initially the argument was that web cameras are hard to implement, players are not used to them, and that it’s not common for especially mid- and older-aged players to utilize them. However, with the effect of the lockdown and virtual working from home lifestyle, having a web camera and the use of online platforms to show your face and surroundings are no longer an obstacle. Therefore, it’s now a realistic requirement for organizers to require one or more cameras for select or all players.

What should these cameras show, and where are these cameras? The easiest is to use the built-in camera of the computer on which the player is playing. This will show the player’s face, facial expression, and front view body movements and body language. These are good to track eye and head movements, and to view the room that’s behind and next to the player (right & left). Can this help an organizer? Yes, absolutely. However, if an organizer chooses to require one camera, another option may provide more information and proof to be more useful. That is the use of the side camera, aka “angled camera" that is placed on one of the sides of the player and shows both the player’s body from the side, as well as the screen of the computer on which the player is playing. It is important to be from a distance where the screen is visible, so that we can see how the player is using the computer and to ensure that no other side activity is going on during the games. This helps reduce the blind spots when monitoring the surroundings of a player.

With both cameras, view is one of the data points that can be collected, and the other is voice. Therefore, if players are muted, a crucial data source is eliminated. So that is why it is importan to explain to players to not mute themselves and leave their microphone on. But if there is more than one player present in the online platform where the organizer does the monitoring and collecting the data, it is essential that their output/speaker volume to be turned down, i.e. they will not hear anyone speaking.

Why is there a need again for the use of web cameras? Prevention and post-game analysis.

Prevention because there are certain percentage of players who might be tempted to use outside help during the games, but would not go through with this while being monitored.

Data and evidence from the webcam monitoring recording can help in the post-game analysis in cases where the data and indicators that the game was an unusual one, and honest players can use this opportunity to prove that they were playing fairly and clean and they just had the game of their life!

I tend to emphasize this point of view and organizer’s responsibility: Please, keep this in mind: these requirements are for your protection and for your benefit!

And last but not least, organizers also tend to compare player’s performance during no web camera monitoring versus when the player is monitored by one or two web cameras. Can it be an indicator if a player has consistent 95% without being monitored and then 50-70% accuracy when monitored? Well, it’s not necessary clear cut evidence of fair play violation, but it’s may be one part of the bigger picture when considering all factors and making the decision about the player.

We hope that with this short column our players will understand the reasons why we sometimes require web cameras, and none of you will take it as an offense, but take it as a useful tool tha will help you maintain and enhance your reputation.

Any questions? Our email is always open!

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will livestream an Arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, talking about our games and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out occasional free prizes also!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance of it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Mondays 4pm-5pm, 9/28: https://www.chess.com/live#r=503971 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chess.com/live#r=503971)

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 9/29: https://www.chess.com/live#r=502450 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chess.com/live#r=502450)

Dr. Judit Sztaray Arena: Fridays 5pm-6pm, 10/2: https://www.chess.com/live#r=503138 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chess.com/live#r=503138)

MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez Arena: Fridays 6pm-7pm, 10/2:https://www.chess.com/live#r=503140 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chess.com/live#r=503140)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Chess Social

On our September 11, 2020 edition of the Mechanics' Chess Social, we had on new US Chess President Mike Hoffpauir. He is an NTD and FIDE Arbiter, colonol in the US Army, has served as

To watch the interview, follow this LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seeaiKJS1I8)

For our September 25 Mechanics' Social, we had on Michelle Martinez from ChessKid. She is also a US Chess Delegate from Arizona and we will discuss the scholastic online chess boom, the Arizona chess scene and chess life during the pandemic. We will post the interview on our YouTube channel as soon as it is available HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A).

Dr. Alexey Root

Check out Dr. Alexey Root's newly released installment of Grandmaster Chef on Chessbase with GM Peter Svidler! You can also get a great Ahi Tuna Poke recipe from NM Michael Walder all by following this LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-peter-svidler). Chess and Golf Part 2 will be released soon, stay tuned!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM - A Journey Through Chess History - Course 1: Olympiads with GM Nick de Firmian

This class will be a reflective journey of some of the games and experiences of Mechanics' Institute GM in Residence and 3-time U.S. Champion GM Nick de Firmian. He will go over some of his games from Olympiads of the past where players can learn and interact while at the same time learning stories from the event and about players from the event from someone who lived it. It will be an exciting class that combines chess learning with storytelling for a fun and engaging class.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/journey-through-chess-history-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/journey-through-chess-history-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory)

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM - The World Championship Match -- by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: Part 1 -- 9/3 through 10/1 **(FREE!) Click on link below to try class out free next week**
Part 2 - 10/8 through 11/5

An in-depth look at the World Championship matches – the great games, styles and personalities of the World Champions and their challengers. The central idea of the class will be the study of chess ideas and theory, as practiced by the greatest players. In each class we'll look through a selection of the most famous games ever played: games where literally everything was at stake.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: Part 1: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1)
Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, September 26: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104337 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104337)

Sunday, September 27: starts at 10:00am - join from 9:45AM

6SS G/10+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104796 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104796)

Monday, September 28: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104848 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104848)

Tuesday, September 29: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104849 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104849)

Wednesday, September 30: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104850 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104850)

Thursday, October 1 24: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104851 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104851)

Friday, October 2: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104852 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=104852)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(5) BlueColdTooth (1483) - StandingWriter (1497) [C42]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nc6 A cavalier gambit, almost what one might call a trap. [3...Nxe4!? doesn't lose a piece! 4.Qe2 Qe7! *(4...Nf6?? 5.Nc6+!)* 5.Qxe4 d6 6.d4 dxe5 7.dxe5 Nc6; 3...d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 Now White has three main paths: 5.-- *(*The super-safe *5.Qe2 Qe7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Bg5* with a possible queens off, totally benign pawn structure*;* The classic *5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0* when Black has the "free" move ...Nf6-e4; but perhaps premature, as White can play to undermine the knight with *8.c4* Still, after *8...c6* White's advantage is fairly thin.*;* The modern and still popular *5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3* trying to unbalance the game "no matter what" -- often with White castling queenside, while Black has to decide which way to go with his/her king.*)*] **4.Nxc6 dxc6** The computers say "+-" (White is winning), but there is danger lurking... **5.Nc3** [5.d3 is the safe and solid way to hold the pawn, if a bit passive.] **5...Bc5!? 6.Bc4?**

This goes from a clear advantage to close to losing in one move. The natural development of the bishop is wrong for this position. [6.h3! might seem crude and a waste of a good move, but White has to stop Black's threat cold!; 6.Qe2!? shows some finesse, so as to have d1 for the knight(!): 6...Ng4 7.Nd1 with a possible c2-c3 and d2-d4, (when Black will sorely miss the e-pawn!) or just h2-h3 and then back to d2-d3.] **6...Ng4!** Suddenly Black has a clear advantage! **7.0-0?** Castling into it! [White has to try 7.Rf1; Or maybe best is 7.Qf3 (with a threat as well!) when Black's path is 7...Ne5! 8.Qe2 Qh4! 9.g3 before White's world falls apart 9...Qh3 10.Qf1 Nxc4 11.Qxc4 Qg2 12.Rf1 Bh3 Black stays a jump ahead of White and at the very least wins the Exchange, but does even better to continue the attack with ...0-0-0 and ...h5.] **7...Qh4** The black queen, bishop and knight combine with lethal threats. **8.h3 Nxf2 9.Qf3?!** Leads to mate. [9.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 10.Kf1 Be6 develops quickly and decisively.] **9...Nxh3+ 10.Kh1 Nf2+ 11.Kg1 Qh1#** StandingWriter won by checkmate. Those trappy gambits can be fun when they work -- and they must be taken seriously! **0-1**

(6) FineGoldFirefly (1349) - AdityaKBayAreaChess (1525) [C50]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Solid development, but the testing move against Black's Two Knights' Defense is 4. Ng5! **4...Bc5 5.d3 h6** A reasonable use of time, to prevent 6. Bg5 **6.h3** [6.Be3] **6...0-0 7.0-0 d6 8.Be3 Bb6 9.Re1 Be6 10.Bb3 Nd4 11.Nxd4?** The wrong capture, losing a piece. [11.Bxd4 exd4 12.Ne2 c5 13.Nf4 would be a nice position for White] **11...exd4 12.Ne2?!** [12.Bxd4] **12...dxe3 13.d4 exf2+ 14.Kxf2 Nxe4+ 15.Kg1 Qf6 16.Rf1 Qe7 17.c3** Black is a piece and pawn ahead but White plays good moves to make the best of it. **17...Qg5 18.Rf3 Nd2? 19.Rg3!** So now White will win the adventurous black knight that jumped too far into the white camp. **19...Bxb3 20.axb3 Qe5 21.Qxd2 Kh7 22.Kh2 Qe6?! 23.Nf4! Qxb3 24.Ra3?!** The white rook doesn't do much from this square. [24.Nh5! g6 25.Nf6+ Kg7 26.Rf1 would give White a strong attack with all the pieces near the black king] **24...Qc4 25.Nh5 Rg8 26.Qc2+ Kh8 27.Ra4 Qe6 28.Qd2 c5 29.d5 Qe5! 30.Rag4**

30...g5?! [30...Qxh5 would defend and win the knight. Still, the game move stops the white pieces from coming in.] **31.Kh1 f5?** [31...Rae8! is a winning position for Black] **32.Re3! Qxe3 33.Qxe3 fxg4 34.hxg4?!** [34.Qe6! Kh7 35.Qf7+ Kh8 36.Nf6 Rg7 37.Qh5 Rh7 38.Qg6 Rg7 39.Qxh6+ would win. Queens and knights work well together.] **34...Rgf8** [34...Rae8!] **35.c4?!** [35.Qe6!] **35...Rae8?! 36.Qc3+ Re5 37.Ng3** [37.Qd3!] **37...Kh7 38.Nf5 Rfxf5** A practical decision to get rid of the pesky knight. Perhaps Black could have waited for a better time to do this. **39.gxf5 Kg7 40.b4?!** [40.g4 Bd8 41.Qh3 Be7 42.Qh5] **40...cxb4?!** [40...h5] **41.Qxb4 Rxf5 42.Qxd6 Rf1+ 43.Kh2 Rf7 44.Qe5+ Kg6 45.Qe6+ Kg7**

46.Qd6?? [46.d6 would be a winning endgame. The d-pawn would cost Black either the bishop or the rook.] **46...Bc7** That's it. Without the white queen there are no more tricks. **47.Qxc7 Rxc7 48.d6 Rxc4 49.d7 Rd4 50.d8Q Rxd8 51.g3 b5 52.Kh3 b4 53.Kh2 b3 54.Kh3 b2 55.Kh2 b1Q 56.Kh3 h5 57.g4 Rd3+ 58.Kh2 Qa2+ 59.Kh1 Rg3 60.gxh5 Rc3 61.h6+ Kf7 62.h7 Ke7 63.h8Q Rc1#** AdityaKBayAreaChess won by checkmate **0-1**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Every Week!

September 27, @ 10AM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

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Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered on Thursdays:

Absolute Beginner class: This class is meant to teach brand new students the moves of the pieces and captures so that students may jump into the New at Chess class with knowledge of piece movements. Students may take this course as much as needed, but the same concept will be taught weekly, though it will be a different class each week. The goal is simple, teach piece movements in preparation.

Starting at Chess: This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players: This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess: This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class.

Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

9/25-27: 2020 US Cadet National Championship
Format: 7RR G/70+10
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-us-cadet-invitational-online-championship

9/29 Tuesday - Tuesday Online
Format: 5SS G/10+2
Join starting 5:30
Start at 6:30PM
https://www.chess.com/live#t=1596934 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1596934)

10/1 Thursday - Thursday Night Quads
Format: 3SS G/60+10
Join by 4PM -
Start at 6:30PM
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-2)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305160553/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Domination, Part 4.

pwhitehead@milibrary.org

Our theme today is trapping the queen - a most worthy goal in my opinion!

We will dissect the main ideas in the 1st study, but then you are on your own in the 2nd.

Both examples are again taken from that excellent book, **Domination in 2,545 Endgame Studies** by **Ghenrikh Kasparyan** (1974).

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1. Rinck 1913 – White wins.

This is a lovely problem – economical and sweet:

1.b3+! Puts the question to the king, who must step into danger with **1…Ka5**. (If **1…Kb4** or **1…Ka3** then simply **2.Be7+** followed by **3.Bc5** stopping the g-pawn and winning routinely.) **2.Bg5!** (This is the real kicker! White threatens **3.Be3,** stopping the g-pawn again, so…) **2…g1Q 3.Bd2+!** (Setting up the Royal couple…) **3…Kb6 4.Be3+! Qxe3 5.Nd5+!** (…for Death by Fork!) **White wins**.

---

2. Troitzky 1924 – White wins.

As usual the Russian composer **Alexey Troitzky** (1866 – 1942) takes it to another level. I suspect with Rinck's solution in mind the reader won't have too much difficulty…

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Here and There in the Chess World

While we await the live super tournament in Norway starting in two weeks and the Candidates Tournament in a month, we have several things to entertain us. St. Louis has brought us another top online event, with Carlsen and other world top players (and a return from Garry Kasparov!). Kasparov only played in the Fischer-Random event, with a result showing his age. The blitz and rapid combined event was notable for the success of the American players. Wesely So finished second in a very close race with Carlsen. Nakamura had another fine result in third place, and young Jeffery Xiong was seventh place which is quite respectable.

The wide world of chess has some long standing traditional events, and Covid-19 will not stand in their way. The greatest team league in the world is the Bundesliga in Germany, which always gathers many of the world's best to play for different clubs throughout the country. A third notable event is the 120 year anniversary of the Reykjavik Chess Club. Iceland is a famous chess country since hosting the famous 1972 World Championship match (Match of the Century). It is also a very welcoming country to visitors and many Mechanics' Institute members have traveled to Reykjavik as chess tourists to be welcomed by the friendly Icelanders. We give a game from each of these events.

(1) Grischuk,Alexander - Carlsen,Magnus [B75]

St. Louis Rapid, 19.09.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 A Dragon Sicilian! Magnus hasn't played this much, his usual defense is the Sveshnikov Variation. **6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 a6** Steering away from the main Dragon lines into a hybrid Najdorf/Dragon. **8.Qd2 h5 9.Bc4 Nbd7 10.Bb3 Nc5 11.0-0-0** White has everything classically developed and has a small opening edge. This is a tricky variation to play for both sides as there is a lot of flexibility. **11...b5 12.Kb1 Bb7 13.a3** A nice slow move by Grischuk. There is no easy way to break down the black position so he just solidifies the queenside. **13...Nxb3 14.cxb3 Rc8 15.Nc2 Qc7 16.Bd4**

16...0-0?! [here Black missed an opportunity for active play with 16...e5! 17.Be3 d5 18.exd5 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Qxd5 Qxc2+ 21.Ka2 0-0 and Black has at least equality.] **17.Qf2 e5?!** now this doesn't get followed by ...d5 so the d-pawn remains backward **18.Bb6 Qd7 19.Nb4 Rxc3!?** probably the best option, getting active play for a little material **20.bxc3 Qe6 21.Kb2 Rc8?** [21...d5 22.exd5 Nxd5 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 24.Qc5! forces 24...Rc8 25.Qxd5 Qxb6 when Black has some compensation for the exchange, but not enough. This was the best choice though.] **22.Ba5!** guarding c3 and clearing the g1-a7 diagonal. White is consolidating the material edge. **22...d5**

23.Qa7! White invades the queenside with decisive effect. It is unusal that Black would have trouble on this wing in a Sicilian. **23...Ba8 24.Nxa6 Bf8 25.Nc7 Qe7 26.Nxb5 Qe8 27.Nc7 Qe7 28.Bb6 dxe4 29.Nxa8** forcing the endgame, which is a sure win **29...Qxa7 30.Bxa7 Rxa8 31.Bf2 Bxa3+ 32.Kc2 Be7 33.Ra1** There is no real hope in this position against such a play as Grischuk, but Magnus plays on since it is a rapid game. **33...Rc8 34.Rhd1 exf3 35.gxf3 e4 36.fxe4 Nxe4 37.Bd4 f5 38.Kb2 Kf7 39.b4 g5 40.Kb3 g4 41.Ra7 Ke6 42.Ra6+ Kf7 43.c4 Bd6 44.Bg1 Ke7 45.c5 Be5 46.Rd5** Black resigned. Of course Magnus won the tournament (again), but it seemed good to show that his opponents make him work for his tournament victories. *

(2) Sigfusson,Sigudur - Gretarsson,Hjorvar Steinn [E90]

Rejkyavik 120 yr anniversery, 21.09.2020

This is a game from a couple of the young Icelandic players. Their names are a tradition from the old days, just as the Vikings had 1000 years ago. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Be3 c5!? 7.Nf3** [7.dxc5 Qa5 8.cxd6?! Nxe4 favors Black] **7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nbd7!?** [8...Nc6 is more standard, reaching a Morocy Bind position] **9.g3 a6 10.Bg2 Ne5 11.b3 Bd7 12.0-0 Rc8 13.Rc1 Qa5 14.Qd2**

White has successfully navigated the opening to get the position he wants - more space without targets that Black can easily attack. **14...Rfd8 15.a4 Nc6 16.Nde2 Qb4 17.Qc2 Na5 18.Rb1** White still has a nice spatial advantage and is ready to start a slow kingside advance. Black rashly decides to take a shot in the middle of the board. **18...d5? 19.cxd5!** [Calmly opening the c-file with the black rook on c8. Yet there is nothing Black can take advantage of here and just remains a pawn down. Worse would have been 19.exd5?! Bf5] **19...e6 20.Qd2! exd5 21.e5** This completely disrupts the black position. **21...d4** desperate [21...Ne8 22.Nxd5 Qxd2 23.Bxd2 Nc6 24.Bg5] **22.Qxd4 Qxd4 23.Bxd4 Bf5** [23...Ne8 24.Bb6!] **24.exf6 Bxb1 25.Rxb1**

Two pieces and a pawn for a rook plus a crushing position. Black resigned. **1-0**

(3) Mamedyarov,Shakh - Kamsky,Gata [E91]

Bundesliga, 20.09.2020

Mamedyarov visited our club last year and gave a memorable simul. Here he meets Gata Kamsky, who now lives in Russia again, but played for the US for many years. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 Nc6!?** This is unusual. Kamsky gets out of the main lines by giving up space, but at least making the dark squares a bit more accessible for his minor pieces. **6.d5 Nb8 7.Nf3 c6 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 e5 10.dxe6 Bxe6 11.Re1 d5** making the central break rather than waiting for White to pile up on the d6 pawn. White has an opening edge in any case. **12.exd5 cxd5 13.Bg5 dxc4 14.Nd4** The active white pieces cause pressure. Kamsky does his best to keep the black position solid. **14...Qc8 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.Bf3 Qa6**

17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Nd5 Bd8 [18...Bxb2? 19.Rb1 c3 20.Ne7+ Kg7 21.Qd4+ f6 22.Nxg6! hxg6 23.Re7+ Rf7 24.Rxf7+ Kxf7 25.Re1 is a decisive attack as all the black pieces are away from the black king] **19.h4 Nc6 20.h5 Qa5 21.Qc1 Nb4?!** [21...Qc5 22.Qh6 Qd4 23.Rad1 Qg7 24.Qf4 gxh5 is a better defense, though still an edge for White] **22.Qxc4 Nxd5 23.Bxd5 Bf6 24.b4! Qb6 25.Rad1** material is even but Shakh has clearly more control of the board. It is instructive to see how he uses this advantage. **25...Rad8 26.a4 Kg7 27.Qf4 Rfe8?!** [27...h6] **28.h6+ Kf8 29.Rxe8+ Rxe8 30.a5 Qd8 31.Qf3** now White wins a pawn **31...Qe7** [31...b6? 32.Bc6 wins a lot of material] **32.Bxb7 Be5 33.Bc6 Rd8 34.b5 Rxd1+ 35.Qxd1** The endgame is winning for White because of the advanced queenside pawns. The bishops of opposite color are not enough to allow Black serious drawning chances. **35...Bc7 36.Qa1 Be5 37.Qd1 Bc7 38.Qa1 Be5 39.Qe1 Bd4 40.Qd2 Qc5 41.g3 Ke7 42.Kg2 f5 43.Qg5+ Bf6 44.Qf4 Be5 45.Qd2 Bd4 46.f4 Kf6**

47.Kh3! with the white king safe the white queen can infiltrate **47...Qc4 48.Bg2 Qc5 49.Bf3 Ke7 50.Qe2+ Be3 51.Qb2 Bd4 52.Qb3 Kd6 53.Bc6 g5 54.fxg5 a6 55.Qf7 axb5 56.Qd7+ Ke5 57.g6 Kf6 58.g7 1-0**

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Newsletter #937

October 3, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- US Cadet Championship
- Attaining Goals
- Ray Conway Tuesday Night Marathon Online
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Dr. Alexey Root
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

IM Christopher Yoo Wins 2020 US Cadet Championship

IM Christopher Yoo was alone at the top after a grueling three-day weekend, winning the 2020 US Cadet Championship with a score of 6/7. He won a $6000 scholarship to the college or university of his choice, courtesy of Dewain Barber, Dean of Scholastic Chess and the US Chess Federation. He also received a $600 cash prize. FM Christopher Shen and IM Justin Wang finished tied for 2nd with 4.5/6. This USCF national championship invitational was for the eight best under age 16 players in the country. This round robin event was held September 25-27 online on chess.com, organized by the Mechanics' Institute. The time control was G/70 +10.

Christopher got off to a great start, then came up big in rounds 5&6, with wins against IM Arthur Guo and IM Justin Wang, players right behind him in the standings. These victories pulled him away from the pack, and sealed the title with a round to spare. FM Christopher Shen and IM Justin Wang won final round games to round up the top 3.

Local talent was well represented. IM Chrstopher Yoo and IM Andrew Hong are the last two winners of the Mechanics' Institute's Neil Falconer Award. NM Ruiyang Yan is a Tuesday Night Marathon regular. For an event that featured the top under 16 kids in the country, the Bay Area fielded three players, all with ties to Mechanics' Institute.

What was even more impressive and fun to watch was the fighting spirit and aggressive chess throughout the weekend. Many games came down to the final minutes and even seconds, and everyone was swinging for the fences.

It was a special event with many special guests. GM Sam Shankland, GM Patrick Wolff, GM Josh Friedel, and FM Kyron Griffith all stopped by to help with the commentary. GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead worked throughout the weekend covering the action. Special thanks to our tournament directors, NTD John McCumiskey and Dr. Judit Sztaray who paired the games, updated the site, and monitored the players for fair play throughout the weekend. We also have to give a special shout out to Dr. Ken Regan, who screened all the games for the weekend and gave the event a clean bill of health.

You can read the write up for this event in Chess Life Online here: https://new.uschess.org/news/im-christopher-yoo-clear-first-top-2020-cadet (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://new.uschess.org/news/im-christopher-yoo-clear-first-top-2020-cadet)

You can watch the dramatic moments of the US Cadet by finding the videos here: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=mechanicschess)

Here are some games from the event, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) FM Maximillian Lu (waterisgood1) (2043) - IM Christopher Yoo (ChristopherYoo) (2285) [A16]

Live Chess Chess.com, 27.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 This was the last round and Christopher had already won the tournament, so he offered a draw early on. His opponent though wanted to fight! **2...g6 3.g3 c6 4.e4!? d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.e5 d4 7.exf6 dxc3 8.dxc3** [8.bxc3 exf6 9.d4 should give White a small edge] **8...Qxd1+ 9.Kxd1 exf6 10.Bg2 Nc6** The endgame is equal. White has a three to two pawn majority on the queenside and hence an optical edge, yet Black has enough counterplay. **11.Be3 Bf5 12.Ke2 0-0-0 13.Bh3!** It's good to exchange the light-squared bishops, otherwise the white king could come under fire. **13...Bxh3 14.Nxh3 Bd6 15.Rhe1 b6 16.f4 Rhe8 17.Kf3 Re6 18.Nf2 Rde8 19.Bd2 f5** everything is still very even. **20.Nd3 Kd7 21.Rad1 Re4 22.b3 h5 23.Nf2 R4e6 24.Nh3 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Rc8 26.Re3 Nd8 27.Ng5 f6! 28.Nh3 Ne6 29.Nf2 h4 30.Rd3 hxg3 31.hxg3 Ke7** White is still hoping to gain something from the queenside majority. Black should seek kingside play with ...g5 at a good moment. **32.Be3 Rh8 33.Rd1 Bc5 34.Rh1 Rxh1 35.Nxh1 Nc7** [35...b5 36.Nf2 Kd6 37.Nd3 Bxe3 38.Kxe3 g5 should hold the game with little trouble] **36.Bxc5+ bxc5 37.Nf2 Nd5 38.Nd1 c4?!** This gives White a pawn, doubled and isolated as it is. That gives White real chances in a knight ending. **39.bxc4 Nb6 40.Ne3 Kd6 41.Ke2 Kc5 42.Kd3 a5**



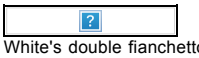
43.Nd5! Nxc4 [The pawn ending would be lost for Black after 43...Nxd5? 44.cxd5 Kxd5 45.c4+ Kc5 46.Kc3] **44.Nxf6 Nb2+ 45.Kc2 Nc4 46.Kd3 Nb2+ 47.Kd2 Nc4+ 48.Ke2 a4 49.Nd7+ Kd5 50.Nf8 Nd6!** This is the move that holds the draw. White will win the g6 pawn but Black will get the g3 pawn in return after ...Ne4. **51.Kd3 Ne4 52.Nxg6 Nxg3 53.Nh4 Kc5** White is a full pawn ahead now, but there is no way to win with so few (and vulnerable pawns on the board. **54.Kc2 Kd5 55.Kb2 Kc4 56.Ka3 Ne2! 57.Nxf5 Nxf4 58.Kxa4 Nd5 59.Nd6+ Kxc3 60.Kb5 Kb2 61.a4 Nc3+ 62.Kb4 Nxa4 1/2-1/2**

(2) FM Maximillian Lu (waterisgood1) (1977) - FM Robert Shlyakhtenko (Robert_Shlyakhtenko) (2252) [A01]

Live Chess Chess.com, 26.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Bg4 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Bxf3 Bd6 8.c4 c6



White's double fianchetto opening has gained the two bishops, but Black has a slight lead in development and a solid central pawn structure. Chances are even. **9.d4 Ne4!** The threat of 10...Bb4+ compels White to make a decision. He decides to trade the bishop for the centralized knight on e4. **10.Bxe4 dxe4 11.e3?!** [11.Qd2 f5 12.Nc3 is more flexible. The white pawn on e2 would help to cover the light squares.] **11...0-0 12.Qc2 f5 13.Nd2 b5!? 14.cxb5 cxb5 15.Qc6 Bb4** Black gives a pawn to trouble the white king still stuck in the center. **16.Qxb5?!** [16.Qxe6+ Kh8 17.Rd1 is close to equal] **16...Rb8 17.Qc6?**



17...Nc5! Seizing the opportunity after the white queen moved to the wrong square (e2 or c4 was better). Now both 18...Nd3+ and 18...Rb6 trapping the queen are threatened. **18.Rd1** [18.dxc5 Qxd2+ 19.Kf1 Qxb2; 18.0-0 Rb6 traps the queen] **18...Nd3+ 19.Ke2 Nxb2 20.Qxe6+ Kh8 21.Rb1 Rb6! 22.Qe5 Nd3** White resigned as he is a piece down and now also loses the queen. **0-1**

(3) IM Justin Wang (JustinWang1234) (2331) - IM Arthur Guo (ArthurGuo) (2278) [B90]

Live Chess Chess.com, 27.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 This move is just as effective as the other 6th move choices White has against the Najdorf. **6...e5 7.Nb3 b5 8.g4 Bb7 9.Bg2 h6 10.Be3 Nbd7 11.a4!?** This could be a little premature. **11...b4 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 a5! 14.0-0 Be7 15.f4?!** Again Justin moves a pawn up that probably should wait for a better moment. **15...Ba6 16.Rf3 0-0 17.f5 Bh4 18.Bf2 Bg5** [18...Bxf2+! 19.Rxf2 Rc8 20.Nd2 Nf6 is simply a great position for Black. He has the better bishop and good lines for his pieces.] **19.Nd2 Nf6 20.c4 e4?!**



It is too tempting to win material. Black keeps and edge with the positional [20...bxc3 21.Rxc3 Rb8] **21.Re3! Bxe3 22.Bxe3** White is happy with this exchange sacrifice. The Black pieces are blocked by the white pawns, the black pawn on e4 is vulnerable, and White has the chances on the kingside due to the power of the dark-squared bishop. **22...Qe7!?** [22...Re8] **23.b3 Qe5 24.Nf1 g6?** This leads to a blocked up position where White has all the chances. What is needed is to open lines for the black pieces, even at the cost of material. So much better would be [24...Nxd5! 25.cxd5 Bd3 with chances for both sides, e.g. 26.f6 Rfc8 27.fxg7 Rc3 28.Bxh6 Rxb3 29.Qe1 Ra3 30.Rc1 Bxf1 31.Qxf1 e3 and it is Black who has more control.] **25.Bd4! Qe7 26.Qd2 Kh7 27.Qb2 Nd7 28.f6! Qd8 29.Re1 Re8 30.Qf2**



30...Re5 It was so hard for Black to do anything that he gives back the exchange (and a pawn). This is not good, but everything else is also bad. **31.Bxe5 dxe5 32.Rxe4 Nxf6?!** [32...Rc8 33.Nd2 Kg8 34.Re3 Nc5] **33.Rxe5 Qd6 34.Re3** White is a pawn up with connected, passed c and d pawns. The position is winning with proper care. **34...Kg7 35.Ng3 Re8 36.Rxe8 Nxe8 37.Qe3 Nf6 38.Kf2 Nd7 39.Qd4+ Kg8 40.Qe3 Kg7 41.Bf3 Nc5 42.Ne4 Nxe4+ 43.Qxe4** The queen and bishop ending gives Black many opportunites for checks, so Justin has trouble getting his pawns moving. **43...Qf6 44.Qd3 Qb2+ 45.Be2 Qf6+ 46.Kg2 Qe5 47.Kf2 Qf6+ 48.Qf3 Qe5 49.Qe3 Qh2+ 50.Ke1 Qh1+ 51.Kd2 Qa1 52.d6?!** [52.Bd1] **52...Qb2+ 53.Ke1 Qa1+ 54.Bd1 Bc8 55.c5 Bd7 56.Kd2 Qb2+ 57.Bc2 Qf6?!** [Arthur missed a chance to cause trouble with 57...h5! since 58.gxh5?! Bf5 59.Ke1 Qxc2 60.Qd4+ Kh6 61.hxg6 Kxg6 62.d7 Bxd7 63.Qxd7 Qxc5 is equal] **58.Be4 Qb2+ 59.Ke1 Qe5 60.Ke2 Qb2+ 61.Kf3 Qh2?** going for the h-pawn, but this lets Justin finally advance. Better was [61...Qf6+] **62.Qd4+ Kh7 63.c6! Qxh3+ 64.Kf2 Qh2+ 65.Ke3 Qg1+ 66.Kd3 Qf1+ 67.Kc2 Qe2+ 68.Kc1 Qe1+ 69.Kb2 Qe2+ 70.Bc2** Black must lose the bishop for the pawns now. **70...Bxc6 71.d7 Bxd7 72.Qxd7** Though there are still many checks to come, the outcome is certain as the bishop is strong against the black pawns. **72...Qe5+ 73.Kb1 Kg7 74.Qb5 Qe1+ 75.Kb2 Qc3+ 76.Kc1 Qe1+ 77.Bd1 Qc3+ 78.Kb1 Qd4 79.Qe2 Kf6 80.Qa6+ Kg7 81.Be2 Qg1+ 82.Kc2 Qc5+ 83.Qc4 Qe5 84.Kd3! Kg8 85.Qd4 Qe6 86.Bd1 Qa6+ 87.Kd2 Qc8 88.Bf3 Qc7 89.Qc4 Qd6+ 90.Ke3 Qe5+ 91.Kd3 Qb2 92.Bd5! Qb1+ 93.Kd4 Qg1+ 94.Ke5** The white king runs for shelter on Black's queenside. **94...Kg7 95.Kd6 Qb6+ 96.Kd7 Qf6 97.Qc5 Qg5 98.Qxa5 Qxg4+ 99.Kc7 h5 100.Qc5 Qf4+ 101.Kb7 Qf5 102.Qc6 Qe5 103.a5 Qe7+ 104.Qc7 Qe8 105.Bc6** no checks and the bishop stops the black h-pawn. **105...Qe3 106.a6 Qxb3 107.a7 1-0**

(4) IM Andrew Zhang Hong (SpeedofLight0) (2261) - FM Maximillian Lu (waterisgood1) (1953) [B01]

Live Chess Chess.com, 26.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 This is certainly playable, but a somwhat passive variation of the Center Counter Defense. **4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3! Bxf3 7.Qxf3 c6 8.Be3 e6 9.Bd3** With the two bishops and slightly more territory White has an opening edge. **9...Be7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Bf4 0-0 12.Rad1 Nd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5** [slightly more solid, though more passive is 13...exd5 14.Rfe1 Bf6 15.c3] **14.Rfe1 Qb6 15.Bc1 Bf6 16.c3 Qc6 17.h4!** White needs more than the queen and bishops to make a successful attack against the black kingside. The pawns come up to help. **17...b5 18.g4**



18...e5? Black over reacts to the white pawn storm on the kingside and makes a central break that doesn't work. [no good was 18...Bxh4? 19.Qh3 g5 20.Bxg5; relatively best was 18...g6 19.g5 Bg7 20.h5 Rfe8 21.Bf4 though White is still clearly better] **19.g5! e4**

20.Rxe4! snatching a key central pawn and bringing the white pieces to life **20...Bd8** [20...dxe4 21.Bxe4 Qc8 22.gxf6 Rb8?! *(22...Nxf6 23.Bxa8 Qxa8 24.Qxa8 Rxa8 25.Re1* is a winning endgame*)* 23.Bxh7+! Kxh7 24.Qh5+ Kg8 25.fxg7 Kxg7 26.Bh6+ is a quick finish] **21.Rde1 Bc7 22.Re7 Rad8 23.h5 a6 24.Qf5 g6 25.hxg6 hxg6 26.Qh3 Nb6 27.Kg2 Rfe8**

28.Bxg6! A great finish to powerful attack. It is checkmate in three no matter what. **1-0**

(5) IM Arthur Guo (ArthurGuo) (2339) - IM Christopher Yoo (ChristopherYoo) (2279) [B11]

US Cadet ch Chess.com (5), 27.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bh5 The less travelled path, but leading to prickly positions. [4...Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 is balance, with the pawns complementing the remaining bishop.] **5.g4 Bg6** Now White can lean on various weak aspects of Black's position (a4-e8 diagonal, vulnerable bishop on g6) but an alert Black stays out of danger. **6.exd5 cxd5 7.Bb5+** [Currently the computers go for 7.d4 e6 8.h4] **7...Nc6 8.Ne5 Rc8 9.d4 e6 10.h4** [A strong case could be made for 10.Qe2 , gently pressuring e6 thus preventing an ...f7-f6 response to h3-h4.] **10...f6 11.Nxg6** [11.Bxc6+ first makes sense, to keep the rook from getting into the game. Yes, it gives Black a stronger center, but that's a maybe versus a definitely (pressure on c3). If White values the two bishops so much, then perhaps 7.Bb5+ wasn't the right move to begin with!] **11...hxg6 12.Be3** [12.Qd3 first keeps Black from developing bishop and knight right away. 12...Kf7 13.Bxc6 Rxc6 14.Ne2!?] **12...Bb4** [12...Kf7 13.Qf3 Qb6 14.0-0-0 Bb4 15.Bxc6 Rxc6 16.Ne2 0-1 (42), Arjun,K (2477)-Sevian,S (2660) chess.com INT 2020. White was doing quite well before going off the rails.] **13.Qd3 Nge7 14.0-0-0**

14...Qa5!?N [Previously there had been 14...Kf7 15.Ne2 Na5 16.c3 1-0 (33) Garcia,G (2445)-Gonzalez,G Tunja 1991] **15.Na4 a6 16.Bxc6+ Nxc6 17.Qb3 b5 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.dxc5 Qb4! 20.Qxb4 Nxb4 21.a3 Nc6**

A textbook situation. Bad bishop, mobile central pawns -- Christopher just grinds it down. **22.f4 Kf7 23.Bf2 Rcd8 24.Bg3 d4 25.c3 dxc3** [25...Rd5] **26.bxc3 e5** [26...Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 Rd8 28.Rxd8 Nxd8 29.c4 gives White more chances] **27.fxe5 fxe5 28.Kc2 Ke6** The centalized black king and passed e-pawn give black a clear edge. **29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.h5 gxh5 31.gxh5 Rd7 32.Bf2 Rf7 33.Be3 Na5 34.h6 gxh6 35.Rxh6+ Rf6 36.Rxf6+ Kxf6**

Perhaps White can hold, but it's difficult. **37.Kd3 Ke6 38.Ke4?** [38.c6! Nxc6 39.c4 was the best chance to hold.Now Black just takes control.] **38...Nc4 39.Bc1 a5 40.Bh6 Nxa3 41.c6 Nc4 42.Bf8 a4 43.c7 Kd7 44.Kd5 a3 45.Bxa3 Nxa3 46.Kxe5 Kxc7 47.Kd5 Kb6 48.Kd4 Ka5 49.Kc5 Ka4 50.Kd4 Kb3 51.Kd3 Nb1 52.c4 bxc4+ 0-1**

(6) IM Christopher Yoo (ChristopherYoo) (2293) - IM Justin Wang (JustinWang1234) (2271) [C84]

US Cadet ch Chess.com (6), 27.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 This line is usually called the Center Attack, although Bologan calls it the Loewenthal-Anderssen Line (it's that old!). It isn't seen very often at all at the highest level, but a number of grandmasters (Gashimov, Tregubov, Krasenkow, Zapata) are fond of it. And also one Christopher Yoo plays it much more often than not! It does avoid the Marshall Attack, as well as the Open Variation and some other lesser lines. And it offers White straightforward development and piece activity. Think Tal.. . And another factor: at this point Christopher was a point ahead of the field. A draw would lock up at least a first-place tie. That might have affected his opening choice. But what's to affect? This is his line. Let's look briefly at how his repertoire here has gone. **5...exd4 6.0-0** Over 5000 games, with a slight plus score. [6.c3 Five games, but 90%! Gambit!; 6.e5 Ne4 7.0-0 Nc5 8.Bb3 Nxb3 9.axb3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 is a transposition.] **6...Be7** Standard and best result. [6...d6 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Qf3 c5 10.Nf5 Bc6 11.Nc3 Nd7 12.Nd5 g6 13.Qc3 f6 14.Nh6 1-0 (29), Yoo,C (2455)-Pan,K (2106) PNWCC Online Masters Artist Point, chess.com INT 07.09.2020 not even three weeks before out game.; 6...b5 7.Bb3 Be7 8.e5 Ne4 9.Bd5 Nc5 10.Nxd4 Bb7 11.Nf5 Bf8 12.Qg4 1-0 (32) Yoo,C (2455)-Mei,A (1962) chess.com INT 2020] **7.e5**

[7.Re1 (often by transposition) has been most common, but 7...b5!? *(7...0-0 8.e5)* 8.e5 (8.Bb3 d6 9.Bd5 Nxd5!? *(9...Bb7; 9...Bd7)* 10.exd5 Ne5 11.Nxd4 0-0 *(11...Bd7!?)* 12.a4! Bg4! and here, also Black has done pretty well in practice.) 8...Nxe5!? 9.Rxe5 d6! has been rough on White.; 7.Nxd4?? is a version of the classic Noah's Ark Trap: 7...Nxd4 8.Qxd4 c5 9.Qd3 b5-+] **7...Ne4 8.Nxd4 0-0** [8...Nc5 9.Nf5 *(9.Bxc6 dxc6 10.Nc3 0-0* 1-0 (35) Yoo,C (2455)-Brown,M (2509) chess.com INT 2020*)* 9...g6 **a)** 9...Ne6 10.Qg4 Kf8 11.Re1 h5 12.Qd1 Nc5 13.Bb3 Nxb3 14.axb3 d5 15.Nxe7 Nxe7 16.Bg5 1-0 (47) Yoo,C (2455)-Wen,Y (2082) chess.com INT 2020; **b)** 9...0-0 10.Qg4 g6 11.Bxc6 dxc6 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.Qg3 Re8 14.Re1 Ne6 *(14...Bf5 15.Bg5 f6 16.Bf4 Ne4 17.Qb3+ Qf7 18.Qxb7* 1-0 (40) Yoo,C (2455)-Nasuta,G (2558) chess. com INT 2020*)* 15.Nc3 Rd8 16.Ne4 Bd7 17.Nf6+ Kh8 18.Qh3 h5 19.Qe3 Qf8 20.b3 1-0 (45) Yoo,C (2455)-Seul,G (2372) chess.com INT 2020; **c)** 9...Bf8!? 10.Nd6+? Christopher tries too hard to punish Black's backward play; (10.Re1! Nxa4 *(10...g6!? 11.Bxc6 dxc6 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.Bg5++/=)* 11.Qg4 d5 12.exd6 Be6 13.Bg5! is a plus for White) 10...cxd6 11.exd6 Ne6-+ 0-1 (28) Yoo,C (2455)-Gharibyan,M (2433) Lichess.org INT 2020; 10.Nxe7 Qxe7 11.Nc3 Nxa4 12.Nd5 Qd8 13.Nf6+ Kf8 14.Bh6+ Ke7 15.Bg7 Rg8 16.Nd5+ Ke6 17.Bf6 1-0 (17) Yoo,C (2455)-Pichot,A (2630) lichess.org INT 2020; 8...Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Nc5 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Bb3 d6 12.Bf4 dxe5 13.Qxe5 Nxb3 *(13...Bd6 14.Qd4 Nxb3* 1-0 (66) Yoo,C (2455)-Estrada Nieto,J (2280) chess.com INT 2020*)* 14.cxb3!? Bd6 15.Qd4 Bxf4 16.Qxf4 Be6 17.Rfe1 c6 *(17...Qd6?! 18.Qxd6 cxd6 19.Rad1* 1-0 (66) Yoo,C (2455)-Estrada Nieto,J (2280) chess.com INT 2020*)* 18.h4 Qb6?! 1-0 (36) Yoo,C (2455)-Vivekananthan,A (2239) chess.com INT 2020 19.Na4 would be some advantage] **9.Re1** [9.Nf5 d5 10.Nxe7+ Nxe7 11.c3 Nc5 12.Bc2 Bf5 ½-½ 38, Tregubov,P (2588)-Efimenko,Z (2601) Germany 2019] **9...Nxd4** [9...Nc5 10.Bxc6 dxc6 11.Nc3 Re8 12.Be3 Bf8 13.f4 f6! *(13...Qh4 14.Nf3 Qh5 15.h3* 0-1 (50) Yoo,C (2455)-Paul,J (2231) chess.com INT 2020*; 13...Ne6 14.Nf3 Qxd1?! 15.Raxd1+/-* 1/2-1/2 (39) Yoo,C (2455)-Pogosyan,S (2442) chess.com INT 2020*)* 14.Qh5 fxe5 15.fxe5 g6?! *(15...Be6)* 16.Qe2 1-0 (35) Yoo,C (2455)-Brown,M (2509) chess.com INT 2020] **10.Qxd4 Nc5 11.Nc3 d6 12.Bb3** [Bologan gives 12.exd6 Bxd6 13.Be3 b5 14.Bb3 Nxb3 15.cxb3 Bb7 16.Ne4 Bxh2+ as "the simplest way to level the game."] **12...dxe5 13.Qxe5 Bd6 14.Qh5 Nxb3** [14...Qf6 15.Bd5 Bf5 Gutierrez Dopino - Helmreich, ICCF 2008; Black has the better side of equality.] **15.axb3**

15...f6?!N Justin must have prepared considerably for this game, given how often Christopher play this line, but out here he starts to slip up. [15...Bd7 16.Ne4 *(16.Bg5 f6 17.Be3 Bc6* 1/2-1/2 (30) Jones,R (1966)-Mensing,F (2119) Dresden GER 2008*)* 16...Bc6 17.Nxd6 Qxd6 18.Qg4 Rae8 19.Bf4 Qd4 20.c3 Qd5 21.c4 Qd4 22.Qg3 1/2-1/2 (22) Paulik,V (2311)-Dedina,M (2307) ICCF email 2011] **16.Ra4!?** A full-press rooklift has a psychological value on top of its actual strength! [Stockfish prefers 16.Qd5+ Kh8 17.Qf3] **16...g6?!** [16...Rf7 to only play ...g6 after 17.Rh4] **17.Qd5+ Kg7** [17...Rf7 18.Rd4 Qf8 19.Ne4 Be5 20.Rdd1] **18.Bf4 Bxf4 19.Rxf4 Bf5 20.Qxb7 Rb8 21.Qa7! Rb6** [21...Bxc2 22.Rd4] **22.Nd5+-** Yoo jumps to life. **22...Rf7**

23.Rxf5! gxf5 24.Nxb6 Qd2 25.Rf1 cxb6 26.Qxa6 Qxc2 27.Qxb6 Qxb2 28.b4 [28.h4!] **28...Re7 29.b5?!** [29.h4] **29...Re5**

At this point Christopher had 30 minutes of his original 70 remaining; Justin had 24. White is losing his b-pawn... **30.Qc7+ Kg6 31.b6 Rb5 32.h4 Rxb6** White still has some advantage, but the win isn't at all certain. **33.h5+ Kh6 34.Qf4+**

34...Kxh5? [34...Kg7! 35.Qxf5?! *(35.Rd1 Qe5; 35.Re1 Rb4 36.Qxf5 Rb5 37.Qf3 Qb4* Black puts up a defense.*)* 35...Rb5 Black will pick off the h5 pawn, with pretty dead equality.] **35.Qxf5+?** [35.Re1 is a win. 35...Kg6 36.Qg3+ Kf7 37.Qc7+ Kg6 38.Re7] **35...Kh6 36.Qh3+ Kg6 37.Qg4+ Kh6 38.Re1 Rb5!** It should be a draw now. **39.Qf4+ Kg6 40.Qe4+ Kh6 41.Qh4+ Kg6 42.Qg3+ Kh6 43.Qe3+ Kg6 44.Qd3+ Kh6 45.Qe3+ Kg6 46.Rd1 Qb3 47.Qe4+ Kh6 48.Rc1 Qb2 49.Qe3+ Kg6 50.Rd1 Qb3 51.Qe4+ Kh6 52.Qf4+ Kg6 53.Re1 Qb4 54.Qg3+** left **54...Kh6** left **55.Qe3+**

Kg6 56.Qd3+ Kh6 57.Qh3+ Kg6 58.Qg3+ Kh6 The position is repeated -- and Black actually has two seconds more! (White has burned over a minute.) **59.Qe3+ Kg6 60.g3 Rb7** [60...Rh5 61.Qd3+ Kh6 62.Re6 Qb2 among others] **61.Qe8+ Kg7 62.Re4** A bit touchy - Black has only one move. **62...Qb1+ 63.Kg2 Qd1 64.Qe6 h5! 65.Rf4**

65...Rf7? [65...Qa1! defends f6 as well as sets up ...Rb1. White has a way to avoid the perpetual: 66.Qd5 Rb1 67.Kh2 Re1 68.Qd7+ Kg6 but no progress...] **66.Qf5!** Now White is winning again. **66...Qe2** (3:43 left) Black thought on this move for a minute and a half, but it was too late to come up with anything. **67.Re4 Qd1 68.Rh4 Rc7** A full two minutes to admit that there was nothing. [68...Kh6 69.g4] **69.Rxh5 Qc2 70.Qg4+** [70.Qf4!] **70...Qg6 71.Qe2 Qc2 72.Qe3 Qg6 73.Rh4 Kf7 74.Qb3+ Kg7 75.Qe6 Qf7 76.Qf5 Kg8 77.Qg4+ Qg7 78.Qh5 Kf8 79.Rg4 Qh7 80.Qd5 Rd7 81.Qa8+ Kf7 82.Qa2+ Kf8 83.Rh4** [83.Qa6!] **83...Qg8 84.Qa3+ Kf7 85.Qb3+ Kf8 86.Qb4+ Kf7 87.Qc4+** An impressive will to win puts Christopher into a tournament victory with a round to spare. **1-0**

(7) FM Robert Shkyakhtenko (Robert_Shlyakhtenko) (2227) - IM Arthur Guo (ArthurGuo) (2324) [B23]

US Cadet ch Chess.com, 27.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 [Compared to 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 White still can use his f-pawn early.] **2...d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Qd2** This is actually a very modern system. A game in 1997, another in 2002 -- and then Carlsen played it in once in April 2018 and hundreds more games have happened since. The idea is Ioannis Simeonidis', who tells the whole story in New In Chess Yearbook 128. Very entertaining! Unless you meet this line uprepared as Black! [5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nf3 transposes into a fairly popular position for an "anti-" line.] **5...Nf6** [5...g6 6.b3 Bh6!? *(6...Bg7 7.Bb2 Nf6 8.0-0-0* White wasted a move with his queen -- and still castles faster than in the Dragon Variation!*)* 7.f4! (over a hundred games like that!)] **6.b3 e6 7.Bb2 a6** [7...d5!? 8.exd5 exd5 9.0-0-0 Be6 10.Kb1 Qa5 11.Nb5 Qxd2 12.Rxd2 Bb4 13.Re2 0-0-0 14.Nf3 Rhe8 15.Nfd4 Bd7 16.f3 a6 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Ba3 Bxa3 19.Nxa3 a5 ½-½ (37), Jones,G (2670)-Donchenko,A (2646) Playchess.com INT 2020] **8.0-0-0 b5 9.f3 Be7** [9...h5?! Standard prophylaxis in many Sicilian lines. But something is unusual -- the placement of White's knight which hasn't even moved. Carlsen finds: 10.Nh3! The hole on g5 is more dramatic than usually. 10...Be7 11.Ng5 h4 12.f4 Bb7 13.Kb1 Rc8 14.Be2 Qc7 15.Rhe1 Nh7 16.Nxh7 Rxh7 17.g4! 1-0 (31) Carlsen,M (2843) -Wojtaszek,R (2744) Shamkir AZE 2018] **10.Kb1** [10.g4? Bb7 **a)** 10...Nxg4!? 11.fxg4?? *(11.Nh3!)* 11...Bg5; **b)** 10...b4!? 11.Nce2 *(11.Na4?! Nxe4!)* 11...0-0=/+; 11.Kb1 was the move order in the Sargissyan-Averyanov game below.] **10...Bb7** [10...0-0; 10...h5!?] **11.g4**

11...Nd7!? Arthur appears to be theoretically quite current. [11...h6 was played twice previously, both games drawn.] **12.Bg2?!** Too slow. [12.h4!? Nce5?! *(12...0-0 13.g5 Nc5)* 13.g5 is quite good for White, although it later went South: *(13.a3!?)* 13...b4 14.Nce2 d5? 15.f4+- 0-1 (48) Sargissyan,S (2269)-Averyanov,G (2274) chess.com INT 2020] **12...Nc5 13.f4 0-0 14.g5 b4 15.Nce2 a5 16.Ng3 a4** White's king position is the first to be "served." Stockfish 12 gives Black a winning advantage. Lc0 is not so magnanimous. **17.N1e2 axb3** [17...Qa5! 18.Nc1 Na7! and Black is way too fast.] **18.cxb3 Qa5 19.Nc1 Rfd8** [Still, 19...Na7 puts White in severe difficulties.] **20.f5 Ne5 21.f6 Bf8**

As it turns out, this is pretty good for Black as well! **22.fxg7** [22.h4 Rdc8] **22...Bxg7-+** All four bishops are fianchettoed! But thanks to the pawn on e4, only three of them are feeling good about it. **23.Rhe1 Ncd3!** [23...Na4! was also good] **24.Nh5 Nxe1** [24...Nc4!] **25.Rxe1 Bh8!** [Or even 25...Ba6!] **26.Re3** Black drops the ball. Best is **26...Rdc8?!** [26...Ng4! 27.Rg3 Bxb2 28.Qxb2 Ne5 29.Nf6+ Kg7 The material advantage will play out.] **27.Nf6+ Bxf6 28.gxf6 Qc5** [28...Kh8] **29.Bd4**

29...Qc7? [29...Qxc1+! 30.Qxc1 Rxc1+ 31.Kxc1 Rxa2 32.Bb2 Ba6 is a win.] **30.Bxe5?** [30.Bb2!=] **30...dxe5** Black's back in the plus column **31.Rd3 Kh8 32.Rd7 Qc6 33.Rxf7 Rf8** [33...Ba6!] **34.Re7?! Rac8 35.Nd3**

35...Rfd8? [35...Rxf6 36.Nxe5 Qc5 Black is walking a tightrope to victory.] **36.Nxe5!!** secures a draw. **36...Rxd2 37.Nf7+ Kg8 38.Nh6+ Kh8** An exciting and important game for modern theory. [38...Kf8 39.Rf7+ Ke8 40.Re7+= Kd8?? 41.Nf7#] **39.Nf7+ Kg8 40.Nh6+ Kh8 41.Nf7+ 1/2-1/2**

(8) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2095) - IM Andrew Zhang Hong (SpeedofLight) (2243) [B85]

US Cadet ch Chess.com (6), 27.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

Andrew Hong was at 3-2, while Ruiyang Yan had had a horrible start at 0-5. But she came back this game with a bumpy but fine fighting game, which could have gone either way. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6** The Najdorf-Scheveningen, start of some of the greatest battles in modern chess. Play starts out quietly, but when the armies are in position and finally clash it is often fireworks. **7.Be3 Qc7 8.0-0 Be7 9.f4 0-0 10.Bf3** Rui often opts for balanced centralization. [10.Qe1 Nc6 11.Qg3 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.a3 Bb7 14.Rae1 Rad8 *(14...Bc6 15.Kh1 Qb7* was the older way to put pressure on White's e4. *16.Bd3 a5)* 15.Kh1 *(15.Bd3)* 15...Rd7 16.Bd3 Qd8 17.Qh3 g6 18.f5 e5 19.Be3 Re8 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.Nd5 Nxd522.Rxf7!! was Wei Yi - Bruzon Battista, Danzhou 2015. Another of the amazing games modern superstars have produced in this variation.; 10.a4 Nc6 11.Kh1 Re8 was the starting position of quite a few world championship games with Kasparov as Black, including the epic last game of the second match, November 9, 1985, which ended the era of Karpov as world champion and started the reign of Kasparov. Worth a look!; 10.g4!? has become the most-played move when you include the lower levels, 10...d5!? The classic "meeting a wing attack with a counter in the center" is the GM response.] **10...Nc6 11.Nxc6!?** White heads for a particular position, a sort of Maroczy Bind structure but with Black having better central control. **11...bxc6 12.Na4 Rb8 13.c4 c5 14.Qc2** to bring the knight back **14...Bb7** [14...Nd7 15.b3 Bb7 16.Rad1 Rbd8 17.g4 Nb8 18.Qg2 ½-½ (63) Hovhannisyan,R (2637)-Petrosyan,M (2579) Yerevan 2019] **15.Nc3 Nd7!?** Black starts the long journey to d4. **16.Rad1 Rbd8 17.b3** Not really necessary now; [Perhaps it's time for a kingside expansion: 17.g4; Or maybe after a preparatory 17.Kh1] **17...Nb8**

18.g4N [The precedent game took an unusual twist: 18.Qf2 Nc6 19.f5?! Bf6 20.Ne2 Ne5 21.Ng3 Bh4 22.Be2 Qe7 23.Qf4 g5!? 24.f6! gxf4 25.fxe7 fxe3!! 26.exd8Q Rxd8 is more than compensation, although White won eventually. 1-0 (47) , Danin,A (2543)-Golubka,P (2410) Belgorod 2011] **18...Nc6 19.Kh1 Bf6 20.Ne2 g6 21.Bf2 Bg7 22.Bg2 Nb4 23.Qb1 Qa5 24.Rd2**

24...d5!? 25.e5? This should fail, as Black takes over the d-file with various points of penetration. [25.Bh4!? Rd7 *(25...g5?! 26.Bxg5 f6!?* might be too much of an overreaction.*)* when White can create mass panic with 26.f5!?] **25...dxc4! 26.Rxd8 Bxg2+ 27.Kxg2 Rxd8 28.bxc4 Rd2** looks very strong! [But 28...Nd3! may well be better, The following lines are obviously computers in action: 29.Rd1 *(29.Bh4 Qd2!! 30.Bxd8 Qxe2+* somehow Black gets away with this! *31.Kg3 Nxe5!!)* 29...Nxf2 30.Rxd8+ Qxd8 31.Kxf2 Qh4+ 32.Kf3 h5! even better than taking the pawn -- White's king becomes a target.] **29.Qe4?!** White still has 30:49, while Black is on 11:49. [29.Ng3 Nd3!? *(29...h6!)* 30.Ne4 Nxf4+ 31.Kh1 Rxf2!]

29...Qxa2? Andrew used four minutes on this move, but it just gets in trouble. Now tactics are flying! [But 29...Nd3! (keeping c5 covered) appears to finally crash through (a2); and maybe ever better is 29...Bf8! outwaiting White, since 30.Qa8? Rxe2 just wins.] **30.Qa8+! Bf8 31.Bxc5!** Everybody burns their bridges. Now Black is on the edge of defeat. **31...Rxe2+ 32.Kg3!** Amazing is that this is the only move -- and that Rui found it! And in 15 seconds, still with over half an hour on her clock. The point is to have a rook interposition on f3 if the queen checks. [32.Kf3?? looks good at first, but 32...Qb3+! 33.Kxe2 Qxc4+ nabs the bishop on c5 with an easy win.]

32...Re3+!! Andrew used more than half of his time (going from 6:44 to 3:11)for this precise shot, drawing the bishop away for a precious moment. [32...Rg2+? 33.Kh4!! *(33.Qxg2?? Qxg2+ 34.Kxg2 Bxc5-+)* 33...Rxh2+ 34.Kg5 h6+ 35.Kf6+-] **33.Bxe3 Qxc4 34.Rc1 Qb3** After all those fireworks it's going to be a draw. **35.Rc8?!** [White could try to consolidate being up an exchange, 35.Qf3 Nd5 but that powerful knight and the extra, passed pawn should be enough to hold.] **35...Qxe3+ 36.Kh4 Qf2+ 37.Kh3** They must accept the perpetual: [37.Kg5?? is NOT the same as the line after 32...Rg2+? 33.Kh4!! 37...h6+ *(or 37...Kg7 38.Rxf8 h6#)* 38.Kf6 Qxf4#] **37...Qe3+ 38.Kh4 Qf2+ 39.Kh3 Qe3+ 40.Kh4** Andrew had 24 seconds left (to Rui's 24 minutes!) as the repetition registered. What a fight! Attack and tactical defense. Hong had the greater chances until he played too straightforward with ...Qxa2? **1/2-1/2**

(9) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2088) - FM Robert Shlyakhtenko (Robert_Shlyakhtenko) (2246) [C16] US Cadet ch Chess.com, 27.09.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

Rui just played an epic battle the round before, and coupled with her dreadful 0-5 beginning she must have just been out of steam. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6 5.a3 Bf8 6.Nf3 Ne7 7.Be3** [7.h4 (Alpha Zero? Okay, yes, but standard in these blocked Winawer French's. 7...h6 8.Bf4 Ba6 9.Bxa6 Nxa6 10.Qd3 Nb8 11.b4 ½-½ (36), Kryvoruchko,Y (2708)-Jussupow,A (2583) Switzerland 2017] **7...Qd7** If you've never seen this system you'd think Black didn't know the basic principles of development and deployment! But once the center is blocked, different rules apply -- and Black can bend them considerably. (Also note the Black player in the game above: Artur Yusupov was #3 behind the K's for quite a while.) **8.Qd2**

8...h6N [8...Ba6 is one of the main ideas (bad bishop trade-off) 9.Bxa6 Nxa6 10.b4 c6 11.0-0 Nf5 12.Qe2 Nc7 13.g4 Nxe3 14.fxe3 Be7 when Black doesn't look bad at all; 0-1 (38) Tonnicchi,C (2049)-Werbeck,T (2265) Euskirchen 1999] **9.Nd1** Not a happy square, but it could figure later on e3 or even b2 (after b2-b4) [9.b4!? Ba6 10.b5; 9.h4!?] **9...Bb7** Trying to keep pieces on the board may be more than the position demands. **10.c3** [Again, expansion with 10.h4 was called for. There's no reason to voluntarily put all your pawns on the same color...] **10...a5 11.Bd3 a4** Black rules the light squares. White's space might still be important, but look how effortlessly Black improves over the next dozen or so moves. **12.0-0 Ba6 13.Ne1 Bxd3 14.Nxd3 Nbc6 15.f4 Na5 16.Qe2 Qb5 17.Bf2 Nb3 18.Rb1 c5**

Robert has built and built while Rui has nothing going on the kingside. This was a well-chosen opening to exploit her tendency for somewhat stodgy central play. **19.Re1?** [19.dxc5] **19...Rc8?** [Simply 19...cxd4! wins a pawn. 20.Bxd4 (20.cxd4 Nf5 *(20...Nc6)*) 20...Nxd4 21.cxd4 Nf5] **20.Nc1** [20.dxc5] **20...Qd7?!** [20...Qxe2 21.Rxe2 *(21.Nxe2 g6)* 21...Nc6 *(21...Kd7 22.Nxb3 axb3 23.Rd2)* 22.Nxb3 axb3 23.Rd2 Na5 24.Ne3 h5 25.f5!?] **21.Nxb3 axb3 22.Ne3 Nc6 23.Red1?!** [23.Rbd1! and White is starting to look good] **23...Be7 24.Qf3?** [24.f5!?; Or even better, 24.h4 h5 25.f5 so no ...Bg5] **24...g6! 25.g4 cxd4?!** was there a hurry? **26.cxd4 h5 27.h3 hxg4 28.hxg4 Qa7 29.Rbc1 Qb7** [29...Qa6 of course!] **30.Rc3 Na5 31.Be1 Kd7 32.Rdc1 Rxc3 33.Bxc3** [33.Rxc3!] **33...Qc6 34.Bd2 Qb5 35.Bxa5?! bxa5**

36.Nf1? [Now 36.Nd1 is more sensible.] **36...Rc8** [36...Rh4] **37.Rxc8 Kxc8 38.Nd2 a4** Now ...Qc2 at some properly prepared point is a big problem -- and White has to always worry about ...Bxa3. **39.Nb1??** Too worried! [39.Qc3+ Kd7 40.Kf2 Bh4+ 41.Kf3 Be1 42.Ke3 hangs on, precariously.] **39...Kd7 40.Qf1** [40.Qc3 Qe2 is disaster.] **40...Qc6 41.Nc3**

41...Bd8 [41...Bxa3 works just fine.] **42.f5!** Rui grabs a chance. **42...gxf5 43.gxf5** White should draw now -- Black always has to watch for perpetual or penetration, either at b5 or f7. **43...Bb6 44.fxe6+ fxe6 45.Qf7+ Kc8 46.Qf8+** [46.Ne2; 46.Qf4] **46...Kb7 47.Qb4 Qc4 48.Qe7+ Bc7 49.Qxe6 Qxd4+ 50.Kg2 Qxe5 51.Qd7! Qg5+ 52.Kf3 Qf6+ 53.Ke2 Qa6+ 54.Kd2** The vulnerable Black king and pawns make it impossible for Black to win. **54...Qh6+ 55.Ke2 Qh2+ 56.Kd3 Qc2+ 57.Kd4 Qd2+ 58.Kc5 Qe3+ 59.Kb5??** Ruiyang walks into mate. [59.Kxd5 when Black has nothing better than perpetual, either to White's king or Black's.] **59...Qd3+ 60.Kxa4 Qc4#** An exasperating end to a tournament Ruiyang would probably just forget. **0-1**

Final standings are here:

SwissSys Standings. 2020 Cadet: Cadet

#	Name	ID	Rating	St	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	Prize
1	IM Christopher W Yoo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15244943)	15244943	2540	CA	ChristopherYoo	W6	W8	D2	W5	W4	W3	D7	6.0	600.00
2	FM Christopher Shen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14432243)	14432243	2424	OH	cys9772	W8	D5	D1	L4	D3	W7	W6	4.5	300.00
3	IM Justin Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14930904)	14930904	2540	TX	JustinWang1234	D5	W7	D6	W8	D2	L1	W4	4.5	300.00
4	IM Arthur Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14772092)	14772092	2446	GA	ArthurGuo	W7	D6	W8	W2	L1	D5	L3	4.0	
5	FM Robet Shlyakhtenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14951916)	14951916	2459	CA	Robert_Shlyakhtenko	D3	D2	W7	L1	D6	D4	W8	4.0	
6	IM Andrew Zhang Hong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14941904)	14941904	2533	CA	SpeedofLight0	L1	D4	D3	W7	D5	D8	L2	3.0	
7	FM Maximillian Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14732597)	14732597	2431	CT	waterisgood1	L4	L3	L5	L6	W8	L2	D1	1.5	
8	WCM Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)	15462690	2242	CA	jij2018	L2	L1	L4	L3	L7	D6	L5	0.5	

Attaining Goals: Chess and Walking

As chess players, we understand goal setting. The fundamental measure of success for many of us are ratings, and we put a high value on the different rating categories as rungs on a ladder we are trying to climb. It provides us a baseline for measuring our growth, and they serve to motivate us to train and improve. I remember when I was actively playing I studied a few hours a day (without the benefit of computers or online play) and was able to raise my rating quite quickly. I played every rated tournament I could, and I had the double benefit of living in an area that had frequent events and could play these events with a group of friends. We played, studied, and helped each other get better. I remember encountering two instances along my growth path where I hit "the wall," a threshold for which I had difficulty getting past. My first was at the 1500 level, where one can no longer count on your opponent to make obvious mistakes. The second was breaking 2000, where I discovered you need to understand small positional advantages and weaknesses and having the patience to slowly improve the position and let it dictate your play. Thankfully, I did get past both. However, I was not going to be able to get past that level, and I knew it. Improving beyond that required coaching and training, and I simply was not going to be able to put in the time to yield the results that would dictate improvement beyond 2000. The work I had done allowed me to win some scholastic titles and tournaments, and it added to my enjoyment of playing chess. I stopped playing around the year 1990.

Since the COVID-19 lockdown, I have had to work from home. Given my restless nature, I needed to find an activity that helped occupy my mind that was fun and good for me. I have my own daily workout routine that I do at about 5am every morning which is about a half of an hour and very simple, and is mostly strength training. I'm 47 years old so I need to keep it somewhat simple in order to keep motivated, but I wanted to add running to my exercise routine. However, I was worried about the impact of running on my knees, and let's face it, the thought of running for fun, no matter how beneficial for me, was going to be difficult for me to sustain.

I spoke to Jen Desideri, our Accounting Manager at the Mechanics' Institute who has completed over 200 half marathons and is an avid runner, stair-climber and walker, and she suggested to me walking as exercise. Now for me, the thought of walking as a deliberate form of exercise was the equivalent of playing chess as exercise. I didn't seriously consider it until I hurt my leg while attempting to run, an apparent IT band injury that I did not want to make worse. So, I decided to give walking a chance.

As I have started walking as a serious activity, I have found that it has many similarities to chess. Here are just a few I have derived.

Getting Past the Wall

Walking seems easy, so how can it possibly yield results? After a few months, I was challenged to walk 100 miles in a month, which became my first goal. I downloaded a running app that tracks distance using GPS, as well as results. At first, I thought walking long distances could not be difficult, the only challenge being what would I do to keep my mind occupied while I walked and what kind of pace would I need to maintain to feel a workout. I had it in my mind that I was going to attempt a half marathon (13.1 miles) walking, a 2nd goal, and after several smaller walks of 2-5 miles, I felt ready and motivated to go after the half marathon goal, I mean, it's just walking…right?

Walking the first 7-8 miles was fine, though I could feel my legs tightening but painfully. I had just had a coffee I had been enjoying and was listening to a YouTube video while walking so I had my entertainment. At mile nine, I had hit my wall for sure. My legs were starting to hurt, and the thought of calling Uber to save me at least crossed my mind. I tried to rationalize several excuses to stop walking, like I didn't want to further hurt my legs or knees, or that I needed to get back to start working on something, or I didn't need to complete 13.1 miles today. These would have, of course, all been excuses. It's amazing how much of this is mental, pretty much all of it. I knew I could finish 13.1 miles walking, but the thought crossed my mind to find a way to stop. The trick is finding it within yourself to push past that urge to stop, and realize if I stop for this, I'll stop for other things. So I pressed on and finished, and was proud of what I had accomplished. Had I stopped, I'm sure I could have convinced myself I had to, but the reality would be that I'd stop more easily in something else, not a habit I want to develop. I've had enough things in life I stopped before finishing, this would be a good time to keep pressing forward.

Chess players know this feeling all too well. While I did get past a few walls in my playing career, there was one which I could not. I was never going to make master, the timing was just not right for me to do it and I didn't have the motivation for me to put in the work to do it. Nowadays my motivation is geared towards getting past walls in event organizing and creating innovative opportunities for the club,

Strategizing the Goal

When I first looked at what it would take to walk 100 miles in a month, I started to realize that was no easy task. Between work, family, moods, injury, and about a dozen other things that can happen on any given day, it is actually quite a difficult task to accomplish, especially for a novice. I remember thinking I just need to break it up into smaller goals, walking about 25 miles a week, which is only just over 3.5 miles a day. But some days I had to skip because of air quality, other days because of heat, so then I rearranged my walks to early mornings, and some days I'd be helping organize a large event so I'd miss several days, and all this needed to be taken into consideration. This meant some days I had to do more in anticipation of the obstacles that could jump in my way to stop me. I truly felt like I was playing chess in trying to reach my goal, planning my candidate moves ahead of time and going to plan B and C when I had to. Often times I was taking work calls during walks and answering emails, maximizing precious time.

Finding New Purpose

I began walking with the idea of getting exercise, but as I began walking, I saw the that the benefits went far beyond physical. It felt good to be outside, especially when you are told not to go outdoors. When I walk, I'll walk to college campuses - San Jose State University and Santa Clara University are on my route. I have a place I go to at mile 2.8 where I often stop and get a coffee. I enjoy people watching as I walk and seeing random things like birds or flowers. The mental health benefits of walking I believe have outweighed the physical benefits, though it is good to have had both. Walking has stopped being a painful activity that I need to get motivated for and has now become something I look forward to.

Chess has been the same for me. I started as a young player with dreams of being the best and improving and being a master. I got through two difficult walls, and made expert, but I knew I could not be a top player. I stopped playing when I was about 18. It was not until 20 years later that I decided to come back to chess, not as a player, but as a coach and organizer. I loved chess and wanted to be around it, but now I focused on where I thought my talents were better suited through chess: coaching students, building teams, and working with kids.

Sometimes you find new purpose in an activity you do, but do so because you find a better way or better fit to do the activity. And sometimes the goal you set out to do leads to new goals you never thought possible.

Here is my tracker, 103.2 miles in September, and a half marathon on October 1st. Figured a good idea to start October right, and thankfully I had the proper motivation to push past today's 9 mile wall.

Ray Conway Tuesday Night Marathon Online Begins Tuesday October 6!

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 to Tuesday, October 27, 2020
Mechanics' Institute Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon Online
USCF Online Rated!

via Chess.com, Open for everyone!

2 rounds of G/35+2 each night: Round times are: 6:30PM & 8PM

Time control: 8SS G/35+2. (Game in 35 minutes with 2 second increement with each move.)

MUST Register in order to play: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/October2020TuesdayNightMarathon
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/October2020TuesdayNightMarathon)

Registration deadline in order to be paired in Round 1: 3PM on 9/8. Anyone registering after that will get a 0.5 point bye. Late registrations *might* be paired for extra rated games, but it's not guaranteed.

Eligibility - Players must have:

- current US Chess Federation membership
- chess.com account that is part of Mechanics' Chess Club (free account is perfectly sufficient) -- Don't have one yet? Easy to make, just follow the instructions below.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/october-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online#Join)

Format:

- 8 rounds of G/35+2 - more details on tournament details here. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/october-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online#info)
- One OPEN section
- paired based on OTB or ONL Oct 2020 supplemental regular rating!
- paired based on swiss tournament rules
- NEW: pairing will be done manually using match command on chess.com. You'll need to be on chess.com/live and wait for your game to pop up!

- NEW: Pairing will be posted for Round 1, Round 3, Round 5 and Round 7 on Tuesdays 4:30PM
- if you register after Tuesday 3:00PM, you'll still be able to join the tournament, but you'll be paired as an extra rated, and will be given a 0.5 point bye for the first round.
- Players have to be online on chess.com/live when Round 1 starts, and their game will be started by the Chief TD.
- Chief TD will have a list of match commands needed to be executed one by one: IF players are not online when pairing is executed, they'll be put at the end of the list, and match command will be tried one more time. Two times not present on chess.com/live will automatically get a 0F.
- Late registraitons *might* be paired up for extra rated games, but it's not guaranteed.
- Games will be US Chess Online regular rated - tournament will be submitted 5-7 days after the tourament to allow all games to be screened for fair play. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/october-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online#fair%20play)

Rules: standard USCF rules apply.

Mouse slips count, no takebacks.

If player is not logged in to live chess when pairings occur, we will assign a 0 point bye

Section prizes will be awarded based on USCF standard rating

Prizes: $600 based on 40 paid entries

Fair Play

US Chess online rated tournament - most USCF rules and consequences apply.
Players should not use any outside assistance: not have other browsers open and not be talking to other people during their games
Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their kids' activity during the tournament to ensure fair play.
All games will be carefully reviewed by chess.com and Mechanics' Institue Chess club staff during and after the event.
Players found or believed to be violating fair play are not eligible for a prize and their account will be removed from Mechanics' group.
Players who are confirmed to be using outside assistance will be reported to US Chess and restricted from future Mechanics' online and over-the-board events.

Parents - Please help us educate your child that IT'S SIMPLY NOT WORTH THE RISK!

For some helpful links regarding fair play, please check these out:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KHWnA9snAQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2UAZBQvHRyTlc1f7t9UtcwEJW43YmPOgb22fXeP_imQ4Nga07Knx2Dyws
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knvySXCNfd8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7PI9Q9uoSE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5KaxBW7rlU

Fair play screening: all games will be screened by both Chess.com and by Dr. Kenneth W. Regan, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University at Buffalo.

The Organizer and/or the Chief Tournament Director can require players to play their games with a camera that records the player playing with a view to the screen. Players should be prepared to provide this precaution if asked to do so.

Prize distributions and rating submission will take place AFTER all games have been screened.

Entry Fee

MI library member: $30
Non-MI library member: $40

Registraton deadline: 2 hours before tournament start time to be included in the pairing, any registration after - first round is not guaranteed.

Tournament Informaiton

What are the time controls mean?
Time controls are telling you how much time you have for each game.
G35+2 for example: Game in 35 minutes with 2 second increment. This means you get 35 minutes, your opponent gets 35 minutes and with each move every player gets 2 second added to the clock. So one game can last up to 70-80 minutes.

How many games/rounds?
The 8SS before the time control means how many rounds, i.e. how many games can a player play in the tournament. The tournaments are never elimination, so win or lose you can stay in the tournament.

Late joins: if you joining late, you'll get zero(0) points for each missed rounds.

Sections: One open section

Pre-requested byes: since we are pairing manually, based on OTB ratings, pre-requestd byes now available. You must let us know by Tuesday noon.

How to join us?

If you would like to play in our online tournaments, you must

1) Register for the event -- we need to know your full name, and chess.com ID

2) have an account on chess.com; -- don't have one? Sign up now! (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chess.com/register?returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2F)

3) join our club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-uscf-online-rated)

Join tournaments: two ways to join the tournaments: 1) log in to chess.com and click on the link above; or 2) log in chess.com --> Play --> Live Chess
For this tournament only: Tournament directors will be pairing players manually, so no tournaments to join!

For players who are interested in play in our online tournament,
PLEASE fill out our online Players database: https://forms.gle/X3hChCWbusHp4Ze56 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://forms.gle/X3hChCWbusHp4Ze56)
to get email notifications about last minute changes and invitational opportunities.

Mechanics' Chess Social

On the October 2, 2020 edition of the Mechanics' Chess Social, we had on IM David Pruess. He is a chess coach, commentator, and along with IM Kostya Kavutskiy, has a Twitch channel called ChessDojoLive: https://www.twitch.tv/chessdojolive. He was also a commentator for the Mechanics' PRO Chess League team who often streamed the matches from the Mechanics' Institute. To watch the interview, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos)

Dr. Alexey Root

Check out Dr. Alexey Root's newly released article on something almost every chess player relies on: Coffee! I once went to a coffee shop with Mike Walder and Elliott Winslow before a Tuesday Night Marathon event at Mechanics' and learned Mike was quite the connoisseur of coffee, so this is no surprise. To read the article, follow this link:

https://en.chessbase.com/post/chess-coffee-days-2020 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://en.chessbase.com/post/chess-coffee-days-2020)

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will livestream an Arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, talking about our games and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out occasional free prizes also!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance of it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Mondays 4pm-5pm, 10/5: https://www.chess.com/live#r=504746 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chess.com/live#r=504746)

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 10/6: https://www.chess.com/live#r=504747 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chess.com/live#r=504747)

MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez, Dr. Judit Sztaray Arena: Fridays 5pm-6:30pm, 10/9: https://www.chess.com/live#r=515969
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chess.com/live#r=515969)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM - A Journey Through Chess History - Course 2: US Championships with GM Nick de Firmian

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM - The World Championship Match -- by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: Part 1 -- 9/3 through 10/1 **(FREE!) Click on link below to try class out free next week**
Part 2 - 10/8 through 11/5

An in-depth look at the World Championship matches – the great games, styles and personalities of the World Champions and their challengers. The central idea of the class will be the study of chess ideas and theory, as practiced by the greatest players. In each class we'll look through a selection of the most famous games ever played: games where literally everything was at stake.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: Part 1: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart1)
Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, October 3: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM

8SS G/5+2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentOct3SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentOct3SAT)

Sunday, October 4: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=105950 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=105950)

Monday, October 5: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=105951 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=105951)

Tuesday, October 6: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=105952 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=105952)

Wednesday, October 7: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=105954 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=105954)

Thursday, October 8: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM
5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=106005 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=106005)

Friday, October 9: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=106007 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=106007)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Every Week!

October 3, @ 3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

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Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered on Thursdays:

Absolute Beginner class: This class is meant to teach brand new students the moves of the pieces and captures so that students may jump into the New at Chess class with knowledge of piece movements. Students may take this course as much as needed, but the same concept will be taught weekly, though it will be a different class each week. The goal is simple, teach piece movements in preparation.

Starting at Chess: This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players: This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess: This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class.

Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

10/3 Saturday - Saturday Night Blitz
Format: 6SS G/5+2
Join by 6:00PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1599466 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1599466)
Start at 7:00PM

10/6 Tuesday - Tuesday Online
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/October2020TuesdayNightMarathon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/October2020TuesdayNightMarathon)
Start at 6:30PM

10/1 Thursday - Thursday Night Quads
Format: 3SS G/60+10
Join by 4PM -
Start at 6:30PM
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-2)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305165252/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Domination, Part 5

pwhitehead@milibrary.org

What's better, a queen or two rooks? This classic dilemma has puzzled chess players since the get-go. We want to know for sure, and we want to know for all time: is it the queen? Or is it the rooks? But the wise player will always say: it depends on the situation.

The chess study can isolate these mini-problems, and artfully provide solutions.

As usual the theme is domination, and again the examples are from **Domination in 2,545 Endgame Studies** by **Ghenrikh Kasparyan** (1974).

Today the rooks have their say: the queen is run to ground and defeated.

But tomorrow… who knows?

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1. Kling 1849 – White wins.

This is the classic "skewer" study that spawned a zillion others:

1.Ra4! (Would you have found it? White threatens both **2.Rxa8** and **2.Rh3 mate.**) **1…Qxa4** (or **1…Qc8 2.Rh3+! Qxh3 3.Ra3+ Kd4/e4/f4 4.Rxh3,** and **white wins**) **2.Rh3+ Kd4/e4/f4 3.Rh4+** followed by **4.Rxa4,** and **white wins**.

With that under your belt the following two studies – variations on today's theme – should be as easy as pie…

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2. Lommer 1948 – White wins.

Kind of intricate, but you'll get it.

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3. Dall' Ava 1963 – White wins.

This one is almost too easy, but has terrific practical value.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

The Pro Chess League Finals had a battle between two of the chess world's elite teams when the Armenian Eagles faced off with the St. Louis Archbishops. The Archbishops had a monster line-up of Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So, Lanier Dominguez and Jeffery Xiong - that's basically the US Olympic team. Both teams had won all their matches in the regular season and the playoffs, so it was clear the Eagles were playing with great heart to match the pace of the Archbishops. The surprise score of the finals was 9.5 to 6.5 in favor of the Eagles. This upset earned them their second Pro Chess League Championship, as they won the live event in 2018 held right here in San Francisco at the Folsom Street Foundry. This year's event was online, but perhaps we will see next year's finals back here in San Francisco near Twitch headquarters.

We give a couple of games from the Pro Chess finals and semi matches. Additionally we include a classic game of 1992 from the 2nd Fischer-Spassky match. This is in honor of the new Fischer book written by former MI Chess Director John Donaldson, whose epic 650 page tome on Fischer will be the definitive work.

(1) Petrosian,Tigran L. - So,Wesley [C00]

Pro Chess Finals, 28.09.2020

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0 Be7 5.d3 Petrosian (named after the late, great world champion) has used this King's Indian Attack very effectively in the Pro Chess online games. **5...0-0 6.Nbd2 c5 7.e4 Nc6 8.Re1 b5 9.e5 Nd7 10.Nf1 a5**

This is a classical KIA position. Black expands on the queenside and White on the kingside. **11.h4 a4 12.N1h2 a3 13.b3 b4 14.Bf4 Bb7 15.Qd2 Rc8 16.h5 h6** This is positionally desireable as Black doesn't want to allow the white h-pawn to reach a strong post at h6. The black pawn can be a target though on this square. **17.Ng4 Re8 18.Rac1 Kh7 19.Bh3 Bf8 20.Ngh2 Ne7 21.g4 d4 22.g5 Nd5 23.Bg2 Qe7 24.Bg3 Qd8** Both sides have their pieces on good squares and it's not easy to see a good plan to advance. **25.Ng4 Nc3?!** Wesley is going for the a2 pawn, but this takes the knight away from the center where it helps protect the kingside. **26.gxh6 gxh6 27.Qf4 Re7?!** [Black needed to play 27...Bxf3 28.Qxf7+ Kh8 29.Bxf3 Bg7 30.Be4 Qg5! and White has only a slight advantage.] **28.Bh4 Nxa2 29.Ra1 Nc3** materially Black is ok with a protected passed pawn on a3 for the exchange that is pinned. The real problem is White's attack. **30.Nd2 Bxg2 31.Kxg2 Bg7 32.Nc4 Nd5 33.Qf3 Qf8 34.Kh1?!** [34.Nf6+! Bxf6 35.exf6 Ree8 36.Kh1] **34...f5! 35.exf6 Bxf6 36.Nxf6+ N7xf6 37.Nd6?!** [37.Nb6!] **37...Rcc7** [37...Rd8 38.Ne4 Nd7! would be fine play for the exchange in the endgame if the queens are traded.] **38.Ne4 Rf7?** [38...Nd7!] **39.Nxf6+ Nxf6**

40.Rxe6! the attack crashes through **40...Ng8 41.Qe4+ Rf5 42.Bf6!** cutting off the defense. Black is busted. **42...Ne7 43.Rxe7+ Rxe7 44.Qxf5+ Kg8 45.Rg1+ 1-0**

(2) Sadhwani,Raunak - Caruana,Fabiano [B47]

Pro Chess Semi Finals, 26.09.2020

Caruana will soon be back playing in the Candidates Tournament. He didn't have a good performace in the Pro Chess finals, but throughout the season was a strong force for the team. Here in the semifinals he takes a point with the black pieces. It isn't perfect, but a fighting performance like he will have to reproduce in the Candidates. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0 Bc5 9.Nxc6 dxc6 10.Bg5 h5!?** taking kingside squares and not worrying about castling. **11.Qf3 Ng4 12.h3 Ne5 13.Qe2 b5 14.Kh1 Bb7 15.f4?!** [It is better to develop and maintain flexibility with 15.Rad1] **15...f6! 16.Bh4 Ng6** with this Black gains some edge over the kingside dark squares. **17.e5 Nxh4 18.gxh4 f5 19.Rad1 g6 20.Qe1 Be7 21.Qg3 Kf7?! 22.Ne2?!** [There was a tactical possibility 22.Ne4! fxe4? *(22...Rhd8)* 23.f5! gxf5 24.Rxf5+ exf5 25.e6+ Kxe6 26.Qxc7 Rad8! 27.Rf1! with advantage to White] **22...c5 23.Ng1 Rad8 24.Nf3 Bxf3!** Correctly assessing the bishops of opposite color position. Caruana takes the knight before it can cause trouble with Ng5+ **25.Bxf3 c4 26.Rg1 Rhg8 27.Kh2 b4 28.Be2 Bc5 29.Rg2 Rxd1 30.Bxd1 Qd8 31.Be2 Be7 32.Bxc4 Bxh4 33.Qb3 Qb6 34.Rd2 Rd8 35.Rxd8**

35...Qf2+! This intermediate check forces the white king to the corner where it is vulnerable. **36.Kh1 Bxd8 37.Bxe6+ Kg7 38.Qxb4 Qf3+ 39.Kg1 Bh4** The black queen and bishop are able to attack and defend their own monarch. Still, it is a tricky position. **40.Qd4 Qg3+ 41.Kf1 Qe1+** [41...Qxh3+!] **42.Kg2 Qe2+ 43.Kg1 Bg3?**

stopping the checks gives White one chance. **44.Bb3?** [44.Bxf5! would hold the draw. It guards the h3 pawn and if 44...gxf5 45.Qd7+ will be perpetual check] **44...Qh2+** now Caruana wraps it up efficiently **45.Kf1 Qxh3+ 46.Ke2 Qg2+ 47.Kd3 Qf1+ 48.Kd2 Be1+ 49.Kc1 Bf2+ 50.Qd1 Be3+ 0-1**

(3) Fischer,Robert James (2785) - Spassky,Boris V (2560) [C95]

St Stefan/Belgrade m Belgrade (1), 1992

This game was the first of the return match between Fischer and Spassky in 1992. They were both somewhat past their prime, but still capable of incredible chess. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Nb8 10.d4 Nbd7 11.Nbd2 Bb7 12.Bc2 Re8 13.Nf1 Bf8 14.Ng3 g6 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bd2 Bg7 17.a4 c5 18.d5 c4** Thus far this is all theory, a normal Breyer Variation of the Ruy Lopez. It gives both sides a lot of scope for strategic maneuvering. **19.b4 Nh7 20.Be3 h5 21.Qd2 Rf8 22.Ra3!** A fine idea to press also on the queenside. It looks as though White should just move all the pieces right for a kingside attack, but Black has shown that can be defended against. **22...Ndf6 23.Rea1 Qd7** Spassky defends against the opening of the a-file. It's not easy to see where White can break through. **24.R1a2 Rfc8 25.Qc1 Bf8 26.Qa1 Qe8 27.Nf1 Be7 28.N1d2 Kg7 29.Nb1!**

Fischer's last move causes a reaction from Black as waiting is no longer as option. White threatened to open the a-file with 30. axb5, exchange all the rooks and queen and then win a pawn with Na3 (the point of 29. Nb1!). With all the white pieces in the corner Spassky decides to sacrifice in the center. **29...Nxe4?! 30.Bxe4 f5 31.Bc2 Bxd5** Black has two pawns and central play for the piece, but Fischer shows he still has play on the queenside. **32.axb5 axb5 33.Ra7 Kf6 34.Nbd2 Rxa7 35.Rxa7 Ra8 36.g4!** slower play may also be good. Fischer continues to press fo the initiative. **36...hxg4 37.hxg4 Rxa7 38.Qxa7 f4**

39.Bxf4 exf4 40.Nh4 Bf7 41.Qd4+ Ke6 42.Nf5! Another marvelous advance to keep Black off balance. **42...Bf8** [42...gxf5 43.Bxf5#] **43.Qxf4 Kd7 44.Nd4 Qe1+** This is aggressive, but hastens the end. **45.Kg2 Bd5+ 46.Be4 Bxe4+ 47.Nxe4** material is even but the white knights are dominant. There is no defense. **47...Be7 48.Nxb5 Nf8 49.Nbxd6 Ne6 50.Qe5** Spassky resigned. It was such a shame that Fischer stopped playing for 20 years instead of giving us more such masterpieces. To learn more about Bobby you must read John Donaldson's epic work. **1-0**

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Newsletter #938

October 10, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Coaching Chess
- Ray Conway Tuesday Night Marathon Online
- Mechanics' FIDE Academy
- TD Corner
- Twitch Arena
- Dr. Alexey Root
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Chess Coaching vs. Teaching Chess

by Abel Talamantez

There are no shortage of people teaching chess, many offering their services to introduce new players to this great game or teaching experienced players to play better, to see things on the chessboard they do not yet see. There are many strong players selling their skill as a player as a license to teach others. Oftentimes I see parents looking for a coach for their kids ask what a prospective instructor's rating is, a perfectly valid question in looking for a coach.

When I started my own after school chess program in 2012, I took on some private students. I am a former 2000 level player who was teaching beginners, so I felt more than qualified to teach chess to these students. My very first student was someone who knew the moves, but did not know how to improve. I focused first on making sure my student understood mate and mate patterns. I reinforced the basics such as center control and had him review tactics.

On my fourth week of lessons (I would teach 1:15 class once per week), my student had not finished all the assigned homework problems. I asked why it had not been done, and he simply shrugged and said he did not know. As the lesson progressed, he seemed to lose focus, which was frustrating for me. I had come to his house after teaching in a full class in a school, and having a half-hearted student that did not finish an assigned task was not something that made me feel good. After a couple more weeks with no change in behavior, I had a talk with his parents, and I told them that he was not focused or engaged during the lesson and was not doing the work assigned. They said they would talk to him and let me know of the scheduling for the next lesson.

I never heard back, and I was perfectly fine with that. I didn't want my time wasted, and I didn't want parents wasting their money.

I remember thinking after that maybe I had done something wrong. I didn't feel good about how I was approaching the relationship, and this was the key. I made the lesson more about what I needed to feel comfortable, about what I wanted and needed to feel comfortable. This was not coaching.

I realized there was a difference between simply teaching chess and coaching. When you coach, you enter a relationship with the student that is more about supporting the student to realize their full potential, and this involves much more than what is on the chessboard. I would let parents and students know my expectations, and I would let them know what they can expect from me. So many behavioral factors are crucial to the success of any student, such as the building of self confidence, dealing with losses, how to properly learn form losses, dealing with the anxiety of competition and how to focus under pressure. These are all things a coach has to identify and bring out the best in a student, but the way to do this will differ between students because everyone is different. This is what I believe makes a good coach, someone who is fully invested in the success of a student, entering into a relationship of responsibility towards the student in which the student feels supported, even in times of great challenge for the student. A good coach accepts the challenges of growth with the student, rather than shirk away from trying times.

I believe this is missing in many "coaches," particularly in chess. I have seen some great coaches, but I have seen much more teachers of chess, former players showing students what they don't know. We need to have a proper training for coaches of chess.

As you will read in this newsletter, the Mechanics' Institute has been approved by FIDE as the 4th FIDE Academy in the U.S. One of the things I appreciate is that the people leading the FIDE Trainers Commission have acknowledged that it is equally important to develop coaches to teach new students as it is to train coaches to teach masters, because without one you cannot have the other. I think this is the right approach, and the emphasis in providing coaches with programs that develop their skills in coaching and bring an emphasis to the proper role and responsibility of a coach will help bring better coaching to our chess community. The Mechanics' Institute will be committed to this approach in our academy.

I learned the hard way, and failed a student. As we teach our students, however, we must learn from our mistakes, and try not to let our mistakes define us. The best growth comes through mistakes, and it is equally important for both students and coaches.

Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon Report

The Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off this week, with an 8-round open section tournament, named after former MI Chess Director Ray Conway, who led the club for nine years from 1971-1980. He was the Chess Director during the Fischer-Spassky world championship match in 1972 and was a former guard at Alcatraz, a background that John Donaldson had said was well-suited to keep order in the club during his time there.

There are 53 players in the marathon, with the top seeds being IM Prasanna Rao, FM Kyron Griffith, and IM Elliott Winslow. But competiton will be tough, as there are 17 other players in the 1800-2200 rating range. The top players made it through the first round, but in the second round, Patrick Liu gave IM Prasanna Rao all he could handle in a time scramble, and capitalized on some errors made by Rao to secure a draw. In another hotly-contested game, David Flores Gomez played well and took advantage of Ethan Boldi's time trouble to produce an upset win. Davi typically plays fast and is a talented A player, so it was not a surprising result.

Eric Hon joined the tournament after the first round, so he will be a force to reckoned with as the tournament proceeds.

The broadcast was lively, and Paul and I were joined during round 2 by WIM Alexey Root and NM Michael Walder.

Here are some games from Tuesday, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) Rachael Tiong (rachael1120) (1664) - IM Prasanna Rao (Praschess) (2497) [C55]

Ray Conway TNM Chess.com (1.1), 06.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 [4.Ng5 is about as popular among the kids.] **4...h6** This is right behind the two bishop moves (to e7 or c5) in popularity, with all three scoring over 45% in the big databases. Black has the idea to fianchetto, but first deals with 5.Ng5 (the bishop moves allow Black to just castle). **5.0-0 d6 6.c3 g6** [Mamedyarov and others have toyed with 6...g5!? both here and after 6.Re1. Black shouldn't be able to get away with this, but often enough he has so far!] **7.Re1** [7.d4!? tries to pressure the center right away. Far and away the main move is 7...Qe7 (7...exd4 8.cxd4 Bg7 is another way to handle the center *(8...Nxe4?? 9.Re1+-* catches Black's king in the center*)* but 9.Nc3 is a fairly solid center.) 8.Nbd2 Bg7 9.Re1 lines up on Black's queen, limiting active counterplay.] **7...Bg7 8.h3** [8.Bb3 0-0 9.Nbd2 Re8 10.a4 is a more patient approach, preserving the bishop and expanding on the queenside.] **8...0-0 9.d4** The computers are pushing a- and b-pawns here...



9...exd4!? [9...Qe7 has mostly been played, with excellent results.] **10.cxd4 d5!?** Rao clarifies, and plays against the isolated queen pawn. **11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nc3** [12.Bxd5!? Qxd5 13.Nc3 Qd6 14.d5 Ne7 15.Nb5 Qxd5 16.Bxh6! would have been quite a surprise! 16...Bxh6 *(16...Qxd1 17.Raxd1 Bxh6 18.Nxc7 Rb8 19.Rxe7+/-)* 17.Nxc7! Qc5 18.Nxa8 is still complicated, but works well for White.] **12...Be6 13.Ne4N**

[13.Bb3!? Qd7?! 14.Ne4 b6 15.Bxh6!? Bxh6 16.Bxd5 Bg7 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Nh4 is a crushing position, although even with a big ratings advantage White didn't cash: ½-½ (66) Jeet, J (2334)-Cheela Naga,S (1839) Kankarbagh 2017] **13...Nc3!** Letting his young but already experienced opponent switch to hanging pawns, but grabbing the two bishops and light-squared control. **14.bxc3 Bxc4** Already the computers are making Black fully equal, with the trend going his way. **15.Nc5?!** [15.Bf4] **15...b6 16.Nd3 Re8 17.Be3** [17.Nfe5!? Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Qd5!? still tries to play on the light squares and the weak pawns, even without the bishop. *(18...Bxe5* doesn't even win a pawn (with a resulting bishop of opposite color ending) because h6 hangs *19.dxe5 Qxd1 20.Rxd1 Kg7 21.Rd4)*] **17...Ne7** [17...Qd5 leans on White a bit more.] **18.Nde5 Be6 19.Qd2 Kh7** [19...f6!? 20.Nd3 *(20.Ng4 h5)* 20...Nf5 is a more active defense of h6, with White slipping further into passivity.] **20.Rac1 b5!?** [20...c5 doesn't give White as much] **21.c4!?** [21.a4!? a6 *(21...bxa4 22.c4* gives White the initiative*)* 22.h4!?] **21...bxc4 22.Nxc4 Nf5 23.Red1** White isn't putting up much fight now, and Black focuses on an unexpected weak point in White's game. [23.Nce5 Bd5 24.Qa5!?] **23...Bd5 24.Nfe5**

24...Nh4! 25.f3 Nf5 Continuing the positional squeeze. [But 25...f6! is instant collapse, as if the knight moves Black has ...Bxf3!] **26.Bf2 Bf6 27.Ne3?!** [27.Na5!] **27...Bg5**

28.h4 Bxe3 29.Bxe3 f6! Even more precise [than 29...Nxe3] **30.Ng4 h5** White gets a couple stray pawns for the knight, but basically the game is over. **31.Nxf6+ Qxf6 32.Rxc7+ Kg8 33.Bg5 Qb6 34.Qf4 Rac8 35.Rdc1 Rxc7 36.Rxc7** [36.Qxc7 is how the computers drag it out.] **36...Bxa2** [36...Nxd4! is superficially precarious but in fact crushes resistance - Black is always a move ahead in the mating game.] **37.Bf6?** White was lost but this blunder ends all hope. **37...Qxf6 38.Rxa7 Bf7 39.Rd7 Qxh4 40.Qxh4 Nxh4 41.d5 Nf5 42.d6 Be6 43.Ra7 Nxd6 44.Ra6 Nf7 45.Kh2 Kg7 46.Kg3 Kf6 47.Kf4 g5+ 48.Ke4 h4 49.Kd4 Nh6 50.Kd3 Nf5 51.Ke4 Rd8 52.f4 Rd4+ 53.Kf3 Rxf4+ 54.Ke2 g4 55.Kd3 h3 56.gxh3 gxh3 57.Kc3 h2 58.Kd3 h1Q 59.Kc3 Qc1+ 60.Kd3 Qe3+ 61.Kc2 Rf2+ 62.Kd1 Qd2#** Praschess won by checkmate **0-1**

(6) Ethan Guo (LightningDragon8) (1592) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (1991) [B88]

Ray Conway TNM Chess.com (1.3), 06.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 An older and less-seen move recently. Robert J. Fischer mostly played this when his favorite Najdorf Sicilian was played against him. **6...e6** Black tries to shut down White's bishop. In this game successfully. **7.Bb3** [7.0-0 Be7 8.Bb3 Nc6 0-1 (22) Herb,P (2540)-Janosi,E (2415) ICCF corr 1998] **7...Nc6** And this leads into the Classical Sicilian, Sozin Variation, an even older line. [The two particularly Najdorf moves are the even more radical 7...b5; and the relatively sedate 7...Nbd7] **8.Be3 Be7 9.0-0** [9.f4 followed by Qf3 (or Qe2) leads to lots of complications, in case Black thought this was going to be quiet.; And 9.Qe2 followed by 0-0-0 is the Velimirovich Attack, one of the most complicated openings of all.] **9...0-0 10.f4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5**

12.a3 Sensible and played by Fischer against Spassky in their 1972 world championship match, but subsequent determinations have it too cautious. [12.e5! dxe5 13.fxe5 Nd7 14.Ne4! Bb7 15.Nd6 Bxd6 16.exd6 Qg5 has been known since the analysts tackled that Fischer-Spassky game, but still no final conclusion has been reached.] **12...Bb7 13.Qe1** All the queen moves get in big trouble in practice via the same as in the game. [13.Qd3 was Fischer's choice. 13...a5! 14.e5?! dxe5 15.fxe5 Nd7 16.Nxb5 Nc5 17.Bxc5 Bxc5+ 18.Kh1 Qg5 *(18...a4!?; 18...Ba6!?)* 19.Qe2? *(19.Qg3 Qxg3 20.hxg3 a4 21.Bc4 Ba6 22.Rf4 Rad8 23.Nd6 Bxd6 24.exd6 Rxd6 25.Bxa6 Rxa6* 1/2-1/2 (38) Meshcheriakova,E (2211)-Kiss,A (2393) Szombathely 2004*)* 19...Rad8 20.Rad1 Rxd1 21.Rxd1 Black had an initiative bordering on an attack but White held on: ½-½ (45) Fischer,R-Spassky,B Reykjavik 1972; 13.Qf3; 13.Qe2; One possible ray of hope is 13.f5!? e5 14.Be3 but Black has the thematic exchange sacrifice 14...Rc8 15.Qf3? Rxc3! 16.bxc3 Nxe4 bordering on won, although ½-½ (35) Scheffknecht, P-Brandstaetter,F (2095) Liechtenstein 1995] **13...a5!** Almost everybody's favorite move, here and after the queen moves. [But 13...Rc8!? had a successful trial: 14.Rd1 d5 15.f5 e5 16.Bxe5 Qb6+ 17.Kh1 dxe4 18.Rf4 Rfd8 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Nxe4 Qe5 21.f6 21...Bb4! *(*or the mundane *21...Qxf4 22.fxe7 Rxd1 23.Qxd1 Re8 24.Nd6 Rxe7 25.Nxf7 Kf8* steps out of trouble and wins.*)* 22.axb4 Qxf4 0-1, Herb,P (2540)-Janosi,E (2415) ICCF corr 1998] **14.e5?** Even here Black is more ready for this than White is. [14.Rd1 b4 has been seen a few times. The computers don't make much either way but Black has won every game eventually. 15.e5! (15.axb4 axb4 16.e5 dxe5! 0-1 (37) Klovsky,R-Tavadian,R Yerevan 1981(16...bxc3 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Qxc3 Bxd4+ 19.Qxd4 Qa5!= 20.Qxd6?? *(20.Qf2)* 20...Rad8? *(20...Rfd8!* when White doesn't have the trick on the next move*)* 21.Qe5? *(21.Ra1! Qxa1 22.Qxf8+=)* 21...Qb6+ 22.Kh1 Qf2 23.Qg5 Rd2 0-1 (31) Delanoy,A (2184)-Korotylev,A (2554) Geneve 2001)) 15...bxc3 *(15...dxe5 16.fxe5 Nd7 17.Nb5 a4* is Lc0's line *18.Bc4)* 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Qxc3 Rc8 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Qd4 Rc6 20.Kh1 Kh8 21.f5 e5 22.Qh4 Rc5 23.Rf2 e4 24.Qf4 Re5 0-1 (58) Henry,L (2211)-Jiang,L (2135) Montreal 2008] **14...dxe5 15.Bxe5** [15.Qxe5 is better, but Black has an unusual and powerful response: 15...a4! 16.Ba2 Ra5!!] **15...b4** Not bad or anything, but Black was already winning with a combination of three moves: [15...a4! 16.Ba2 Qb6+ *(16...Ng4)* 17.Kh1 Ng4-+ too many bad things are happening on both sides of the board.; or first 15...Ng4!; or 15...Qb6+!] **16.axb4?!** [16.Na4] **16...axb4** Now Black has the best of all worlds. **17.Ne2?!** [17.Na4] **17...Rxa1 18.Qxa1 Bc5+ 19.Kh1**

19...Qd2 [19...Ng4! is just a lot stronger.] **20.Qe1 Qxe1** [20...Rd8!] **21.Rxe1 Rd8** In spite of the inaccuracies it's pretty much over. Black grabs the file; all his pieces are firing much more

strongly than White's. **22.h3 Rd2 23.Bc4 Rxc2** [23...Nd5!] **24.b3 Nd5** [24...Ne4!] **25.Bxd5 Bxd5 26.Kh2 f6 27.Bb8 Bf2 28.Rc1 Rxe2 29.Rc8+ Kf7 30.Rc7+ Kg6 31.f5+ exf5 32.Rxg7+** Now it's just getting silly. **32...Kxg7 33.Bg3 Be3 34.Bf2 Rxf2 35.Kg3 Rxg2+ 36.Kh4 Bg5+ 37.Kh5 Bf3#** ecwinslow won by checkmate **0-1**

(7) IM Prasanna Rao (Praschess) (2206) - Patrick Liu (katechen77) (1665) [B72]

Ray Conway TNM Chess.com (2.1), 06.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bc4 IM Rao plays a quieter, central-oriented line against the Dragon Sicilian, which usually comes about via the Accelerated Fianchetto. No wild Yugoslav Attack! **6...Bg7 7.h3** [7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Nc6 9.h3 Bd7 10.Be3 Rc8 0-1 (77) Emms,J (2462) -Jones,G (2641) England 2015] **7...Nc6 8.Be3 0-0 9.Bb3 Bd7 10.0-0 Rc8** Black takes advantage of the particular move order. [Actually 10...Qa5 would be from the Accelerated Fianchetto, as given above.] **11.Re1** Modern style. [11.f4 is similar to the older lines (against the line with ...Qa5).] **11...a6** [11...Na5 12.Nf3 0-1 (77) Emms,J (2462)-Jones,G (2641) England 2015] **12.Nf3**

A dozen moves have been played here, but this has a pretty good percentage score (over 60%). [12.Nxc6!? was a high-rated game: 12...Bxc6 13.Nd5 Nd7 14.Bg5 Re8 15.c3 h6 16.Bh4 g5 17.Bg3 e6 18.Ne3 Ne5 19.Ng4 Bb5 20.Re3 Qe7 21.f4 gxf4 22.Bxf4 Qh4 23.a4 Nxg4!? 24.hxg4 Bc4 25.Bc2 *(25.Rh3!)* 25...e5 26.Bg3?! *(26.Rh3+/-)* 26...Qg5= but: 1-0 (62), Gashimov,V (2733)-Tregubov,P (2598) Warsaw 2010.] **12...Qc7N** [12...Na5 has been seen a few times: 13.Qe2 (13.Qd2!? b5 14.Bh6 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.b3 *(17.Rad1!?)* 17...Rc6 18.Nd5 e5!?= 0-1 (77) Emms,J (2462)-Jones,G (2641) England 2015) 13...Bc6 14.Bg5 Qc7 15.Rad1 b5 16.Nd5 Bxd5 1/2-1/2 (16) Gao,R (2533)-Iturrizaga Bonelli,E (2640) Rochefort 2015; 12...b5 has also been played.] **13.Nd5!** A common motif in this line -- White provokes a knight exchange, giving him play down the e-file. In this case it appears that Black's counterplay isn't quite as good. **13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Ne5 15.c3** [15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.c3 a5 17.a3+/-] **15...Nc4 16.Bxc4** [16.Bd4!?] **16...Qxc4 17.Bg5**

17...Bf6?! [17...Rfe8 18.Bxe7 Rc5 19.Bxd6 Rxd5 20.Rxe8+ Bxe8 21.Qe1 Bc6 22.Be5! secures an advantage of note.] **18.Bxf6 exf6 19.Re7** [19.Qb3!?] **19...Rcd8 20.Qd2 Rfe8 21.b3 Qc5** [21...Qc7; 21...Qc8] **22.Rae1 Rxe7 23.Rxe7 Kf8 24.Re4 Kg7 25.Rh4** [25.c4! is a win, according to the usual silicon suspects.] **25...h5 26.b4** [26.Rc4; 26.c4; 26.Rf4 are all enticing.] **26...Qb6**

27.g4? This just doesn't work out. [27.Rf4; 27.c4 Re8 28.g4 would be a better time.] **27...Rh8! 28.gxh5 g5!** Now White has to decide -- take a draw by repetition or gamble. The times: White 12:54, Black 5:11. **29.h6+** There are still chances for Black to go wrong (and he does). [29.Nxg5 fxg5 30.Qxg5+ Kh7 *(30...Kf8?? 31.Qf6 Rh7 32.h6* is a nice winning line - Black has a lot to worry about.*)* 31.Rf4 Rg8 32.Rxf7+ Kh8 33.Rf8 Rxf8 34.Qh6+ with a perpetual.] **29...Kg6!** [29...Rxh6? 30.Rxh6 Kxh6 31.h4 Qd8 32.c4 puts Black under pressure, with c4-c5 on the queenside.] **30.Re4?!**

[30.Qd3+ Bf5 31.Qd4 Qxd4 32.Rxd4 Rxh6 33.h4 g4? *(33...Bc2; 33...b5)* 34.Nd2 Rxh4 35.Nc4+/-] **30...Bxh3?** [30...Rxh6!=/+ on the principle of removing the most dangerous pawn.] **31.Nd4?!** [31.Qd3! Rxh6 *(31...Bf5?? 32.Nh4+* is a blow*; 31...f5 32.Re3 Qb5+/=)* 32.Nd4 Kg7 33.Re7 Bc8 34.Ne6+ Bxe6 35.dxe6 Qc6 and White is strongly advised to grovel to a draw.] **31...Qd8?** Patrick used up one of his three remaining minutes but missed the mark. [31...Bd7 32.Qd3 f5 does consolidate, with White looking foolish.] **32.Qd3+-** White locks in; Black is lost. **32...f5 33.Re3 Bg4** White 10:40, Black 1:20 **34.f3?** But only if he finds the right way! [34.Rg3! forces a king move, when f2-f3 keeps h3 covered and pulls the bishop off f5. Crushing.] **34...Bh3 35.Qe2?** [35.f4! Bg4 36.Rg3 Kh5! 37.Rh3+ is a perpetual whether or not Black captures the rook.(37.Nxf5!? gxf4! 38.Ng7+ Kh4 39.Rxg4+! *(39.Rg2? Qf6!)* 39...Kxg4 40.Qf5+= Nice king!)] **35...Rxh6?** [35...Kxh6! gives Black a nice situation. 36.Re7 Kg6 37.Rxb7 Re8 38.Qh2 g4 39.Qg3 *(39.Kf2 Qg5)* 39...Re3!] **36.Re7?** [36.Re8! Qd7 37.Qe7! *(37.Re7? Qc8!* could have been the game*.)* 37...Qxe7 38.Rxe7 g4 39.f4 g3 40.Ne2 g2 41.Kf2 Bg4 42.Ng1 is no fun but White does hold on.] **36...Qh8!?** with a devilish idea, but there was a better way. Still, using 17 of your remaining 43 seconds it's pretty impressive! [36...Qc8! 37.Qd3 Kf6 38.Re2 f4! Black takes over.] **37.Rxb7??**

[37.Re8! Qf6 38.Rg8+ *(38.Qe7* also draws*)* 38...Kh7 39.Rb8 *(39.Qe8 f4 40.Rf8 Kg6 41.Rg8+ Kh5* and there goes that king again! *42.a4* but it's just a draw*)*] **37...Bf1!!-+ 38.Kxf1** [38.Qe7 threatens mate in one! but 38...Rh1+ 39.Kf2 Qh4+ 40.Ke3 Qe1+ 41.Ne2 Qxe2+ 42.Kd4 Qd2# gets there first.] **38...Rh1+ 39.Kf2 Rh2+ 40.Ke1 Rxe2+ 41.Kxe2** White 7:33, Black 0:17.8 **41...Qh2+** [41...Qc8 takes out c3;; 41...g4!? makes another queen (!).] **42.Kd3 Qxa2 43.Rb6** At this point Black, in admittedly a won position but so short on time, saw a perpetual and like a life boat jumped on it. **43...Qb1+ 44.Kc4 Qf1+ 45.Kb3 Qb1+ 46.Kc4 Qf1+ 47.Kb3 Qb1+ 48.Kc4** Game drawn by repetition. Another fantastic TNM battle! Both players missed chances, but 37...Bf1!! made up for that. Patrick Peijun Liu, second highest rated 8-year-old in the country; another one to keep an eye on. **1/2-1/2**

(1) NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) (1890) - Max Hao (Joseph_Truelsons_Fan) (1806) [B99]

Ray Conway TNM Chess.com (2.5), 06.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 My compliments to both players for choosing this classic fighting opening from the glory days of the Fischer era. **10.f5!?** White plays a less common line instead of the usual 10. g4 or 10. Bd3. These sidelines can be confusing to an opponent. **10...Ne5** [an alternative is 10...e5 11.Nb3 b5 12.a3 Bb7] **11.Qh3 h6?!** This doesn't threaten the bishop right now due to the pin on the h-file. In the Najdorf one needs to make use of each precious tempo. [I suggest 11...0-0 since 12.fxe6 Nfg4! 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 gives Black active play for the pawn] **12.fxe6 Nfg4?** Now this doesn't work. Black needed to play [12...fxe6 though White has the advantage after 13. Be2 or 13. Bd2] **13.exf7+ Nxf7 14.Bxe7! Nf2?!**

[14...Qxe7 15.Nd5 Qg5+ 16.Rd2 Nf2 17.Nc7+ Ke7 18.Qa3 Nxh1 19.Nxa8] **15.Qf3 Nxd1 16.Nd5!**

Black is in big trouble against the super powerful white knights in the middle of the board. **16...Qc5 17.Qxd1 Bd7 18.Be2** White's minor pieces trap the black king in the center. There is no way out. **18...Rc8** [18...Bc6 19.Ne6 Qa5 20.Nxg7+ Kd7 21.Bg4#] **19.Bh5 Rf8 20.Bxf8 Kxf8 21.Qf3 Be8** FlightsOfFancy won by resignation **1-0**

(2) Mark Drury (BirdOrBust) (1668) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2172) [A03]

Ray Conway TNM Chess.com (2.2), 06.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.f4 BirdorBust clearly lives by his name. **1...g6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Bg7 4.d4 Nh6!?** This is often a good square to place the knight in these structures. The knight looks to go to f5 and this leaves the black f-pawn able to move up to f6 to chase away a white knight jumping on to the e5 square. **5.Bd3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.c3** [White doesn't want to lose central control with 7.dxc5?! Nd7] **7...Bf5 8.Qe2 Qb6 9.Nbd2 Nc6 10.Ne5?** Black had gotten a nice opening position and now White allows a tactic. **10...Rad8?** Kyron misses it though he keeps a good position. He had [10...cxd4 11.cxd4 *(11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.cxd4 Bxd4)* 11...Nxd4! 12.exd4 Bxe5 13.fxe5 Qxd4+ 14.Rf2 Qxd3] **11.Ndf3 Rfe8 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Ne5?!** This knight just gets chased away. **13...f6**

Looking at the position one sees that all the black pieces are developed and the black pawns are ready to break in the center. Meanwhile the white queenside is not yet developed. Trouble lies ahead for White. **14.Nf3 cxd4 15.exd4?** [15.cxd4 was necessary but clearly better for Black] **15...e5!** All the black pieces come to life, and there is also the problem that White's d-pawn is pinned so cannot help out in the central battle. **16.fxe5 fxe5**

17.Bxf5 [17.Bxh6 exd4! 18.Qd1 dxc3+ 19.Kh1 Bxh6] **17...Nxf5 18.Qf2 exd4 19.cxd4 Nxd4 20.Kh1 Nxf3** simple and effective. It's not just the extra pawn - Black's developed pieces make for a decisive advantage. **21.Qxf3** [21.Qxb6 axb6 22.gxf3 Re2] **21...Rf8 22.Qe2 Rxf1+ 23.Qxf1 Rf8 24.Qe2 Qf2!** Trading to an easily winning ending. **25.Qxf2 Rxf2 26.Be3 Rxb2 27.Bxa7** this loses a piece but [27.Rc1 d4 is not much better] **27...Rb7 28.Bc5 Bxa1** KyronGriffith won by resignation **0-1**
Here are the standings after the first 2 rounds.

SwissSys Report: Conway Memorial TNM Online

SwissSys Standings. Conway Memorial TNM Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	St	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total

1	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	CA	KyronGriffith	W29	W24	2.0
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	CA	ecwinslow	W31	W25	2.0
3	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	CA	FelixGerman	W35	W37	2.0
4	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1948	CA	kondsaga	W36	W38	2.0
5	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	CA	MatnMatt20	W40	W16	2.0
6	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	CA	FlightsOfFancy	W46	W17	2.0
7	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	CA	kclemens	W47	W18	2.0
8	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1958	CA	ninjaforce	W48	W19	2.0
9	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1927	CA	mwncklmann	W49	W20	2.0
10	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	CA	PlayerCreate1	W53	W15	2.0
11	IM Prasanna Ragh Rao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083805)	16083805	2508	CA	Praschess	W28	D13	1.5
12	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	CA	chessappeals	D42	W41	1.5
13	Patrick Peiju Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1851	CA	katechen77	W50	D11	1.5
14	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2186	UT	microbear	H---	W42	1.5
15	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	CA	etvat	W32	L10	1.0
16	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	1998	CA	SmilyFace4	W34	L5	1.0
17	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	CA	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W39	L6	1.0
18	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1331	CA	chesspoki	W21	L7	1.0
19	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1235	CA	noydan100	W23	L8	1.0
20	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	931	CA	sfdeals	W26	L9	1.0
21	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	CA	BreatheChessAlways	L18	W47	1.0
22	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	CA	talenuf	H---	H---	1.0
23	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1869	CA	J3Chess24	L19	W48	1.0
24	Mark L Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	12459313	1843	CA	BirdOrBust	W51	L1	1.0
25	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1842	CA	A-boy415	W52	L2	1.0
26	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1775	CA	vish1080	L20	W49	1.0
27	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	CA	starserika18	H---	H---	1.0
28	Rachael Tiong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16019458)	16019458	1656	CA	rachael1120	L11	W50	1.0
29	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1628	CA	chessboi2010	L1	W51	1.0
30	Gan Mathrubootham (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15183473)	15183473	1620	CA	gmbchess	H---	H---	1.0
31	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1606	CA	LightningDragon8	L2	W52	1.0
32	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583	NV	LittlePinkCorvette	L15	W53	1.0
33	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	CA	Kaline340Green	H---	H---	1.0
34	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	CA	rimus11	L16	W43	1.0
35	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1428	CA	programmingmax	L3	W44	1.0
36	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1355	CA	SunnyCountry	L4	W45	1.0
37	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1323	CA	pranavpradeep2006	W43	L3	1.0
38	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1287	CA	jacobchess857	W44	L4	1.0
39	Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)	17179258	923	CA	JeffNorthSF	L17	W46	1.0
40	Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)	17310102	831	CA	MrL0cust	L5	B---	1.0
41	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	691	CA	Sebbymeister	W45	L12	1.0
42	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	933	CA	adichi	D12	L14	0.5
43	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	CA	Mangonel	L37	L34	0.0
44	Nicholas Ar Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	CA	nicarmt	L38	L35	0.0
45	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1710	CA	GiorgosTsolias	L41	L36	0.0
46	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	CA	fiddleleaf	L6	L39	0.0
47	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	CA	Echecsmike	L7	L21	0.0
48	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	CA	swimgrass	L8	L23	0.0
49	Martin Camacho (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248027)	17248027	1311	CA	camachom	L9	L26	0.0
50	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1091	CA	victor6688	L13	L28	0.0
51	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1073	CA	kevin_mx_sun	L24	L29	0.0
52	Yuvraj Si Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	1060	CA	SaintReturns	L25	L31	0.0
53	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	953	CA	andrewaballantyne	L10	L32	0.0

SwissSys Standings. Conway Memorial TNM Online: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	St	Fed	Rd 1	Total
1	Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)	17310102	831	CA	MrL0cust	W2	1.0
2	Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)	14708926	827	CA	JuditSztaray	L1	0.0

Mechanics' Institute Approved as Fourth FIDE Academy in U.S.

We are very proud to announce that FIDE has just approved the Mechanics' Institute as a FIDE Academy, which means we will begin organzing seminars and workshops for coaches and players that can lead to earning FIDE titles for trainers. GM Melik Khachiyan and IM John Donaldson will be among the trainers for the seminars, are we look forward to organizing educational programs for the professional development of coaches and for the benefit of our chess community. The FIDE Trainers Commission (TRG) has stated the importance of training coaches to teach new and developing players, as well as the nation's top players, and we are committed to that goal as well. Other coaches in-house with FIDE Trainer titles are GM Nick de Firmian, Chess Director Abel Talamantez, and women's class coach Sophie Adams. More information coming soon.

TD Corner

Ratable time controls (US Chess Rules 5C) & Rating systems

Which of my rating will get affected by the tournament you offer?

by Senior TD, FA Judit Sztaray

There are three rating systems that US Chess uses: Regular (slow), Quick (fast), and Blitz.

Depending on the time control under which a rated game was played, or the time control of the tournament in which you are playing, different ratings will be affected.

Time control is always calculated by the G/minutes and inc/seconds or d/seconds: the two need to be added together to calculate the total playing time.
For example: G/30;d5 is a 35 minutes game; G/60;d5 is a 65 minutes game; G/120;d5 is a 125 minutes game and the popular online versions are G/5+5 is a 10 minutes game, G/35+2 is a 37 minutes game, G/60+10 is a 70 minutes game.

In any of the three rating categories, players now not only have the standard over-the-board (OTB) ratings, but also separate online ratings. OTB games only affect the standard, OTB rating, and online games only affect the ONL rating. They can never ever cross.

If you play a game over-the-board, the following rules apply:

- If the total playing time for each player is greater than 65 minutes, the regular rating will be affected. (mm+ss>65)
- If the total playing time for each play is from 30 to 65, the games are so called dual rated, meaning the games are both regular and quick rated. (30≤mm+ss≤65)
- If the total playing time for each player is more than 10 minutes, but less than 30 minutes, the games are affecting the quick rating only. (10<mm+ss<30)
- Finally, if the total playing time for each player is between 5 and 10 minutes, the games are blitz rated. Here we also have a restriction that the primary time control must be minimum 3 minutes. There shall be no game rated under 5 minutes. (5≤mm+ss≤10)

If you play an online game, the rules are very similar with one major exceptions: there are no games that are dual rated:

- Online Regular: total playing time for each player is 30 or more minutes. (mm+ss>30)
- Online Quick: total playing time for each player is more than 10 minutes and less than 30 minutes (10<mm+ss<30).
- Online Blitz: total playing time for each player is from 5 to 10 minutes, inclusive. (5≤mm+ss≤10)

How do you check your rating after a tournament?
After each tournament has been submitted for rating, the rating change can be viewed on any player's last tab (Tnmt. Hst, aka Tournament History) on the player's profile. There are three columns: Regular, Quick and Blitz. If the numbers in the column have ONL before them, those games & tournaments affecting the online rating in that particular rating system. If you don't see an ONL before it, be sure to know that represents an actual, live, face-to-face, Over-The-Board (OTB) tournament, which most of us are all missing since March, 2020.

I encourage everyone to visit your Tournament History tab by clicking this link after updating the XXXXXXX with your USCF ID:

http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlTnmtHst.php?XXXXXXXX (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlTnmtHst.php?XXXXXXXX)

Any questions? My inbox is always open!

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an Arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Mondays 4pm-5pm, 10/12: https://www.chess.com/live#r=517799 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chess.com/live#r=517799)

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 10/13: https://www.chess.com/live#r=517800 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chess.com/live#r=517800)

MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez, Dr. Judit Sztaray Arena: Fridays 5pm-6:30pm, 10/16:

See you in the arena!

Dr. Alexey Root: Growing With Golf and Chess

Dr. Alexey Root has just released the next installment of her look into the relationship between chess and golf, assisted by Senior Tournament Director Reka Sztaray, daughter of Dr. Judit Sztaray. To read the article, published on ChessBase, follow this link: https://en.chessbase.com/post/growing-with-golf-and-chess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://en.chessbase.com/post/growing-with-golf-and-chess).

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab by FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM - A Journey Through Chess History - Course 2: US Championships with GM Nick de Firmian

The US Championship is one of the most revered chess events for American players, showcasing the very best in our country. Bobby Fischer, Walter Browne, Hikaru Nakamura, Sam Shankland, and Fabiano Caruana are all among the elite to have won the title. Among thee greats is Mechanics' Institute's Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian, who is a 3-time winner of the title. In this class, he will talk about his US Championship victories, as well as some personal first hand accounts and games from this great event. Combining historical storytelling with dramatic games, Nick will enlighten, educate and entertain students with a bit of Americana suitable for players of all skill levels.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/us-championship-history-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/us-championship-history-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at:https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/AJourneyThroughChessHistory)

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM - The World Championship Match -- by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: Part 2 -- 10/8 through 11/15

An in-depth look at the World Championship matches – the great games, styles and personalities of the World Champions and their challengers. The central idea of the class will be the study of chess ideas and theory, as practiced by the greatest players. In each class we'll look through a selection of the most famous games ever played: games where literally everything was at stake.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead)

Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, October 10: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=106798 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=106798)

Sunday, October 11: starts at 10:00AM - join from 9:45AM

6SS G/10+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=106797 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=106797)

Monday, October 12: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=107564 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=107564)

Tuesday, October 13: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=107565 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=107565)

Wednesday, October 14: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=107566 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=107566)

Thursday, October 15: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=107567 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=107567)

Friday, October 16: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=107568 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=107568)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(3) MagicOm (1473) - BestMiddleSun (1292) [C27]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 This opening is the Vienna Game, which was popular in the 19th Century. **3...Nxe4!**

4.Nxe4?! White simply captures the knight and allows the fork trick which lets Black win back the piece with a fine position. The old masters would play instead [4.Qh5! threatening mate, and after 4...Nd6 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.Nb5! g6 *(6...Nxb5 7.Qxf7#)* 7.Qf3 f5 8.Qd5 Qe7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6 they would reach a wild position with about even chances. The white knight on a8 is trapped and will be captured, leaving Black still down the exchange. Black's compensation for the material is the extra control of the center.] **4...d5! 5.Bxd5 Qxd5 6.Qf3 b6??** Oh no! [with 6...Qe6! Black would have a nice game with the bishop pair and slightly more control of the center.] **7.Nf6+** There goes the queen. MagicOm won by resignation **1-0**

(4) MagicOm (1467) - DarkCapableCharm (1533) [C50]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bc5 4.Nc3 d6 5.0-0 Bg4 This already threatens to play 6...Nd4 and cause a lot of trouble. White reacts very well to be prepared for that. **6.h3! Bh5 7.d3 Nd4?!** this follows the plan but objectively better is to chase down the light-squared bishop with [7...Na5 8.Bb5+ c6 9.Ba4 b5] **8.g4! Bg6**

9.Nxd4 [White could get an opening advantage with 9.Na4! as the knight gets traded for Black's dark-squared bishop and the white c-pawn becomes free to move up to c3.] **9...Bxd4 10.Nd5?!** a great central square, but the knight cannot stay there. So better was [10.Ne2] **10...c6 11.Nb4? a5! 12.c3 Bb6** [12...Ba7! 13.Nc2 b5 14.Bb3 a4 wins a piece] **13.Nc2 d5** [also good is 13...h5! opening up the white kingside] **14.exd5 cxd5 15.Bb5+ Kf8 16.b3?!** looking to check on a3 and attack the black king **16...Qh4!** however it is the white king who is in real danger **17.Ba3+ Ne7 18.Qf3**

18...e4! 19.dxe4? [19.Qg2 is needed to stay in the game] **19...Bxe4 20.Qg3 Qxg3#!** DarkCapableCharm won by checkmate **0-1**

NEW: US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Every Week!

October 11, @ 10AM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rapid rating - every player must be a US Chess member
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening
Space is limited to first 30 players to ensure tournament quality

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Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered on Thursdays:

Absolute Beginner class: This class is meant to teach brand new students the moves of the pieces and captures so that students may jump into the New at Chess class with knowledge of piece movements. Students may take this course as much as needed, but the same concept will be taught weekly, though it will be a different class each week. The goal is simple, teach piece movements in preparation.

Starting at Chess: This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players: This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess: This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class.

Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

10/10 Saturday - Saturday Night Blitz
Format: 6SS G/5+2

Join by 6:00PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1614651 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1614651)
Start at 7:00PM

10/11 Sunday - USCF Rated Rapid
Format: 6SS G/15+2
Join by 3:00PM - https://www.chess.com/live#t=1614650 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chess.com/live#t=1614650)
Start at 2:00PM

10/13 Tuesday - Tuesday Online
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/October2020TuesdayNightMarathon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/October2020TuesdayNightMarathon)
Start at 6:30PM

10/15 Thursday - Thursday Night Quads
Format: 3SS G/60+10
Join by 4PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.milibrary.org/chess)
Start at 6:30PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305154946/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Domination, Part 6

pwhitehead@milibrary.org

The king can be a powerful (dare I say… dominating?) force in the endgame.

This week's studies are terrific examples of the king's hunting powers, as his Royal Highness chases the enemy bishop hither and yon. The idea is explored a bit in our first example, but in the next two you will have to guide His Majesty yourself.

These examples of a relentless king are taken once again from **Domination in 2,545 Endgame Studies** by **Ghenrikh Kasparyan** (1974).

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1. Holm 1917 – White wins.

1.Kb7 (The chase is on!) **1…Bd8** (If **1…Bb6** or **1…Ba5** then **2.Nc4+**. This is a central idea.) **2.Kc8! Be7 3.Kd7** (The king smells blood.) **3…Bf8 4.Ke8 Bg7 5.Kf7 Kg8 6.Kg8!** and **white wins**.

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2. Rinck 1926 – White wins.

This another variation of our theme. Now the bishop has more room on the board to run around in, but the white bishop plays a more active role as well. Work it out without moving the pieces.

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3. Mugnos 1950 – White wins.

Finally, the same theme but with a beautiful twist near the end.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

US Championship

The US Chess Championship(s) are starting now. They are again run by the St. Louis Chess Club with their billionaire sponsor Rex Sinquefeld, but they are not in St. Louis this year. The tournament(s) are online as has become usual in these coronavirus times. Yet this is certainly the first time since its origin in 1845 that the championship is not played face to face.

The US Championship had historically been just one tournament with no divisions for gender or age. Now we have five tournaments – US Women's Junior, US Junior, US Senior, US Women's and the historical US Championship (with no restrictions for gender or age). The girls start the action on October 9th and the final event is the traditional (non-restricted) championship which begins October 26th. These will certainly be welcome entertainment for chess fans, but the games will not be the deliberate, long battles of the over the board tournaments that would run for two or three weeks. These events are rapid play and only last three or four days.

We hope to see some great battles and memorable games even though it is rapid play. We give below three games from the historical championships, which have produced a treasure of brilliant chess in the last 175 years.

(1) Ray Robson (2660) - Samuel Shankland (2671) [C83]

US Championship St Louis, MO USA (4), 21.04.2018

We start with a recent game from 2018 when our Bay Area native Sam Shankland won the championship. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6** This battle between two young grandmasters uses the classic old Ruy Lopez opening. **5.0-0 Nxe4** This Open Defense (taking the e-pawn) leads to a sharper, more tactical game than the slower Closed Variation (5...Be7). **6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Bf4 0-0 11.Nd4 Nxd4 12.cxd4 f6** Black needs to start the pawn interaction on the kingside. [12...c5? 13.f3! makes a big problem for the knight] **13.Nd2 fxe5 14.Bxe5 Nd6 15.Bc2 Qd7 16.Re1 Nc4 17.Nf3?!** [17.Nxc4 dxc4 is about equal] **17...Bg4! 18.Qd3?! g6**

Black has taken over the initiative. He threatens both the pawn on b2 and capturing on f3 to ruin White's kingside structure. **19.b3 Bxf3 20.bxc4 dxc4 21.Qe3 Bd5 22.Qg3 Bf6** Black is a clear pawn up yet needs to take care against White's kingside pressure. **23.h4 Qg7 24.Re3 c6 25.Rae1 Qh6!** The threat against h4 forces White to trade off the powerful e5 bishop, leaving Black with a strategically won game (as long as the black king stays safe). **26.Bxf6 Rxf6 27.Re8+ Rxe8 28.Rxe8+ Kf7 29.Qe5 Qc1+ 30.Bd1 Kg7 31.Qe7+ Rf7 32.Qe5+**

32...Kh6! The black king finds an unusual haven. **33.Qe1 Qf4 34.g4 Kg7 35.g5 c3** Black has a dominating position. There is no good defense for White. **36.Qe5+ Qxe5 37.dxe5 Rd7 38.h5 gxh5 39.Bc2 Bf7 40.Rc8 Rd2** winning the bishop. The rest needs no comment. **41.Rc7 Rxc2 42.e6 Re2 43.Rxf7+ Kg6 44.Kf1 Rxe6 0-1**

(2) Harry Nelson Pillsbury - Jackson Whipps Showalter [C14]

Pillsbury - Showalter US Championship New York, NY USA (7), 16.03.1898

We thought it appropriate to give one of the historical games from the 19th Century. Hopefully in the 23rd Century chess players will find interest in the great games that are played in our time **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7** The Classical Variation of the French Defense. This position is still main line theory today. **7.Qd2 a6 8.Nd1!?** An interesting plan by Pillsbury. He wants to keep the white pawn chain intact and moves the knight to allow his c-pawn to come up for support. **8...c5 9.c3 Nc6 10.f4 0-0 11.Nf3 f6 12.Bd3 fxe5 13.dxe5** [13.fxe5 is possible since 13...cxd4 14.cxd4 Nxd4? 15.Nxd4 Qh4+ 16.Nf2 Qxd4 fails to 17.Bxh7+] **13...b5 14.Bc2 Nb6 15.h4!? Nc4 16.Qd3 g6 17.g3 Qg7?!** Black now gets pushed back. Better was to play for central initiative with [17...d4 and the black pieces become active. White should not try to win a pawn with 18.cxd4? Bb7! when there are many troubles White has to dea with.] **18.b3** [18.h5! was even stronger] **18...Na3 19.Nf2 c4 20.Qe2?!** [20.Qd2! keeps more control of the dark squares] **20...b4**

The old players certainly played enterprising chess. The position is full of possibilities for both sides. **21.bxc4 bxc3 22.cxd5 Nb4! 23.Bb3 exd5?!** [23...a5!] **24.Rc1 Qc7?!** [24...a5!] **25.Nd3 a5?** Showalter finally plays this active move, but he has been too slow and in this position it costs him a rook. **26.Nxb4 axb4 27.Bxd5+ Kh8 28.Bxa8** Black has a fine looking position if he weren't down a rook. Now Pillsbury just has to be careful. **28...c2 29.e6 Re8 30.Bd5 Qc3+ 31.Qd2!** There are no tactics that work here and White is simply winning. **31...Qxd2+** [31...Rxe6+ 32.Bxe6 Qxf3 33.Qd4#] **32.Nxd2 Bxe6 33.Bxe6 Rxe6+ 34.Kf2** The rook up ending is easy enough, so Showalter resigned. **1-0**

(3) De Firmian,Nick E (2560) - Benjamin,Joel (2560) [C92]

USA-ch USA, 1988

I include a game of my own, here against Joel Benjamin. Joel had been a top player for decades and played in over 20 US Championships. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3** A classic Ruy Lopez position. These were common in the 1980s but nowadays one sees more Guico Pianos. **9...Nd7 10.d4 Bf6 11.a4 Bb7 12.Na3 Qb8?!** This decentralizes the queen and allows White to take control in the center. Better was [12...Ne7 as White cannot capture twice on b5 since the rook on a1 would hang] **13.Bg5 exd4 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.cxd4 Nb4 16.Nc2! bxa4 17.Rxa4 Nxc2 18.Bxc2 Re8 19.e5** The mobile white center clears the road for the white pieces. **19...Bxf3 20.Qxf3 dxe5 21.dxe5 Qxb2**

22.Re2! The white pieces are too active. The pawn on e5 cannot be taken as the rook on a8 would be loose. **22...Qb5** [22...Qc1+ 23.Kh2 Nd7 24.Bxh7+ Kxh7 25.Qxf7 is decisive] **23.Ra1 Nd7 24.Ba4 Qa5**

25.e6! fxe6 26.Ree1 White wins a piece. The coordination of the white rooks with the bishop was too much to deal with. **26...Qd5 27.Qxd5 exd5 28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 29.Bxd7 Rd8 30.Bc6 Rd6 31.Rxa6** Black resigns. The black d-pawn is easlily stopped by the white king. **1-0**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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Newsletter #939

October 17, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Coaching and Tournament Directing
- Ray Conway Tuesday Night Marathon Online
- US Amateur Team West
- TD Corner
- John Donaldson's New Book
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Coaching and Tournament Directing

I wrote last week about what I feel is a distinction between coaching and teaching, which seemed well received from the feedback I got. I wrote it because I personally experienced the difference between the two, and it more or less reflects what I think coaching should be. Looking deeper into it, I see that this thinking for me touches on many other areas, including as the title indicates, tournament directing. While on the surface it seems the two cannot exist together by definition, I do think there is a way to blend the two so as to educate players (and parents) while maintaining objectivity.

As a tournament director, fair play and adherence to the rules is the most important thing, but there is also an opportunity for tournament directors to set an example of the type of environment they want to create in an event, and for their organization. Nothing has driven me more crazy more than to see the type of tournament director that passively sits at a computer the whole time during a tournament, waiting for something to happen or to wait for players to post results. While one can argue there isn't much to do while games are playing and there is no controversy, the passivity does not go unnoticed by the players.

It is important to create an atmosphere of professionalism, or at the very least, the expectation that subtle aggressions will be spotted and handled. Here is an example: during a TNM at Mechanics' Institute, an older gentleman crowded his table area, extending his elbows to the natural space of the player seated next to him, who happened to be very young player. A player noticed this and infomed me, and then I let the player at the table know to please respect the space of the player seated next to him. About 10 minutes later, while walking around the room, I noticed this player again migrating his arms to to the space of the player seated next to him, at which point I paused the clock and told that player if I had to warn him again, I would have to assess a penalty. If I had not been proactive in following up on this player, the transgression would have continued.

Another thing that a TD often has to deal with are players or parents that want exceptions to rules, be it allowance of listening to music or allowing a player to play up a section for which they are not qualified for. I have even had a player, who happens to also be a tournament director, ask if he could read a book while he was playing an active USCF rated game. I have had a player bring who he said was a service dog into the chess room at Mechanics' Institute, only to learn later in the evening that it was the service animal of someone not in the building, not their own, and he was taking care of the animal. This was during a TNM, and there has to be a few reading this that were there that evening. I had to inform the player that someone had to come and take the dog out of the building or he would have to forfeit the game. After a few calls, he resigned his game to take the dog out of the building.

While a tournament director can sometimes not predict what will be asked of them or what might occur, maintaining a professional demeanor and clearly laying out the expectations is something that seldom diminishes the quality of the event. People may be upset at first, or a little frustrated, but they come to appreciate and accept that the rules are applied to everyone and everything is meant to maintain the highest standards. I'm not saying we are always perfect in this regard, but the mindset of being active in creating a fair environment and responsing to player concerns is always present.

How does this relate to coaching? I think it is also our duty to run a chess club activities and chess events that represent the values we want to reflect as a club, and therfore, an organization. This starts with us, the tournament directors. If we want to be top quality, we have to live and represent it in what we do. This is especially important in our scholastic events, where players learn tournament etiquette from their experience in a live tournament. If we let players talk and disturb others, they will do it at other events. So we correct that behavior when it happens, explain why it is wrong, and let them know there are consequences for not following the rules. This may be something as simple as not allowing them in the playing room while games are going so they cannot watch games, but something this simple does convey a consequence, and kids have been pretty good at learning the right way to participate in a tournament. We teach players how close they can stand to observe games, remind them not to tip off information about a game in progress or discuss live games, and showing good sportsmanship among many

other things. During these scholastic events, it is not uncommon for me to let players know we are there to help them learn and understand, to play tournaments the right way and that we can be proud they learned that at Mechanics' Institute. We tell them they represent the club with their actions, and we expect best efforts. We have engaged parents in helping explain to their kids tournament etiquette and they have overwhelmingly been supportive of these efforts.

This may sound a little dramatic, but this works. As a former coach, I'm proud when students and players of our events, go to other events and do things the right way, especially players we know started learning tournament chess through us. Tournament directors can coach players, but as with any coaching, the intent must be to teach something more than just the rules, but teaching the right way to do things.

Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon Report

Rounds 3 & 4 of the Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon certainly provided any chess enthusiast their fair share of action, as dramatic moments, surprise moves, and unlikely heroes dominated the broadcast. Due to the late entry of GM Gadir Guseinov and a draw from IM Prasanna Rao in round 2 last week, we got the dream matchup of the top two players in the TNM in round 4. The cagey veteran IM Elliott Winslow stayed in sharp form, defeating the young Nicholas Weng in an exciting game. NM Michael Walder found an absolue shot of a move against the very formidable Patrick Liu, who drew Prasanna Rao last week. Chelsea Zhou, a 1900+ player has been crusing through the TNM, beating opponents en route to a 4/4 perfomance thus far.

GM Gadir Guseinov (pictured here) and IM Prasanna Rao played an exciting round 4 game worthy of further analysis

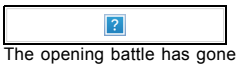
Here are some games from an action packed rounds 3 & 4, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2639) - IM Prasanna Rao (Praschess) (2198) [C63]

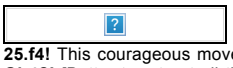
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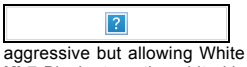
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d3 This modest reply to the sharp Schleimann Variation is underrated. **4...fxe4 5.dxe4 Nf6 6.0-0 d6** [snatching the pawn with 6...Nxe4?! 7.Qe2 Nf6 8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.Nxe5 leaves Black with serious difficulties to get developed] **7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0** This natural move leads to a position where Black must trade away his light-squared bishop for a knight. Other plans for Black have been played, but White seems to keep some edge there too. **9.Bc4+ Kh8 10.Ng5! Qe8 11.Ne6 Bxe6** [11...Qf7 12.Nxc7 Qxc4 13.Nxa8 Nd4 14.Qd3 favors White] **12.Bxe6 Qg6 13.Bf5**



The opening battle has gone White's way. This bishop gives White more light-square control. **13...Qf7 14.Bh3 Qg6 15.Bf5 Qf7 16.a3 Rad8 17.Bh3 Qg6 18.Qd3 d5** It's very tempting for Black to try for a break out, but White is able to keep control here. **19.Bf5! Qh5 20.exd5 e4?!** [20...Nd4 21.Be4 Bc5 may give more chances for Black, though the position is still difficult] **21.Bxe4 Ne5 22.Qd4?!** [22.Qd1! Neg4 23.h3 would be two pawns up where Black has no decent compensation] **22...Bd6!** Now White has to be careful. **23.h3 Nxe4 24.Qxe4 Rde8**



25.f4! This courageous move solves the tactical problems and White keeps a material edge. **25...Nc4 26.Qxc4 Rxe3 27.Rf2 Rfe8 28.Raf1 Qg6 29.Kh1 a6 30.Qd4 b6 31.Qd2 Qg3 32.Ne2 Qh4?!** [Better to retreat all the way with 32...Qg6 33.Nd4 Qe4 34.Ne6 Rxh3+ 35.Kg1 Re3 36.c4] **33.Nd4** now White is just two pawns ahead, The knight gets to the fine e6 square and White can unravel. **33...R8e4 34.Ne6 h6 35.c4** [35.Rf3! Re2 36.Qd3] **35...Qg3 36.b4 Rxc4 37.Rf3 Rxf3 38.Rxf3 Qg6 39.Rc3 Qb1+ 40.Kh2 Re4 41.Rf3 Re1?!**



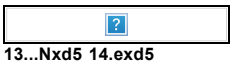
aggressive but allowing White to counter attack. 41...Rc4 was only a pawn down. **42.Qc3! Rh1+ 43.Kg3 Qa1 44.Qxa1 Rxa1 45.Kg4! a5** [45...Rd1 46.Kf5 Rxd5+ 47.Kg6 a5 48.Nxg7] **46.Kf5 Kh7** Black stops the white king from becoming a force on g6. The white rook and knight take up the charge. **47.Rg3 g5 48.Rc3 axb4 49.axb4 gxf4 50.Nxc7 Bxb4 51.Rc6 Bc5 52.Ne6** pawns are even but all the white pieces are extremely active. The white d-pawn is also a threat, so there is no way out for Black. **52...Rg1 53.Rc7+ Kg8 54.Nxc5 bxc5 55.d6** Black resigned as the d-pawn wins the rook. 55...Rd1 56. d7 Kf8 57. Ke6 etc. **1-0**

(4) Patrick Liu (katechen77) (1696) - NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) (1874) [B92]

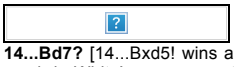
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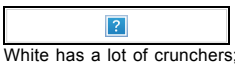
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be2 Be7 9.Qd3!? [9.Nd5!? Nbd7 10.Qd3 is the sensible order, avoiding the game continuation.] **9...Nc6!? 10.a3** [10.Nd5? Nxd5 11.exd5 Nb4] **10...Na5!?** [10...d5?! 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.0-0-0 ½-½ (42) Anand,V (2816)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2731) Saint Louis 2015 when Black was never really completely equal.; 10...Rc8 11.Nd5] **11.Nxa5N** [A couple recent games have gone 11.Nd2 b5 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Bd7] **11...Qxa5 12.b4?!** [12.0-0 0-0 13.Rfd1+/=] **12...Qc7 13.Nd5?**



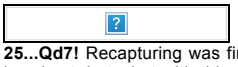
13...Nxd5 14.exd5



14...Bd7? [14...Bxd5! wins a key pawn (White can't take as ...Qc3+ works pretty well) and should be able to handle the technical problems.; 14...Bf5!! wins a better pawn; the d5-pawn is as much in White's way as anything, and Black can handle any trouble on the c-file.] **15.0-0 0-0 16.c4 b5?! 17.c5 dxc5?! 18.bxc5** This is too fast for Black to handle. **18...Bf6 19.Rac1 Rfd8 20.d6** [White could gather the fuel with 20.Rfd1 and Bf3 before making a crucial push.] **20...Qc8 21.Bf3 Bc6 22.Bd2 Qb7**



White has a lot of crunchers; trade, a rook to e1, move the queen somewhere. All devastating. **23.Ba5??** Going from a big advantage to losing in one move. This fails even worse than it looks at first. **23...e4! 24.Qc2 exf3 25.Bxd8**



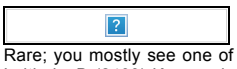
25...Qd7! Recapturing was fine; this is a finely calculated finish. **26.Rfd1 Qg4 27.Kf1 Qxg2+ 28.Ke1 Qg1+ 29.Kd2 Qxf2+ 30.Kd3 Qd4#** Patrick is still a little rough when it comes to the knockout, but what with this game and his earlier draw with Rao, we can only expect better things in the near future. As for Mike -- well, he's still up and down, moments of brilliance combined with gross oversights; he still hopes to recapture the magic. **0-1**

(5) Ethan Sun (sfdeals) (1523) - Ethan Boldi (etvat) (1902) [C02]

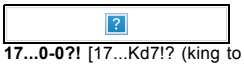
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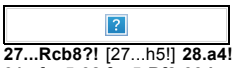
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 The Advance Variation of the French. Could its recent resurgence at high levels be related to the ongoing popularity of the Advance Caro Kann? **3...c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bd3** Usually played with the intention to gambit the d-pawn. **6...Bd7** [6...cxd4 7.cxd4 *(7.0-0!?* has been played quite a few times by Swedish GM Jonny Hector, who often goes his own way. If you're going to give up a pawn, why not do it immediately!?*)* 7...Bd7 the usual move order. *(*The old trap: *7...Nxd4?? 8.Nxd4 Qxd4 9.Bb5+)*] **7.Bc2?** Over-optimistically defending d4, but now there are other problems. [7.dxc5!? Bxc5 8.0-0 (8.b4 Bxf2+ 9.Ke2 Nxb4!? *(9...Nh6!?)*) 8...a5; 7.0-0! when there are still a few ways to play for play for the pawn besides the oldest 7...cxd4 8.cxd4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 10.Nc3 **a)** 10.Re1; **b)** 10.Qe2 Ne7 *(10...a6 11.Rd1)* 11.Rd1 Nc6; 10...a6 *(10...Qxe5!? 11.Re1 Qb8! 12.Nxd5 Bd6)* 11.Qe2 Ne7 12.Rd1 Nc6 13.Bxa6 Qxe5 White gets the pawn back; Black gets the somewhat better game.] **7...cxd4 8.cxd4 Nb4!** "Don't move the same piece twice in the opening." (Except when it's good.) **9.Nc3** [Most seen is 9.0-0 while they can.] **9...Nxc2+** Some players really miss their light-square bishop in this pawn structure. [9...Qa6!?] **10.Qxc2 Bb5**



Rare; you mostly see one of [10...Ne7; or 10...Rc8; or 10...Qa6; Something new: 10...a5 11.0-0 Ne7 12.Be3 Qa6 13.a4 Nf5 14.Qb3 Bb4 15.Na2 Be7 16.Nc3 Bb4 17.Na2 Be7 18.Nc3 ½-½ Lajthajm,B (2433)-Kovacevic,B (2456) Gradiste 2019] **11.Nxb5N** [11.Qb3 Bc4 12.Qxb6 axb6 13.b3 Ba6 14.Bb2 Ne7 15.0-0-0 Nc6 16.a3 Be7 17.Kb1 Kd7 18.Na4 Kc7 19.Rd2 b5 20.Nc5 b6 21.Nd3 b4 22.Nxb4 Nxb4 23.axb4 Bxb4 24.Rc1+ Kd7 25.Bc3 Ba3 26.Bb2 Bb4 27.Bc3 Be7 28.Ra2 Bd3+ 29.Rac2 Rhc8 30.Bb2 Rxc2 31.Rxc2 Bb4 32.Kc1 Bxc2 33.Kxc2 Ke7 0-1 (33) Fleischer,B (1900)-Fleischer,F (2212) Neumarkt am Wallersee 2013] **11...Qxb5 12.Qe2 Bb4+** A hard decision. It's bad good bishop vs. good bad bishop. (!) **13.Bd2?!** [13.Kf1! when White can gain time with a3-b4 and try to control the queenside.] **13...Bxd2+ 14.Qxd2=/+ Ne7 15.Qe2 Qb4+** [15...Qa4!?] **16.Qd2 Qxd2+** [16...Qc4!?] **17.Kxd2**



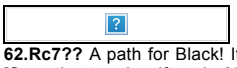
17...0-0?! [17...Kd7!? (king to the center!) sets up ...f6 when e6 is already defended.] **18.Rac1 Nc6 19.a3?! Na5** [19...f6!] **20.Kd3** Here the endgame is roughly equal. **20...Rfc8** [20...Nc4 21.Rc2 Rac8] **21.Nd2 f6 22.f4 Kf7 23.g4** [23.b4!] **23...a6** [23...b5] **24.h4!** White gets something going on the kingside. **24...b5 25.b4?!** [25.h5!] **25...Nc4 26.Nxc4** [White's no worse after 26.Nb3] **26...bxc4+ 27.Kc3**



27...Rcb8?! [27...h5!] **28.a4! Rb6** [28...h5] **29.Rb1** [29.h5!] **29...Rab8 30.h5 Kg8 31.h6** [31.Rhe1! Kf7 32.f5! could get dangerous for Black. (Stockfish thinks White is even winning already!)] **31...fxe5 32.fxe5 Rf8 33.hxg7?** [33.Rhf1! stops the black rook from becoming active] **33...Rf3+!** White is pushed back, and Black is now no worse. **34.Kc2 Kxg7 35.Rh4?! Rb8?!** [35...Rg3 36.Rbh1?! Rxb4-+] **36.b5!? axb5 37.axb5 Rf7** [37...Kg6!?] **38.g5 Rfb7 39.Rh6** It slogs into a dead drawn position now. Well, almost dead. **39...Rb6 40.Rf6 R8b7 41.Rb4 Kg8**



42.g6? Rg7? [42...h5! will be a very annoying passed pawn. (The g6 pawn isn't going anywhere.)] **43.gxh7+ Kxh7 44.Rf3** Back to 0.00 everywhere. **44...Rg2+ 45.Kc3 Ra2!** The only move to draw!? Black has to be careful that a sudden Rb1 by White doesn't checkmate him. **46.Rf6 Ra3+ 47.Kc2 Kg7 48.Rb1 Ra2+??** [48...Rg3 and nine other moves held the draw.] **49.Kc3** 50.Kb4-c5 is a deadly new threat, on top of 50.Rg1+. **49...Rg2 50.Rb4??** [50.Kb4 is crushing. The b-pawn runs; the c-pawn is stopped as an afterthought.] **50...Rg3+ 51.Kc2 Rg4 52.Kc3 Rg1??** [52...Rg3+=] **53.Kc2?** [53.Rb2! reopens the path!] **53...Rg3 54.Rb1 Kg8 55.Rb4 Rg7 56.Rb1 Rg4? 57.Kc3 Kg7 58.Rb4? Rg1? 59.Kc2? Rh1 60.Kd2 Kh7 61.Rf7+ Kg6**



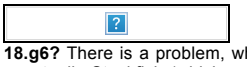
62.Rc7?? A path for Black! It'd be a smooth win now except they each have three minutes left. **62...Kf5-+ 63.Rc6 Rb8 64.b6 Rg8!** Everything is winning, but this is the best. **65.Rb5 Rh3** [Smoothest and swiftest is 65...Rg3 66.Ke2 Ke4! 67.Kf2 Rhg1!] **66.Ke2 Rg2+ 67.Kf1 Ra2** [67...Rhg3!] **68.Kg1 Rg3+ 69.Kf1 Rd3** [69...Ke4!] **70.Rb1 Rf3+ 71.Kg1 Rg3+ 72.Kf1 Rh3! 73.Kg1 Rah2 74.b7 Rh1+** [74...Kf4! mates shortly] **75.Kf2 Rxb1 76.Rc7 Rhb3 77.Rf7+ Ke4 78.Rf6 R3b2+ 79.Kg3 Rxb7 80.Rxe6 Rg7+ 81.Kf2 Rb2+ 82.Kf1 Ke3 83.Rf6 Rb1#** A typically tense double-rook "end"-game. **0-1**

(6) Nicholas Weng (ninjaforce) (1915) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2001) [B89]

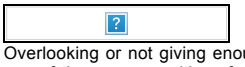
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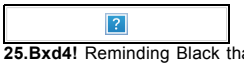
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.Be3 a6 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.0-0-0 A super sharp Siclian Velimirovic Attack. **10...Na5 11.g4 b5 12.g5 Nxb3+ 13.axb3 Nd7 14.h4 b4 15.Na4 Nc5 16.h5** [It's been known for quite a while that 16.f3 is too slow. 16...Bd7 17.Kb1 g6!?N 0-1 (32) Nisipeanu,L (2647)-Popov,I (2599) Moscow 2012] **16...Nxe4!?** Vigorito in his 2020 Najdorf book mentions this almost in passing [before heading for the well-trodden lines with 16...Bd7] As always in the Velimirovic, hesitation should be fatal. **17.Qg4?!** [17.g6!? is the main move, also as per practice (every game in the databases!). Vigorito suggests 17...0-0!? *(17...f5?!;* while most games have seen *17...Bf6!? 18.gxf7+ Kxf7* with a still quite complicated and unclear mess. Is Black still up a pawn?*)* 18.Qg4!? f5 *(18...Nf6!?* is given by Vigorito but no games yet; Stockfish somehow gives it 0.00 as well.*)* 19.gxh7+ Kh8 20.Qg6 Rf6 21.Qe8+ Rf8=; 17.Bf4 Bb7 18.Rhg1 e5; 17.Rh4 d5 18.Kb1 0-0] **17...d5!-/+**



18.g6? There is a problem, which goes unnoticed. [Lc0 and Stockfish 12 both jump into 18.Kb1 e5 (18...0-0!? 19.Rhg1 Re8!? *(19...Rb8!?)* 20.g6 fxg6 21.hxg6 h6) 19.Nf5 g6 20.Ng7+ Kf8 and eventually Stockfish (which sees mate until it doesn't) admits it's not a Black win, and Lc0 (which thinks everything is defensible (if it's not playing) admits that Black might actually have something.] **18...Bf6?!** The standard response [but 18...f5! 19.Qg2 h6 20.f3 Nf6[]-+ (stockfish, =/+ Lc0 on a slow computer. 21.Nb6!?] **19.f3N** This position actually has occurred before, via some sort of move-adding transposition. Here are the adjusted moves for comparison: [19.gxf7+ Kxf7 *(19...Qxf7?)* 20.f3 Qg3 21.Rhg1 Qxg4 22.fxg4 e5 23.Nc6 Bd7 24.Nxb4 Bxa4 25.g5 Bb5 26.gxf6 gxf6 27.Rxd5 Rhg8 28.Re1 Rac8 29.c4 Ke6 30.Nc2 Rg2 31.Bd2 Nc5 32.Rxc5 Rxc5 33.cxb5 axb5 34.b4 Rc8 35.Bc3 Rcg8 36.Nd4+ Kd5 37.Nf5 Ke6 38.Nd4+ Kd7 39.Nf3 R8g3 40.Rf1 Ke6 41.h6 Rh3 42.Nd2 Rxh6 43.Kc2 Rhh2 44.Rd1 h5 45.Kb3 Re2 46.Nb1 h4 47.Na3 h3 48.Nxb5 Rhg2 0-1 (69), Chuprov,D (2411)-Kalugin,S (2455) St Petersburg 1999.] **19...e5!** Both players appear to be heading down the rabbit hole. **20.Nf5 Bxf5 21.Qxf5 Ng3 22.Qg4!** [22.Qd3 Nxh1 23.Qxd5 Rc8 *(*Last chance for *23...0-0!?)* 24.Bc5 hxg6 (24...Ng3 25.Nb6 *(25.gxf7+ Qxf7 26.Qd6 Ne2+ 27.Kb1 Nd4)*) 25.hxg6 *(25.Rxh1 Be7 26.Re1 Bxc5)* 25...Ng3-+] **22...Nxh1 23.Nb6! d4?!**



Overlooking or not giving enough credit to White's 25th move. [23...hxg6! 24.Nxa8 Qc6 25.hxg6 Rh2!? 26.Rd2 Rxd2 27.Bxd2 a5 28.gxf7+ Kxf7 29.Qh5+ Ke7 30.Qxh1 Qxa8=/+ Lc0 (probably one of those won positions for Black that Lc0 would hold for White); 23...0-0!? could well be the way as well.] **24.Nxa8 Qc6**



25.Bxd4! Reminding Black that this came out of a Velimirovic Attack! **25...0-0!?** A practical move, with a long-ago echo of the game Bilek-Fischer, Stockholm Interzonal, 1962. With pieces hanging right and left RJF just castled out of it. (The computers of today let us know it was the only move.) [25...exd4!? when the computers love the long variation 26.Re1+ Kd8 27.Qf4! *(27.gxf7 d3 28.Qc4 Qxc4 29.bxc4 Nf2)* 27...Kc8 *(27...Qxa8? 28.Qd6+ Kc8 29.gxf7+/-)* 28.gxf7 Kb7 29.Qc7+! Qxc7 30.Nxc7 Rf8! 31.Ne6 Rxf7 32.Rxh1 = Lc0 -0.13/0] **26.Be3 Rxa8 27.Rxh1 Rc8 28.gxh7+** [28.gxf7+!? Kxf7 29.Rh2 e4!?] **28...Kxh7** [Times: 11:43 vs. 10:53] Now for a few moves neither player can decide if they want the queens off or not. **29.Qf5+** [29.Qe4+ Qxe4 30.fxe4 Be7=; 29.Rh2!?] **29...Kg8 30.h6?!** [30.Qe4!? Qb5 *(30...Qxe4 31.fxe4 Be7* and is Black's king better off on g8 or h7?*)*] **30...g6 31.h7+** [31.Qe4] **31...Kh8 32.Qe4 a5** [Stockfish 12 likes 32...Qb5 quite a bit (clear advantage Black),; while Lc0 seems to favor 32...Bg7 to get the f-pawn going.] **33.Kb1?!** [33.Qxc6 Rxc6 34.Kd2 Rd6+ 35.Ke2 e4 36.fxe4 Bxb2 37.Rd1 Re6] **33...Qb5?!** [33...Bg7! 34.Qxc6 Rxc6 35.Rd1 Kxh7 36.Rd5 Rf6 37.Rxa5 Rxf3-+] **34.Bc1?!** White went from 9:33 to 7:12 here. It's not easy to find a way forward. Nicholas Weng was showing clearheaded opening play but now he's showing the inexperience that the best of the scholastic players shake off and master. In time. [Perhaps if he'd found the bailout 34.Rd1! Kxh7 35.Rd6 Kg7!? 36.Rxf6! (36.Bh6+ Kxh6 37.Rxf6 Kg7 38.Rd6 Qc5 *(38...Rh8)*) 36...Kxf6 37.Qh4+ Ke6 38.Qg4+ f5 39.Qxg6+ Kd7 40.Qxf5+ Kc7=] **34...Bg7** [34...Qa6 35.Qd5 Qa7 36.Qd6 Bg7 37.Bh6 Bxh6 38.Rxh6 Qg1+ 39.Ka2 Qg5 First = sf12, then = Lc0; 34...Qc6; 34...Rd8] **35.Bd2?** [35.Bh6 Bf6 36.Bd2] **35...f5-/+** (on the verge of winning (Stockfish), up half a pawn (Lc0)) **36.Qh4 Qc6?!** [36...f4! breaks White's ability to transfer.] **37.c3?!** [37.Bh6!? Bxh6 38.Qxh6 Qxf3 *(38...Qxc2+ 39.Ka2 f4=)* 39.Rg1 Qh5 40.Rxg6 *(40.Qd2 f4* =/+ Lc0 d10, -+ sf12 d22 *41.Qd6 Qf5 42.Rxg6 a4-/+* Lc0*)* 40...Qxh6 41.Rxh6 e4 42.Kc1 Rd8-+] **37...Qxf3** When even Lc0 gives it -+ you can pretty sure the game has tipped. **38.Qe1? Qd3+ 39.Ka2**



[39.Kc1 bxc3 *(39...f4; 39...e4)*] **39...a4! 40.bxa4 b3+! 41.Ka3** [41.Kxb3 Rb8+ 42.Ka2 Qc2 43.Qc1 *(43.Bc1 Ra8)* 43...Qxa4+ 44.Kb1 Qe4+ 45.Ka2 *(45.Qc2 Qxh1+)* 45...Ra8+ 46.Kb3 Qa4#] **41...Qc4** [41...Rb8! 42.c4 Qxc4 43.Bb4 e4] **42.Rh4** [42.Bh6!? Bf6 43.Bg5 Qc5+ 44.Kxb3 Bxg5] **42...e4** [42...Bf8#!] **43.Qd1 Bf8#** A game of theoretical interest with quite a few thorny problems, and a flash ending. Another dangerous youngster is on the loose! But the old masters can still give it out as well as take it. **0-1**

(7) Chelsea Zhou (mwncklmann) (1896) - Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1782) [E12]

Conway mem TNM Online Chess.com, 13.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Be7 Not seen so often anymore, as everyone is getting into [3...Nf6 4.Nf3 -- *(4...c5* The Semi-Tarrasch*; 4...c6* (The Meran and Semi-Meran)*; 4...Bb4* (The Ragozin)*,; 4...a6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bf4 Bd6* The "Carlsen"*?; 4...h6* The Caruana!*)*] **4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Nbd7** But Kristian has been going Orthodox for quite a while. [5...0-0 6.e3 1-0 (24) Botvinnik,M-Vidmar,M Nottingham 1936] **6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3** A very old line, Botvinnik was fond of it: Botvinnik-Vidmar! What a game! [The main line seen in many world championshp matches was 7.Rc1 c6 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.0-0 Nxc3 12.Rxc3 e5; 7.Qc2 keeps options open but 7...c5 is the standard antidote. Now queenside castling is maybe too risky.; 7.cxd5 does at least put a big question to Black: 7...exd5 *(*or *7...Nxd5* with at least some trades leading to a more relaxed game*.)* 8.Bd3 c6 9.Qc2 Re8 On the one hand Black is mostly committed to the conservative deployment, but then again, White has his knight on f3 and can't so easily play for f3 and e4. There are still Minority Attack options, including 10.0-0 Nf8 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.b4 getting it going right away.] **7...dxc4** [7...c5 8.0-0 cxd4 9.exd4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Nb6 11.Bb3 Bd7 12.Qd3 Nbd5 13.Ne5 Bc6 14.Rad1 Nb4 15.Qh3 Bd5 16.Nxd5 Nbxd5 17.f4 Rc8 18.f5 exf5 19.Rxf5 Qd620.Nxf7! Rxf7 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Rxd5 Qc6 23.Rd6 Qe8 24.Rd7 1-0 Botvinnik,M-Vidmar,M Nottingham 1936] **8.Bxc4 b6!?** Less played than the c-pawn, but it is more to the point when it comes to that last minor piece, the queen bishop. [8...c5 is most common, but seriously, how does it help to solve Black's development? The pawn itself wasn't particularly threatened. Trading on d4 might give White an isolated pawn, but that's at best double-edged.] **9.0-0 Bb7 10.Bf4** Hardly ever played! But not absolutely bad. Is this piece so better placed here that it's worth burning a tempo? [Most common, best scoring, and following classic development patterns (minor pieces, castle, queen, rooks) is 10.Qe2!?] **10...a6 11.Rc1 Rc8?!** [Stockfish would have Black leap into action: 11...b5! 12.Bb3 Nh5! 13.Be5 c5 with Black starting to get the better of it.] **12.Qe2?!**

Picking on the a-pawn but it doesn't have to be a problem. [The mass liquidation after 12.d5 leaves some white squares for White and a small advantage.; But first 12.a4! puts Black in a tricky situation. 12...c6!? 13.Qe2 b5 is a radical solution, but there are still liabilities after 14.Bd3] **12...b5! 13.Bd3 c5=/+ 14.dxc5 Nxc5 15.Bc2 Qb6** A comfy square for the queen, ready for the last piece to get into play. [But more to the point is 15...b4!? 16.Na4 *(16.Nb1 a5* and ...Ba6 is a nuisance*)* 16...Nce4!? is solid in the center.] **16.Rfd1 Rfd8 17.h3** Making 'luft' -- White has to be careful not to clue Black in on the danger of the back rank...

17...Nd5? [17...Rxd1+ 18.Rxd1 *(18.Qxd1 a5)* 18...b4 19.Na4 Nxa4 20.Bxa4 Bd5 Black gets the better of a symmetrical center.] **18.Nxd5! Bxd5 19.Ne5** White grabs the moment! Between kingside danger (Qh5) and a veiled trade-off into a good ending, Black's problems appear. **19...Be4**

Times: [Black had to suffer with 19...Ne4 20.Qh5 g6 21.Qh6 and hope to survive. The downside of ...Qb6: that piece isn't helping defend.] Here Zhou took a few minutes and found **20.Bxe4! Nxe4 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8** [21...Qxd8 22.Nc6 Kf8 *(22...Bh4 23.Qc2!)* 23.Nxd8 Rxc1+ 24.Kh2 Luft matters!] **22.Nc6! Rd2** The computers accept and just lose the rook for knight, but then it's just a technical win. Chelsea Zhou might be still pretty young, but with seven years tournament experience that should be well within her skill set. **23.Nxe7+ Kf8 24.Qf3 Nxf2** [24...f5 25.Nc6 Rxf2 26.Bd6+! *(26.Qxf2* is the blunt "had enough?" alternative*)* 26...Nxd6 *(26...Ke8 27.Qh5+* leads to mate*)* 27.Kxf2 is a whole rook.] **25.Nc8 Qd8 26.Nd6 Ke7 27.Bg3** [27.Qb7+ is already mate on the horizon.] **27...f6 28.Nc8+ Kf7 29.Bxf2 Rxb2 30.Qh5+ Kf8?! 31.Nd6 g6 32.Qxh7 Rd2 33.Qf7#** An instructive and interesting game. Clemens is probably still scratching his head wondering where it went wrong. Hats off to Zhou for a fine win, placing her tied for first! **1-0**

To watch the broadcast, follow this link:

Full standings can be seen below, for more information on the event, please follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/october-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/october-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

SwissSys Standings. Conway Memorial TNM Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tota
1	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W29	W19	W8	W9	4.0
2	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1927	mwncklmann	W46	W41	W21	W7	4.0
3	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2600	GGuseinov	H---	H---	W23	W15	3.0
4	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	KyronGriffith	W28	W18	H---	H---	3.0
5	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W43	W39	L9	W17	3.0
6	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	1998	SmilyFace4	W31	L14	W32	W24	3.0
7	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W32	W40	W13	L2	3.0
8	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1958	ninjaforce	W33	W47	L1	W28	3.0
9	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1948	kondsaga	W34	W36	W5	L1	3.0
10	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	L35	W45	W44	W26	3.0
11	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	H---	W34	W30	3.0
12	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1869	J3Chess24	L47	W33	W35	W27	3.0
13	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	W55	W20	L7	W29	3.0
14	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	W38	W6	L15	W21	3.0
15	IM Prasanna Ragh Rao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083805)	16083805	2508	Praschess	W27	D17	W14	L3	2.5
16	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2186	microbear	H---	W53	L17	W31	2.5
17	Patrick Peiju Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1851	katechen77	W48	D15	W16	L5	2.5
18	Mark L Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	12459313	1843	BirdOrBust	W49	L4	D40	W39	2.5
19	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1842	A-boy415	W54	L1	D36	W40	2.5
20	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	etvat	W30	L13	L31	W41	2.0
21	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W45	W35	L2	L14	2.0
22	Nicholas Ar Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	L36	L32	W46	W47	2.0
23	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	D53	W50	L3	D36	2.0
24	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1775	vish1080	L41	W46	W47	L6	2.0
25	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1710	GiorgosTsolias	L50	L34	W48	W49	2.0
26	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	starserika18	H---	H---	W37	L10	2.0
27	Rachael Tiong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16019458)	16019458	1656	rachael1120	L15	W48	W38	L12	2.0
28	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1628	chessboi2010	L4	W49	W51	L8	2.0
29	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1606	LightningDragon8	L1	W54	W50	L13	2.0
30	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	L20	W55	W52	L11	2.0
31	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L6	W42	W20	L16	2.0
32	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1428	programmingmax	L7	W22	L6	W51	2.0
33	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L8	L12	W55	W50	2.0
34	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1355	SunnyCountry	L9	W25	L11	W52	2.0
35	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1331	chesspoki	W10	L21	L12	W42	2.0

36	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1287	jacobchess857	W22	L9	D19	D23	2.0
37	Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)	17179258	923	JeffNorthSF	L39	W43	L26	W44	2.0
38	Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)	17310102	831	MrL0cust	L14	B---	L27	W45	2.0
39	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W37	L5	D41	L18	1.5
40	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1323	pranavpradeep2006	W42	L7	D18	L19	1.5
41	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	931	sfdeals	W24	L2	D39	L20	1.5
42	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	L40	L31	W53	L35	1.0
43	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L5	L37	L49	W53	1.0
44	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	Kaline340Green	H---	H---	L10	L37	1.0
45	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	L21	L10	W54	L38	1.0
46	Martin Camacho (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248027)	17248027	1311	camachom	L2	L24	L22	W54	1.0
47	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1235	noydan100	W12	L8	L24	L22	1.0
48	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1091	victor6688	L17	L27	L25	W55	1.0
49	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1073	kevin_mx_sun	L18	L28	W43	L25	1.0
50	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	691	Sebbymeister	W25	L23	L29	L33	1.0
51	Willia Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)	17048414	537	OlympusMons00	H---	H---	L28	L32	1.0
52	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	unr.	Bruce_Hedman	H---	H---	L30	L34	1.0
53	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	933	adichi	D23	L16	L42	L43	0.5
54	Yuvraj Si Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	1060	SaintReturns	L19	L29	L45	L46	0.0
55	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	953	andrewaballantyne	L13	L30	L33	L48	0.0

Mechanics' Institute to Organize 2021 US Amateur Team West Championship Online

We are excited to announce that US Chess awarded Mechanics' Institute the bid to organize the 2021 US Amateur Team West Championship online! We want to thank US Chess for the opportunity to continue to organize high profile events online, and we will continue to seek more ways to bring quality events to our chess community in 2021. The event will be held the weekend of January 30-31, 2021. This date is a few weeks earlier than when it is normally held, but we decided to choose this date so as not to conflict with Super Bowl Sunday (February 7) as well as the dates for the other regional team championships. It is quite possible, with the team championship events this year being organized online, that many teams will choose to play al four of the regional events. From our standpoint, we are just happy that we will be able to once again organize the Amateur West, which was a success last year in Burlingame. We will of course broadcast the games and provide live commentary on our Twitch channel.

Site of the 2020 US Amateur Team West in Burlingame. We hope to create the same buzz and excitement for next year's online event.

We will also organize a scholastic side event to be held on Sunday January 31, 2021 on Chesskid.

Registration will open soon, please let us know if you have any questions. We can be reached at: chessroom@milibrary.org.

For more information, please click on the event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/usatw (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/usatw)

TD Corner

What to do in case I get disconnected?

Don’t Panic & Reconnect

By Senior USCF TD and FIDE Arbiter Dr. Judit Sztaray

There are various reasons why a player may get disconnected from an online game. However, it does not mean that you automatically lose that game! Here is some information on what’s happening and some advice on what you can do.

Please note that we are covering chess.com platform, because all of our offerings are on that platform. If you play in any other platform, we encourage everyone to research and find out platform specific settings for optimal use and performance.

When you play an online game on chess.com, there is a connection tab next to each player’s name: four bars that can show up in various colors. This indicates a player’s connectivity. If it’s green, that’s always a good sign. If it’s red or blinking, that’s not so much.

If you click on this connection tab, you can set your own preferences when it comes to Type and Network Options. More information on this can be found here:

https://www.chess.com/blog/News/how-to-adjust-your-live-chess-connection (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chess.com/blog/News/how-to-adjust-your-live-chess-connection)

If your internet connection is unstable, and your device disconnects from the internet, the system detects that immediately.

If your disconnection happens during your opponents turn, you are in luck, because you don’t lose time.

If the disconnection happens during your turn, your game does not end immediately, and your clock will be running. The time control of the game you are playing determines how much time you have to reconnect: the longer the game is the longer the time you have to reconnect. However, if you disconnect, the chess.com servers evaluate the position and if the player is significantly losing, the game is immediately forfeited. The maximum time to reconnect is 3 minutes, and it’s given to longer time controls, like G/60 or do. The short blitz games, like G/3+2 have 20 seconds to reconnect.

So what should you do when disconnect? Don’t panic!
1. First, take a screenshot or a quick picture of the position. This might come handy later, if the game needs to be restarted from a certain position.
2. Reconnect to the internet by using your phone’s hotspot or reconnecting to the wifi and immediately reload chess.com/live and your game should pop up next to the Games/Tournaments tab. You might have to log in again, depending on your setting, but after logging in go to chess.com/live.

Of course there are certain bugs that none of us are immune to and that we can’t explain. But we hope that this little, quick suggestion might help you next time you experience that painful sign of blinking bars.

Any questions? Our inbox is always open!

IM John Donaldson Releasing New Book On Bobby Fischer, Set To Release November 11

Former Mechanics' Institute Chess Director and Captain of the US Olympic team IM John Donaldson will soon be relasing the first of a two-part book on Bobby Fischer titled *Bobby Fischer and His World*. This new book will have newly uncovered games and interviews and is a must read for any serious fan of history and chess. According to John, "Bobby's 1957 visits to the Mechanics' are covered and his stays in San Francisco in the early 1980s, but not the simul he gave at the MI in 1957 which will be in volume 2."

To pre-order, and for more information, follow this link: https://www.amazon.com/Bobby-Fischer-World-John-Donaldson/dp/1890085197 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.amazon.com/Bobby-Fischer-World-John-Donaldson/dp/1890085197)

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Mondays 4pm-5pm, 10/19: https://www.chess.com/live#r=540871 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chess.com/live#r=540871)

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 10/20: https://www.chess.com/live#r=540872 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chess.com/live#r=540872)

MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez, Dr. Judit Sztaray Arena: Fridays 5pm-6:00pm, 10/23:

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM - A Journey Through Chess History - Course 2: US Championships with GM Nick de Firmian

The US Championship is one of the most revered chess events for American players, showcasing the very best in our country. Bobby Fischer, Walter Browne, Hikaru Nakamura, Sam Shankland, and Fabiano Caruana are all among the elite to have won the title. Among thee greats is Mechanics' Institute's Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian, who is a 3-time winner of the title. In this class, he will talk about his US Championship victories, as well as some personal first hand accounts and games from this great event. Combining historical storytelling with dramatic games, Nick will enlighten, educate and entertain students with a bit of Americana suitable for players of all skill levels.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/us-championship-history-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/us-championship-history-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/USChampionshipHistory (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/USChampionshipHistory)

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM - The World Championship Match -- by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: Part 2 -- 10/8 through 11/15

An in-depth look at the World Championship matches – the great games, styles and personalities of the World Champions and their challengers. The central idea of the class will be the study of chess ideas and theory, as practiced by the greatest players. In each class we'll look through a selection of the most famous games ever played: games where literally everything was at stake.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead)

Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, October 17: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM

6SS G/15+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=108405 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=108405)

Sunday, October 18: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=108406 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=108406)

Monday, October 19: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=108407 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=108407)

Tuesday, October 20: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=108409 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=108409)

Wednesday, October 21: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=128832 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=128832)

Thursday, October 22: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=128833 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=128833)

Friday, October 23: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=128834 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=128834)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

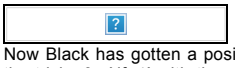
Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(2) PinkAiryCloud (1478) - KindMagneticFist (1380) [C65]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bd6 This move blocks the black d-pawn from advancing. It can be played with a sophisticated strategy where the bishop retreats back to f8 after Black castles and plays ...Re8, but in general I don't recommend this move. **4.0-0 Nf6 5.Re1 a6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bb3 Bc5?!**



Now Black has gotten a position a tempo behind as the dark-squared bishop took two moves to get to c5. White makes good use of the extra time. **8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.d4 Bd6?!** [Black should try the tricky 9...Nfg4! with the plan of ...Qh4. White would have to be careful, 10.Rf1! Ba7 11.h3 would win the piece back and keep the advantage] **10.dxe5 Bxe5 11.Nd2?!** [11.f4! Bd6 12.e5 Bc5+ 13.Kh1 runs Black off the central squares and wins material 13...Ng8 14.Qd5] **11...0-0 12.Nf3 Bd6?** a mistake walking into a fork [12...d6 13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.a4 b4 15.Qxd8 Rxd8 16.f3 is a nice endgame for White, but at least material would be even.] **13.e5 Bxe5 14.Nxe5 d6 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.Bg5** White makes use of the extra bishop. Black can only hope for a blunder. **16...h6 17.Bh4 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 g5 19.Bg3 g4** This just weakens the black kingside. It was lost anyway. **20.Qf4 Kh7 21.Bh4!** Black resigned. **1-0**

(3) Nightimeninja (1312) - AtomicSillyTiger (1476) [D10]

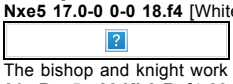
Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bf4 Bf5 [4...dxc4! 5.e3 b5 would be a testing continuation] **5.c5** [5.e3] **5...e6 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Bd3 Bg6 8.Bxg6 fxg6?!** It is better to recapture with the h-pawn to keep the black pawn structure intact. **9.Qb3 Rb8?** Black could have just defended the b-pawn with 9...Qc8. This gives up the exchange. **10.Bxb8 Qxb8 11.Nf3 Be7**



12.Ne5? jumping into action but breaking up the white pawn structure. From a winning position White has given Black the pawn targets at e5 and c5 and the game is almost even now **12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nd7 14.Ne4?** White can't resist jumping in with the knights! Here it's just a sacrifice for little compensation. Instead White would have still been for choice after [14.f4 Bxc5 15.Ne2] **14...dxe4 15.Qxe6 Qxe5!** Black gets the e-pawn back and remains with bishop and knight for a rook. Here that is a winning advantage if you have really good technique. **16.Qxe5 Nxe5 17.0-0 0-0 18.f4** [White should at least try 18.b4 Nd3 19.a3 b6 20.cxb6 axb6 even though the rook has a tough battle against the bishop and knight] **18...Ng4**



The bishop and knight work well together. White has a lot of pawn targets which are hard to defend, and decides not to bother with that task. **19.h3?! Nxe3 20.Rfe1 Nd5 21.Red1?!** [21.Rxe4] **21...Bxc5+ 22.Kh2 Rxf4 23.g3?! Rf2+ 24.Kg1 Rxb2+** That's four pawns Black took in the last five moves! **25.Kf1 Rf2+ 26.Ke1 Rf8 27.Rdb1?!** losing the exchange as the rook on a1 gets trapped. The position was hopeless anyway. **27...Bd4 28.Rxb7 Bxa1 29.Rxa7 Bc3+ 30.Kd1 Rf1+ 31.Kc2 e3 32.Kd3 Rd1+ 33.Kc2 e2 34.Ra8+ Kf7 35.Ra7+ Ke6 36.Ra6 e1Q 37.Rxc6+ Ke5 38.Rc8 Qd2+ 39.Kb3 Rb1+ 40.Kc4 Qd4# 0-1**

US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Every Week!

Next one: October 17, @3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rating only (not over-the-board)
Every player must be a US Chess member.
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening.

Save the Date - October 31 10AM - Halloween Special
6SS G/15+2
2 Sections: u1200 and 1200+
Manually paired, online live help desk available
Trophies to Top 10 players in both sections!

Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered:

NEW Class: Get Those Chess Boards Out! -- Tuesdays 4-5PM
As parents, many of us now see kids staring at a screen for hours during the school day. We understand having another online class may not be so exciting. What if we are able to offer a class for beginners where they can feel and interact with the pieces to capture an important part of the early learning experience? That's why we are introducing a new class for our young, beginner players!
Let's get those chess boards out and use it during the class!
Coach Colin will interact with the players via zoom, but they will talk, use the chess board, set it up and set up different positions, and learn and play on a physical board. No shared screen during the class! It's all interactive, using physical chess pieces! **Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/get-those-chess-boards-out) for more information.**

Starting at Chess -- Mondays 3-4PM
This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players -- Tuesdays 3-4PM or Thursdays 4-5PM
This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess -- Thursdays 5-6PM
This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class.
Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

10/17 Saturday - Saturday Night Blitz
Format: 6SS G/5+2
Join by 6:00PM - https://www.chess.com/live#g=5588884043 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chess.com/live#g=5588884043)
Start at 7:00PM

10/20 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/October2020TuesdayNightMarathon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/October2020TuesdayNightMarathon)
Start at 6:30PM

10/22 Thursday - Thursday Night Quads
Format: 3SS G/40+5 Double Round Robin
Join by 4PM - https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-3 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-quads-online-3)
Start at 6:30PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210125135945/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Domination, Part 7

pwhitehead@milibrary.org

Queening a pawn is a great thing, but in a race between pawns often there is only one winner. At the end a queen may dominate a queen…

Pedro Damiano (1480 – 1544) is immortalized for his dubious 2nd move as black: **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f6?!**

but he also composed a few simple studies.

Examples are taken from **Domination in 2,545 Endgame Studies** by **Ghenrikh Kasparyan** (1974).

The following idea occurs in countless games: ignore at your own peril!

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1. Damiano c.1500 – Black wins.

It's a simple race, but it's visualizing the final 2 moves that often gives us a headache: **1…f4 2.a5 f3 3.a6 f2 4.a7 f1Q 5.a8Q**. Well, we've gotten this far, now what? **5…Qb1+! 6.Ka3/a4/a5 Qa1+!** The classic skewer, winning (dominating!) the white queen. **Black wins**.

Here's another easy one, with a bit of a twist at the end:

2. Cook 1886 – White wins.

1.g4 b5 2.g5 b4 3.g6 b3 4.g7 b2 5.g8Q b1Q. Well that was easy, but can you see white's winning shot? **6.Qh7+!** The enemy queen is skewered on the diagonal this time. **White wins**.

This study is a direct descendant of the previous one, but there's yet another twist. Not too hard, but I'm afraid you're on your own.

3. Brenyov 1931 – White wins.

Finally, here's a funny little study that mirrors in a way Reti's famous drawn pawn endgame from 1921.

4. Rinck 1922 – White wins.

Not difficult, I think. As usual I urge the reader to visualize the answers rather than play them out on a board.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

The End

Magnus Carlsen's amazing record streak of 125 games without defeat has finally come to an end. He lost to the promising young Polish grandmaster, Jan-Krysztof Duda in the 5th round of the Altibox Norway Chess tournament being played live in Stavanger Norway.(We must note here that Norway is doing well with the coronavirus and is able to have some live events.) Duda received congratulations from Polish prime minister Mateusz Moraweicki via twitter.

Carlsen last lost a classical game on July 18, 2018 to Shakh Mamedyarov. (You may recall Shakh visiting the MI for a simul last year. Our players faired no better than Carlsen.) Thus 2 years, 2 months and 10 days passed without a (classical) loss from Magnus. "It had to happen at some point, but in any case it's very, very disappointing he said." We note that Magnus tends to be resolved, some say angry, after a loss. The next round he faced Duda again to start the second half of the double round robin. Angry Magnus took his revenge.

In other news the US Championships are being played and the US Girls Championship ended with a great victory by Carissa Yip of Massachusetts. Her final score of 7.5/9 was impressive. We give here her last round against Rochelle Wu, who had a chance to tie for first with a victory.

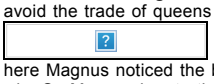
(1) Duda,Jan-Krzysztof - Carlsen,Magnus [B15]

Altibox Norway, 11.10.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 Magnus has played this variation recently. It's bad for an endgame to have the doubled pawns, but they produce an interesting middle game. The great Bent Larsen also used to play this opening on occasion. **6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5** using the kingside pawns aggressively. This encourages White to castle to the queenside and make it an attacking battle. **10.Be3 Nd7 11.0-0-0 b5 12.d5! c5! 13.Bxb5 Rb8 14.c4 a6 15.Ba4 Re7**

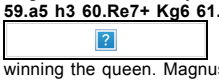


objectively White is better and Duda can be satisfied with the opening. Yet Black has counter chances for the pawn and the game will be very messy. **16.Ng3 Ne5 17.Ne4** The computers prefers 17. Bd2 right now and consider that White has a plus. **17...Reb7 18.b3 Rb4** This forces the exchange sacrifice, which opens opens up the queenside. This makes a complex position with roughly equal chances. **19.Bd2 Rxa4 20.bxa4 Bf5 21.Rde1 h4?!** This doesn't help much. When you sacrifice material you need to follow up aggressively. [21...Ng4! 22.Re2 Be5 would be good compensation for the exchange. The white king must deal with many black pieces targeting him.] **22.h3 Ng6 23.Re3! Nf4 24.g4 Bg6 25.Kd1** White's plan is to take control of the weak squares and consolidate with the extra exchange. Magnus needs to create something here. **25...f5?!** aggressive but giving more material [25...Qd7 26.f3 Be5 is worse for Black but still messy] **26.Nxd6 Qxd6 27.gxf5 Bh5+ 28.f3 Qf6 29.Bc3 Qg5 30.Qe4 Qg2 31.Rhe1 Qxa2?** It's tempting to take this pawn, but it leads to a lost postion because of an upcoming tactic. **32.Qc2! Qxc4** to avoid the trade of queens **33.Re8+**



here Magnus noticed the big problem. **33...Kh7** [On the normal 33...Rxe8 34.Rxe8+ Kh7 White has the killing tactic 35.Rh8+! Kxh8 36.Bxg7+ Kxg7 37.Qxc4 winning the queen with an easy win. So Magnus has to throw another rook sacrifice into the attack. It's not at all sound and Duda only has to be careful after this.] **34.Rxb8 Qxd5+ 35.Qd2 Bxf3+ 36.Kc1 Qxf5 37.Re3 Ne2+ 38.Kb2 Nxc3 39.Qxc3 Qf4 40.Qd3+ f5** Two rooks against a bishop. Magnus will not die without a fight yet the material deficit is tremendous. **41.Rf8 Qb4+ 42.Kc1 Be4 43.Qb3 Qd4 44.Qc3 Qd6 45.Rf7 Qg6 46.Rd7 Qg1+ 47.Kb2 c4 48.Rxe4** getting rid of the bishop makes the game simpler. **48...fxe4 49.Rd4 Qf2+ 50.Qd2 c3+ 51.Kxc3 Qg3+ 52.Kb2 Qxh3 53.Rxe4** Perhaps

Magnus would normally resign this positon. After 125 games without losing, he won't give up until the bitter end. **53...Qg3 54.Qd4 Qg2+ 55.Kc3 Qf3+ 56.Kb4 Qf8+ 57.Ka5 Qf5+ 58.Kxa6 g5 59.a5 h3 60.Re7+ Kg6 61.Qg7+ Kh5 62.Qh7+ Kg4 63.Re4+**



winning the queen. Magnus resigned and the streak was over. **1-0**

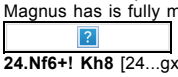
(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Duda,Jan-Krzysztof [D31]

Altibox Norway, 12.10.2020

The tournament is a double round-robin. Ironically Carlsen had to meet Duda the next game after his loss, having played him the final game of the first round and so met him the first game of the second round. One should note that Magnus is always angry with himself and out for blood after a loss. After ending his undefeated streak there was no doubt Magnus would be in a killer mood for this game. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.b3** This is an unusual move. It has the advantage that the white b-pawn helps with the central control. **5...b6 6.Bb2 Bb7 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Nge2 Bd6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Ng3 c5 11.cxd5 cxd4?!** This logical move gets into some trouble. Safer is [11...Bxg3 12.hxg3 cxd4] **12.Nce4! Bxg3 13.Nxg3 dxe3** [13...Nxd5] **14.dxe6! exf2+ 15.Rxf2 fxe6 16.Qe2 Nc5 17.Bc2**



White has excellent compensation for the pawn with two bishops, an open board and the e6 pawn as a target. **17...Ba6 18.Qe1 Qe8?!** [18...Nd5 19.Rxf8+ Qxf8 20.b4 Nd3 21.Qxe6+ Qf7 22.Qxf7+ Kxf7 23.Bb3! Rd8 24.Rf1+ Kg6 25.Ba1 is a very nice ending for White, but Black would still be in the game. Now the White initiative builds.] **19.Rd1 Rc8 20.b4!** Driving the knight from it's fine outpost clears the way for the white attack to proceed. It is extremely difficult to defend against the active White pieces. The reader may wish to observe how each piece that Magnus has is fully mobilized. **20...Nb7 21.Ne4 Nd5** [21...Nxe4 22.Qxe4 Qg6 23.Qe5! Rxc2 24.Rxc2 wins] **22.Rxf8+ Qxf8 23.Bb1 Qxb4**

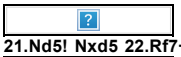


24.Nf6+! Kh8 [24...gxf6 25.Qxe6+ Kg7 *(25...Kf8 26.Qxc8+)* 26.Rxd5 will be mate shortly] **25.Qxe6 Ra8 26.Qxd5** Duda resigned. On 26...Qxb2 27. Qh5 h6 28, Qg6 **1-0**

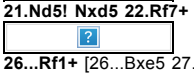
(3) Yip,Carissa - Wu,Rochelle [B90]

US Girls Championshi[, 13.10.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3 These girls play aggressive, fighting chess. A sharp Najdorf is typical from them. **7...Be6?!** [7...Be7] **8.Ng5! Qc7 9.Nxe6 fxe6 10.a4 Nbd7 11.a5 Be7 12.Ra4 0-0** [12...Kf7!?] **13.Bc4! Kf7 14.Qa1 Nc5 15.Bxc5** [15.Qa2!] **15...dxc5 16.0-0 Rfd8 17.Ne2 g6 18.f4 Kg7** [18...Rd2?! 19.b3! puts the pressure on e5] **19.Bxe6 exf4?** this allows the white knight to come into play [19...Qc6 keeps Black in the game] **20.Nxf4 Bd6**



21.Nd5! Nxd5 22.Rf7+ Qxf7 23.Bxf7 Ne3 24.Bd5 Rf8 25.b3+ Kh6 Black threatens ...Rf1+. Carissa finds a strong response. **26.e5!**



26...Rf1+ [26...Bxe5 27.Rh4+ Kg5 28.Qxe5+] **27.Qxf1 Nxf1 28.exd6** The endgame is easily winning. **28...Ne3 29.Bxb7 Rd8 30.Bxa6 Rxd6 31.Bd3 1-0**

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Newsletter #940

October 24, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Chess Rules on the Chess.com Platform
- Ray Conway Tuesday Night Marathon Online
- Become a Mechanics' Institute Member
- TD Corner
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Chess Rules on the Chess.com Platform

While following one of the games from the Tuesday Night Marathon on our broadcast, we commented on a game where given the pieces on the board, there was a strategy possible for one of the players to attempt to sacrifice material to get down to the classic King, Bishop, and Rook pawn vs. King, with the bishop being the opposite color of the queening square, leading to a theoretical draw. A moment later, someone watching our stream asked in the chat what the rules were on Chess.com regarding draws on the platform, whether it uses USCF or FIDE rules. This made me think that it would be beneficial to explain this to our readers, especially given the volume of games many of our players play on Chess.com and that it is the preferred platform of Mechanics' Institute.

I reached out to Chess.com staff. Here is what was told to me regarding the rules and platform.

We don't follow FIDE or US Chess directly for various reasons, including the fact that these rules cannot always map directly onto an online system, that there is no arbiter in the system, and that online chess primarily consists of blitz and bullet and not classical. Our implementation is designed to provide the best possible experience for our members, most of whom are casual players and have no exposure to USChess or FIDE rules.

This makes sense. The platform was designed to play chess and adhere to the basic rules of chess, not to be responsible for rated chess and being malleable to the nuances of USCF vs. FIDE rules. An example of the difference between USCF and FIDE rules and how it can come into conflict with the platform is a game where a player has a king and two knights vs. a lone king. In this example, under USCF rules, the game is declared drawn since it cannot force mate. Under FIDE rules, the game is not declared drawn, as it is possible to mate, though the lone king would have to be a willing participant.

So in this respect, it seems that Chess.com follows USCF rules, because as it states here: https://support.chess.com/article/128-what-does-insufficient-mating-material-mean (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://support.chess.com/article/128-what-does-insufficient-mating-material-mean), a king and two knights is considered insuffient mating material.

Chess.com also auto recognizes three-fold repetition and 50-move draws according to USCF rules.

So the simple answer is it does not specifically conform to either USCF or FIDE rules, but was designed rather to conform to what is commonly recognized as standard rules of chess. It pretty much adheres to all the rules except in certain instances, where it may differ between a USCF or FIDE rule. An unforseen challenge may arise for example if a tournament is run on a platform where it does not account for a nuanced rule, for example, if an event goes by FIDE rules, but uses Chess.com as a platform. A rule like the king and two knights vs lone king would come at odds with the server capability, and so the tournament director and organizer would have to decide what to do in that instance.

Best practice for organizers and tournament directors of online rated chess is to announce in advance if there should ever be the possibility that a specific USCF or FIDE rule cannot be observed given the parameters of the platform, and what the arbiter will do if the situation arises. We are all learning best practices as we go, and new challenges arise as we push the envelope of utilizing online chess to play competitively. As long as we all keep the dialogue open and keep players informed, we are keeping the integrity of the game intact.

Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon Report

The Tuesday Night Marathon concluded rounds 5 & 6 on Tuesday night, with the top players rising to the top. IM Elliott Winslow played a very inspiring and aggressive draw against GM Gadir Guseinov, a game in which it appeared he may even have had some winning chances. He now sits as the sole leader of the Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon with 5.5/6 with 2 rounds to go. FM Kyron Griffith won both of his games in very quick fashion, pulling him right behind Elliott with 5/6. Also on the heels of Elliott is NM Michael Walder, who also has 5/6. Trailing at 4.5/6 are GM Guseinov, IM Prasanna Rao, Felix German and Javier Silva. The final two rounds next week will surely produce some action, as the top players battle to climb the ladder.

Here are some games from Tuesday, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(7) GM Guseinov,Gadir (GGuseinov) (2600) - IM Winslow,Elliott (ecwinslow) (2278) [B23]

Ray Conway mem TNM Chess.com (6.1), 20.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Bb5+ This as-yet unnamed line has been appearing in the Bay Area among some of the top players -- in fact, this is the third time Winslow has been up against it. Maybe he's starting to catch on. [One can find quite a few games where Guseinov has played 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Bb5 for example 1-0 (23) Gadir Guseinov (2586)-Davit Shengelia (2523) Baku AZE 2007(but after a string of losses he switched to 5.Qd2 (analyzed in NIC #128 "The Birth of a New System", by Ioannis Simeonidis) and won: 5...e6 6.b3 Nf6 7.Bb2 d5 (7...a6 8.0-0-0 b5 9.f3 h5!? 10.Nh3 Be7 11.Ng5 h4 12.f4 Bb7 13.Kb1 Rc8 14.Be2 Qc7 15.Rhe1 Nh7 16.Nxh7 Rxh7 17.g4 1-0 (31) Carlsen,M (2843)-Wojtaszek,R (2744) Shamkir 4.23.2018 was the game that started quite a run on this line. *(17.Nd5!)*) 8.exd5 exd5 9.0-0-0 Be6 10.Nf3 Qa5 11.Nd4 Bb4 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Qe3 Kf7 14.Kb1 d4 15.Rxd4!? (Stockfish doesn't believe in it, but in practice...) 1-0 (34) Guseinov (2664) - Sarana (2618) St. Petersburg RUS 2018)] **3...Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7** [4...Nxd7 makes less sense here than with the knight on f3 instead of c3, and 5.f4!? scores very well, including in an earlier TNM game: 5...e6 6.Nf3 Ngf6 7.0-0 Qc7 8.d3 Be7 9.Kh1 a6 10.a4N 0-0 11.Qe1 b6 12.e5 1-0 (43) KyronGriffith (2149)-ecwinslow (1943) Chess.com July 21, 2020] **5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qd3** [7.Qd2 and b2-b3 has hardly ever been tried here: 7...g6 8.b3 Bh6 9.f4 e5 10.Nd5 Nce7 11.Ne2 Nxd5 12.Qxd5 Bg7 13.Bb2 Nf6 14.Qd3 Qc6 0-1 (36), Kovalev,V (2662)-Matlakov,M (2699) Moscow 2019.] **7...Nf6** [7...g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0 Rc8N 10.Nd5 Nf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Bg5 Nxd5 *(12...Ng4; 12...Ne8=)* 13.exd5 Ne5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Rad1

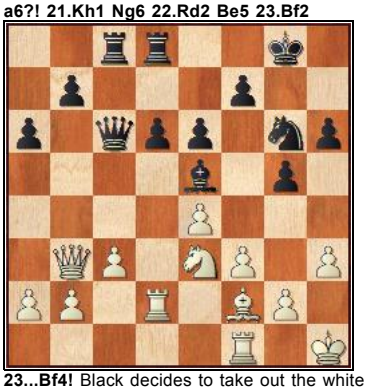
15...h6N 16.Be3 b6? *(16...b5)* 17.c4 1-0 (40) Stearman,J (2445)-Winslow,E (2223) San Francisco Feb 11, 2020; 7...Rc8] **8.Nf3 g6 9.0-0** [For a modern line there are some pretty not-so-modern precedents, for instance: 9.Bg5 Bg7 10.h3 0-0 11.0-0 Rac8 12.Rad1 Qe6 13.Nd5 Nd7 14.Rfe1+/- ½-½ (40), Robatsch,K-Larsen,B Amsterdam 1954 (!)] **9...Bg7 10.Nd5** [And that was nothing, compare to this: 10.h3 0-0= 11.Be3 Rfc8 12.a3 Na5 13.Nd2 Qc6 14.Rac1 Nc4 15.Nxc4 Qxc4 16.Bd4 Qxd3 17.cxd3 ½-½ (28) Romanovsky, P-Chekhover,V Leningrad 1938 (!!)] **10...0-0 11.Bg5** Guseinov has been here before. **11...Ng4** [11...Nxd5 12.exd5 Ne5 13.Nxe5 Bxe5 14.c3 Rfe8 15.Rae1 Bf6!? 16.h4!? Bxg5 17.hxg5 e5 18.dxe6 Rxe6 19.Rxe6 Qxe6 and Black held on: 1/2-1/2 (54) Guseinov,G (2665)-Baches Garcia,G (2329) chess.com INT 2020; 11...Nh5!? 1/2-1/2 (33) Shimanov,A (2593)-Grischuk,A (2777) chess.com INT 2020] **12.h3**



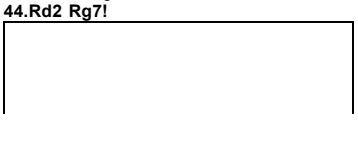
12...h6N [Previously 12...Nge5] **13.Bh4 Nge5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Qb3 g5 16.Bg3 e6 17.Ne3 Qc6 18.f3**



Black doesn't have any conspicuous reason to be unhappy with the result of the opening. **18...Rac8?!** [and in fact Stockfish thought it was some advantage after 18...b5] **19.Rad1 Rfd8 20.c3 a6?! 21.Kh1 Ng6 22.Rd2 Be5 23.Bf2**

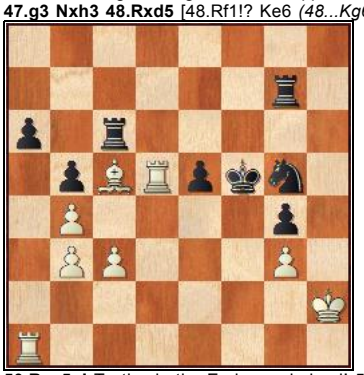


23...Bf4! Black decides to take out the white knight before it can get "tricky." His remaining minor piece will have no trouble finding squares. **24.Rfd1 b5 25.Re2 Bxe3 26.Bxe3 Qc4?! 27.Red2 Qxb3 28.axb3 Rc6 29.Bd4 e5** else 30.Bf6 would be disruptive; the hole on d5 isn't a problem, seeing as how White has no knight to plant there. **30.Be3 Kf8 31.Kg1 Ke7 32.Kf2 Ke6 33.b4** [33.g4!?] **33...f5** keeping the balance **34.exf5+ Kxf5 35.Ra1 d5** It's hard for either side to make progress, except for one factor: the experience imbalance. Guseinov has been playing these lines since he was European Under-10 Champion (he was born in 1986), and he's used a grand total of six and a half minutes on his clock, while Winslow has burned almost two thirds of his time. And it gets worse, as he tries to avoid ghosts. **36.Bc5 Nf4 37.Rad1 Ke6 38.Be3 Ng6 39.Kg3 Rc4 40.Bb6 Rd7 41.Ra1 Rc6 42.Bc5 h5 43.Rdd1 Nf4** Times: White: 26:38, Black: 10:10 **44.Rd2 Rg7!**

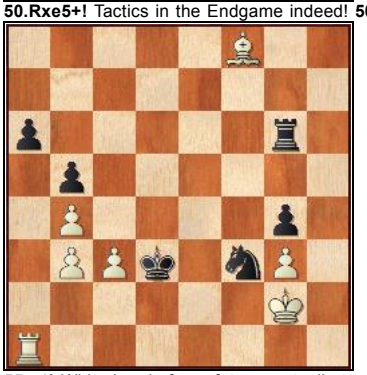




Black tries to give his grandmaster opponent something to be concerned about. **45.b3?** [45.Kf2 g4 46.hxg4 hxg4 47.Rh1=] **45...Kf5 46.Kh2 g4** [46...h4!? when the weakness of c3 is a factor.] **47.g3 Nxh3 48.Rxd5** [48.Rf1!? Ke6 *(48...Kg6!)* 49.f4 exf4 50.gxf4 Rf7 51.Re2+ Kf6 52.f5!=] **48...Ng5 49.fxg4+?!** [49.f4 Nf3+ 50.Kg2 h4=/+] **49...hxg4**



50.Rxe5+! Tactics in the Endgame indeed! **50...Kxe5 51.Bd4+ Ke4 52.Bxg7** White has won a pawn for now, but Black's king rules. **52...Nf3+** [52...Rd6!?] **53.Kg2 Rg6 54.Bf8 Kd3**



55.c4! White heads for safety, eventually trading off the queenside pawns and continually harrying Black. Now follow a lot of moves, leaving Black with very little time, but in the end he finds a repetition that can't be avoided. **55...bxc4 56.bxc4 Kxc4 57.Kf2 Rf6 58.Be7 Re6 59.Bc5 Kd3** [Last chance for a plus: 59...Nd2!] **60.Ra3+ Kd2 61.Be3+ Kc2 62.Ra5 Kc3 63.b5 axb5 64.Rxb5** Truthfully the players could make peace here. **64...Ra6 65.Bf4 Re6 66.Rd5 Kc4 67.Rd8** Times: 22:04 3:02 **67...Nd4 68.Be3 Rf6+ 69.Kg2 Nf5 70.Bf2 Re6 71.Rg8 Re4 72.Rg5 Nd4 73.Ra5 Nf3 74.Ra2 Kd3 75.Ra3+ Kc4 76.Ba7 Re2+ 77.Bf2 Re4 78.Ra8 Kd3 79.Rb8 Kc4 80.Rd8 Kc3 81.Rd7 Kc4 82.Ba7 Re2+ 83.Bf2 Re4 84.Kf1 Nh2+ 85.Kg1 Nf3+ 86.Kg2 Kc3 87.Rg7 Kd3 88.Rc7 Rc4 89.Rd7+ Ke2 90.Re7+ Kd3 91.Re3+ Kd2 92.Ra3 Re4 93.Ra6 Rc4 94.Re6 Kd3 95.Re7 Re4 96.Rf7 Ke2 97.Ba7 Kd3 98.Rd7+ Ke2 99.Rg7 Ke1 100.Bf2+ Ke2 101.Rf7 Kd3 102.Rf6 Ke2 103.Bb6 Ne1+ 104.Kh1 Nf3 105.Rc6 Re5 106.Kg2 Ne1+ 107.Kg1 Nf3+ 108.Kg2 Ne1+ 109.Kg1 Nf3+ 110.Kg2** It's been "0.00" for the last 50 moves: Game drawn by repetition **1/2-1/2**

(4) Zhou,Chelsea (mwncklmann (1927) - IM Winslow,Elliott (ecwinslow) (2278) [E67]

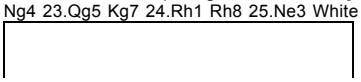
Ray Conway mem TNM Chess.com (5.1), 20.10.2020

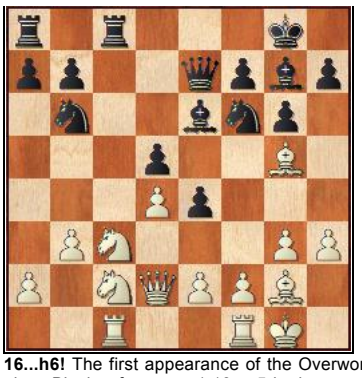
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 e5 7.d4 Nbd7 It's now the King's Indian Defense, Classical Fianchetto. **8.h3** [This is usually only played after 8.e4 c6] **8...c6 9.Be3** White goes another way. Does Chelsea know "theory"? Perhaps she was thinking about the Panno Variation, where instead of ... Nbd7 and ...c6 Black has played ...Nc6 and ...a6. In that position the moves h3 and Be3 used to be quite a main line. **9...Qe7** [This old game is in the database 9...exd4 10.Nxd4 Qe7 11.Qd2 Re8 12.Bh6 Bxh6 13.Qxh6 Nb6 14.b3 d5 15.cxd5 Qb4 16.Qh4 Qxc3 17.Rac1 Qa5 18.Qxf6 Nxd5 19.Qh4 Nc3 20.Rc2 c5 21.Nf3 Bf5 22.Ng5 h5 23.Qc4 1-0 Lombardy,W (2520)-Winslow,E (2250) US Open (9) Fairfax 1976] **10.Qd2 e4** Producing quite a different battleground:

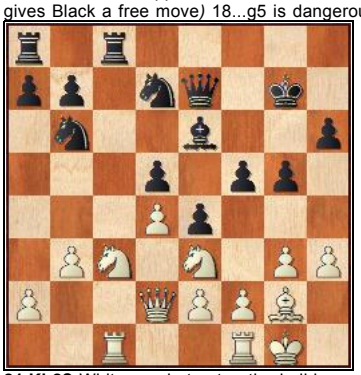


11.Ne1N [The previous, probably not too important game was 11.Nh2 1-0 (36) Schwaninger,U (1892)-Vokroj,G (1792) Frohnleiten 2000] **11...d5 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Bg5** [The standard attack on Black's center here would be 13.f3 but coupled with h2-h3 it starts to look pretty loose on the kingside.] **13...Nb6 14.b3** Letting herself be led around. (This move wasn't necessary.) **14...Be6 15.Nc2 Rfc8** to keep a7 guarded vs. Nb5 [15...h6!? 16.Bxh6? Bxh6 17.Qxh6 Rac8 18.Qe3 Qc7 19.Nb5! Qd7! *(19...Qxc2* will be a perpetual on the queen*)* 20.Nba3 Bxh3 21.Qh6! Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Ng4 23.Qg5 Kg7 24.Rh1 Rh8 25.Ne3 White is looking to hold the line.] **16.Rac1**

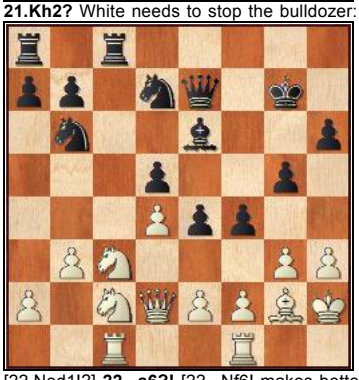




16...h6! The first appearance of the Overworked Queen theme in this game. **17.Bf4?!** [17.Be3; 17.Bxh6? Bxh6 18.Qxh6 Rxc3] **17...g5?!** [17...Nh5! 18.Be3 *(18.Be5? f6 19.Bf4 g5 20.Be3 f5* gives Black a free move*)* 18...g5 is dangerous for White. *(or 18...f5* first*)*] **18.Be5! Nfd7?!** [18...Nh5! 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Ne3 f5] **19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Ne3 f5**



21.Kh2? White needs to stop the bulldozer: [21.f4!+/- has to be played, which is fine -- it exposes the weakness of f5 (and Black wishing his rook were still on f8).] **21...f4-/+ 22.Nc2?!**



[22.Ned1!?] **22...a6?!** [22...Nf6! makes better use of the O.Q. theme, and gets that knight back on track to h5 where it's doing something (pressuring g3).] **23.gxf4 gxf4**

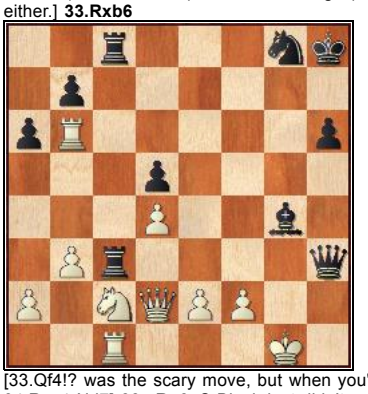


24.Qxf4? Sacrificing a piece for some dangerous threats, which indeed Black mishandles. [But 24.Rg1! would have been more sophisticated, even if the computer finally finds some advantage for Black: 24...Kh8!! *(24...Kh7? 25.Nxe4!+-)* 25.Qxf4 Rxc3 26.Qxh6+ Qh7 27.Qxe6 Rc6! 28.Qg4 Rg8 29.Qf4 Rf6 30.Qe3 Qh4 31.Rcf1 Rfg6 and despite the two-pawn deficit, the computer makes Black doing pretty well.] **24...Rxc3 25.Rg1 Qf6** [25...Kh7! is safe when White doesn't have the knight to play Nxe4 any more! 26.Bxe4+ fizzles: 26...dxe4 27.Qxe4+ Kh8 28.Rg6 Rxh3+ 29.Kg1 Bd5! is a rude surprise.] **26.Qd2** [26.Bxe4+ Kf7] **26...Rac8 27.Bxe4+ Kh8 28.Bf3**



[28.Bd3 Bf5! is the best according to Stockfish 12.] **28...Qh4?** Sure enough, defense is hard. The following moves all would have been winning: [28...R8c6; 28...Kh7; 28...Nf8; 28...Bf7] **29.Rg3?** [29.Rg6! when Black is lucky to have two paths to a draw: 29...Kh7 (29...Qxh3+ 30.Kg1 Kh7 31.Bg2 Qh4 *(31...Kxg6 32.Bxh3 Bxh3=)* 32.Rxe6 Qg5 33.Re3 R3c6 is a pin that's hard to break: even game.) 30.Rxe6 Qxf2+ 31.Bg2 (31.Kh1 Qh4 32.Kh2 *(32.Bg2?? Rxh3+ 33.Kg1 Rg8-+)* 32...Qf2+) 31...Qg3+ 32.Kh1 Qg5 33.Qxg5 hxg5 34.Rf1 Rxc2 35.Rf7+ Kg8 36.Ree7= White's turn for a perpetual] **29...Nf6?** [29...Nf8 (best of a few winners) puts out the fire.] **30.Rg6?** [30.Ne1? Ne4!-+; 30.Ne3! Rxc1 *(30...Ne4 31.Bxe4* and no ...Rxg3!*)* 31.Ng2! Black's queen is "trapped, although the knight-check and QxR+ both draw.] **30...Qxh3+ 31.Kg1 Ng8** [31...Kh7!] **32.Bg4!?** The computer suggests all sorts of moves that are "only' around -4.7 (vs. -8 for the move played), but Black was confused and took a lot of time here. **32...Bxg4** Hard to give this an exclamation point! [Times: 4:30 4:07] [32...Rg3+ was the alternate, forcing a draw. 33.fxg3 Qxg3+

34.Kh1 *(34.Kf1?? Rf8+)* 34...Qh4+ 35.Kg1 *(35.Kg2 Bxg4* starts to get uncomfortable, with ...Bh3 being check*)* ; 32...Qxg4+ 33.Rxg4 Bxg4 34.Qf4! isn't good for anything (except maybe a draw) either.] **33.Rxb6**



[33.Qf4!? was the scary move, but when you're two pieces up there are a lot of roads to a successful defense. Either rook along the c-file (c6 or c7) was enough, but best was 33...Qh5! e.g. 34.Rxg4 Nd7] **33...Rg3+?** Black just didn't see the knockout: (and now 2:23 left) [33...Bf3! 34.exf3 Nf6!] **34.fxg3 Qxg3+ 35.Kh1 Bf5** [3:13 2:23] and Chelsea didn't see the defense - and resigned! [



35...Bf5 0-1?! 36.Ne1! Be4+ 37.Nf3 Qh3+ *(37...Bxf3+ 38.exf3 Qxf3+ 39.Kh2 Qh5+ 40.Kg1 Qg4+ 41.Kh1 Qh4+ 42.Kg2 Rf8)* 38.Kg1 Rf8!-/+ But is there a win? Certainly worth a blitz finish to find out.] **0-1**

(5) Weng,Nicholas ninjaforce (1958) - Flores,David PlayerCreate (1812) [C66]

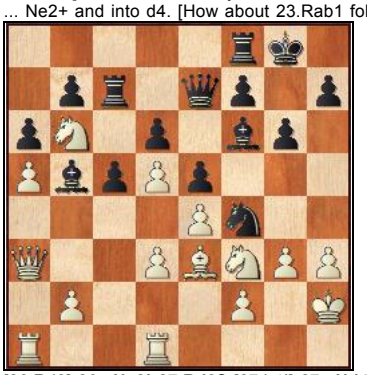
Ray Conway mem TNM Chess.com (5.7), 20.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 The time-worn Steinitz Defense. **4.0-0** Nothing wrong, [but 4.d4 tries to upset Black right away and encourage ...exd4, when White has a space advantage (but Black is solid for now).] **4...Nf6 5.Re1 Be7 6.c3** [Or 6.d4 still, reserving c3 for the knight.] **6...0-0 7.h3**



7...g6!? Played after two seconds (!). In fact, with a time control of 35 minutes and an increment of two seconds, David's clock now read 34:57! And that's about how it went the whole game. [Most common is 7...Bd7; or 7...a6; 7...Nh5? 8.Nxe5 was the course of one game whose players shall remain unnamed.] **8.d3?!** Too passive. Black's plan is ...Nh5 and maybe ...f5? Then White should "meet a wing attack with a counterattack in the center" -- [8.d4! exd4 9.cxd4 Bd7 10.Nc3 Re8 11.b3 a6 12.Bd3 Nb4 13.Bb1 c5 14.Bb2 Nh5 15.a3 Nc6 16.Nd5 Bf6 17.g4 Ng7 18.e5 and White crashed through: 1-0 (26) Gimenez Aguirre,I (2234)-Prado,I (2063) La Cumbre 2019] **8...Nh5 9.Be3** [9.d4!+/- Better late than never!] **9...Bd7 10.Nbd2** [10.d4!] **10...Bf6** Black shuffling of his pieces, allowed by White's cautious buildup. **11.Nf1 Qe7 12.a4 a6 13.Bc4 Na5 14.Ba2 c5** Standard queenside expansion by Black Times: White: 30:12, Black: 34:15. Impressive. **15.Bd5** Still no break. [15.d4; 15.b4] **15...Nc6 16.Qb3** [16.N1d2!? b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Rxa8 Rxa8 19.d4+/-] **16...Rab8 17.a5 Qd8 18.Qa3** Black's pawns are somewhat compromised on the queenside. **18...Ne7 19.N1d2** Around here the computer (Stockfish) starts think White is close to winning; taking the bishop gives White great squares for knights. **19...Bc6 20.c4?!** [20.Ba2! followed by d4 and/or Nc4 keeps Black's game dire.] **20...Nxd5 21.cxd5 Bb5 22.Nc4 Nf4** Black still hasn't gotten around to ...f5 **23.Red1?!** giving Black's knight the option of ... Ne2+ and into d4. [How about 23.Rab1 followed by b2-b4?] **23...Rc8 24.Nb6?!** Deadend Outpost. **24...Rc7 25.Kh2** [25.Bxf4 exf4 26.Rac1 again, playing for b4] **25...Qe7 26.g3?**



[26.Rd2] **26...Ne2! 27.Rd2?** [27.b4!] **27...Nd4 28.Bxd4**



28...exd4?! [28...cxd4!-/+ and White's chance of opening up the b-file goes away.] **29.Rc1?!** [29.Re1! White has a new lever -- e5! -- and should play for it.] **29...h5 30.Rdc2 Bg7 31.Nh4 Bh6 32.Re1** White has been burning up his clock (finally!) and is down to 6:36 left (Black: 32:41, having spent less time on the last dozen moves than White has on almost any one of them!). **32...Qf6?!** [Black could cripple White on the dark squares now: 32...Bg5! 33.Nf3 h4!] **33.Kg2! Re7?!** [33...Bg5 34.Nf3 h4 35.e5! dxe5 36.Rxe5 Bh6 37.Rxc5 is a lot of trades, with White on top at the end. 37...Rxc5 38.Qxc5 hxg3 39.fxg3 Bxd3 40.Qxd4] **34.Nc4 Bxc4 35.Rxc4**



35...Re5? 36.b4?! A dangerous but inconclusive exchange sacrifice by White. [36.Nf3 pushes Black back without risk. 36...h4 37.Nxh4 Rh5 38.Nf3 Rxh3 doesn't do it.] **36...cxb4?** [36...Bd2! 37.Rb1 Bxb4 38.Rbxb4 cxb4 39.Qxb4+/=] **37.Qxb4 Qe7?!**



This would be a huge win for White, except that he's down to under four minutes (Black has yet to break a sweat -- or 31 minutes!). **38.f4** Going for the whole enchilada, but with some risk to the king. [38.Nf3!] **38...g5!? 39.fxe5** How could you not, especially with 3:11 remaining (and he used almost a minute on it!). [39.Nf5! Rxf5 40.exf5 Qd7 41.fxg5 Bxg5 when White dares Black to take on f5 (and the rooks have the f-file then as well).] **39...gxh4 40.Qxd6?! Qg5**



41.e6?? It looked so good in the moment, but it loses -- and he had much much better moves! [41.Kh1! and Rg1 suddenly it's White taking over.] **41...Qd2+ 42.Kf1 Be3!** A final instant move -- and it's over. **43.exf7+ Rxf7+ 44.Qf4 Rxf4+ 45.gxf4 Qf2#** A tough game to lose by Nicholas -- and as for David's final clock time of 30:51, what fire was there in the kitchen that he played so fast! It could have cost him. **0-1**

(6) Hon,Eric (microbear) (2186) - Mercado,Adam (A-boy415) (1842) [C44]

Ray Conway mem TNM Chess.com (5.9), 20.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d3 This is hardly bad, but no way to play for an advantage. [3.Nxe5 is the classic approach; 3.d4 is the more modern move] **3...Nc6 4.Be2 Bc5 5.0-0 d6 6.h3 h6 7.Re1 Be6 8.Bf1?!**

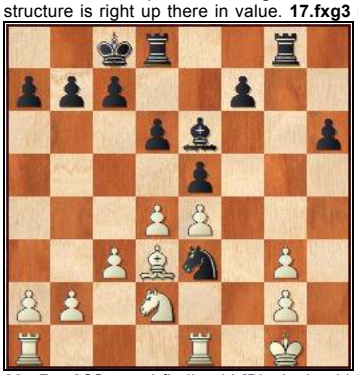




8...g5! Black takes advantage of not having castled to throw his pawns at White's kingside. Correctly, according to the computer! **9.Be3?!** [Incredibly Stockfish finds the idea to play a delayed Evans Gambit, 9.b4 Bxb4 10.c3 Ba5 11.d4 as the best way to minimize the disadvantage (although it is still pretty good for Black).] **9...g4 10.hxg4 Bxe3 11.Rxe3 Nxg4 12.Re1 Nd4** [12...Qf6!] **13.Nbd2 Qf6 14.c3 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3** White: 31:13, Black: 32:13 **15...Qh4** [15...Qg5! gains time attacking the knight, and there follows ...h5 and/or ... 0-0-0, with a winning attack.] **16.Qg3!**



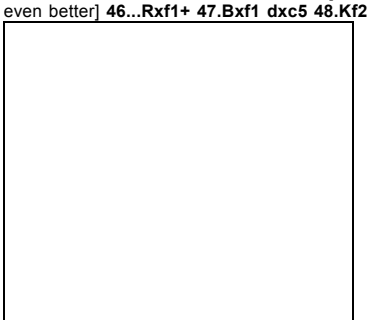
Another case of speed-demoning: the clock times are White: 31:13, Black: 32:04. **16...Qxg3** Keeping queens on might have been right strategically (attack!), but giving White a dreadful pawn structure is right up there in value. **17.fxg3 0-0-0 18.d4 Rhg8 19.Be2 Ne3?!** looking for trouble... there's nothing there (for Black...) **20.Bd3**

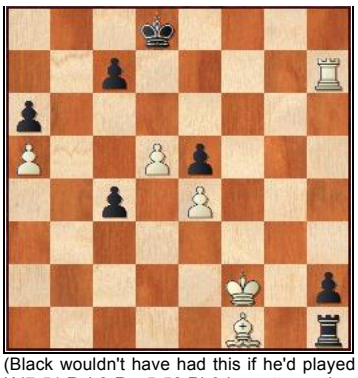


20...Rxg3?? ...and finding it! [Black should just say no: 20...Ng4 still with a sizable advantage (but the lost time will cost him).] **21.Kf2 Rdg8 22.Rxe3** White is winning. **22...Rxg2+ 23.Ke1 h5 24.Kd1?** His biggest think of the game so far, and it's a lemon. [24.Bf1! gets on to the business of neutralizing Black's rooks, with a likely win.] **24...Rf2** [24...Rh2! leaves White with no advantage!] **25.Ke1** At least White admits the error of his ways. **25...Rh2 26.Rf3** and has a clear advantage again. But between moving his king back and forth, and then this (excellent) move, it cost him a third of his time. **26...Rgg2?!** and eight minutes for this helpful (for White) move. **27.Nf1 Rh1 28.Rf2 Rgg1 29.d5** [29.Rd1] **29...Bh3?!** [29...Bg4!?] **30.Rxf7** [30.Rd1] **30...h4! 31.Kd2** [31.Rd1! Gets the rook in the game.] **31...Bg2** White: 13:27, Black: 11:11 **32.Ke3** The best move, but he used the majority of his time. Ultimately that costs him the game. **32...h3 33.Kf2 Bxf1 34.Bxf1 h2** A scary position! Suddenly the black h-pawn has become a force. **35.Rh7 Kd8 36.Rd1**



White still has to solve the problem of dealing with this pin without something awful happening (Black queening!) or slipping into a bad ending. But Black also has a problem: Is this Zugzwang!? [Annoying that 36.Rxh2?? Rxf1+ 37.Rxf1 Rxh2+ 38.Ke3 Rxb2 fails dreadfully.] **36...Rg4** All the "best" moves for Black, according to Stockfish, are pawn moves now. So this lets White free himself! White: 2:09, Black: 6:47. **37.Be2! Rgg1** A trade of e-pawn for h-pawn means that White is ready to get his bishop into the game and after Black's pawns. **38.Rf1?!** Only 25 seconds left! (plus the two-second increment) [38.Rd3! and Rf3! is problematic. 38...Rg8 39.Rdh3 Rb1 40.Rxh2 Rxb2 41.Rf7 is going to get ugly on the 7th.] **38...Ke8 39.Ke1! Kd8 40.a4 a6 41.b4 Ke8 42.a5 Kd8 43.c4 Ke8 44.b5** [44.c5! looks to take out the b-pawn (c5-c6), then the a-pawn, then make a queen.] **44...Kd8 45.bxa6 bxa6** White: 0:14.3, Black: 2:36 **46.c5!** [46.Kf2! even better] **46...Rxf1+ 47.Bxf1 dxc5 48.Kf2 c4**





(Black wouldn't have had this if he'd played 46.Kf2 first) **49.Kg2??** White has played such a fine strategic endgame, only to trip up at the finish line. [49.Bxc4 Ra1 *(49...Rc1 50.Bf1)* 50.Rh8+ Kd7 51.Rxh2 Rxa5 52.Rh6 is pretty routine.] **49...Rg1+ 50.Kf2?!** [50.Kxh2 Rxf1 51.Rh6 is a try, but it looks like Black takes it with 51...c3 52.Rc6 Re1 53.Rxc3 Rxe4] **50...h1Q 51.Rxh1 Rxh1 52.Bxc4 Ra1 53.Bxa6 Rxa5** This is a technical win. Black is down to 1:31 (White 11.1 seconds!) but that is plenty of time to claim the win. **54.Bb7 Ke7 55.Ke3 Ra3+ 56.Ke2 Kd6 57.Bc8 Kc5 58.Bf5 Kd4 59.Kd2 Ra2+ 60.Kc1 Kc3 61.Kb1 Rg2 62.Be6 Kd2 63.Bf5 Kc3 64.Be6 Rd2 65.Bf5 Rd4 66.Kc1 Ra4 67.Kb1 Kd2 68.Kb2 Rb4+ 69.Ka3 Kc3 70.Bg6 Rb8** [70...Rb6] **71.Ka4 Kc4 72.Ka3 Rb6 73.Bf7 Kc3 74.Ka4 Rd6 75.Kb5 Kd4 76.Be6 Kxe4 77.Kc5 Kf4 78.Bg8 Rh6 79.Be6 e4 80.Kc6 e3 81.Kxc7 e2 82.d6 Rxe6 83.d7 Re7 84.Kd6 Rxd7+** A difficult struggle with interesting phases, marred by a game-turning blunder leading to an upset win by Adam. If Eric only had more time he surely would have brought it home. **0-1**

(1) NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) - Chelsea Zhou (mwncklmann) [B99]

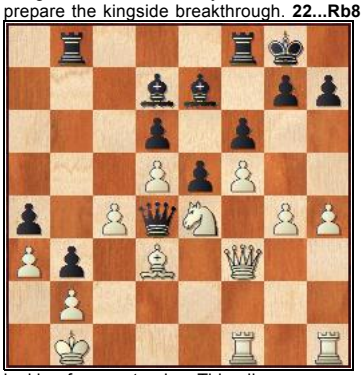
Ray Conway mem TNM Chess.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 The sharpest line of the Najdorf. It's good to see this classic battle played again. **6...e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.f5!?** Mike likes this direct move and has scored well with it. **10...e5** [Black may wish to keep the pawn on e6 to cover the light squares and try 10...Ne5 11.Qh3 Nfg4 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 *(*not *12...Nf2? 13.Nxe6!!)* 13.Qg3 0-0] **11.Nde2! b5 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5!** An interesting plan to open the e4 square for the white knight. This is much more dangerous than it looks at first sight. **14...0-0?!** [14...Qc4 15.Kb1 Bd7 16.Nd4 Qc5 could be an improvement. The black king will then have a choice which of place on the board is safest.] **15.Ng3 Bd7?!** [15...b4!? 16.Ne4 f6 17.g4 Bd7 18.Kb1 a5 19.h4 looks dangerous, but Black should also get some chances for attack.] **16.Ne4 f6 17.c3!**



17...a5 18.g4 White can close up the queenside against any pawn advance but Black can't stop the white pawn storm on the kingside. So Black needs to do something to alter the course of the game, but it's not easy. **18...b4?! 19.c4! a4 20.Bd3 Rac8 21.h4 Qb6 22.Kb1** White is now in complete control. There is no breakthrough for Black on the queenside and White can calmly prepare the kingside breakthrough. **22...Rb8 23.Rdf1 b3 24.a3 Qd4**



looking for counterplay. This allows an unexpected breakthough. **25.c5! dxc5 26.Rc1** The black queen is in danger and the d5 pawn cannot be taken because of Nf6+ **26...c4 27.Bxc4 Kh8 28.Rhd1 Qb6 29.d6 Bd8 30.Be6**



The white pieces are suddenly dominating on the queenside and center. The d6 pawn is a monster. **30...Bc6 31.Bd5 Bb5 32.g5 Qa7 33.gxf6 Bxf6 34.Nxf6 Rxf6 35.Rc7 Qb6 36.Qg4 g6 37.fxg6** Black resigns. 37...Rxg6 38. Qh5 is finished. **1-0**
Here are the current standings:

Standings:

SwissSys Standings. Conway Memorial TNM Online: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tota
1	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W15	W20	W8	W9	W11	D4	5.5
2	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	KyronGriffith	W28	W19	H---	H---	W10	W13	5.0
3	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W44	W38	L9	W12	W18	W11	5.0
4	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2600	GGuseinov	H---	H---	W37	W5	W9	D1	4.5
5	IM Prasanna Ragh Rao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083805)	16083805	2508	Praschess	W27	D12	W24	L4	W19	W20	4.5
6	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W21	W40	W13	L11	W24	D7	4.5
7	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1869	J3Chess24	L47	W46	W32	W27	W17	D6	4.5
8	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1958	ninjaforce	W46	W47	L1	W28	L13	W25	4.0
9	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1948	kondsaga	W39	W34	W3	L1	L4	W31	4.0
10	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	L32	W45	W30	W26	L2	W27	4.0
11	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1927	mwncklmann	W33	W42	W23	W6	L1	L3	4.0
12	Patrick Peiju Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1851	katechen77	W52	D5	W16	L3	W22	D17	4.0
13	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	W54	W22	L6	W15	W8	L2	4.0
14	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1775	vish1080	L42	W33	W47	L17	W46	W26	4.0
15	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1606	LightningDragon8	L1	W53	W50	L13	W23	W24	4.0
16	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2186	microbear	H---	W41	L12	W31	L20	W35	3.5
17	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	1998	SmilyFace4	W31	L24	W21	W14	L7	D12	3.5
18	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	H---	W39	W29	L3	H---	3.5
19	Mark L Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	12459313	1843	BirdOrBust	W48	L2	D40	W38	L5	W37	3.5
20	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1842	A-boy415	W53	L1	D34	W40	W16	L5	3.5
21	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1428	programmingmax	L6	W36	L17	W55	D37	W38	3.5
22	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	etvat	W29	L13	L31	W42	L12	W40	3.0
23	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W45	W32	L11	L24	L15	W46	3.0
24	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	W49	W17	L5	W23	L6	L15	3.0
25	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1710	GiorgosTsolias	L50	L39	W52	W48	W32	L8	3.0
26	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	starserika18	H---	H---	W35	L10	W39	L14	3.0
27	Rachael Tiong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16019458)	16019458	1656	rachael1120	L5	W52	W49	L7	W34	L10	3.0
28	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1628	chessboi2010	L2	W48	W55	L8	L35	W47	3.0
29	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	L22	W54	W56	L18	H---	H---	3.0
30	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	Kaline340Green	H---	H---	L10	L35	W48	W49	3.0
31	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L17	W43	W22	L16	W36	L9	3.0
32	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1331	chesspoki	W10	L23	L7	W43	L25	W44	3.0
33	Martin Camacho (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248027)	17248027	1311	camachom	L11	L14	L36	W53	W55	W45	3.0
34	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1287	jacobchess857	W36	L9	D20	D37	L27	W43	3.0
35	Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)	17179258	923	JeffNorthSF	L38	W44	L26	W30	W28	L16	3.0
36	Nicholas Ar Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	L34	L21	W33	W47	L31	D39	2.5
37	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	D41	W50	L4	D34	D21	L19	2.5
38	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W35	L3	D42	L19	W49	L21	2.5
39	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1355	SunnyCountry	L9	W25	L18	W56	L26	D36	2.5
40	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1323	pranavpradeep2006	W43	L6	D19	L20	W51	L22	2.5
41	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	933	adichi	D37	L16	L43	L44	W53	W51	2.5
42	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	931	sfdeals	W14	L11	D38	L22	L43	W54	2.5
43	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	L40	L31	W41	L32	W42	L34	2.0
44	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L3	L35	L48	W41	W52	L32	2.0
45	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	L23	L10	W53	L49	W50	L33	2.0
46	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L8	L7	W54	W50	L14	L23	2.0
47	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1235	noydan100	W7	L8	L14	L36	W56	L28	2.0
48	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1073	kevin_mx_sun	L19	L28	W44	L25	L30	W56	2.0
49	Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)	17310102	831	MrL0cust	L24	B---	L27	W45	L38	L30	2.0
50	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	691	Sebbymeister	W25	L37	L15	L46	L45	W52	2.0
51	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	unr.	vincitore51745	H---	H---	H---	U---	L40	L41	1.5
52	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1091	victor6688	L12	L27	L25	W54	L44	L50	1.0
53	Yuvraj Si Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	1060	SaintReturns	L20	L15	L45	L33	L41	W55	1.0

54	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	953	andrewaballantyne	L13	L29	L46	L52	B---	L42	1.0
55	Willia Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)	17048414	537	OlympusMons00	H---	H---	L28	L21	L33	L53	1.0
56	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	unr.	Bruce_Hedman	H---	H---	L29	L39	L47	L48	1.0



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TD Corner

Color Allocation

US Chess Rules of Chess 29E addresses how tournament directors should assign colors to players in any given round. It is a complicated and tough subject, so no surprise the matter is discussed and detailed out in almost 10 pages. While I'm not going to try to summarize and cover all aspects, recent chat discussions in the live twitch broadcast prompted to point out some of the basic, easier and regularly used guidelines.

Two Principle Guidelines

1)The objective in a tournament with an even number of rounds is to give white and black the same number of times to as many players as possible; in an event with an odd number of rounds, each player should receive no more than one extra white or black above an even allocation.

2)In addition to the task of equalizing colors, the director, after the first round, tries to alternate colors, by giving as many players as possible their due (correct or expected) color, round by round. The due color is usually the color a player did not have in the previous round, but not always. For example, a player who had white in rounds one and two and black in round three has a due color of black in round four, as equalization has priority over alternation.

First round colors in the top section is decided usually by coin toss. Consecutive sections are determined based on the open section. As many players as possible are given their due colors in each succeeding round, so long as the pairings conform to the basic Swiss system rules.

What's a due color?

A player who has had an unequal number of whites and blacks is due the color that tends to equalize the number of whites and blacks. A player who has had an equal number of whites and blacks is due the opposite color to that he received in the most recent round. Unplayed games, including byes and forfeits, do not count for color. This means forfeit wins, and byes!

So what's the priority? Equalizing the number of whites and blacks? Or Alternating the colors?

Equalization of colors takes priority over alternation of colors. First, as many players as possible are given the color that tends to equalize the number of times they have played white and black. After that is accomplished, as many players as possible should be given the color opposite to that which they played in the previous round.

What about pairing players due the same color?

1.If one player has had an unequal number of whites and blacks, while the other has had equal colors, the player who has had unequal colors gets due color. Example: WBW gets black over BxW, where x denotes any unplayed game—full-point bye, half-point bye, forfeit win, forfeit loss, etc.

2.If both players have had an unequal number of whites and blacks, the player with the greater total color imbalance gets due color. Example: WWBW gets black over xWBW.

3.If both players have had an equal number of whites and blacks, or both are equally out of balance, and if they had opposite colors in the previous round, the players should be given colors opposite to that which they played in the previous round. Example: WWB gets white over WBW.

4.If both players have had an equal number of whites and blacks, or both are equally out of balance, and if they had different colors in one or more prior rounds, priority for assigning color should be based on the latest round in which their colors differed. One or both players should be assigned the color opposite to that which they played in that round. Example 1: WBWB gets white over BWWB, because the first player had black in round two, the latest round in which colors differed. Example 2: BWxBW gets white over BWBxW, because the first player had black and the second had no color in round 4, the latest round in which colors differed.

5.If both players have had the same color sequence, the higher-ranked player gets due color. The higher ranked player is the player with the higher score. If the players have the same score, the higher-ranked player is the higher-rated.

Application of these Rules in Recent Matches

Applying these rules, we can understand why IM Elliott Winslow got black in Round 6 against GM Gadir Guseinov. Elliott had BWBWB going into Round 6, while Guseinov had HHBWB. Since they both had BWB in the last three rounds, going back Elliott had W in Round 2, while Guseinov had no color in Round 2. This means Elliott was equalized at that point, and Guseinov had a color imbalance.

#	Name/Rating/ID		Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	GGuseinov	bye	bye	B 23	W 2	B 12	W 4	
	2600 17343590		0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.5	4.5
4	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	B 31	W 21	B 11	W 12	B 15	B 1	
	2278 10363365 (2210)		1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	5.5	5.5

Dr. Alexey Root

In Dr. Alexey Root's latest installment of Grandmaster Chef, Alexey and NM Michael Walder look at a favorite dish of France's top GM, Maxime Vachier Lagrave. To learn more about what this delicious dish is, along with an annotated game from MVL against GM Ian Nepomniachtchi from the FIDE Candidates match by Michael Walder, click here: https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-maxime-vachier-lagrave (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-maxime-vachier-lagrave)



The dish, along with the position from MVL-Nepomniachtchi

Also, Alexey has been profiling the candidates for her Grandmaster Chef articles. If anyone out there knows some favorite dishes for Ding Liren, Wang Hao, Ian Neponiachtchi, and Kirill Alekseenko, please reach out to her at alexey.root@gmail.com.

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Mondays 4pm-5pm, 10/26: https://www.chess.com/live#r=554026 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.chess.com/live#r=554026)

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 10/27: https://www.chess.com/live#r=554028 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.chess.com/live#r=554028)

MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez, Dr. Judit Sztaray Arena: Fridays 5pm-6:00pm, 10/30: https://www.chess.com/live#r=554479 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.chess.com/live#r=554479)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM - A Journey Through Chess History - Course 2: US Championships with GM Nick de Firmian

The US Championship is one of the most revered chess events for American players, showcasing the very best in our country. Bobby Fischer, Walter Browne, Hikaru Nakamura, Sam Shankland, and Fabiano Caruana are all among the elite to have won the title. Among thee greats is Mechanics' Institute's Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian, who is a 3-time winner of the title. In this class, he will talk about his US Championship victories, as well as some personal first hand accounts and games from this great event. Combining historical storytelling with dramatic games, Nick will enlighten, educate and entertain students with a bit of Americana suitable for players of all skill levels.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/us-championship-history-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/us-championship-history-gm-nick-de-firmian)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/USChampionshipHistory (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/USChampionshipHistory)

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM - The World Championship Match -- by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: Part 2 -- 10/8 through 11/15

An in-depth look at the World Championship matches – the great games, styles and personalities of the World Champions and their challengers. The central idea of the class will be the study of chess ideas and theory, as practiced by the greatest players. In each class we'll look through a selection of the most famous games ever played: games where literally everything was at stake.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead)

Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, October 24: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5:https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=129815 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=129815)

Sunday, October 25: starts at 10:00AM - join from 9:45AM

8SS G/5+2: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

Monday, October 26: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=129817 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=129817)

Tuesday, October 27: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=130466 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=130466)

Wednesday, October 28: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=130468 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=130468)

Thursday, October 29: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=130470 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=130470)

Friday, October 30: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=130472 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=130472)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Games from Scholastic Tournaments

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(2) bronkey (1553) - AtomicSillyTiger (1515) [D00]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 h5?! 3.h4?! [3.c4 is more useful as it attacks the center. The moves with the h-pawns are not as focused.] **3...Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Bxd3 7.Qxd3 e6 8.Nd2 Bd6 9.Bxd6 cxd6** The game is roughly equal. Both sides have developed the bishops and taken center squares. **10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 d5 13.Qe3 Rc8 14.Nf3 Na5 15.Ne5 Nc4 16.Nxc4 Rxc4**



All the bishops and knights have been traded to get a heavy piece middle game. Chances are even here. **17.Qg3 Qf6?!** [17...0-0] **18.0-0?!** [18.Qb8+! Qd8 19.Qxb7 picks up a pawn] **18...0-0 19.Rae1 Rfc8?! 20.Re5! g6?!** [20...Qh6 21.Rg5 is pleasant for White though even in material] **21.Re3?!** [21.Rxh5! wins a clean pawn] **21...Qg7 22.Rd1 Rf8 23.Qd6 Rc6 24.Qb4 f5?!** This creates a weakeness on e6 with no benefit in return. [24...Rb8 keeps the game dead equal] **25.Rde1 Re8 26.f4** [26.Re5] **26...Rb6 27.Qa3 Ra6 28.Qb3 Rb6 29.Qc2 Qf6 30.g3 Qg7 31.Qa4! Re7?** [31...Qe7! 32.Qxa7 Rxb2 keeps material even] **32.Qxa7 Rxb2 33.Rxe6 Rxe6 34.Rxe6** White has won a pawn and opened the e-file for the rook to join in the attack. Both kings are somewhat exposed but the white pawns provide more shelter. **34...Rb1+ 35.Kf2 Rb2+ 36.Kf3! Qd7 37.Qb8+ Kf7**



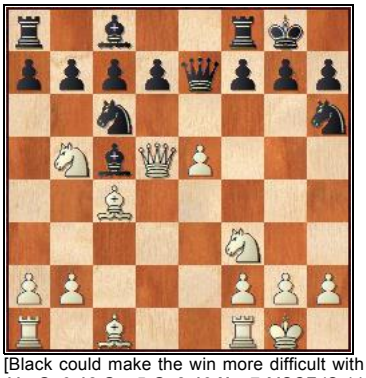
38.Rd6?? [38.Re3 is a winning attack for White as the queen and rook combine on the kingside, e.g. 38...Rb6 39.Qh8 Re6 40.Qh7+ Ke8 41.Qxg6+ Ke7 42.Re5 Qc6 43.Qg5+ Kd7 44.Qxf5 Qxc3+ 45.Kg2] **38...Qe7!** Now it's the black queen and rook that win by attack **39.Qd8 Qe2#** AtomicSillyTiger won by checkmate **0-1**

(3) MSCFriSebbyS (1515) - AwesomeHat (1282) [C56]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 This classic line of the Guico Piano has been played for centuries. The action in the center is complicated though now the right plans have been found so that Black can fully equalize. **6.0-0!?** an unusual move that sets problems for Black. It may not objectively be so good but it has a lot of practical value (and it's fun). [6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 is the standard old line that is safe and equal] **6...dxc3?!** [The right pawn to take is the trouble making e-pawn - 6...Nxe4! 7.cxd4 *(7.Re1?! d5 8.cxd4 Bb4 9.Bg5 Qd6 10.Nbd2 f5)* 7...d5 8.dxc5 dxc4 9.Qe2 Qd3 solves all of Black's troubles and leaves White the task of trying to regain the sacrificed pawn.] **7.e5! Ng8?** [The only way ou of trouble now is 7...d5! 8.exf6 dxc4 9.fxg7 Rg8 is still ok for Black. The game would have equal chances.] **8.Qd5! Qe7 9.Nxc3** White's developmental lead is a decisive advantage He controls the whole center and has open lines for the one pawn given up. **9...Nh6 10.Nb5** [10.Bg5 Qf8 11.Nb5 Bb6 12.Nd6+! cxd6 13.Rfe1! dxe5 14.Rxe5+ wins right away] **10...0-0**



[Black could make the win more difficult with 10...d6! 11.exd6 cxd6 12.Re1 Be6 13.Qh5] **11.Bg5!** A crusher, winning big material. It's games like this that make people want to play gambits. **11...Qe6 12.Qxc5 Qe8 13.Nxc7** MSCFriSebbyS won by resignation **1-0**

US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Every Week!

Next one: October 25, @10AM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rating only (not over-the-board)
Every player must be a US Chess member.
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening.

Save the Date - October 31 10AM - Halloween Special
6SS G/15+2
2 Sections: u1200 and 1200+
Manually paired, online live help desk available
Trophies to Top 10 players in both sections!

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/halloween-special-scholastic-uscf-online-rated (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/halloween-special-scholastic-uscf-online-rated)

Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered:

NEW Class: Get Those Chess Boards Out! -- Tuesdays 4-5PM
As parents, many of us now see kids staring at a screen for hours during the school day. We understand having another online class may not be so exciting. What if we are able to offer a class for beginners where they can feel and interact with the pieces to capture an important part of the early learning experience? That's why we are introducing a new class for our young, beginner players!
Let's get those chess boards out and use it during the class!
Coach Colin will interact with the players via zoom, but they will talk, use the chess board, set it up and set up different positions, and learn and play on a physical board. No shared screen during the class! It's all interactive, using physical chess pieces! **Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/get-those-chess-boards-out) for more information.**

Starting at Chess -- Mondays 3-4PM
This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players -- Tuesdays 3-4PM or Thursdays 4-5PM
This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess -- Thursdays 5-6PM
This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class.
Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

10/27 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/October2020TuesdayNightMarathon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/October2020TuesdayNightMarathon)
Start at 6:30PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210214152621/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

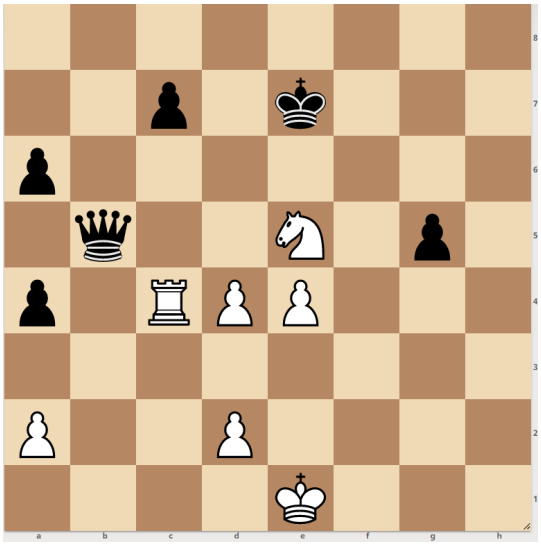
Domination Part 8

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

This week's studies take us to the material imbalance of rook and knight vs. queen, with her majesty chased, trapped – dominated. I suspect she will take her revenge soon enough, however.

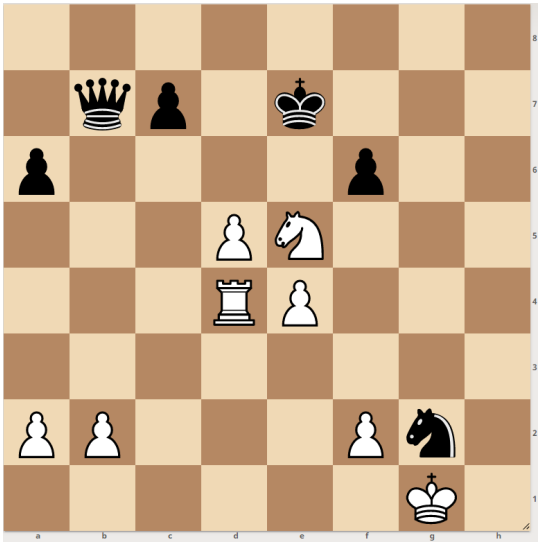
These studies have immense practical value. Without moving the pieces, you can work on visualizing forced sequences, witnessing the birth of creative ideas and thought, spurring your own investigations into the mysteries of chess.

Again, the examples are taken from **Domination in 2,545 Endgame Studies** by **Ghenrikh Kasparyan** (1974).



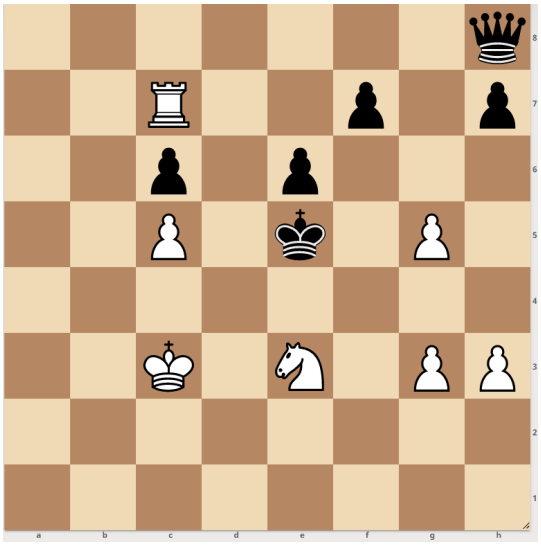
1. Rinck 1903 – White wins.

This is our model, and the solution is precise, elegant: **1.Rb4! Qe8** (**1...Qa5 2.Nc6+** wins) **2.Rb8!** Relentless. The queen has but one square. **2…Qh5 3.Rh8!** Incredible, but true. **3…Qxh8 4.Ng6+.** The knight has the last word. White wins.



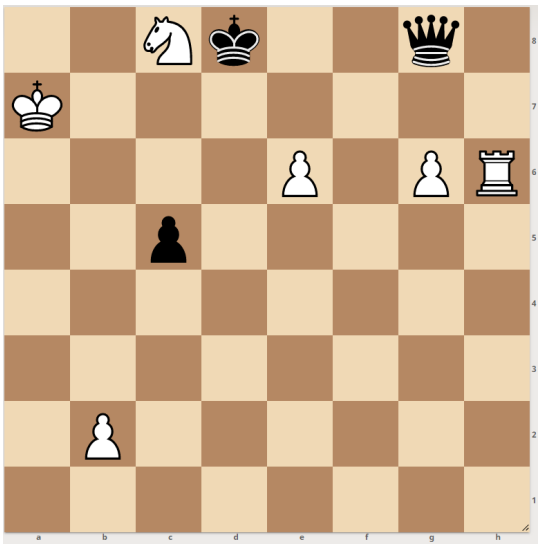
2. Troitzky 1910 – White wins.

With Rinck's study – and solution - in mind, this won't be too difficult, but of course there's a nice twist or two along the way.



3. Kubbel 1911 – White wins.

You have your rook and knight: use them!



4. Lilja 1962 – White wins.

Finally, I'll leave you with this mind-bending study: enjoy!

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

The Old Man and the Endgame

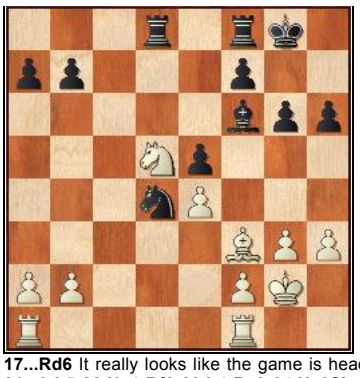
Excuse the reference to Ernest Hemingway's classic novel, yet this week we must consider the "old men" of the game of chess who take refuge in the endgame. Tournament players know of the terror of playing an up and coming young kid. The youngsters are sharp with the tactics, know their openings extremely well and can navigate the middle game. Yet they are often lacking in endgame skills, which is something one acquires with experience. The older player will sometimes seek to bail out of a bad position into an inferior endgame that can be held for a draw. Older players (particularly older masters) will often play a safe opening and middlegame against a young opponent but then seek to grind down the youngster in a dry ending where they figure they will have the chances.

Below we have three examples of endgames and in these the older player wins, as often happens. One reason for our nod to the "old men" is last week's US Senior Championship which was won by GM Joel Benjamin (a former US Junior Champ and 3-time US Champion). We must remind you that age is relative and so the question is, are you older than your opponent? If so you may wish to head to the endgame and we hope these examples give you some ideas.

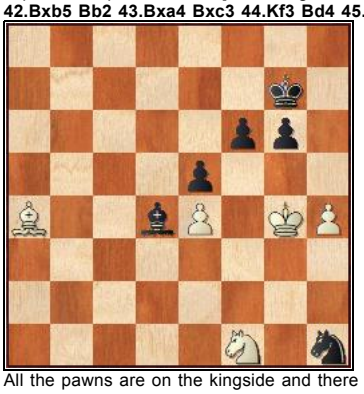
(1) Firouzja,Alireza - Carlsen,Magnus [A04]

Altibox Norway Chess, 18.10.2020

Here we have the young super talent - 17 year old Alireza Firouzja - meeting the "old" champ. **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.0-0 e5 5.e4 d6 6.c3 g6 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bg4 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nc3 Bg7 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxd8+ Rxd8 13.Bxf3 0-0** The game is an equal ending. Young Firouzja was likely happy to have a safe draw against the champ. Yet it is the endgame, and Magnus loves to try to grind things out. **14.Kg2 Nd4 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nd5**



17...Rd6 It really looks like the game is headed for a quick draw. How can one get chances in this symmetrical, bishops of opposite color position? **18.Rac1 Bd8 19.Rfd1 Kg7 20.Ne3 Ra6 21.a3 h5 22.Nc4 Bf6 23.h4 Rc8 24.Ne3?!** a safe looking move, but the retreat begins to give Black an initiative. There was a forcing variation - [24.Rxd4! exd4 25.e5 Rc7! 26.exf6+ Kxf6 27.Rc2 d3 28.Rc3 b5 29.Ne3 Rxc3 30.Nd5+ Ke5 31.Nxc3 Rb6 32.Nd5 Rd6 33.Nc3 should hold the draw] **24...Rac6 25.Rxc6 Rxc6 26.Rd3 Bd8 27.Bd1 Rc1** Magnus has gained a small advantage with control of the c-file. Of course he continues to press. **28.Bb3 b5 29.Rd1 Rc8 30.Ba2 a5 31.Rd3 a4! 32.Kf1 Bb6 33.Rc3?!** This trades the rooks but weakens the queenside pawns. Black's advantage now becomes serious. **33...Rxc3 34.bxc3 Nb3! 35.Ke1 Bc5 36.Nc2 Nc1?!** too eager to grab a pawn, Magnus allows the game to become simplified. He would have kept a lot of pressure with [36...f5 e.g. 37.f3?! f4! 38.gxf4 exf4 39.Kf1 Be7] **37.Bd5 Nd3+ 38.Ke2 Nxf2 39.Bc6** The queenside pawns will be liquidated. **39...f6 40.Ne3 Nh1 41.Nf1 Bxa3 42.Bxb5 Bb2 43.Bxa4 Bxc3 44.Kf3 Bd4 45.g4 hxg4+ 46.Kxg4**



All the pawns are on the kingside and there are bishops of opposite color. White has very good drawing chances. **46...Nf2+ 47.Kf3 Kh6 48.Ng3 Nd3 49.Be8 Nf4 50.Ne2 Ne6 51.Bf7 Nc5 52.Ng3 Bc3 53.h5! Be1! 54.Bxg6 Bxg3 55.Kxg3 Kg5 56.Kf3 Nb3 57.Bf7 Nd4+ 58.Kg3 Ne2+ 59.Kf3 Nf4 60.Kg3 Nxh5+ 61.Bxh5 Kxh5 62.Kh3** so Black has won the h-pawn and has 2 pawns vs one in the king ending. Yet the game is a draw because White has the opposition. Magnus knew this, and Firouzja also figured on the draw. Yet Magnus will be as tricky as he can be to try to take the full point. Can you dear reader hold the draw in this position? Think opposition, and especially distant opposition. **62...Kh6 63.Kh4 Kg7 64.Kg3** very good so far. White keeps the kings doing the dance with the right number of squares in between. He must be ready to close in when the black king advances, but in a way that White keeps the opposition when the kings are one square apart. **64...Kf8 65.Kf2 Ke7 66.Ke2 Ke8 67.Ke3 Kd7 68.Kd3! Kd6 69.Kc3?** Oh no! The wrong square. The youngster fails at the finish. 69. Kd2 Kc5 70. Kc3 holds the game. **69...Kc5**



Now White must give way with the king. 70. Kd3 Kb4 or 70. Kb3 Kd4 wins easily, so Firouzja resigned. **0-1**

(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Aronian,Lev [D35]

Altibox Norway Chess, 18.10.2020

When Magnus was quite young Aronian was already a veteran player. Back then he taught Magnus a thing or two in the endgame, though of course Magnus learned his lesson well. In the recent Altibox Norway Chess tournament Magnus played Aronian in the last round (when the champ has already won the tournament). The final game was like the old days with the older Aronian getting an endgame advantage. **1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bf4 c6 7.Qc2 g6 8.e3 Bf5 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Nbd7 11.h4 a5 12.Kf1 a4 13.a3 Qb6 14.Qc2 h5 15.Bg5 0-0 16.Ne5 Rfe8 17.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.Rh3 Qb3**



The game is level and would remain so if White just trades queens on b3. Magnus retreats and gets a disadvantage. We will fast forward to the endgame to focus on our theme. **19.Qb1 Ne4! 20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Qxe4 Bd6 22.Rg3 Bxe5 23.dxe5 Qb5+ 24.Kg1 Rxe5 25.Qd4 Rd5 26.Qf6 Rf5 27.Qd4 Qe2 28.e4 Rb5 29.Rb1 Qc2 30.Qd3 Rc5 31.Qxc2 Rxc2** White is somewhat tied down in the double rook ending as must play for the draw. **32.b3 b5 33.Rd3 axb3 34.Rbxb3 Ra4 35.Rdc3 Rc4 36.Rxc2 Rxc2 37.f3?! Kf8 38.Kh2 Ke7 39.Kh3 Ke6 40.Rd3 Rc4 41.Kg3 Ke5 42.Rd7**

Rc3 [42...Ra4!] **43.Ra7 f6 44.Ra8 Kd6?!** [44...Kd4!] **45.Kf4 Kc7 46.g4 Kb7 47.Rg8 hxg4 48.fxg4 Rxa3 49.Rxg6 b4 50.Rxf6?** Here Magnus goes wrong with a greedy move. He loses a critica tempo in the race to queen and we can't blame it on his youth this time. Aronian is not quite the player he was ten years ago, but his endgame play is still the highest level and he can take down Magnus when given the opportunity. [50.Rg7+ Kb6 51.Rg8 c5 52.g5 would hold the draw] **50...b3 51.Rf7+ Kb6 52.Rf8**



52...Ra7! Now the black pawns are just too fast. **53.Rb8+ Rb7 54.Rd8 c5 55.Ke3 c4 56.Rd1** [56.Kd2 b2 57.Kc2 b1Q+ 58.Kxb1 Kc7+ picks up the white rook] **56...c3 57.Rb1 Kc5 58.Kd3**



White resigns. 58...Kb4 supports the black pawns and they easily advance. **0-1**

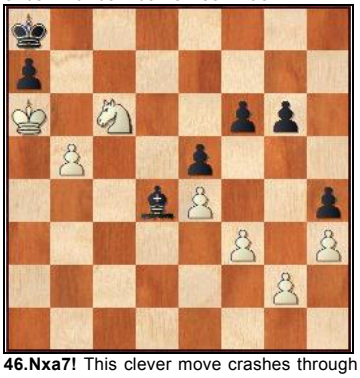
(3) Benjamin,Joel - Wolff,Patrick [B50]

US Senior Chp., 18.10.2020

The winner of the US Senior Championship was Joel Benjamin of New Jersey. Here he meets the MI's own Patrick Wolff, who had a very respectable showing in the championship. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+** Joel chooses a quite opening, planning to play for small advantages. **3...Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.0-0 Ngf6 6.d3 g6 7.Re1 Bg7 8.c3 0-0 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 e5?!** This gets a pawn stuck on e5 and so makes the fianchettoed bishop less valuable. [10...b5!? would get some queenside space] **11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Nc3 Qb6 14.Qe2 Rfc8 15.Bg5 Bf8 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Nd5**



This strong knight on d5 ensures White a small but enduring advantage. **17...Qe6 18.Rac1 Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Rc8 20.Rc4 Kg7 21.Qc2 Rxc4 22.Qxc4 Qc6 23.Qxc6!** Headed to a knight versus bishop ending where the knight is a little better. Benjamin is going for the slow squeeze. **23...bxc6 24.Ne3 Kf6 25.Nc4 Ke6 26.Kf1 Bc5 27.Ke2 Bd4 28.f3 h5 29.b3 h4 30.h3** All the white pawns are on light squares where the black bishop cannot attack them. Clearly White is better and pushing for the win. The question is whether he is able to make progress. **30...Bc5 31.Kd3 Bb4 32.a3 Bc5 33.b4 Be7 34.Na5 Kd6 35.Kc4 Bg5?!** [35...Kd7 would keep better drawing chances. The bishop is good guarding from e7.] **36.Kb3** [36.b5! cxb5+ 37.Kxb5] **36...Kd7** [36...Bd8!] **37.Ka4 Be3 38.Nc4 Bd4 39.Ka5 Kc7?!** The best plan now was to go completely on the offensive! [39...Ke6 40.Ka6 Kf6! with the plan of marching the black king down to take the g2 pawn.] **40.Ka6 f6 41.a4 Bf2 42.b5 Bd4?** [Black had one last chance to draw - running with the king to the kingside while White grabs the a-pawn: 42...cxb5 43.axb5 g5 44.Na5 Kd6! 45.Nc6 Kc5! 46.Nxa7 Kc4 47.b6 Bxb6 48.Kxb6 Kd3 49.Kc5 Ke3 50.Nc6 Kf2 51.Kd6 Kxg2 52.Ke6 Kxh3 53.Kxf6 g4 54.fxg4 Kxg4 55.Nxe5+ Kf4 56.Ng6+ Kxe4 57.Nxh4 and all the pawns are gone] **43.Na5 cxb5 44.axb5 Kb8 45.Nc6+ Ka8**



46.Nxa7! This clever move crashes through right away. **46...Bxa7 47.b6 f5** [47...Bb8 48.b7#] **48.bxa7 1-0**

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Newsletter #941

October 31, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Queens Gambit on Netflix
- Ray Conway Tuesday Night Marathon Online
- Michael Walders' California Chess Journey
- Become a Mechanics' Institute Member
- TD Corner
- IM John Donaldson Interview
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

The Queen's Gambit on Netflix



I have watched the first 4 episodes of The Queen's Gambit on Netflix, and hope to finish it by this weekend. I will save my full review until I complete all the episodes, which will be in next weeks newsletter. I know the reviews have largely been praise for the series, and I myself have enjoyed the acting, the chess, the human drama and the music supporting the storytelling. There is one part of the series I would like to mention, because it speaks to the beauty and power of chess, and for the ability of the everyday person to change the world through kindness.

In the first episode, we are introduced to the central character, Beth Harmon, who at an early age is placed in an orphanage after the death of her mother in a car crash, one in which it appears she took her own life. Beth survived, and tries to adapt to her new life. While being sent to clean erasers during the school day, she goes tot the basement to find the custodian, Mr. Shaibel, going over a game on a chessboard. She inquires about the game, and starts to learn the piece movements by watching him. As she gets more curious about the game, Mr Shaibel

begins to teach her more, including notation. Soon enough, her genius surpasses the skills of her instructor. Mr Shaibel then brings the director of the high school chess club, who then organizes a simul at the school. As she goes on to defeat challenger after challenger, she becomes poised to enter the world of tournament play. However, she does not have the money to play her first event in her home state of Kentucky, so she writes to Mr. Shaibel for a loan for the entry fee, which he sends to her. Thus begins her journey into the competitive chess world, and the drama and tale begins to unfold.

What I really enjoyed about the first two episodes was the relationship between Beth and Mr. Shaibel. He not only teaches her chess, but he instills discipline while teaching. During one moment of frustration by Beth, she calls him a name and he does not permit her to go down to the basement to play for a time. He recognizes her talent, and supports her growth and progress, and goes out of his way to bring attention to her through his outreach to the local high school chess club and his support of her first tournament entry. While this was the last (at least through four episodes) we see of Mr. Shaibel, his impact on her was immense.

I very strongly believe that in chess, and in life, an everyday person can have a profound impact on the lives of others, and that even those that are geniuses or that accomplish great things are influenced by everyday people in some way that helps and supports them. I think often times people think of themselves as insignificant in terms of making an impact on the world, but the reality may be that people have an impact they do not realize. Even from some of the stories I have heard since coming to Mechanics', I have been quite surprised to hear of stories like Bobby Fischer staying at the house of Steve Brandwein for example, giving him a place to stay while in San Francisco. This is significant in telling the history of Bobby Fischer, what would he have done otherwise? Would we have had him in San Francisco?

I eagerly await to see how the series plays out, but I really enjoyed this part of the series. Chess is played literally everywhere in the world, and it is a very special thing for us to have that, just as it is a vspecial thing to look up at the moon and know the whole world sees the same thing. Probably only soccer can claim the same in terms of sport or game. And just like in soccer, you need very little to learn and play, only a set of pieces and a board. And with this, the ability to change the world.

https://www.netflix.com/title/80234304 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.netflix.com/title/80234304)

Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon Report

The 8-round Open section Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon concluded on Tuesday, and IM Elliott Winslow showed that in chess brilliance, perseverance, and resolve can stay with you long into your career. Winslow got through a gauntlet of players that included GM Gadir Guseinov, IM Prasanna Rao and FM Kyron Griffith to win clear first in the TNM with a score of 7/8. His wins were delberate, and his draw against GM Guseinov was aggressive. He took a strategic draw in the penultimate round against FM Kyron Griffith but closed the show in fine form in the final round against the very young and talented Javier Silva. Congratulations to Elliott on a phenomenal performance over 8 rounds and 4 weeks!

GM Gadir Guseinov took clear 2nd with 6.5/8 and IM Prasanna Rao, NM Michael Walder and Patrick Liu tied for 3rd at 6/8.

Tentative prize winners include Patrick Liu (u/2000), Vishva Nanugonda and Ethan Guo (u/1800) and Stephen Zhu, Jacob Wang, Yali Dancig Perlman, and Pranav Pradeep (u/1400).

All results are tentative pending a far play review which will be conducted by Chess.com and Dr. Ken Regan.

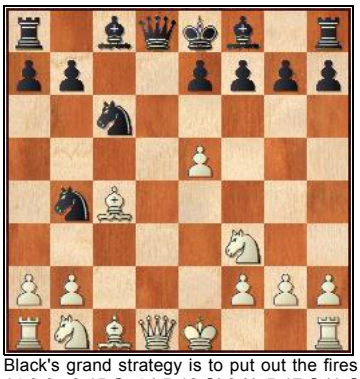
Here are some games from Tuesday, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Javier Silva (J3Chess24)(2019) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow)(2032) [B22]

Ray Conway mem TNM Chess.com (8.1), 28.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4 [6.Bc4 right away is quite a different path: 6...Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 (9.Na3 dxc3!? *(9...a6)*) 9...Be6 10.Na3 (10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Rd8 *(12...Qd7!?)* 13.Qh4 Qe2 *(13...h5)*)] **6...d6 7.Bc4 dxe5!?** [Mostly you see 7...Nb6; or 7...e6] **8.dxe5** [8.Bxd5 used to be the idea, but 8...Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.d5 Nd4! 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5! 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.0-0 f5! when Black is quite content to settle his king on f7.; 8.Nxe5 could well be the best try for an advantage.] **8...Ndb4!?**

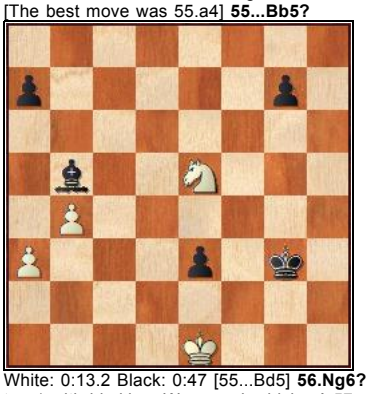


Black's grand strategy is to put out the fires and win the e-pawn. But there can be quite a few fires! **9.a3?!** [9.Qb3!? e6 10.Nc3 Na5 *(10...Nd3+!?)* 11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Qa4 Bxb5 13.Qxb5+ Nac6 14.0-0 a6 15.Qa4 b5 16.Qb3 Na5 17.Qd1 Qxd1 18.Rxd1 Be7 19.Bg5 Nbc6 20.Bxe7 Kxe7=/+; Everybody's computer prefers 9.0-0 Qxd1 10.Rxd1 Bf5 11.a3 Nc2 12.Ra2 e6 13.Nc3 *(13.b4? N2xb4 14.Rb2 Na5!)* 13...a6 14.b4 Rc8 and perhaps Black hasn't quite equalized.] **9...Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 Na6 11.Bxa6?!** The bishops may seem less concrete of an advantage than better pawns but it doesn't turn out that way -- and it won't be easy to get to these a-pawns. As it went White had a big opportunity on the c-file but didn't cash it in. [11.b4!?] **11...bxa6=/+ 12.Bf4 Bg4?!** [12...g5!?; 12...h6!? 13.h4 Rb8 14.e6 Rxb2 15.exf7+ Kxf7=/+] **13.Nbd2 0-0-0?** [13...g5!?=] **14.Rc1+/- Kb7 15.Ke1 e6 16.h3 Bh5 17.g4 Bg6 18.Ke2 Be7 19.Rhd1 Rd5 20.Nc4 Rhd8 21.Ne3** [21.Nd6+ Bxd6 22.Rxd5 exd5 23.exd6 made for an interesting imbalanced situation, favoring White.] **21...Bd3+ 22.Ke1** Critical move. **22...Rb5 23.Rc3 Be4 24.Nd2**



24...Bg6? [You have to love the engines -- they recommend 24...Bh1! 25.Rdc1 Rd4 26.Bg3 a5 27.f3 Bg5! 28.Ndc4 Bxf3 29.Nd6+ Rxd6 30.exd6 Bf6 31.Rd3 Be4 32.Rd2 Rb3 33.Ke2 Rxb2 34.Rxb2+ Bxb2 35.Rc4 Bd4 What a wild line!] **25.Ndc4?=** [The best move was 25.Rdc1+- Rxb2 26.Nec4 Ra2 27.Nd6+ Bxd6 28.exd6 Rxd2 29.Kxd2 Be4 30.Rc5 Bd5 31.Ke3 h6 32.Bg3 g5 33.Rb1+ Ka8 34.f3 a5 35.Rbb5] **25...Rxd1+ 26.Kxd1 Kc7** making sure the rook has a way back, plus the king stands better near the pawns in the center. **27.Nc2?! Kd7 28.Kc1 a5 29.Bg3**

Rd5 30.N4e3 Rc5 The rooks off just mean that it's that much easier for Black to use his king. **31.Rxc5 Bxc5 32.f4 Be4 33.Kd2 Nd4 34.Nxd4 Bxd4 35.b3 Kc6 36.Nc4 Bg2 37.Nxa5+ Kd5 38.h4?!** [38.Ke2 Bxh3 39.Kf3 Bf1 40.Bf2 Bc3 41.Nb7 a6-/+] **38...Bh3 39.Ke2** [Might as well at least hold that pawn: 39.g5 Ke4 40.a4 Kf3 but the king penetration is more of a problem than White can create on the queenside.] **39...Bxg4+ 40.Kf1 Ke4 41.Kg2 Bf3+ 42.Kh2 Be3 43.Nc4 Bxf4** [43...Bc1!] **44.Nd6+ Kxe5** Critical move. **45.Nxf7+ Kf5 46.Bxf4** [46.Nd6+ Kg4] **46...Kxf4** Black fumbles a bit, but manages to find the path to a win from here. **47.Ng5 e5 48.Nxh7 e4 49.Kg1 e3 50.Kf1 Bd5 51.b4 Bc4+ 52.Ke1 Kg4 53.Nf8 Kxh4 54.Ng6+ Kg3** [54...Kg5!] **55.Ne5** [The best move was 55.a4] **55...Bb5?**



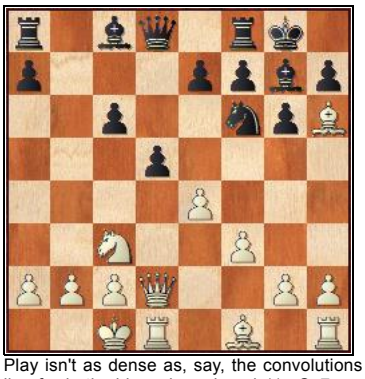
White: 0:13.2 Black: 0:47 [55...Bd5] **56.Ng6?** [56.a4! requires Black to spot 56...Kf4!! *(56...Bxa4? 57.Ke2* is only a draw! White can give up his knight to dissolve the kingside pawns, then run to a1 with his king. Wrong color bishop! *57...g5 58.Kxe3* might look totally won to the engines, but it's a tablebase draw.*)* 57.Ng6+ Kg5 58.Ne7 Bc4 and *this* is a win.] **56...Kf3 57.Ne5+ Kg3?** [57...Kf4 58.Ng6+ Ke4] **58.Ng6? Kf3 59.Ne5+ Ke4 60.Ng6 Be8 61.Nh4?!** [61.Nf8 Bf7 62.Nd7 g5 63.Nc5+ Kf3 64.Nd3 Bd5 65.Ne5+ Ke4 66.Ng6 g4 67.Ne7 Bc4 68.Nc8 Kf3 69.Nd6 Bd5] **61...g5 62.Ng2 g4 63.Nh4 g3 64.Ng2 Bd7 65.Nh4 Bg4 66.Ng2 Bf5 67.a4 Bh3 68.Nh4 g2 69.Nxg2 Bxg2 70.b5 Bf3 71.a5 Kd5 72.b6 axb6 73.axb6 Kc6** ecwinslow won by resignation **0-1**

(2) FM KyronGriffith (KyronGriffith) (2175) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2615) [B27]

Ray Conway mem TNM Chess.com (8.2), 28.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

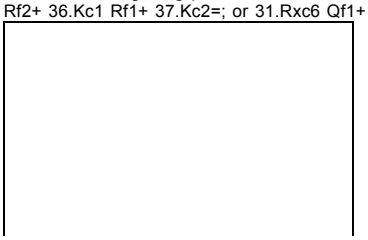
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 Via an unusual move order the game has become a Dragon. **6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6** And a Yugoslav Attack, so both players are out for blood. **9.0-0-0** The only slightly more restrained continuation, [compared with 9.Bc4] **9...d5** The most principled and popular move, since it was found that [9...Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.Kb1! thwarts Black's direct play: 11...Qa5?! 12.Nd5!] **10.Nxc6!?** An almost forgotten line, Kyron shows it has considerable teeth. [10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd4 *(12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.Qxd5 Qc7!)* 12...Bxd4!? *(12...e5 13.Bc5 Be6!?* was the rage for a long time but has been completely superseded.*)* 13.Qxd4 Qb6] **10...bxc6 11.Bh6**



Play isn't as dense as, say, the convolutions of the 9.Bc4 lines, but this does get very sharp. **11...Bxh6!?** "inviting" the queen in, radically increasing the stakes. [Sergei Kudrin, who played this line for both sides, championed 11...Qc7 against Andrei Sokolov in Lugano 1985. 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.exd5 cxd5 14.h4 h5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Qxd5 Be6 17.Qd4+ Kg8 18.Bd3 Rfd8 19.Qe3 Bxa2 20.g4 Rab8 21.gxh5 Rxb2!! 1/2-1/2 (39) Sokolov,A (2550)-Kudrin,S (2485) Lugano 1985 EXT 2000 [Bulletin]; 11...e6 12.h4 Bh8! was Kudrin-Lobron, New York 1983] **12.Qxh6 Rb8!** This is what Gawain Jones recommends in his Dragon books for the Grandmaster Repertoire series. Black holds off on where to put the queen (a5 or b6). **13.e5** Certainly the most troubling, moving the knight away from defense. **13...Nd7 14.Rd4!?** The immediate deadly 15.Rh4 allows no time for taking on e5. [14.h4 Nxe5 15.h5 Bf5 16.g4 f6! 17.Qf4?! was the original game for this line. *(17.gxf5? g5!; 17.Qd2 Be6 18.hxg6 Nxg6 19.Bd3 Rf7* 1-0 (41) Noritsyn,N (2508)-Findlay,I (2206) Edmonton 2019*; 17.Qe3!* and the battle goes on.*)* 17...Qd6 18.Qe3 Qb4 19.gxf5 Qxb2+ 20.Kd2 d4 21.Qe4 Qxc3+ 22.Ke2 gxf5 0-1 (22) Gonell Aparici,R-Marin,M (2520) Manresa 1995] **14...Re8** Critical move. **15.e6!** [15.Rh4 Nf8 and Black is tight.] **15...fxe6** [Jones advocated 15...Nf6 16.exf7+ Kxf7 "unclear," but computers have White on top after 17.Ra4 Qb6 18.b3] **16.Bd3 Nf8** Critical move. **17.h4!** Worth waiting for. **17...e5**

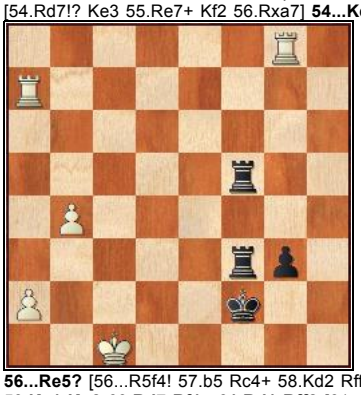


18.Ra4! [18.h5!? exd4 19.hxg6 leads to a perpetual only: 19...Qd6! 20.gxh7+ Kh8 21.Qg7+! Kxg7 22.h8Q+ Kf7 23.Rh7+ Nxh7 24.Qxh7+ Kf8 *(24...Kf6?? 25.Qg6+ Ke5 26.Qg5+ Ke6 27.Qf5#)* 25.Qh8+ Kf7=] **18...Qd6 19.h5 Bf5 20.hxg6?!** [20.Bxf5 gxf5 21.Qg5+ Kh8 22.Qxf5 is some advantage for White, although Black's impressive center shouldn't be underestimated.] **20...Bxd3 21.cxd3 hxg6 22.f4! Qf6!** The tournament's grandmaster has been defending furiously and accurately;; **23.fxe5 Qxe5 24.Rf4** A little test? (25.Rxf8+ and 26.Qh7#) [24.Rxa7 Rb4! is only equal, but Black does get his rook into the game.] **24...Qg7** [24...Qe3+?? 25.Kb1! Rxb2+ 26.Ka1!!+-] **25.Qh3 g5!?** [25...e5 26.Rh4 Qf6 27.Kb1! still provides play worth at least a pawn.] **26.Rg4?!** [26.Rf2 keeps up more pressure.] **26...Nh7** [26...e5!?] **27.Qg3 e5** Black sets up lateral defenses. **28.Rh5 Qf6! 29.Qh3 Rb7 30.Rh6 Qf5 31.Qh5?!** White maybe tries too hard around here. A classic motif of getting pieces so far over on the attack, that when it dead ends, they're all out of play. [31.Ra4 is enough play to hold: 31...Rf8 32.Rxc6 Qxh3 33.gxh3 Rf1+ 34.Kc2 Nf6 35.Ra5 Rf2+ 36.Kc1 Rf1+ 37.Kc2=; or 31.Rxc6 Qf1+ 32.Nd1] **31...Rf8** [31...Re6! 32.Rxe6 Qxe6 33.Nd1 Kg7 when ...Qg6 pushes back.] **32.Qg6+ Rg7 33.Qxf5 Rxf5 34.Rxc6 Nf6 35.Rg3?**





[35.Ra4 d4 36.Nb5 gets something going on the queenside, but Black is ahead on the kingside and center.] **35...g4!-+** Times 5:19 vs. 7:59. White finds his pieces, almost by magic, very misplaced. **36.d4!? exd4 37.Nd1 Ne4?** [The best move was 37...Nh5! 38.Rd3 Nf4 39.Rd2 no taking back the d-pawn! 39...g3 when the e-file is open for ...Re7, ...d3, and ...Re2] **38.Rd3 Rf1 39.Rxd4 Rg1 40.Rxd5 g3** [40...Rxg2?! 41.Ne3 Rh2 42.Nf5 is fully back in the game] **41.Rc2** vs. 5:44 [41.Rc4! Re7 *(41...Nf2 42.Kc2 Rxg2 43.Rh5)* 42.Rd3 Kf7 43.Rf3+ neither man nor box is seeing a way to an advantage.] **41...Nf2** Now the clear path for Black is muddled as they run short of time. **42.Rdd2?!** (40 seconds for this) [42.b3] **42...Rf7 43.Rc3** [43.b4] **43...Ne4 44.Rd8+ Kh7 45.Rc4 Nf2 46.Rd2?!** (20 seconds left) [46.b3 Nxd1 47.Rh4+ Kg6 48.Rg4+ Kf6 49.Rxg3 attempts to hold, but is no fun.] **46...Nxd1 47.Rxd1 Rxg2-+** Black locks onto what should be a won ending. **48.Rh1+ Kg6?!** [48...Kg7 49.Rg4+ Kf8] **49.Rg4+ Kf5 50.Rg8 Kf4?!** [50...Ke4 and doubling on the seventh is right out of Rook Endings 101 (and winning).] **51.Rf1+ Rf2 52.Rg1 Rf3 53.Rd1?!** White banked a couple seconds on the last two moves to get to seven; Black has 3:52. [53.Re1] **53...Rf5** [53...Ke3! right away keeps the a-pawn out of trouble as well.] **54.b4?!** [54.Rd7!? Ke3 55.Re7+ Kf2 56.Rxa7] **54...Ke3 55.Rd7 Kf2?!** [55...a5!?] **56.Rxa7**



56...Re5? [56...R5f4! 57.b5 Rc4+ 58.Kd2 Rff4 adds checkmate to White's woes, for the win.] **57.Rag7?** White draws after either rook move [57.Rc7!; or 57.Rd7] **57...Re1+! 58.Kd2 Re2+ 59.Kc1 Kg2 60.Rd7 Rf1+ 61.Rd1 Rff2** [61...Rxd1+ 62.Kxd1 Rxa2 is straightforward.] **62.Rd3 Re1+ 63.Rd1 Re3?**



White can now hold! [Best was 63...Rxd1+ 64.Kxd1 Rxa2 as above. 65.Ke1 Rb2 66.Rb8 Kh1 67.Rg8 g2 68.Rh8+ Kg1 69.Rh4 Rc2 sets up the Lucena position, when the b-pawn isn't enough of a factor: 70.Rh8 Rc4 71.b5 Rb4 72.Rb8 Re4+ 73.Kd2 Kh2 74.Rg8 Rb4 75.b6 Rxb6] **64.Rd4?** [White draws with 64.Rd2 Re1+ 65.Kc2 Kh2 66.Rh8+ Kg1 67.Rg8 g2 68.b5 Ref1 69.b6 Rxd2+ 70.Kxd2 Rb1 71.a4 Rxb6 72.Rxg2+ Kxg2 73.Kc3 Kf3 74.Kc4 Ke4 75.a5 Rh6 76.Kb5 Kd5 77.a6=; 64.b5= also draws.] **64...Rxa2 65.Kb1 Rf2 66.Kc1 Re1+ 67.Rd1 Rxd1+ 68.Kxd1 Rb2** Black gets the best of it, with the b-pawn alone unable to matter. **69.Rg4** [69.Rg6 Rxb4 70.Ke2 Re4+ 71.Kd3 Re7 72.Rh6 Kf2 73.Rf6+ Kg1 74.Rh6 g2 is Lucena's position.] **69...Kf3 70.Rg8 g2** Black has 71... g1Q+ coming up. **0-1**

(3) Felix German (FelixGerman)(1696) - IM Prasanna Rao (Praschess) (2140) [A83]

Ray Conway mem TNM Chess.com (7.3), 27.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 f5 2.e4 The Staunton Gambit against the Dutch Defense. Felix goes for immediate action. **2...fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 c6 5.f3 e3** Instead of looking for a refutation, Black gives back the pawn immediately, leaving White with a strange pawn at f3, and aiming for a psychological edge: after all, if an opponent wants to play a gambit, why give him what he wants? **6.Bd3 g6 7.Bxe3 Bg7 8.Qd2** Yet White has a nice solid position with good control of the center. **8...Qa5 9.Nge2 d6 10.0-0 0-0 11.a3 Nbd7 12.b4 Qc7 13.b5** This advance doesn't really do much for White. **13...Nb6 14.bxc6 bxc6 15.Kh1 Be6 16.a4?!** [16.Bh6] **16...Nc4 17.Qc1 Nxe3 18.Qxe3 Bf7** Black has the two bishops now, without compensation for that. **19.Nf4?**



Anything else! **19...Qd7?** [19...Bh6! 20.g3 *(20.Ne6 Bxe3 21.Nxc7 Bxd4 22.Ne2 Bxa1 23.Nxa8 Be5 24.Nc7 Rb8-+* is a pawn and position -- and those bishops are still there.*)* 20...Rae8 Black's potential is about to be realized. *(20...e5)*] **20.Rfe1?!** [20.Nh3] **20...Bh6** Still pretty good. **21.g3 Rae8 22.Qf2 Bxf4** Wrecking White's pawn formation. **23.gxf4 Nh5 24.f5** returning the favor

some (but it costs a pawn). **24...gxf5** White is up a pawn, which will take some work to cash in. **25.Rg1+ Kh8 26.Rg5 Nf4??** There must have been a hallucination. [26...e6 keeps the pawn and some advantage.] **27.Bxf5** Now White has a clear plus. **27...e6**



28.Qh4? [He thought for five and a half minutes and didn't find 28.Bxh7! Nh3 29.Qh4 Nxg5 30.Bd3+ Bh5 31.Qxh5+ Nh7 and he probably didn't see 32.Bg6! with Ne4 to come, with a big, probably winning, advantage.] **28...exf5** [28...Bh5] **29.Qxf4 Qe7!** a good idea to get the black queen covering dark squares **30.Rg3** [30.Rxf5?? Bg6 31.Rxf8+ Rxf8 and White comes undone.] **30...Qe3**



31.Qxe3? White has too many weak pawns for an ending. [31.Qh4! Re6 32.Rag1! Qh6! still tries to make the ending count.(32...Qxc3 33.Rh3 leads to a perpetual: 33...Bg6 34.Rxg6 Re1+ *(34...Qe1+)*)] **31...Rxe3 32.f4 Rfe8 33.Kg2 Rxg3+ 34.hxg3 Re3 35.Ra3?!** A sad move to make, but only if Black finds... **35...Re1??** Not that! [35...Bd5+!-+ is a zugzwang of sorts (well, White has Nb1, but still lost).] **36.d5! cxd5 37.Nb5** [37.Kf2] **37...Re2+ 38.Kf1** [38.Kf3?? Bh5+] **38...Rxc2 39.Nxd6** [39.Nxa7] **39...Be6** [39...Bg6!?] **40.Nb5** There shouldn't be any chance for either side now, except that Felix has 1:50 to Prasanna's 10:19. **40...a6 41.Nd4 Rc1+ 42.Kf2 Bd7 43.Rb3 Rc4 44.Rb8+ Kg7 45.Rb7 Rxd4 46.Rxd7+ Kg8 47.Rd8+ Kf7 48.Rd7+ Ke6 49.Rxh7 Rxa4 50.Rh6+ Ke7 51.Rh7+ Ke6 52.Rh6+ Kf7 53.Rd6 d4 54.Ke2 Ra3 55.Rxd4 Rxg3 56.Ra4 Rg6 57.Ra5 Re6+ 58.Kf3 Rf6 59.Kg3 Kg6 60.Kh4 Rd6 61.Ra1 Kf6 62.Ra2 Kg6 63.Rg2+ Kf7 64.Ra2 Rg6 65.Kh5** Rao's thoughts of advantage have merely cost him his time: it's now 0:22 vs. 0:32. **65...Rb6 66.Kg5 Ke6 67.Rh2 Kd5 68.Kxf5 a5 69.Ra2 Ra6 70.Rd2+ Kc4 71.Ke4 a4 72.f5 a3 73.Ra2 Kb3 74.Rxa3+ Kxa3 75.Ke5 Kb4 76.f6 Kc5 77.f7 Ra8 78.Ke6 Kc6 79.Ke7 Ra7+ 80.Kf6 Ra8 81.Ke7 Kc7 82.f8Q Rxf8 83.Kxf8** Game drawn by insufficient material Game drawn - insufficient material **1/2-1/2**

(4) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2609) - NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy)(1886) [B40]

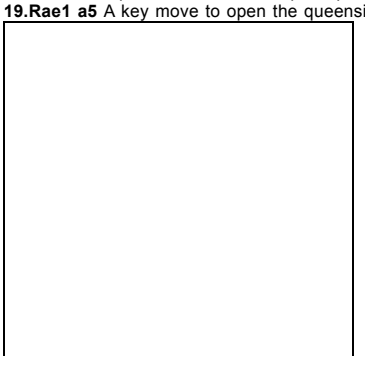
Ray Conway mem TNM Chess.com (7.2), 28.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 The Taimanov Variation - flexible yet fighting. This gives us a rich strategic Sicilian position. **6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.f4 Bb4 9.Bd3 b5** Mike chooses this variation, perhaps influenced by [9...Na5 10.a3 Bxc3 11.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 12.bxc3 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Bd2 Nb6 15.Rb1 Nbc4 16.Rb4 Nxd2 17.Kxd2 Bd7 18.Be4 0-0-0 19.Rhb1 g5 20.Bxb7+ Nxb7 21.Rxb7 gxf4 22.Ke1 Rhg8 23.Kf2 e5 24.Nf3 e4 25.Nd4 Rg5 26.Rb8+ Kc7 27.R1b7+ Kd6 28.Rxd8 e3+ 29.Kf3 1-0 (29) GGuseinov (2518)-0gZPanda (2138) Chess.com 23.05/0] **10.a3** [Alternatives are 10.0-0-0!?; and 10.a4!?] **10...Be7** [riskly is 10...Ba5?! 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.b4 Ng4!? 13.Bg1 Bb6 14.Be2 Bxg1 15.Rxg1 Nf6 16.Bf3 Bb7 17.e5 Nd5 18.Nxd5 exd5 19.0-0-0! White is on the verge of winning but his illustrious opponent managed to hold; ½-½ (50) Skuhala,L (2087)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2789) PRO Chess League, Ljubljana Turtles vs. Marseille Migraines, chess.com INT 21.03/0] **11.e5 Ng4** The game has already become sharp. This knight move is needed for Black to stay competitive. **12.Nxc6** [12.Bg1 Bb7 13.h3 Bh4+ 14.Kd1 Nh6] **12...dxc6 13.Ne4 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 Bb7 15.b4**



15...c5! It's important for Black to open up the lines for his bishops, even at the cost of a pawn. The activity and freedom of movement is compensation. **16.Nxc5 Bd5! 17.0-0 0-0 18.Ne4 Rfd8 19.Rae1 a5** A key move to open the queenside. **20.Qh3 Bc4!**





21.Nf6+ Guseinov accepts the invatation. This is not a sacrifice as of course 21...gxf6 22. Qxh7+ is mate next. **21...Bxf6 22.Qxh7+ Kf8 23.exf6 gxf6 24.Kh1 axb4 25.axb4 Bxd3 26.cxd3** wonderfully played by both players. The black king has to run back to the center for shelter but he is fine there with the e and f pawns to protect him. **26...Rac8 27.Qh4 Ke7 28.f5 Rh8 29.Qf4 Qxf4 30.Rxf4** And into the double-rook ending. Black has at least adequate compensation for the pawn. **30...e5 31.Rfe4 Rhd8 32.h4** [32.d4? Rc4 33.dxe5? Rxe4 34.Rxe4 Rd1+] **32...Rxd3 33.Kh2 Rb3 34.h5 Rc4** [34...Rb2 35.Kh3 Rf2 keeps one rook back to keep an eye and the white h-pawn] **35.h6 Kf8 36.Rxc4 bxc4 37.Re4 c3 38.Rg4 c2 39.Rc4 Rxb4** [39...Kg8! would be simpler to play for Black] **40.Rc8+!** Black has maintained the balance but Gadir tries to make things tricky with the advanced h-pawn. **40...Ke7 □ 41.Kg3 Rb3+ 42.Kg4 Rb4+ 43.Kg3 Rb3+ 44.Kf2 Rb2 45.Ke3 c1Q+ 46.Rxc1 Rxg2 47.Rc7+**



47...Kf8?? Mike finally blunders after playing a great game. He had an easy draw after [47...Kd6! 48.Rxf7 Rg3+ 49.Kf2 Rh3 50.Rxf6+ Ke7 51.Ra6 Kf7 52.Ke2 Rh5 when there is almost nothing left] **48.Rc8+** Oh no. The h-pawn queens. **48...Ke7 □ 49.h7** GGuseinov won by resignation **1-0**

(5) Richard Hack (Kaline340Green) (1517) - Ethan Boldi (etvat) (1881) [C11]

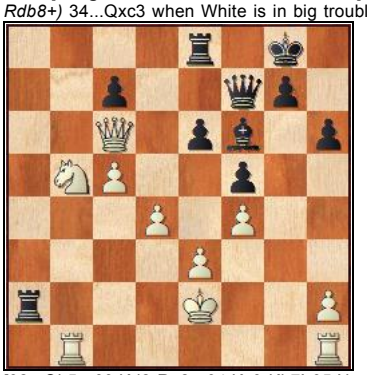
Ray Conway mem TNM Chess.com (7.11), 28.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 Burn's Variation of the French. Like the Rubenstein Variation Black gives up a little space in the center but gets free development and avoids White's cramping pawn on e5. **5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Ng3** Richard chooses a sideline and retreats the kinght. This costs a tempo though, so more testing is 6. Bxf6. **6...h6 7.Be3 Nd5 8.c4?!** Chasing the knight from it's post but leaving the white king exposed to checks. Developing and castling would be safer. **8...Nxe3 9.fxe3 Bb4+** [probably even stronger was 9...c5! 10.d5 0-0 11.Nf3 Re8 12.Qd2 exd5 13.cxd5 Bd6 with great control of the board] **10.Ke2** [10.Kf2] **10...0-0 11.a3-/+ Bd6 12.Ne4 Bd7** [12...Be7] **13.c5 Be7 14.Nf3 f5?!** This creates a weakeness on e6. [Black would be happier opening up play on the queenside with 14...b6] **15.Nc3 Bf6 16.g3 b6 17.b4 a5 18.Rc1** [18.Bg2] **18...axb4 19.axb4 bxc5 20.bxc5** Critical move. **20...Bc6 21.Bg2 Na6 22.Qb3** White has gotten back to equal chances with his development and now targeting the e6 pawn. **22...Re8 23.Nh4?!** [23.Rb1] **23...Bxg2?!** [23...Rb8! 24.Qa3 Nb4 gives Black active play] **24.Nxg2 Rb8 25.Qa3 Nb4 26.Rb1 Nd5 27.Nf4?!** [White is ok after 27.Rxb8 Nxc3+ *(27...Qxb8 28.Nxd5 exd5 29.Kf2)* 28.Qxc3 Qxb8 29.Rc1] **27...Ra8! 28.Qb3**



28...Nxf4+?! [Black here has the nice shot 28...Nxe3! 29.Nxe6 *(29.Kxe3 Qxd4+ 30.Ke2 Qxc3)* 29...Qd7! 30.Nxc7+ Nc4+ 31.Nxe8 Rxe8+ 32.Kf1 Qxd4 33.Kg2 Kh7 34.Rhc1 Ne3+ with a winning attack] **29.gxf4 Qd7 30.Qb5 Qf7 31.Qc6?!** [31.h4 Ra3 32.Kd2] **31...Ra3?!** [missing the central breakthrough 31...e5! 32.fxe5 Bxe5 33.dxe5 Qc4+ 34.Kf3 *(34.Kd2 Red8+ 35.Kc2 Qd3+ 36.Kb2 Rdb8+)* 34...Qxc3 when White is in big trouble with the weak pawns] **32.Nb5?!** [32.Kd3! and the white king is safe in the center] **32...Ra2+?!**



[32...Qh5+ 33.Kd2 Ra2+ 34.Kc3 Kh7! 35.Nxc7 Rd8 36.Qxe6 Qe2 is a ferocious attack] **33.Kf1?** [The white monarch should be brave here and advance in the center with 33.Kd3! The white rooks would be connected then and chances would be even. 33...Qh5?! 34.Nc3 defends the white king very well and leaves Black with weakenesses to defend.] **33...Qh5** Now there is no good defense to the attack from the black queen and rook. **34.Re1 Bh4 35.Nxc7 Rf2+** etvat won by resignation [35...Rf2+ 36.Kg1 Qg4+] **0-1**

Tentative final results - pending fair play review

SwissSys Standings. Conway Memorial TNM Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total	T-Sonneborn
1	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W17	W20	W13	W10	W6	D2	D8	W7	7.0	36.5
2	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2600	GGuseinov	H---	H---	W37	W3	W10	D1	W4	W8	6.5	29.5
3	IM Prasanna Ragh Rao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083805)	16083805	2508	Praschess	W30	D5	W19	L2	W12	W20	D9	W14	6.0	28.5
4	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W43	W21	L10	W5	W22	W6	L2	W17	6.0	28.5
5	Patrick Peiju Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1851	katechen77	W48	D3	W23	L4	W11	D18	W10	W9	6.0	27.75
6	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1927	mwncklmann	W47	W35	W16	W9	L1	L4	W15	D12	5.5	24
7	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1869	J3Chess24	L27	W46	W25	W30	W18	D9	W13	L1	5.5	23
8	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	KyronGriffith	W28	W12	H---	H---	W14	W24	D1	L2	5.5	21.5
9	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W38	W29	W24	L6	W19	D7	D3	L5	5.0	21.75
10	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1948	kondsaga	W42	W26	W4	L1	L2	W33	L5	W28	5.0	20.5
11	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	etvat	W32	L24	L33	W35	L5	W29	W31	W22	5.0	20
12	Mark L Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	12459313	1843	BirdOrBust	W45	L8	D29	W21	L3	W37	W38	D6	5.0	19.25
13	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1958	ninjaforce	W46	W27	L1	W28	L24	W34	L7	W30	5.0	18.5
14	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	L25	W53	W31	W40	L8	W30	W24	L3	5.0	17.5
15	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1775	vish1080	L35	W47	W27	L18	W46	W40	L6	W26	5.0	17.5
16	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W53	W25	L6	L19	L17	W46	W32	W24	5.0	17
17	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1606	LightningDragon8	L1	W50	W44	L24	W16	W19	X18	L4	5.0	15
18	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	1998	SmilyFace4	W33	L19	W38	W15	L7	D5	F17	W37	4.5	18.5
19	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	W39	W18	L3	W16	L9	L17	D33	W36	4.5	18.25
20	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1842	A-boy415	W50	L1	D26	W29	W23	L3	L22	W38	4.5	16.5
21	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W41	L4	D35	L12	W39	L38	W49	W33	4.5	14.25
22	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	H---	W42	W32	L4	H---	W20	L11	4.5	11.5
23	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2186	microbear	H---	W49	L5	W33	L20	W41	H---	H---	4.5	9
24	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	W54	W11	L9	W17	W13	L8	L14	L16	4.0	17
25	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1331	chesspoki	W14	L16	L7	W52	L34	W43	L28	W41	4.0	13
26	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1287	jacobchess857	W36	L10	D20	D37	L30	W52	W34	L15	4.0	13
27	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1235	noydan100	W7	L13	L15	L36	W51	L28	W52	W43	4.0	13
28	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1628	chessboi2010	L8	W45	W56	L13	L41	W27	W25	L10	4.0	12
29	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1323	pranavpradeep2006	W52	L9	D12	L20	W55	L11	W35	D34	4.0	11.25
	Rachael Tiong													

30	(https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16019458)	16019458	1656	rachael1120	L3	W48	W39	L7	W26	L14	X47	L13	4.0	10.5
31	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	Kaline340Green	H---	H---	L14	L41	W45	W39	L11	W47	4.0	9.5
32	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	L11	W54	W51	L22	H---	H---	L16	W45	4.0	7.5
33	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L18	W52	W11	L23	W36	L10	D19	L21	3.5	12.75
34	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1710	GiorgosTsolias	L44	L42	W48	W45	W25	L13	L26	D29	3.5	12
35	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	931	sfdeals	W15	L6	D21	L11	L52	W54	L29	W49	3.5	11.75
36	Nicholas Ar Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	L26	L38	W47	W27	L33	D42	W41	L19	3.5	11.5
37	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	D49	W44	L2	D26	D38	L12	W42	L18	3.5	11
38	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1428	programmingmax	L9	W36	L18	W56	D37	W21	L12	L20	3.5	10.75
39	Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)	17310102	831	MrL0cust	L19	B---	L30	W53	L21	L31	W46	D42	3.5	6.5
40	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	starserika18	H---	H---	W41	L14	W42	L15	H---	U---	3.5	6
41	Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)	17179258	923	JeffNorthSF	L21	W43	L40	W31	W28	L23	L36	L25	3.0	11
42	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1355	SunnyCountry	L10	W34	L22	W51	L40	D36	L37	D39	3.0	9.5
43	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L4	L41	L45	W49	W48	L25	W44	L27	3.0	8.5
44	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	691	Sebbymeister	W34	L37	L17	L46	L53	W48	L43	W54	3.0	8.5
45	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1073	kevin_mx_sun	L12	L28	W43	L34	L31	W51	W53	L32	3.0	7.5
46	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L13	L7	W54	W44	L15	L16	L39	W52	3.0	7
47	Martin Camacho (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248027)	17248027	1311	camachom	L6	L15	L36	W50	W56	W53	F30	L31	3.0	5.5
48	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1091	victor6688	L5	L30	L34	W54	L43	L44	W55	W53	3.0	5.5
49	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	933	adichi	D37	L23	L52	L43	W50	W55	L21	L35	2.5	5.75
50	Yuvraj Si Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	1060	SaintReturns	L20	L17	L53	L47	L49	W56	D51	W55	2.5	3.75
51	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	unr.	Bruce_Hedman	H---	H---	L32	L42	L27	L45	D50	W56	2.5	2.25
52	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	L29	L33	W49	L25	W35	L26	L27	L46	2.0	6
53	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	L16	L14	W50	L39	W44	L47	L45	L48	2.0	5.5
54	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	953	andrewaballantyne	L24	L32	L46	L48	B---	L35	W56	L44	2.0	1
55	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	unr.	vincitore51745	H---	H---	H---	U---	L29	L49	L48	L50	1.5	0
56	Willia Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)	17048414	537	OlympusMons00	H---	H---	L28	L38	L47	L50	L54	L51	1.0	0

My California Chess Journey

by NM Michael Walder

In 1976 I became a California chess player. Fresh from Chicago, I was 19 years old and over 2000 USCF. I played in San Francisco Bay Area chess tournaments and got to play a lot of strong players. There was a regular 5 minute tournament at “A Fiddler’s Green” where I got to regularly play strong players like Walter Browne, Jeremy Silman, Zaki Harari, Jay and Paul Whitehead. In the evenings I often went to Café Picaro and gave my quarters to Steve Brandwein. And of course I played at the Mechanics.

In 1978 a job promotion had me move to Los Angeles. I was a little unhappy that I might not get to play strong players in LA, but it was a promotion, and I was young and ambitious. I took a hiatus from playing in chess tournaments but showed up regularly at Troy's Chess Shop in Torrance mall. There I became friends with underrated 2100 player Ricardo Gilbert who Introduced me to 2300 players Chuck Jones and Steve Ramos. We often met on Wednesdays to study chess openings together.

I returned to tournament chess in May of 1982 with one of the best tournaments in my lifetime, going 5-1 beating Jack Peters, a handful of masters and experts, while losing a tense battle with Nick de Firmian. I became friends with IM Michael Brooks and US Women's Champion WGM Diane Savereide. We played regularly at the Santa Monica Chess Club along with 2300 player Ben Nethercot. I got plenty of decent games both casually and in tournaments.

I highly recommend playing and studying with your friends. It is fun and doing so helped my chess; it might help yours.

For a bit more about me leaving and returning to chess, please see this article of me being interviewed by WIM Alexey Root https://en.chessbase.com/post/chemo-brain-and-chess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://en.chessbase.com/post/chemo-brain-and-chess)

All the best,

Michael Walder

(1) Walder,Michael - Remlinger,Larry (2471) [B89]

American Open, 11.1983

[Michael Walder]

I was awarded the Brilliancy Prize for this game against IM Larry Remlinger which was quite an honor as this tournament was rich with GMs. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4** The Sozin was my weapon of choice against the Classical Sicilian back then, **6...e6 7.Be3 a6 8.Qe2** I liked playing this attacking setup pioneered by Dragoljub Velimirović. **8...Qc7 9.Bb3 Na5 10.0-0-0 b5 11.g4 Bb7** [11...Nd7= 12.f4 Nc5 13.f5 b4 14.Na4 Naxb3+ 15.axb3 e5 16.Nf3 Nxa4 17.bxa4 Qc6 18.Qd3 Bb7 19.Qb3 Rc8 20.Rhe1 Be7 21.Bf2 0-0 22.Kb1 Rc7 23.Nd2 Rfc8 24.Rc1 Bg5 25.Be3 Bxe3 26.Qxe3 Qxa4 27.b3 Qb5 28.f6 gxf6 29.Qh6 Qd7 30.Rf1 d5 31.g5 fxg5 32.Qxg5+ Kf8 33.Qxe5 Qg4 34.Qd6+ Re7 35.exd5 Qg5 36.Ne4 Qg6 37.Nf6 1-0 (37) Trabattoni,F-Toth,B (2440) Castelvecchio Pascoli 1977] **12.g5N** I wanted to try this pawn sac. While it's true I get some comp if he takes my e pawn, the engines point out that Black would have a small advantage. [12.f3 Rc8 13.g5 Nd7 14.Kb1 Nb6 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Nxe6 Qf7 17.Bxb6 Nc4 18.Nxf8 Nxb6 19.Nxb5 axb5 20.Qxb5+ Kxf8 21.Qxb6 Qc7 22.Qxd6+ Qxd6 23.Rxd6 Ke7 24.Rhd1 Bc6 25.R6d3 Rhf8 26.Rc3 Rf4 27.b4 Bd7 28.Rxc8 Bxc8 29.Rd3 Ba6 30.Re3 Bf1 31.Kb2 Kd6 32.Kb3 Ke5 33.a4 Rf8 34.b5 Kf4 35.Re1 Bg2 36.Kb4 Kxf3 37.c4 Kf2 38.Rc1 Bxe4 39.c5 Kg2 40.h4 Kg3 41.c6 Bd5 Kozlov,A-Tsetselian,S Almaty 1971 1-0] **12...Nxb3+** [12...Nxe4=/+] **13.axb3 Nd7** [I was planning these variations, and evaluated them as giving me great practical chances: 13...Nxe4 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.f3 Bb7 *(15...Bg6 16.h4 Bh5 17.Bf4 Rc8 18.Rd3 Be7 19.Nf5)* 16.h4 Be7 17.h5=/+] **14.h4 b4 15.Na4 Nc5** [15...e5 This is the right way. I don't get enough after my intended 16.f4 exd4 17.Rxd4 Be7 18.Rxb4 d5 19.exd5 Bxd5 20.Rf1 0-0 21.Rd4 Bc6 22.Qf2 Rfe8 23.h5-+] **16.Kb1 e5 17.Nf5 Nxa4 18.bxa4 Bxe4**



19.Bb6!=



I believe this to be an original idea. At least it was for me. **19...Qc6** [19...Qxb6 20.Qxe4 Rc8 21.f4 b3 22.cxb3 Qxb3 23.fxe5 d5 24.Rxd5 Ba3 25.Nd6+ Ke7 26.Nxc8+ Rxc8 27.Rd2+-] **20.Rxd6 Bxd6?** [20...Bxc2+ 21.Qxc2 Qxh1+ 22.Rd1 Qf3 23.Re1 f6 24.gxf6 gxf6 25.Ne3 Qb7 26.Qf5 Qd7 *(26...Qxb6?? 27.Qh5+ Kd7 28.Rd1+ Bd6 29.Qf7+ Kc6 30.Rc1+ Bc5 31.Qd5++-)*] **21.Qxe4+/= Kd7 22.Nxd6 Qxd6 23.Qb7+ Ke6**



24.f4 Rhf8 25.Bc7 Qc5 26.Rf1?! [26.Re1 f6 27.Bxe5! Qf2 28.f5+ Kxf5 29.Qe4+ Ke6 30.Bg3++-] **26...g6 27.Re1 1-0**

(2) Walder,Michael - Peters,Jack (2551) [B81]

Memorial Day Classic N. Hollywood (4), 30.05.1982

[Michael Walder]

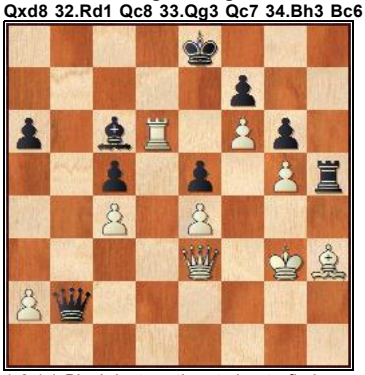
My career had me move to Los Angeles in 1978. After taking some time off from chess to get my work and new apartment set up, I decided to play in the Memorial Day Classic. Iwent 5-1 in this tournament, winninhg this game. The one loss was an exciting game with future GM and US Champ Nick de Firmian. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6** Back then, I loved playing both sides of this opening. Today I think the Keres attack puts Black under pressure. **6.g4 a6 7.g5 Nfd7 8.Be3 b5 9.Bg2** I thought up this Idea while analyzing a Belyavski-Tal game that went f4 here. Both Peters and I thought it was a novelty, but with moden databases I see that is was a rare try, including a game played 8 yrs earlier by, Paul Heinrich, who I played in this tournament. **9...Bb7 10.0-0** This move surprised Peters. He told me that he thought that white castling kingside must be an error, but he confided that he later tried it himself. **10...Ne5 11.f4 Nc4 12.Qe2+/=** [12.Bc1+/-; 12.Bf2+/-] **12...Nd7** Black should take the Bishop. **13.f5?!** The humbling experience of computers. We both thought this was a shot. **13...e5?**



[13...Nxe3 14.Qxe3 e5-/+] **14.Ne6!**



14...Qa5 [14...fxe6 15.Qh5+ Ke7 16.fxe6 g6 17.Qf3 Qc7 18.Qf7+ Kd8 19.exd7 Qxd7 20.Qf6+ Kc7 21.Qxh8 Bh6 22.Bh3 Qxh3 23.Qxh7+ Kc6+/-] **15.Nxf8?!+/-** I thought this was the practical solution. I didn't trust the following try: [15.b4 Qxb4 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.Nc7+ Kd8 18.Nxd5 Qa3 19.Bf2+-] **15...Rxf8 16.Nd1 Rc8 17.Bf2** [17.Bc1!+-] **17...b4 18.c3 Ncb6 19.cxb4 Qxb4 20.Nc3 g6 21.f6 h6 22.h4 hxg5 23.hxg5 Rh8 24.Rad1 Nc4 25.b3 Qxc3 26.bxc4 Rh5 27.Be3 Nc5 28.Bxc5+/-** [28.Rxd6 Nxe4 29.Rc1+-] **28...dxc5??** [28...Rxc5+/-] **29.Rd3+- Qa5 30.Qg4 Rd8 31.Rxd8+ Qxd8 32.Rd1 Qc8 33.Qg3 Qc7 34.Bh3 Bc6 35.Kf2 Qb8 36.Qe3 Qb6 37.Rd6 Qb2+ 38.Kg3**



1-0 (+) Black lost on time trying to find a way to hold on in a terrible position. Jack Peters was the first International Master I beat in a regular tournament game. **1-0**

(3) Walder,Mike - Strauss,David J [E55]

Players Chess News Jan op Los Angeles, CA, 01.1984

[1984.01.22 p.SD_A6]

Playing IM David Strauss was always challenging for me. I previously tried to play sharply against him but he was able to exploit my eagerness with positionally sound moves that usually ended up winning the game for him. In this game I decided to try and play actively, but a little more circumspect. **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6** Marshall's treatment of the Scandanavian. **3.c4 c6 4.d4 cxd5** And now we are playing a Caro Kann Panov Botvinnik attack. **5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4 7.Bd3** And now we are morphing into a Nimzo Indian **7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 0-0 9.0-0 b6 10.Qe2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Nbd7 13.Bd3 Qc7 14.c4 Rfe8 15.Bb2 Rad8N** [15...Qf4 16.Qe3 Qxe3 17.fxe3 Be4 18.Be2 Rac8 19.a4 Bc2 20.Rdc1 Bg6 21.a5 Rc7 22.axb6 axb6 23.Ra6 h6 24.Rca1 Be4 25.Nd2 Bb7 26.Ra7 Rec8 27.Ba3 Bc6 28.Rxc7 Rxc7 29.Bd6 Rc8 30.Bf3 Bxf3 31.gxf3 Ne8 32.Bg3 Kf8 33.Kf2 Ke7 34.Ke2 Nd6 35.Kd3 Nf5 36.Be1 e5 37.Ne4 exd4 38.exd4 Rd8 39.Bb4+ Ke8 40.Re1 Ne5+ 41.Kc3 Nxd4 42.Nd6+ Kd7 43.Rxe5 Nc6 44.Rd5 Nxb4 45.Kxb4 Keres,P-Barcza,G Budapest 1972 1-0] **16.Rac1 Qf4**





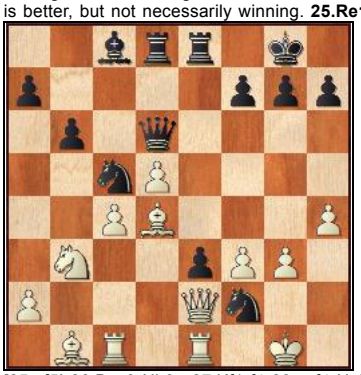
We have both played logical moves and White is ever so slightly better. I now made a mental note not to go flying off the handle as I often do against David. **17.Nd2 e5 18.d5 e4?!** David is looking for activity, but White's position is solid. It's like he is playing like I usually play against him. [18...Ba6 19.Bb1 Nxd5 20.Ne4 Nf8 21.a3=] **19.Bb1+/=**



19...Nc5 20.Nb3 Bc8 21.Bd4?! [21.Qd2 Qxd2 22.Rxd2 Nfd7+/=] **21...Ng4= 22.g3 Qh6 23.h4 e3** [The next day David asked me what I would play after g5, I answered Be3 and we both though White would be better, but Lc0 thinks it's even. 23...g5 24.Be3 f6 25.Nxc5=] **24.f3 Nf2**



I thought I was winning here as Jack Peters wrote in his column, Black can make a few threats but White will pick off the knight and win the game. Lc0 calculates that its not that easy, White is better, but not necessarily winning. **25.Re1 Qd6?**



[25...f5! 26.Bxe3 Nh3+ 27.Kf1 f4 28.gxf4 Nxf4 29.Qh2+/=] **26.Kh2?!** [26.Kg2! Qd7 27.g4+-] **26...Qd7 27.g4 Qe7 28.Kg3**



28...f5?! [28...Nfe4+! 29.Kg2 Qxh4 30.fxe4 Nxe4 31.Qf3=] 29.gxf5 Qd6+ 30.Kg2 Nce4 31.fxe4 Nxe4 32.Qg4 Nf6 33.Qg5 e2 34.Bxf6 Qxf6 35.Qxf6 gxf6 36.Kf2 Re5 37.Rxe2 Rxe2+ 38.Kxe2 1-0

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Any questions? Please contact us at chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org).

TD Corner

Right before the final round of the TNM this past Wednesday, IM Elliott Winslow was given black in the final round against Javier Silva. This seemed wrong to Elliott, since it would mean he would have received black three times in the final 4 rounds. His final round game had started, but he did not make a move as he wanted an explanation from the TD's.

Judit had called me during the intermission to discuss the situation, prior to Elliott inquiring online. We both looked up the rule and came to the same conclusion: Elliott had the following color allocation heading into round 8: BWBWBBW. His opponent Javier Silva had the following color allocation: BWBWBWB. In both cases, each player has had four blacks and three whites.

The USCF rule in this situation is as follows, from USCF Rule 29E4 #4:

4. If both players have had an equal number of whites and blacks, or both are equally out of balance, and if they had different colors in one or more prior rounds, priority for assigning color should be based on the latest round in which their colors differed. One or both players should be assigned the color opposite to that which they played in that round. Example 1: WBWB gets white over BWWB, because the first player had black in round two, the latest round in which colors differed. Example 2: BWxBW gets white over BWBxW, because the first player had black and the second had no color in round 4, the latest round in which colors differed.

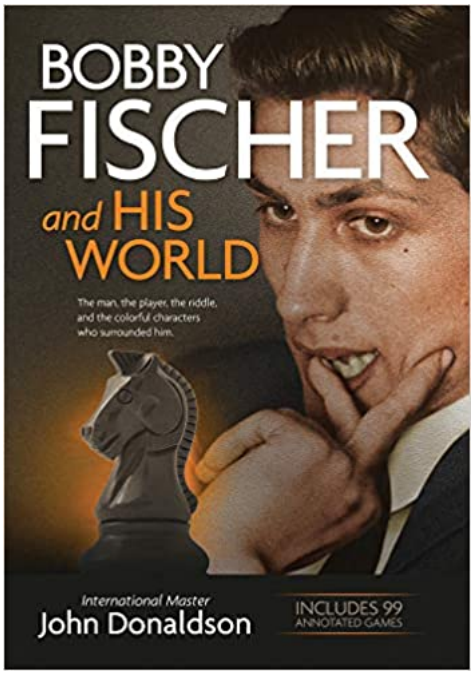
The intersting thing about this is that Judit wrote about this very rule in last week's newsletter in her article on color allocation, check it here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/940 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/940)

So Elliott was given black in this scenario given that he had white in the previous round and Javier had black.

The USCF rulebook online can be found here: http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/chessrules/US_Chess_Rule_Book-%20Online_Only_Edition_v7.1-1.2.11-7.19.19.pdf (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/chessrules/US_Chess_Rule_Book-%20Online_Only_Edition_v7.1-1.2.11-7.19.19.pdf)

If anyone has a TD question, please feel free to submit to us at chessroom@milibrary.org.

Interview with IM John Donaldson on Chess Dojo with GM Jesse Kraai



IM John Donaldson releases his new book Bobby Fischer and His World on November 1st, and he is interviewed by GM Jesse Kraai from Chess Dojo. To watch that interview, please click the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEm8unB18EI&feature=youtu.be (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEm8unB18EI&feature=youtu.be)

To order his new book, with new information on Bobby Fischer, click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1890085197?pf_rd_r=EFAMHVDGFJ6VDNRKCDZ7&pf_rd_p=edaba0ee-c2fe-4124-9f5d-b31d6b1bfbee)

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Mondays 4pm-5pm, 11/2: https://www.chess.com/live#r=555835 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chess.com/live#r=555835)

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 11/3: https://www.chess.com/live#r=577191 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chess.com/live#r=577191)

MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez, Dr. Judit Sztaray Arena: Fridays 3pm-4:00pm, 11/6: https://www.chess.com/live#r=587602 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chess.com/live#r=587602)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM - A Journey Through Chess History - Course 2: US Championships with GM Nick de Firmian

The US Championship is one of the most revered chess events for American players, showcasing the very best in our country. Bobby Fischer, Walter Browne, Hikaru Nakamura, Sam Shankland, and Fabiano Caruana are all among the elite to have won the title. Among thee greats is Mechanics' Institute's Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian, who is a 3-time winner of the title. In this class, he will talk about his US Championship victories, as well as some personal first hand accounts and games from this great event. Combining historical storytelling with dramatic games, Nick will enlighten, educate and entertain students with a bit of Americana suitable for players of all skill levels.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/us-championship-history-gm-nick-de-firmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/us-championship-history-gm-nick-de-firmian)

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Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM - The World Championship Match -- by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: Part 2 -- 10/8 through 11/5

An in-depth look at the World Championship matches – the great games, styles and personalities of the World Champions and their challengers. The central idea of the class will be the study of chess ideas and theory, as practiced by the greatest players. In each class we'll look through a selection of the most famous games ever played: games where literally everything was at stake.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship-match-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/world-championship match-fm-paul-whitehead)

Part 2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheWorldChampionshipMatchPart2)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, October 31: starts at 9:30AM - join from 9:15AM

6SS G/10+2: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/halloween-special-scholastic-uscf-online-rated (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/halloween-special-scholastic-uscf-online-rated)

Sunday, November 1: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131299 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131299)

Monday, November 2: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131300 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131300)

Tuesday, November 3: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131782 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131782)

Wednesday, November 4: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131783 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131783)

Thursday, November 5: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131784 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131784)

Friday, November 6: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131785 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=131785)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Every Week!

Next one: November 7, @3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rating only (not over-the-board)
Every player must be a US Chess member.
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening.

Save the Date - October 31 10AM - Halloween Special
6SS G/15+2
2 Sections: u1200 and 1200+
Manually paired, online live help desk available
Trophies to Top 10 players in both sections!

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/halloween-special-scholastic-uscf-online-rated (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/halloween-special-scholastic-uscf-online-rated)

Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered:

NEW Class: Get Those Chess Boards Out! -- Tuesdays 4-5PM
As parents, many of us now see kids staring at a screen for hours during the school day. We understand having another online class may not be so exciting. What if we are able to offer a class for beginners where they can feel and interact with the pieces to capture an important part of the early learning experience? That's why we are introducing a new class for our young, beginner players!
Let's get those chess boards out and use it during the class!
Coach Colin will interact with the players via zoom, but they will talk, use the chess board, set it up and set up different positions, and learn and play on a physical board. No shared screen during the class! It's all interactive, using physical chess pieces! **Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/get-those-chess-boards-out) for more information.**

Starting at Chess -- Mondays 3-4PM
This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players -- Tuesdays 3-4PM or Thursdays 4-5PM
This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Registe and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess -- Thursdays 5-6PM
This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class. Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

11/3 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Political Special
Format: 5SS G/5+5
Registration: https://www.chess.com/live#g=5658434229 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chess.com/live#g=5658434229)
Start at 6:30PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210212234311/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

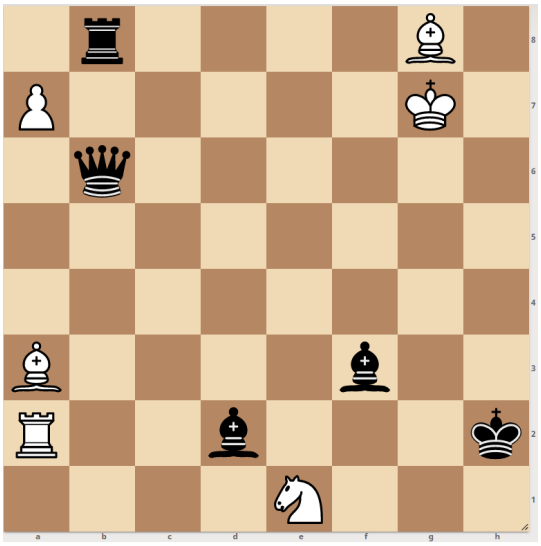
FM Paul Whitehead

Domination, Part 9.

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Ghenrikh Kasparyan, in **Domination in 2,545 Endgame Studies** describes a certain set of studies as "checkers combinations". In these studies black is forced to take some of white's pieces, only to end up losing it all in the end.

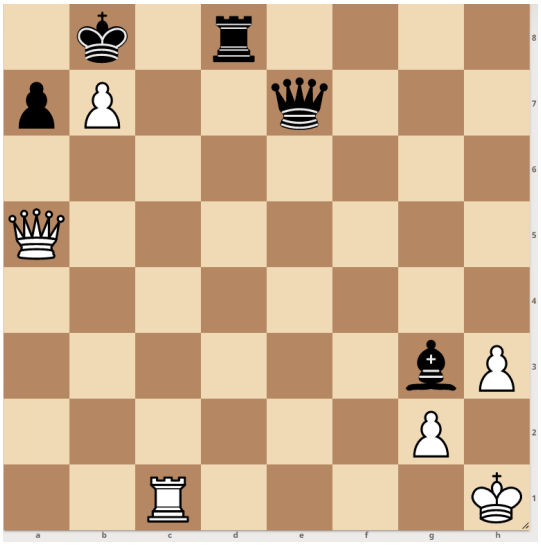
The following study shows the idea:



1. Horwitz 1881 – White wins.

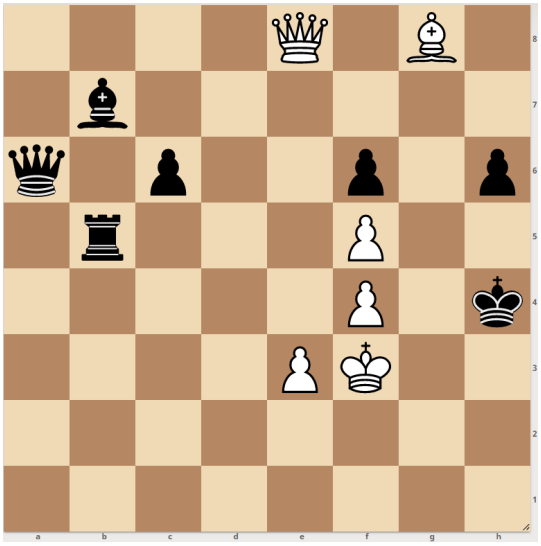
The solution is comical and oddly thrilling: **1.axb8(Q)+ Qxb8**. That's one piece. **2.Bd6+! Qxd6**. That's two pieces. **3.Rxd2+! Qxd2**. And that's three pieces! **4.Nxf3+**. The white knight has the final say! **White wins.**

This next study is by Emmanuel Lasker, and has been published everywhere. Its practical value cannot be denied. The ball is in your court – work it out!



2. Em. Lasker n.d. – White wins.

And last but not least, a crazy study in which BOTH sides feel compelled to give away their pieces. Working out the solution might be hazardous to your chess health!



3. Mitrofanov 1953/54 – White wins.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

US Championships: Women's and Men's

Irina Krush won her 8th US Women's Championship with a great score of 8.5/11. This compares only with the great Bobby Fischer who won 8 Men's US Championships (though of course Fischer became World Champion and started a worldwide chess revolution). We must take this opportunity to congratulate Irina as she suffered through the coronavirus in March this year. As she told the New York Times in May (when it featured her recovery battle), "It's not just a disease. It's a life trial. Chess players know what it's like to be in a bad position, to suffer. I realized it was going to be a long game with no easy victory." As she won the championship again she said, "It feels amazing. I feel the support of my friends, my family, my students, my coach, all these people that are supporting me and watching the games and hoping I do well. I want to make them happy."

We are happy Irina. Congratulations!

The Men's Championship is missing Fabiano Caruana, who thought he might have to play the second half of the Candidates Tournament in November. That was postponed due to the third worldwide surge of the coronavirus. Nonetheless the championship has Wesley So, Hikaru Nakamura, Sam Shankland, Lenier Dominguez and many strong younger players (Jeffrey Xiong, Ray Robson). Wesley So had taken the lead as of this writing and is the favorite to win. When you read the MI newsletter on Saturday you will have the final result.

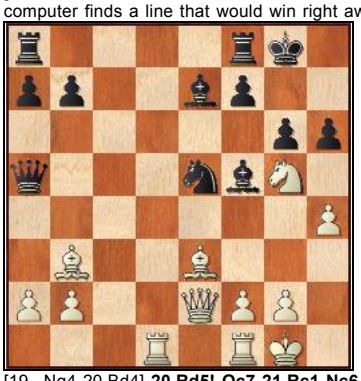
(1) Krush,Irina - Abrahamyan,Tatev [D37]

US Womens Chp., 25.10.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 A solid variation of the 4 Qc2 Nimzo, though just a bit better for White. **6.Bf4 c5 7.dxc5 0-0 8.e3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Bxc5 10.Be2 d4!?** Tatev plays aggressively in tha opening and starts the action immediately. Black would be safer with 10...Qe7. **11.Rd1 Nd5?**



[11...Qb6 12.exd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.0-0 is only slightly better for White with the lead in development] **12.Ng5! g6 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.0-0 Be7 15.Bc4 Qa5 16.h4! dxe3 17.Bxe3** [The computer finds a line that would win right away - 17.Nxf7! Rxf7 18.fxe3 Bf5 19.Qb3 Raf8 20.Bh6 Ne5 21.Bxf8 Nxc4 22.Bxe7 Nd2 23.Qxb7] **17...Ne5 18.Bb3 Bf5 19.Qe2 h6?**



[19...Ng4 20.Bd4] **20.Rd5! Qc7 21.Rc1 Nc6**

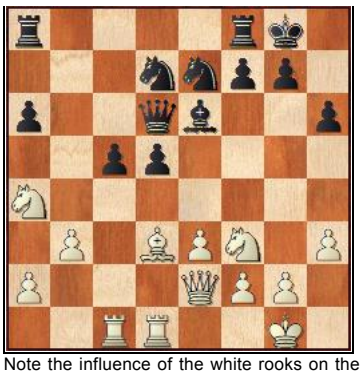


22.Rxf5! hxg5 23.hxg5 gxf5 24.Qh5 White is a rook down yet has a winning attack, much do to the power of the bishops. **24...Qe5 25.g6 Qg7 26.Bh6!** The key move. There is no way out for Black. **26...Qf6 27.Bd2! Qg7 28.Bc3 1-0**

(2) Krush,Irina - Yu,Jennifer [D31]

US Womens Chp, 22.10.2020

This is a game of the 7-time veteran champ (Irina who is now in her 30s) and current US Women's Champion, 18 year old Jennifer Yu. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4** This is an Exchange Slav, but it has a little extra bite as Black has used a tempo for ...a6. **5...Nf6 6.e3 Bd6 7.Bxd6 Qxd6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.h3 b6 10.Nf3 c5 11.0-0 Nc6 12.dxc5! bxc5 13.Rc1** This is one of those "hanging pawn" positions one gets in a queen's pawn game. The black pawns on c5 and d5 can be active, but they also can be a target of the white pieces. Here white is active and has an edge from the opening. **13...Be6 14.Na4 Nd7 15.b3 h6 16.Qe2 Ne7 17.Rfd1**



Note the influence of the white rooks on the c and d files. Black is under pressure and perhaps needs to do something odd like 17...f5 to help in the center. **17...Ng6?! 18.Qc2** White wins a pawn now. **18...Rac8 19.Bxg6 fxg6 20.Qxg6 Qe7 21.Qg3 Rf5 22.Qh4 Qf7**



23.Nd4! Using pins Irina ups the pressure and wins a second pawn. **23...Rg5 24.f4 Rg6 25.Kh2 Rf8?!** giving up the pinned pawn right away. This is just a lost position now, though good advice was hard to find. **26.Nxc5 Bf5 27.Nxf5 Qxf5 28.Nxd7 Qxd7 29.Qh5 Rd6 30.Rd4 Re8 31.Qf3 Qf5 32.Rcd1 Red8 33.Qg4 Qf7 34.e4** winning a third pawn with yet another pin. The rest requires no comments. **34...Rg6 35.Qf3 Rc8 36.Rxd5 Rc2 37.R1d2 Qc7 38.e5 Kh7 39.Qe4 Rcc6 40.Rd6 1-0**

(3) Shankland,Sam - So,Wesley [E25]

US Chp., 26.10.2020

This 4rth round battle was an important game in the race for the top spot. We locals root for our Sam the man Shankland hoping he can bring home another title to the Bay Area, Here he meets pre-tournament favorite Wesley So and the players look for blood. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5** This 4.f3 variation of the Nimzo-Indian transposes into a line of the Saemisch Nimzo. It was worked out pretty well in the late 80s/early 90s to be alright for Black yet it continues to be a combative variation. **7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.dxc5 Qa5 9.e4 Ne7** [9...Qxc3+? 10.Bd2] **10.Be3 0-0! 11.Qb3 Qc7 12.Bb5 e5** White has an extra doubled pawn. Black has a lead in development and chances to win the c5 pawn. Wesley immediately plays for the light squares. **13.Ne2 Be6 14.c4!?** Sharp and commital from Sam. [14.Bc4 Bxc4 15.Qxc4 Nd7 16.Nc1 was a safer alternative] **14...Nbc6 15.Nc3 Na5 16.Qb4?!** This gets into some trouble. [16.Qc2 would be alright for White] **16...Nec6 17.Qa4 a6 18.Bxc6**



18...Nxc4! A shot from Wesley! He is willing to lose material to make use of White's lagging development and king in the center. Sam would probably do best now with the retreat 19. Bf2, but Sam was not backing down this game. **19.Bxb7?! Nxe3 20.Bxa8 Qxc5** White is temporarily a rook up but must give a something back while his king is stuck in the center. **21.Nd5 Nxg2+?!** [21...Nc2+ 22.Kd2 Nxa1 23.Bb7 Bxd5 24.Bxd5 Rc8 would be a winning position with attack against the white king. So's move gives White chances.] **22.Kf1 Nf4 23.Qc6! Qa5 24.Rd1?** [Sam needed to defend against ...Qd2 the other way. With 24.Ra2! Rd8 25.Rc2 White should be able to hold the game.] **24...Bxd5 25.exd5 Qxa3**



suddenly the black queen and knight are unstoppable. **26.d6 Qb2** White can't stop both checks (e2 and g2). So Black wins a rook back and that's the game. **27.Qe4 Qg2+ 28.Ke1 Qxh1+ 29.Kd2 Qxh2+ 30.Kc3 Ne2+ 31.Kc4 Nd4 32.d7 Qa2+ 33.Kc5** The white king bravely marches up the board. Not yet to his doom, but it costs at least another rook. **33...Qa3+ 34.Kb6 Qb3+** Sam resigned and Wesley was in the drivers seat to win the championship. **0-1**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

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Newsletter #942

November 7, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Queen's Gambit on Netflix
- Mechanics' Organizing 2020-2021 Pan-Am
- New Marathons Starting This Week
- Ray Conway Memorial TNM Final Results
- Mechanics' League Play
- Become a Mechanics' Institute Member
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

"Genius Carves Its Own Way": The Queen's Gambit on Netflix Part 2

I started writing last week about The Queen's Gambit on Netflix, which as of this writing (Thursday) is at #1 on the Netflix top 10. What is even more impressive is that it fell to #2 and climbed back to #1. The chess world has been buzzing about this series, which is about an orphan who at age nine learns chess from the janitor at the orphanage. He recognizes her talent and helps her embark on a journey that takes her all the way to the top of the chess world, breaking down barriers from sexism to addiction, to childhood trauma and finding connections. After completing the series, I feel it is a marvelous depiction of the psychology and transcendental nature of chess, depicting the joy and love of chess for its own sake in a way that would make any chess aficionado proud.

What is additionally interesting about this series are the San Francisco and Mechanics' Institute connections. In addition to The Queen's Gambit, author Walter Tevis also wrote The Hustler and The Color of Money, both of which became major films. He grew up in San Francisco until he was 10, before moving to Kentucky with his family. Kenn Fong, a Mechanics' regular and someone who has been part of the Mechanics' Institute chess club for over 50 years says that Walter Tevis was an enthusiastic Mechanics' Institute member who played in the North vs. South chess matches (between Northern and Southern California). He made a mention of this in an article he contributed to in Mechanics' chess newsletter 896 released on December 6, 2019 here: https://www.milibrary.org/milibrary/chess-newsletters/896 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/milibrary/chess-newsletters/896). He also mentions that Guthrie McClain used to mention Walter Tevis in conversation.

Speaking of Mechanics' connections, it is quite well known in the chess world by now that the final game between Beth Harmon, the show's central character, and Vasily Borgov, who was depicted as the best chess player in the world, was taken from a game played between Mechanics' Institute Trustee and Chess Committee Chair GM Patrick Wolff and GM Vassily Ivanchuk in Biel 1993. Judit Sztaray and I interviewed Patrick about this, and here is what he had to say.

We asked if he was told beforehand that his game would be used in the series.

“Nobody asked me beforehand, it was a total surprise to me. I was told by someone, and he didn’t tell me exactly that, he just said 'Just watch the game, you make a surprise appearance.' I had absolutely no idea what to expect!" Then after watching the final episode, he says "Wait a minute, isn’t that my game against Ivanchuk? I went and checked and saw that it was. The move Ne6 is very interesting, and of course the first thing I checked to make sure Black is still fine, and I was relieved that the answer is yes!”

The Harmon-Borgov game is the exact same game as Ivanchuk-Wolff until move 37. In the finale, at move 36, Harmon plays h3 as white, Borgov calls for an adjournment and plays 36...Qg6. Upon resuming the game, Harmon plays the new line 37. Ne6, and thus begins the divergence.

We asked what he thought about some of the artistic liberties in the show, such as the rapid rise of a new player playing their first event and beating 1800+ players. Was he fine with that?
“Yes, for sure, but also I think genius carves its own path. The path looks different for different people. The show portrays her as a chess genius, on the order of Bobby Fischer, Magnus Carslen, Vishy Anand, or Gary Kasparov. Different people have different paths, and the path that they show her doesn’t seem crazy to me. Bobby Fischer had a similar path when he went from a good club player to the best player in the US in about a year. So I don’t have any problem with the path they charted for her."
When asked about what it was like to be a part of the show, he said, “From my perspective, it’s a tremendous honor and completely unexpected to be a part of this show. Another fun thing for me personally is I always thought this game against Ivanchuk was an interesting fighting draw, a good fight back and forth, so I’m glad that now people noticed it as well.”

We will have part 2 next week of our interview with GM Patrick Wolff where Judit and I ask Patrick about his experience in the US Senior Championship, fair play protocols, and the use of chess engines to enhance the chess learning and viewing experience. Stay tuned!
We thought it would be fun to have our Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian annotate both games. Here they are for your enjoyment.

(4) GM Vassily Ivanchuk - GM Patrick Wolff [D20]

Biel Interzonal Biel SUI (1), 16.07.1993

[de Firmian,Nick]

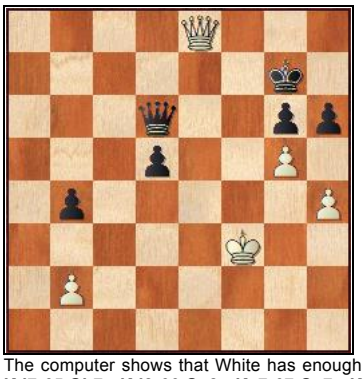
We show this game from 1993 by the MI's own Patrick Wolff for the opening (and middle game) moves that we copied in the next game. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 Nc6 4.Be3 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5** White has the nice duo of center pawns at d4 and e4 so Black hits the dark squares with this move to get squares for his pieces. **6.d5 Ne7 7.Bxc4 Ng6 8.f3 Bd6 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.Nge2 a6** White has a little more space with the advanced pawn on d5 and a small edge. Black has squares for all his pieces and is solid. **11.Bb3 b5 12.a4 0-0 13.0-0 Qe7 14.Rac1** [Perhaps White would do better with 14.Nc1 Nh5 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Rxa8 17.g3] **14...Nh5 15.g3 h6 16.Bc2 Rab8 17.axb5 axb5 18.Ra1 Ra8 19.Bd3 Bb4 20.Rxa8 Rxa8 21.Qc2 Bc5 22.Nd1 Bd6** [exchanging with 22...Bxe3+ 23.Nxe3 Rc8 24.Rc1 would leave Black with squares to guard on the queenside] **23.Nf2**



23...Nhf4! 24.Rc1 Ivanchuk declines the sacrifice. [24.gxf4 exf4 25.Bc1 Nh4 26.Kh1 Nxf3 27.e5 Bxe5 *(27...Nxe5 28.Bxf4)* 28.Bxf4 Bxf4 29.Nxf4 Qh4 30.Bh7+ Kh8 31.N2d3 Kxh7 32.Nc1+ Kg8 33.Rxf3 Ra1 is fair compensation for the piece. Black has two pawns and the safer king.] **24...Qg5 25.Kh1 Qh5 26.Ng1 Nxd3 27.Nxd3 f5 28.Nc5 Bc8 29.Rf1?!** [White would have an easier position to play leaving the rook on the c-file and playing 29.Qd3] **29...Ne7 30.Qd3 fxe4 31.fxe4 Qg6 32.Kg2 Kh7 33.Nf3 Ng8 34.Nh4 Qg4 35.Nf5 Nf6 36.h3 Qg6**



Note the position on the diagram. Here Ivanchuk makes an error compared to the next game. **37.g4?! Bxc5 38.Bxc5 Ra4 39.Rf3?** This is an unfortunate square for the rook. Ivanchuk needed to play [39.Be7 Nxe4 40.Nh4 Qb6 41.Nf3 with about even chances] **39...Rc4 40.Be7 Bxf5 41.Rxf5** [41.exf5 Qf7! 42.Bxf6 e4 wins by pawn fork] **41...Rd4 42.Qe3 Rxe4?!** [42...Nxg4! 43.hxg4 Qxg4+ 44.Qg3 *(44.Kf2 Rd1* is a winning attack*)* 44...Qxe4+ 45.Rf3 Rd2+ 46.Kg1 Rxb2 is excellent winning chances for Black] **43.Qf3 Rf4 44.Rxf4 exf4 45.Bxf6 Qxf6 46.Qd3+ Qg6 47.Qe2 c6 48.Kf3** [48.dxc6 Qxc6+ 49.Kf2 g5 50.Qe7+ Kg6] **48...cxd5 49.Kxf4 Qf6+ 50.Kg3 Qd6+ 51.Kf3 b4 52.h4 Qf6+ 53.Kg3 Qd6+ 54.Kf3 Qf6+ 55.Kg3 g6** [55...h5!? getting space for the black king could be a better winning try] **56.Qe8 Qd6+ 57.Kf3 Kg7 58.g5!**



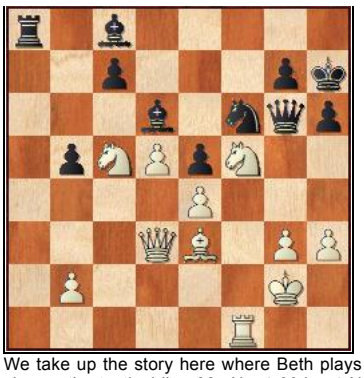
The computer shows that White has enough checks now to draw. The g5 pawn hems in the black king. **58...hxg5 59.hxg5 d4 60.Qe4 d3 61.Qb7+ Kf8 62.Qc8+ Ke7 63.Qb7+ Ke6 64.Qe4+ Kd7 65.Qb7+ Kd8 66.Qa8+ Kc7 67.Qa7+ Kc8 68.Qa8+ Kc7 69.Qa7+ Kc6 70.Qa6+ Kc5 71.Qxd6+ Kxd6 72.Ke3 Ke5 1/2-1/2**

(5) Harmon,Beth - Borgov,Vasily [D20] Moscow 1968

Queen's Gambit

Here is the game from the Netflix series "The Queen's Gambit" between the protagonist, Beth Harmon, and her Russian opponent, starting after the adjournment where Borgov played 36...Qg6.





We take up the story here where Beth plays a better move than Ivanchuck did in 1993. The white knight jumps into the struggle on the kingside. **37.Ne6! Ra4 38.b3 Rxe4** [Black could have chosen the tactical line 38...Nxe4 39.bxa4 Nxg3 40.Ne7! *(40.Kh2 Bxe6 41.dxe6 e4* wins*)* 40...Qxd3 41.Nf8+ Kh8 42.Nfg6+ Kh7 43.Nf8+ with a draw by perpetual check] **39.Nxd6 Bxe6** [39...cxd6?? 40.Nf8+] **40.dxe6 cxd6 41.e7!**



Black has won a pawn but the advanced white e-pawn is a source of power. **41...d5 42.Bc5 Qe8?!** this is a bit passive and gives White an edge. Black could have played actively and allowed the tactical line [42...h5 43.Rxf6 gxf6 44.Qxb5 Re1 45.e8Q Qc2+ 46.Kf3 Qf5+ 47.Kg2 Qc2+ with perpetual check] **43.Qf3 Qc6 44.b4 Qe8?** [44...Kg8 was needed] **45.Qf5+ Kh8**



46.Qxf6! The queen sacrifice is a wonderful shot! "Beth" shows the power of the e7 pawn and wins a piece. **46...gxf6 47.Rxf6 Qh5** This try for perpetual check doesn't work, but there was no defense to 48. Rf8 **48.Rf8+ Kg7 49.e8Q Re2+ 50.Kf1 Qxh3+ 51.Kxe2 Qg2+ 52.Rf2 Qe4+ 53.Kd2** No more checks, so Borgov resigned. **1-0**

https://www.netflix.com/title/80234304 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.netflix.com/title/80234304)

Mechanics' Institute to Organize 2020-2021 Pan-American Intercollegiate Online Chess Championships!

The Mechanics' Institute bid was accepted by the US Chess Federation to organize the 2020-2021 Pan-American Intercollegiate Online Chess Championships. This is a huge honor for us and we look forward to putting on this renowned event. This is a recognized national championship event which is a four-player team event open to chess teams from universities, colleges, community colleges and technical colleges from North, Central and South America and the Carribean. The live event was supposed to be held in December 2020 in Toronto, but was moved online and opened for bid due to COVID-19 concerns.

We are planning a strong team to organize and direct the event. In addition to Abel Talamantez and Chief Organizer Judit Sztaray, we are planning to have NTD FA Glenn Panner as the Chief Tournament Director, along with NTD IA Brian Yang, NTD FA John McCumiskey, and NTD FA Richard Koepcke, as well as others as needed.

The event will take place on Chess.com January 3-6, 2021. We are working with GM Alex Onischuk, Chair of the US Chess College Committee, and will soon put up registration. Stay tuned for more details!

Mechanics' Institute November Tuesday Night Marathon and NEW Thursday Night Marathon

The November Tuesday Night Marathon Online will begin on November 10, and it will be a two-section event 6SS with a time control of G/35+2. We will also have a NEW Thursday Night Marathon Online (ThNM) starting on November 12 which will be one game per week, 5SS with a longer time conrol of G/60+5. Both these events will be USCF rated.

November Tuesday Night Marathon Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/November2020TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/November2020TNMOnline)

NEW Thursday Night Marathon information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot)

Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ThursdayNightMarathonG605NovDec2020Pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ThursdayNightMarathonG605NovDec2020Pilot)

Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon Final Results

After our fair play review, here are the final results. Congratulations to the winners!

Final results - updated on 10/31 after fair play review received

SwissSys Report: Conway Memorial TNM Online

SwissSys Standings. Conway Memorial TNM Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	R 3
1	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W17	W20	W
2	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2600	GGuseinov	H---	H---	W
3	**IM Prasanna Ragh Rao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083805)**	16083805	2508	Praschess	W29	X---	W
4	**NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W43	W21	L
5	**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)**	15239016	1927	mwncklmann	W47	W34	W
6	**Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)**	16089208	1869	J3Chess24	L26	W46	W
7	**Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)**	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W37	W28	W
8	**FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2470	KyronGriffith	W27	W11	H
9	**Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)**	12469525	1948	kondsaga	W42	W25	W
10	**Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)**	15088362	2120	etvat	W31	L23	L
11	**Mark L Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)**	12459313	1843	BirdOrBust	W45	L8	D
12	**Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	1958	ninjaforce	W46	W26	L
13	**Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)**	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	L24	W52	W
14	**Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)**	16380312	1775	vish1080	L34	W47	W
15	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1997	kclemens	W52	W24	L
16	**Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)**	15176393	1998	SmilyFace4	W32	L19	W
17	**Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)**	16761994	1606	LightningDragon8	L1	W49	W

18	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2186	microbear	H---	W48	H
19	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	W38	W16	L
20	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1842	A-boy415	W49	L1	D
21	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W41	L4	D
22	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	H---	W
23	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	W53	W10	L
24	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1331	chesspoki	W13	L15	L
25	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1287	jacobchess857	W35	L9	D
26	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1235	noydan100	W6	L12	L
27	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1628	chessboi2010	L8	W45	W
28	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1323	pranavpradeep2006	W51	L7	D
29	Rachael Tiong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16019458)	16019458	1656	rachael1120	L3	W40	W
30	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	Kaline340Green	H---	H---	L
31	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	L10	W53	W
32	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L16	W51	W
33	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1710	GiorgosTsolias	L44	L42	W
34	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	931	sfdeals	W14	L5	D
35	Nicholas Ar Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	L25	L37	W
36	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	D48	W44	L
37	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1428	programmingmax	L7	W35	L
38	Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)	17310102	831	MrL0cust	L19	B---	L
39	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	starserika18	H---	H---	W
40	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1091	victor6688	H---	L29	L
41	Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)	17179258	923	JeffNorthSF	L21	W43	L
42	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1355	SunnyCountry	L9	W33	L

43	**Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)**	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L4	L41	L4
44	**Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	16875347	691	Sebbymeister	W33	L36	L1
45	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	16898540	1073	kevin_mx_sun	L11	L27	W
46	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L12	L6	W
47	**Martin Camacho (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248027)**	17248027	1311	camachom	L5	L14	L3
48	**Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)**	16695036	933	adichi	D36	L18	L5
49	**Yuvraj Si Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)**	17095004	1060	SaintReturns	L20	L17	L5
50	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	unr.	Bruce_Hedman	H---	H---	L3
51	**Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)**	14006141	1940	Mangonel	L28	L32	W
52	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	L15	L13	W
53	**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	17079795	953	andrewaballantyne	L23	L31	L4
54	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	12814843	unr.	vincitore51745	H---	H---	H
55	**Willia Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)**	17048414	537	OlympusMons00	H---	H---	L2

Mechanics' Institue Team League Play



The Mechanics' Institute will be participating in season 2 of the Chess.com Club's League starting this Saturday morning at 10am Pacific time. Participation is open to all players who are members of the Mechanics' Institute online chess community on Chess.com. The team matches will feature 2 games of G/15+2, with players playing the same opponent with white/black. Following this rapid phase, there will be 2 games of G/3+2 in a blitz leg. Our first opponent will be Rio Rande Valley Rising Stars, from the University of Texas at Rio Grand Valley.

Any and all players who wishes to participate in this league representing Mechanics' MUST be a part of our online club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Detailed rules are posted here: https://www.chess.com/news/view/clubs-league-season-2-rules (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chess.com/news/view/clubs-league-season-2-rules)

Important extracts from it:

- Season 2 regular season will be Saturday, November 7 through Saturday, December 19, 2020. The top 16 clubs in each division will qualify for the playoffs, to be played in January 2021.
- The League will have weekly matches on seven (7) consecutive Saturdays

1. **November 7 vs Rio Grande Valley Rising Stars**

- **Rapid G/15+2 10am: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=300397 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=300397)**
- **Blitz G/3+2 11:15am: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=300399 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=300399)**

Streamer Battle League

The Mechanics' Institute is playing in the Streamer Battle League, a league made up of 8 teams with stream channels in a friendly G/15+5 team match played in 3 sections; 1800+, 1400-1799, and u/1400 according to Chess.com rapid rating. We had 2 matches last Saturday. We lost the first match against a team from GM Arturs Neiksans by a score of 2-1. We lost the 1800+section, won the 1400-1799, and lost the u/1400. IM Elliott Winslow lost both games against strong GM Arturs Neiksans, but his first game was absolutely amazing, and he had Nieksans on the ropes ready for the knockout blow. But time pressure made it difficult for him to find the best moves, leading to Winslow's defeat. Here is his amazing game, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(2) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2031) GM Arturs Neiksans (arturchix)(2680) [B47]

Live Chess Chess.com, 31.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 The highly fashionable Taimanov Sicilian. **6.g3** Bobby Fischer was fond of this; somewhat surprising, since he rarely played fianchettos as White against other systems. **6...a6 7.Bg2** Winslow is 3-0 in TNMs in this system -- but twice as Black! **7...d6** [The modern line is 7...Nf6 8.0-0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Bc5 10.Bf4 d6 11.Qd2 h6 12.Rad1 e5 13.Be3 Be6 *(13...Bb4!?* is even more modern, the main system in the 2020 book on the Taimanov by Pavlidis*.)*] **8.0-0** [8.Nxc6!? might be White's best move, before Black can play his next.] **8...Bd7 9.Re1 Be7 10.Nxc6 Bxc6**



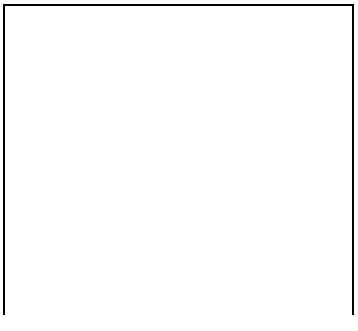
11.Qg4 The most popular, but Black can react in typical, Taimanov style. [11.Qd4!?; 11.Ne2!?+/= is the Stockfish move.] **11...h5! 12.Qe2 Nf6** [12...h4!? 13.a4 hxg3 14.hxg3 Nf6 15.a5 Rc8 16.Be3 Kf8 17.Bb6 Qb8 18.Na4 1-0 (48) Adams,M (2723)-Lautier,J (2666) Enghien les Bains 2003] **13.a4 Rc8 14.Bf4N** [14.h3 Nd7 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 e5 17.Be3 g6 18.a5 f5 19.Rec1 0-0 20.c4 e4 21.Bf4 Bf6 22.Ra3 Be5 23.b4 h4 24.Qd2 hxg3 25.Rxg3 Kf7 26.c5 Bxf4 27.Qxf4 Nf6 28.Qh6 Rg8 29.Bf1 Qe7 30.cxd6 Qf8 31.Qxf8+ Rgxf8 32.Rc7+ Rxc7 33.dxc7 Ke7 34.Rxg6 Nxd5 35.Rb6 Nxb6 36.axb6 Kd7 37.b5 a5 0-1 (37) Lu Shanglei (2536)-Shankland,S (2599) Ningbo CHN 2013] **14...Kf8!? 15.a5 h4!**



16.gxh4?! Probably a horrible move, but it does inject some original positions -- and right away Black loses the thread! [16.Red1=] **16...Nh5?!** [16...Rxh4-/+ 17.Bg3 Rh6 18.Red1 Nh5] **17.Bg3** Now White's okay, even if his extra pawn is token. **17...Bf6 18.Qe3 Qe7** [18...e5=/+] **19.Red1 Be5? 20.f4** Now White has a dangerous initiative. **20...Bf6 21.e5 dxe5 22.fxe5 Bxh4 23.Bxc6** [23.Bxh4! Qxh4 24.Bxc6 bxc6 25.Ra4! with 26.Ne4 to follow; Black is a mess.] **23...bxc6 24.Ne4** [24.Bxh4!] **24...Kg8 25.Rd6 Rh6 26.Rad1 Rg6 27.Rd7?!** [27.Qf3! Nxg3 28.hxg3 White appears to be winning.] **27...Qb4! 28.Qf3**



28...Rf8? [28...Nxg3 29.hxg3 Rf8 30.Kg2] **29.R7d4!+- Nxg3** Black just doesn't have enough for the queen; but White is short on time. **30.Rxb4 Nxe4+ 31.Kf1 f5 32.Rb7** [32.Ke2!] **32...Nf2 33.Rdd7 Ng4 34.Qc3** [34.Qh3!] **34...Nxh2+ 35.Ke2 f4**





36.Qh3?? [36.Kd2+-; 36.Kd3+-] **36...f3+-+ 37.Ke3 Ng4+** [37...f2! 38.Qxe6+ Kh7! 39.Qxg6+ Kxg6 40.Rxg7+ Kf5] **38.Kd2 Bg5+ 39.Kc3**



39...Bh6?? [39...f2; 39...Nxe5-+] **40.Rd3??** [40.Qh5! Kh7 (40...Nxe5 41.Qxe5 f2 42.Rd1 Rg1 and now three crunchers: 43.Rbd7 *(43.Qxe6+; 43.Rb8)*) 41.Rf7+-] **40...Nxe5** [40...f2] **41.Rd1 f2 42.Rf1 Ng4?! 43.Rd7?! Ne3 44.Rxf2 Rxf2 45.Kb3 Rgf6 46.Qh5 Nxc2 47.Qe5 R6f3+ 48.Ka2 Nb4+** arturchix won by resignation **0-1**

In our second match, we scored a draw against streamers HashtagChess from South Africa, going 1.5-1.5. We won the top section, lost the middle section and drew the lower section.

NM Mike Sailer delivered two nice wins in the top section, here is one of them.

(3) NM MikeSailer (2174) - Strider23cpk (2097) [D02]

Live Chess Chess.com, 31.10.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.Bf4 The London System, which seems to work against anything - including Black's fianchetto defense here. **3...c5 4.e3 d5 5.Be2 Nc6** [It doesn't help to attack the b-pawn right away as 5...Qb6 is meet by 6.Nc3! Nf6 7.0-0 and White has a strong initiative] **6.c3 Qb6 7.Qb3** This safe move in the spirit of the London System limits Black's counterplay and aims for an endgame edge. **7...c4 8.Qxb6 axb6 9.Na3! Bg4** [White has an opening edge and this is less usefull than development with 9...Nf6 10.Nb5 Ra5] **10.Nb5 Kd7?!** [10...Ra5 is a more effective way to avoid the knight fork] **11.Ne5+** suddenly this quiet opening has a lot of tactics **11...Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Bxe5 13.Bxg4+**



13...f5? [13...Kc6! attacking the white knight would avoid the biggest trouble] **14.Bxf5+** This is good, winning a pawn, yet White would win two after [14.Bf3! Bd6 15.Bxd5] **14...gxf5 15.dxe5 Ra5 16.Nd4** The strong white knight and the extra pawn make the endgame winning for White. Still, it takes technique. **16...e6 17.h3 Ne7 18.g4 Rha8 19.a3 Rg8 20.Rg1 h5 21.g5 Ng6 22.f4 Rga8 23.Kd2 Ra4 24.Nb5 R8a5 25.Nd6 Ra7 26.Kc2 R4a5 27.Rgb1 Nh4**



[27...h4 28.b3 Rxa3 29.Rxa3 Rxa3 30.bxc4 dxc4 31.Nxc4 Ra2+ 32.Rb2 is also a winning ending due to the strength of the passed white g-pawn. That would take longer though.] **28.g6!** giving up the powerful passed pawn but opening the file for a powerful rook invasion **28...Nxg6 29.Rg1 Ne7 30.Rg7** There is no way for Black to put up resistance here. **30...Ra8 31.Nxb7 Rb5 32.Nd6 Rb3 33.Rag1 b5 34.Rh7** MikeSailer won by resignation **1-0**

This Saturday at 5pm we have our week 3 match against ChessDojo! If you would like to participate, here are the match links:

Match 3 vs ChessDojo - 11/7
Open: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=300441 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=300441)
u/1800: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=300440 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=300440)
u/1400: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=300442 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=300442)

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
Since 1854

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Save Big in the Process!

Join the Mechanics' Institute, and realize savings on our events and classes while supporting our mission to provide a center for cultural and intellectual advanncement

We are doing a membership drive through the end of the year for new members and to encourage current members to renew.

$120/year for a regular membership
$65/year for a student membership
You will save big if you are a regular participant in our tournaments and/or classes!

Here are some of our registration costs and savings
you can achieve with membership:

Tuesday Night Marathon: $30 member, $50 non-member registration fee
Weekend USCF rated events: $20 member, $40 non-member registration fee
Basically, your membership pays for itself if you attend just six tournaments, classes, or other chess events per year!

Plus you get everything that a Mechanics' Institute membership offers.

Benefits of Mechanics' Institute Membership
- Discount on most chess events or classes.
- Full use of the Library and its services, including online databases, ebooks, and more!
- Free or reduced admission to cultural events, programs, classes, and book groups.
- Access to the Chess Room and its tournaments and classes.
- WiFi access throughout the Library, Chess Room, and 4th floor meeting room.
- Membership access at other membership (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)libraries. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)

Join Mechanics' at: https://www.milibrary.org/join (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/join)
Please forward this information to others who might be interested in joining.
Please enter chess in the referred by column and check off chess as a general interest.

Any questions? Please contact us at chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org).

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 11/10: https://www.chess.com/live#r=600277 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chess.com/live#r=600277)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Thursdays 5:00pm-6:00pm, 11/12: https://www.chess.com/live#r=600653 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chess.com/live#r=600653)

See you in the arena!

Tony Lama at Crocker Galleria



Tony Lama last Thursday across from the Mechanics' Institute at Crocker Galleria

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Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe

Casual meeting to talk about chess, life and everything. Join 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead as they give a lecture and class in a fun casual atmosphere where you can discuss games, learn strategy, discuss chess current events and interact in a fun casual atmosphere. Enter our Monday chess café for the pure love of the game. Class suitable for ALL level of players and FREE for MI members.

FREE for Mechanics' members. $5 for non-members.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - The Art of Attack in Chess by FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates: 11/16 through 12/21 (6 classes)

Learn to attack the king in this six-week class using Vladimir Vukovic's book, The Art of Attack in Chess (1963 revised 1993 by GM John Nunn), as our text.
We will take lessons from chapters such as "The classic bishop sacrifice", "The attack against the uncastled king", "Focal-points" and "The attack on the king as an integral part of the game". Vukovic also talks about mating patterns, defense, and much more.
Join us in an investigation into one of the greatest chess books ever written, a classic enjoyed by chess players around the world.

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

Ongoing starting from November 18

Are you an adult who wants to put learning chess on top of your New Year's resolution! Get a head start with us at the Mechanics' Institute! This virtual class is open to any MI member who has no knowledge of the game or who knows the very basics and wants to improve. Taught by MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez along with Judit Sztaray and other MI staff, we will patiently walk through all the basics at a pace suitable for our class. Our goal is to teach piece movement basics, checkmate patterns, importance of development, and general strategy. We will also show students how to play online so they may practice. The goal of the class is to open a new world of fun and joy through the magic and beauty of chess, from one of the oldest and proudest chess clubs in the world.

Registration: Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembers (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembers)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, November 7: starts at 3:00PM - join from 2:45PM

4SS G/20+10: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentNov7SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentNov7SAT)

Sunday, November 8: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133395 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133395)

Monday, November 9: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133396 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133396)

Tuesday, November 10: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133397 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133397)

Wednesday, November 11: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133398 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133398)

Thursday, November 12: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133399 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133399)

Friday, November 13: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133400 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133400)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Every Week!

Next one: November 8, @3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rating only (not over-the-board)
Every player must be a US Chess member.
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening.

Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered:

NEW Class: Get Those Chess Boards Out! -- Tuesdays 4-5PM
As parents, many of us now see kids staring at a screen for hours during the school day. We understand having another online class may not be so exciting. What if we are able to offer a class for beginners where they can feel and interact with the pieces to capture an important part of the early learning experience? That's why we are introducing a new class for our young, beginner players!
Let's get those chess boards out and use it during the class!
Coach Colin will interact with the players via zoom, but they will talk, use the chess board, set it up and set up different positions, and learn and play on a physical board. No shared screen during the class! It's all interactive, using physical chess pieces! **Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/get-those-chess-boards-out) for more information.**

Starting at Chess -- Mondays 3-4PM
This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players -- Tuesdays 3-4PM or Thursdays 4-5PM
This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess -- Thursdays 5-6PM
This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class. Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

11/10 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)
Start at 6:30PM

11/10 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Marathon Scholastic Event
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-tuesday-night-marathon-online-scholastic-side-event
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-tuesday-night-marathon-online-scholastic-side-event)
Start at 6:30PM

11/12 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot)
Start at 6:30PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210215195955/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Domination, Part 10.

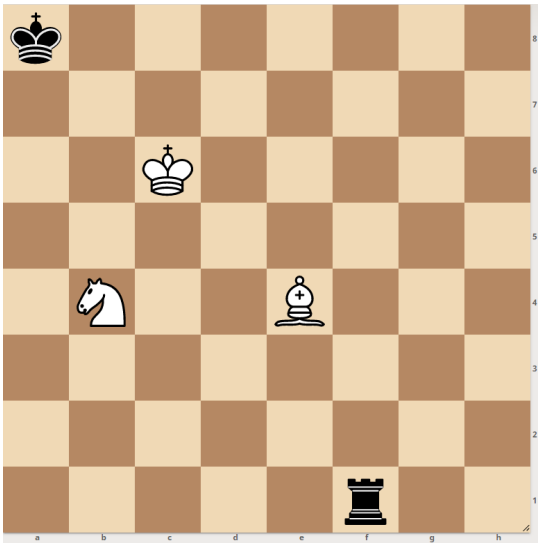
pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

That age-old question that asks if a rook vs. bishop and knight is better, or worse, or just plain even - can never be properly answered. Like everything else in chess, it depends on the situation. Using the principle of domination, however, we can develop a sharp eye as to how pieces are superior (or inferior) to each other, and how they can trap each other. In the three studies given below, it is the bishop and knight that gain the upper hand.

The positions were found in **Domination in 2,545 Endgame Studies** by **Ghenrikh Kasparyan** (1974).

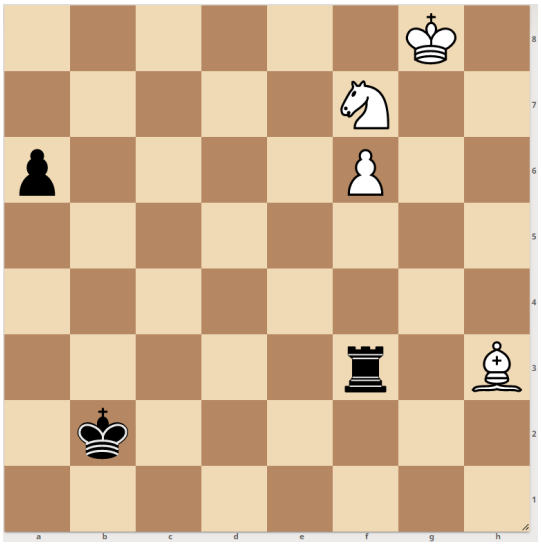
I urge the serious student to work these studies out in their heads without moving the pieces – the solutions are short and sharp, the patterns geometric, surprising, beautiful. And, unlike those “mate in 3” problems, they just might begin with a check… but no more clues!

This time ALL of the problems are for you to solve.



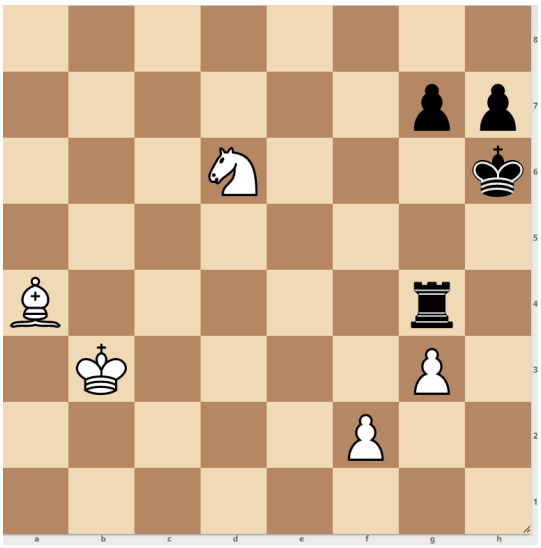
1. Rinck 1918 – White wins.

I think this is a nice little calculating exercise, very straightforward.



2. **Bianchetti 1924** – White wins.

This is my favorite of the trio. Trapping a rook in this manner has never looked so comical – and economical.



3. Troitzky 1914 – White wins.

This study looks so game-like, I can almost imagine it occurring tomorrow in some tournament or other!

Next week I'm starting a new series: The Return of Chessmonster666. Stay tuned!

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Queen's Gambit: 1 d4 d5 2. c4

In honor of the most popular series now on Netflix we show our readers the "Queen's Gambit", though this is the real chess version that is not much mentioned in the film. The Netflix show is based on Walter Tevis's book from 1983. Thirty years ago the book was to be made into a film starring Molly Ringwald (The Breakfast Club) as the young heroine Beth Harmon. Tevis died in 1984 and it took almost forty years for the Queen's Gambit to come to film. Other notable works by Tevis are "The Hustler" (Paul Newman starred in the film version) and "The Man Who Fell to Earth" (starring David Bowie in the first film version). In any case, here is the real Queen's Gambit throughout the history of chess.

First mentioned in the Gottingen Manuscript of 1490, the offer of a pawn on the second move would be tempting to the player of the Black pieces. This medieval manuscript (from the days of the old monks) showed an elegant refutation (our first example) to those without respect for the Queen's Gambit. The opening has since become one of the two mainstay's of White's classical approach (the other being 1.e4). We give a couple of important historical examples to show its potency.

(1) Queen's Gambit - 1490 [D20]

03.11.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4





This is the Queen's Gambit, one of the oldest openings. It was first mentioned in the Gottingen manuscript of 1490. Of course the move 1.e4 had been the most popular way for White to open the game, but over five hundered years ago people began to consider this alternative. White's second move (2. c4) is what gives the opening bite. The c-pawn is leveraged to battle for the center. The question back then was, "What if Black takes the pawn?" After all, it is hanging and unprotected. **2...dxc4 3.e3** Many players with White prefer 3. Nf3, but we continue with the line from 1490. White seeks to recapture the pawn on c4 while developing the light-squared bishop to a strong diagonal. **3...b5 4.a4** This key move disrupts the black pawn structure. **4...c6** The alternatives are clearly bad: [4...bxa4 5.Bxc4 and; 4...a6 5.axb5 axb5? 6.Rxa8] **5.axb5 cxb5**



It seems Black has held on to the booty and kept his/her pawn structure intact, but there is a big flaw. **6.Qf3!** The rook in the corner is trapped, so White wins at least a piece after 6...Nc6 7.Qxc6+ Bd7. Thus the Queen's Gambit is not a real gambit at all as Black cannot hang onto the pawn without heavy loss. You can tell that to Beth Harmon. *

(2) Fischer,Robert James (2785) - Spassky,Boris V (2660) [D59]

World Championship Reykjavik (6), 23.07.1972

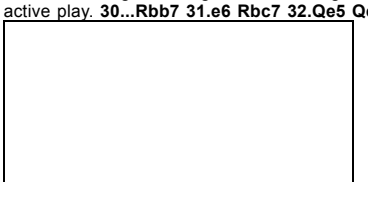
1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.d4 We choose this game as one of the most epic Queen's Gambits ever played. We say that because it gave Bobby Fischer the lead in the match of the century and also because it was the first time Fischer played a Queen's Gambit on the white side, to the surprise of the whole chess world. **3...Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6** This is Spassky's favorite Tartakover Variation, which he had great experience with. **8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Rc1 Be6 12.Qa4 c5 13.Qa3 Rc8 14.Bb5 a6?!** [It was later discovered that Black does best to be active with 14...Qb7! 15.dxc5 bxc5 16.Rxc5 Rxc5 17.Qxc5 Na6 when Black's lead in development and the uncastled white king leaves more than enough compensation for the pawn.] **15.dxc5 bxc5 16.0-0 Ra7 17.Be2 Nd7 18.Nd4! Qf8 19.Nxe6 fxe6**

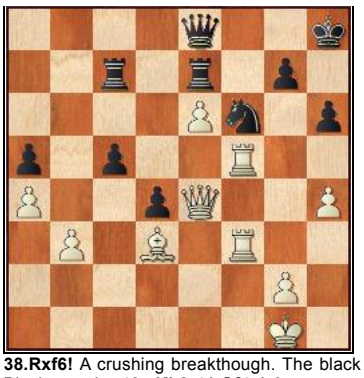


20.e4! Bringing the white pieces to life. The move attacks the center and allows the white queen to swing to the kingside. **20...d4?!** Now the white bishop comes to a powerful post. It was better to accept split pawns with [20...dxe4 21.Qe3 Qf5 22.Rc4 Nf6] **21.f4 Qe7 22.e5 Rb8 23.Bc4** e6 is a fixed target which ties Black down **23...Kh8 24.Qh3 Nf8 25.b3 a5**



26.f5! switching advantages from the target on e6 to open lines in which to invade **26...exf5 27.Rxf5 Nh7 28.Rcf1 Qd8 29.Qg3 Re7 30.h4** Now the black knight is retricted and Black has no active play. **30...Rbb7 31.e6 Rbc7 32.Qe5 Qe8 33.a4 Qd8 34.R1f2 Qe8 35.R2f3 Qd8 36.Bd3 Qe8 37.Qe4 Nf6**





38.Rxf6! A crushing breakthough. The black king is too exposed. **38...gxf6 39.Rxf6 Kg8 40.Bc4** maintaining the powerful e6 pawn and keeping the black rook stuck on e7. There is nothing Black can do. **40...Kh8 41.Qf4 1-0**

(3) Alekhine,Alexander - Capablanca,Jose Raul [D51]

World Championship 13th Buenos Aires (34), 26.11.1927

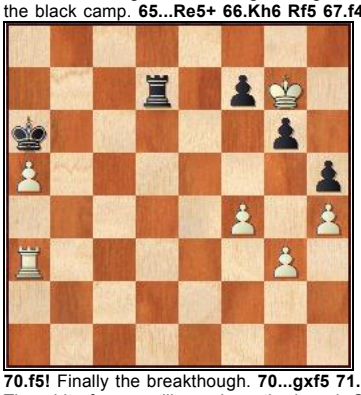
We include another historic Queen's Gambit, this time from the great 1927 World Championship match between Capablanca and Alekhine. In this match 32 of the 34 games that were played were Queen's Gambit! This game though was the last one, where Alekhine took the title. We will breeze through the opening and middle game to a classic endgame. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 c6 6.a3 Be7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Ne4 N5f6 12.Ng3 c5 13.0-0 Nb6 14.Ba2 cxd4 15.Nxd4 g6 16.Rc1 Bd7 17.Qe2 Rac8 18.e4 e5 19.Nf3 Kg7 20.h3 h6 21.Qd2 Be6 22.Bxe6 Qxe6 23.Qa5!** With this move Alekhine is able to cause a bit of trouble. **23...Nc4 24.Qxa7 Nxb2 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Qxb7 Nc4?** After this move Black is jus a pawn down. He could have had active pieces and fair chances after 26...Nd3 instead. **27.Qb4 Ra8 28.Ra1 Qc6 29.a4 Nxe4**



30.Nxe5! White maintains the pawn advantage and Capablanca must suffer a difficult ending. **30...Qd6 31.Qxc4 Qxe5 32.Re1 Nd6! 33.Qc1 Qf6 34.Ne4! Nxe4 35.Rxe4 Rb8 36.Re2 Ra8 37.Ra2 Ra5 38.Qc7 Qa6 39.Qc3+ Kh7 40.Rd2 Qb6 41.Rd7 Qb1+ 42.Kh2 Qb8+ 43.g3 Rf5 44.Qd4 Qe8 45.Rd5 Rf3 46.h4 Qh8 47.Qb6 Qa1 48.Kg2 Rf6 49.Qd4 Qxd4 50.Rxd4**



The World Championship comes down to a tough rook ending. All that work to gain a pawn, but can White convert against the great endgame maestro Capablanca? **50...Kg7 51.a5 Ra6 52.Rd5 Rf6 53.Rd4 Ra6 54.Ra4 Kf6 55.Kf3 Ke5 56.Ke3 h5 57.Kd3 Kd5 58.Kc3 Kc5 59.Ra2! Kb5 60.Kb3 Kc5** [60...Rxa5 61.Rxa5+ Kxa5 62.Kc4 Kb6 63.Kd5 Kc7 64.Ke5 Kd7 65.Kf6 Ke8 66.f4 Kf8 67.f5 gxf5 68.Kxf5 Kg7 69.Kg5 wins a pawn and the game. King endings a pawn up are easy.] **61.Kc3 Kb5 62.Kd4 Rd6+ 63.Ke5 Re6+ 64.Kf4 Ka6 65.Kg5** The white king gets into the black camp. **65...Re5+ 66.Kh6 Rf5 67.f4 Rc5 68.Ra3 Rc7 69.Kg7 Rd7**



70.f5! Finally the breakthough. **70...gxf5 71.Kh6 f4 72.gxf4 Rd5 73.Kg7 Rf5 74.Ra4 Kb5 75.Re4! Ka6 76.Kh6 Rxa5 77.Re5 Ra1 78.Kxh5 Rg1 79.Rg5 Rh1 80.Rf5 Kb6 81.Rxf7 Kc6 82.Re7** The white f-pawn will march up the board. Capablanca resigned and Alekhine was World Champion. **1-0**

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Newsletter #943

November 14, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Mechanics' TNM Report
- Mechanics' Thursday Night Marathon Report
- Mechanics' League Play
- Become a Mechanics' Institute Member
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Mechanics' Institute November Tuesday Night Marathon Report

The November edition of the Tuesday Night Marathon Online kicked off with rounds 1&2 on Tuesday with close to 50 players. This is a great turnout considering that of this writing we have more than 30 players registered for the new Thursday Night Marathon beginning this week. The competition in the top section will be fierce, as GM Gadir Guseinov and GM James Tarjan are entered, as well as Mechanics' powerhouse players IM Elliott Winslow and FM Kyron Griffith.

The first rounds saw some entertaining action, with FM Kyron Griffith having to pull off two escapes that would have made David Blaine proud. GM Jim Tarjan used a nice tactical shot in his first game, then used GM technique in his second. Also with two wins were GM Guseinov, IM Winslow, NM Mike Walder, NM Arun Dixit, and Ethan Guo.

In the u/1800 section, Phillip Gerstoft, Bryan Hood, Pranav Pradeep, and Sebby Suarez remain perfect with 2/2.

It was an entertaining start for the new TNM this month as we were joined on the broadcast by WIM Dr. Alexey Root. The exciting games and great commentary by Alexey and FM Paul Whitehead enhanced a terrific evening for chess. Special kudos as always to tournament director Judit Sztaray, who paired the games manually on chess.com.

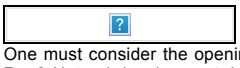
Here are some games from the evenings action, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith)(2220) - Jonah Busch (Kondsaga)(2070) [C06]

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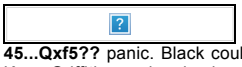
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 The Tarrasch Variation is positionally safer than the strange positions that arise from the Winawer Variation (3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5). It leads to more normal positions which are more straightforward to play. **3...Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Qxf6** The less common recapture on f6. The black queen is developed but also somewhat exposed. **10.Nf3 h6 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Be3 0-0 13.Qd2 e5 14.dxe5 Ndxe5** Black has gotten his pawn break with freedom of action for his pieces yet has the isolated d-pawn. **15.Nxe5 Bxe5** [15...Qxe5 16.Ng3 d4 17.Bxh6! is very good for White.] **16.Bc5** [White should consider 16.Rad1 as 16...Bxb2?! 17.Nf4 is great compensation for the pawn] **16...Rd8 17.Rab1 b6 18.Be3 d4 19.Bf4 Bf5**



One must consider the opening a success for Black. All of the pieces are out and the isolated d-pawn looks like a strong passed pawn. **20.Bxe5 Nxe5 21.Bxf5 Qxf5 22.Ng3 Qg6 23.Rfe1 Rac8** Natural development, but [23...Rd5! followed by Rad8 would force White to deal with the powerful passed pawn. Black would have the edge and an easy game to play.] **24.Rbd1?!** Letting the black rook invade with tempo [24.Re4! Nc4 25.Qd3 is about equal] **24...Nc4?!** [24...Rc2 25.Qb4 Qf7 26.f3 Nc4 would be a strong initiative for Black] **25.Qf4 Nxb2 26.Rxd4 Rxd4**

27.Qxd4 Nd3 28.Rd1 Nc5 everything is back to equal with no weakenesses for either side **29.h4 Qe6 30.a3 Re8 31.h5 Re7 32.Qf4 Rd7 33.Rxd7 Qxd7 34.Kh2 Qf7 35.Nf5?** Kyron just gives a pawn away. **35...Qxh5+ 36.Nh4 Qf7** [36...g5 37.Qb8+ Kf7 38.Qxa7+] **37.Qg4 Kh7 38.f4 Ne6 39.f5 Ng5 40.Ng6** Objectively Jonah should be winning the position with the extra pawn. Kyron is being tricky with the knight on g6, creating mating possibilites. **40...b5?!** [40...Qc7+! 41.Kh1 *(41.g3 Qc2+)* 41...Qc1+ 42.Kh2 Qxa3 is two pawns ahead] **41.Qf4 a5?!** [41...a6] **42.Qe5! b4 43.axb4 axb4 44.Qc5! b3 45.Qc8**



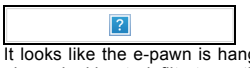
45...Qxf5?? panic. Black could defend the mate with [45...Qg8 when White needs to make a draw by repeating with 46.Nf8+ Kh8 47.Ng6+] **46.Qxf5 b2 47.Ne7+ Kh8 48.Qf8+ Kh7 49.Qg8#** KyronGriffith won by checkmate. **1-0**

(2) Chelsie Zhou (mwncklmann)(1886) - GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes)(2407) [A53]

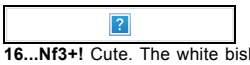
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[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 d6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 An unusual and straightforward development against the English. Tarjan makes his opponent figure out the best strategy against this unpretentious set-up. **5.e3** [5.d4! Hits quickly at the center to give White more freedom of action.] **5...0-0 6.Nge2 c6 7.d4 Re8 8.0-0 Bf8 9.b3** Choosing a middle game battle. The ending after [9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8 Rxd8 would be very comfortable for Black.] **9...e4! 10.d5 c5 11.Bb2 Bf5 12.Qd2?!** This starts to turn the advantage over to Black. White needs to address the control that Black is getting over the kingside light squares. [12.h3 was called for] **12...Nbd7 13.Nf4 Ne5 14.Qc2 Qd7**



It looks like the e-pawn is hanging, but do you think the great Tarjan has just made a mistake? **15.Nxe4?** Chelsea grabs the pawn, but this loses. He was already under pressure with the black pieces looking to infiltrate on the kingside. **15...Nxe4 16.Bxe4**



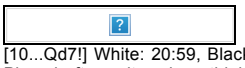
16...Nf3+! Cute. The white bishop on e4 is pinned and Black wins a piece. The game is over. **17.Kh1 Bxe4 18.Qd1 g6 19.Qc1 Bh6 20.Qc3 Re5** No checkmate on the long diagonal. Black will play ...Bxf4 then ...Qh3 with mate to follow, so Chelsea resigned. **0-1**

(3) GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes)(2408) - Felix German (FelixGerman)(1721) [B01]

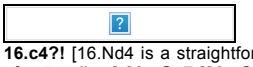
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[de Firmian,Nick]

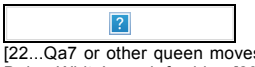
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3 [3.Nc3 and 4.d4 is still the most popular way to play, keeping open options for the king knight and avoiding early pins with ...Bg4.] While the text does the same for the other knight, where c2-c4 or c2-c3 is still possible right away. **3...Nf6** Even this knight has another option. [3...Bg4 4.Be2 Nc6 5.d4 *(*And pawns! Perhaps *5.0-0 0-0-0 6.h3* so as not to place a target on d4 too soon*.)* 5...0-0-0 certainly pressures the d-pawn. 6.Be3 *(6.c4* is somewhat more common (and quite critical!)*,;* while *6.c3* has to reckon with *6...e5!?)* 6...Nh6!? when ... Nf5 has its value.] **4.Be2** Tarjan is playing the waiting game full-out. [4.d4 and; 4.Nc3 would be committing one or another.] **4...Bg4** This and the other bishop development are the lion's share of games here, but quite a few other things have been tried; after all, Black has been given free rein. **5.h3 Bh5** [5...Bxf3 6.Bxf3 Qe5+!? leads to a typical Center Counter game, maybe minus the queens. Black plays ...c6 and ...e6 and develops smoothly, hardly missing his light-square bishop.] **6.Nc3 Qd6** As usual, the queen has a selection of good retreats (but please not f5, and definitely not c6!). **7.d4 e6 8.0-0** [8.g4! Bg6 9.h4! Nxg4 10.h5 Bf5 11.Nh4 Nf6 12.Nxf5 exf5 Here White's play seems worth more than the pawn.] **8...Be7 9.Bg5N** [9.Be3 is pretty much all that has been played here (somehow the game is already in rareified territory).] **9...Nc6 10.Nb5 Qd8**



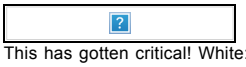
[10...Qd7!] White: 20:59, Black: **11.Ne5?!** [11.c4!? a6 12.d5!? Bxf3 13.Bxf3 exd5 14.cxd5 Ne5 15.Nc3 0-0! isn't much for White.; 11.Bxf6!? Bxf6 12.d5! exd5 13.Qxd5!] **11...Bxe2 12.Qxe2 0-0** Played after quite a long think. [12...Nxd4?? 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Qb5+ is disastrous.; But 12...a6! favorably forces the issue: 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Nc3 Qxd4 15.Rfd1 White has compensation for the pawn but no advantage.] **13.Rad1 Nxe5?!** [13...Nd5!? 14.Bd2! Nxe5 15.dxe5 a6 16.Nc3 Nxc3 17.Bxc3 isn't much going for White; Black sidesteps, trades a rook, sidesteps the other way, trades another rook, nothing.] **14.dxe5!** White: 12:41 Black: 10:28 **14...Nd5 15.Bc1!** Now the problems with the knight on the d-file plus less space and still kingside attack issues, should cost Black, eventually, the game. **15...a6!?**



16.c4?! [16.Nd4 is a straightforward advantage, with a slight curveball after 16...c5 17.Nf5!] **16...axb5 17.cxd5 exd5 18.Qxb5 c5 19.Qxb7 d4! 20.Qb3?!** [20.a3 Rb8 21.Qf3 Qd7= will take a lot of untangling.] **20...Qc7** [20...Qd7!?] **21.Rfe1 Kh8?!** This gives White time to organize a break on b4 or e6. But note that Black has been taking a lot of time on every move, even the more-or-less forced ones; it's now: White: 4:43 Black: 2:37 [21...Qc6 again aiming at a4, continues to make White's progress difficult. 22.Qc4 *(22.Qc2 Qg6!)* 22...Qe6! when White pretty much has to trade: 23.Qxe6 fxe6 24.a3 Kf7! Again, White's extra pawn won't buy anything.] **22.Qc4** The threat of Rxd4 has Black giving up a bit more ground. **22...Rad8?**



[22...Qa7 or other queen moves] **23.b4!?** [23.b3! could well be better. White is able to arrange a4 without trouble on b3, and e5-e6 is still available. The computers make this a win.] **23...f6?** Doing White's work for him. [23...Qb6 24.bxc5 *(24.b5 Qe6!)* 24...Qxc5 25.Qd3 Qd5 still requires White to make something happen.] **24.e6!** [Stockfish makes 24.exf6! even better. But the psychological pressure of that passed pawn (and keeping Black without play) is never a bad idea. (And White is still comfortably within the winning range.)] White: 3:21 Black: **24...Rfe8 25.a4** [25.b5!] **25...Qc6 26.b5 Qd5 27.Qxd5 Rxd5** Black does get ...c4 in now, but when you add in the pawn on e6 and the tricks with Black getting mated on the bank rank, it's pretty bad. **28.Bf4?!** [28.b6! does work: 28...c4 29.Bb2 *(29.Bd2)*] **28...Bd6?** [28...c4; or better yet 28...g5 29.Bd2 c4 puts up some fight, although White should prevail.] **29.Bxd6 Rxd6 30.Rc1 Rd5 31.b6 d3** momentarily scary! But Tarjan has seen futther. **32.Red1** White: 0:45 Black: 0:43 **32...Rxe6 33.b7 Re8** [33...Rb6 34.Rb1] **34.Rb1?!** [34.a5! (still eyeing Pc5) is the sudden death kick.] **34...Rb8 35.a5 Rd6**



This has gotten critical! White: 0:31 Black: 0:18.5 **36.a6??** [36.Kf1! c4 37.Rdc1 d2 38.Rxc4!! d1Q+ 39.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 40.Ke2 Rdd8 41.a6 Kg8 42.Rc7] **36...Rxa6= 37.Rxd3**



37...Ra7?? [37...h5! 38.Rd5 *(38.Rd7 Rc6 39.Kf1 c4* is just fast enough to hold*)* 38...Rc6 39.Rxh5+ Kg8 and White would get R+3 v R+2, a theoretical draw but in practice...] **38.Rd7 h6 39.Rc7 c4 40.Rc8+** Tirantes won by resignation **1-0**

(4) Nicholas Weng (ninjaforce)(1934) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith)(2224) [B15]

MI November TNM Chess.com (2), 10.11.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3!? The Fanstasy Variation of the Caro-Kann. This is unusual as White has many other reasonable developing moves. Still, it guards the center and takes the game to unsual territory where the opponent probably doesn't remember the book lines. **3...g6** [Black has some other decent alternatives - 3...e6; 3...dxe4; 3...Qb6!?] **4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Be3 Qb6!? 6.Qd2!?** [6.a3!? Qxb2?? 7.Na4 would win the queen] **6...Qxb2 7.Rb1 Qa3 8.exd5 Nf6 9.Bc4** So pawns are back to even and the postion is messy. **9...0-0 10.Nge2 b5 11.Bb3 b4?!** Kyron is wanting to

win a pawn, but this gives away squares and keeps the black queen on a poor square. **12.Na4 Nxd5 13.Bh6 Ba6 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.h4** It makes sense to go for the attack with Black undevoloped and the queen offside. **15...Nd7 16.h5 N7f6?!** [16...Bxe2 17.Kxe2 e6 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.Qh6+ Kf6 looks risky but is a better defense] **17.hxg6 fxg6 18.Qh6+** [18.Nc5!] **18...Kh8 19.Ng3 Bc4?**



20.Nc5 [20.Ne4! Bxb3 21.axb3 Qa2 22.Rc1 Qa3 23.Nxf6 Nxf6 24.Ke2 would be a winning position as Black will lose his queen to Ral (24...Qa2 25. Qd2).] **20...Bxb3 21.axb3 Qa2?! 22.Kd2! Rg8 23.Ne6** White is back to a winning postion. **23...Nh5 24.Nxh5** [24.Ne4! is even better, but White is still winning] **24...gxh5 25.g4! Nf6 26.Qe3 Qa5 27.g5 Qf5** [27...Ne8 28.Rxh5 Ng7 29.Rxh7+! Kxh7 30.Rh1+ Kg6 31.Rh6+ Kf7 32.Nxg7 is a winning attack] **28.Rbg1** [28.gxf6 Rg2+ 29.Ke1 is a little messy though should still win] **28...Nd5 29.Qe4 Qxe4 30.fxe4 Nc3 31.Ke3 Rg6 32.Nf4**



Well played by Nicholas. Black is on the verge of collapse and Kyron decides to try something tricky. **32...e5!? 33.dxe5 Re8 34.Rxh5 Kg8 35.Nxg6 hxg6 36.Rh6 Kg7 37.Rg4 Rxe5 38.Rh2 a5 39.Kd4 Re8 40.Rf2 c5+ 41.Kc4 Nxe4 42.Rff4 Nc3 43.Kxc5! Rc8+ 44.Kb6 Nd5+ 45.Kb7 Rc7+ 46.Kb8 Rxc2 47.Rd4** Still we have a completely winning ending for White. The g5 pawn keeps the black king in a mating net against the two white rooks **47...Rc5 48.Rge4 Rb5+ 49.Kc8 Kf7 50.Re5??** [50.Kd8 Rb8+ 51.Kd7 would just be winning for White. Nicholas makes a blunder in extreme time trouble.] **50...Ne7+** KyronGriffith won on time. In fact Black now has a winning rook ending after 51. Rxe7+ Kxe7 as the g-pawn falls. Quite a comeback from Kyron, but certainly a tradgedy for Nicholas Weng. We expect good things from him to come! **0-1**

(5) Cailen Melville (Mangonel)(1711) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov)(2615) [E83]

MI November TNM Chess.com (1), 10.11.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 A fairly popular way to avoid the standard Gruenfeld lines, although it commits White to a Saemisch structure against the King's Indian. **3...Bg7** [Plenty of players still go for the Gruenfeld idea, but after 3...d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Black has to retreat the knight: 5...Nb6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 Still this has been wildly popular at the highest levels, including with Carlsen involved.] **4.e4 d6** [4...0-0 5.Nc3 Nc6!?] **5.Nc3 0-0 6.Nge2** [6.Be3 Nc6 *(6...a6 7.Qd2 Nc6* 0-1 (32) Muir,A (2285)-Ivanov,I (2500) Swansea 1987*)* 7.Nge2 0-1 (41) Valbuena Mota,A (2072)-Roa Alonso,S (2383) Galapagar 2005] **6...a6 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2**



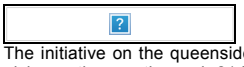
The main line of the Saemisch Panno, but now Black does something different. **8...Bd7!?** First seen at a high level almost 60 years a couple times by Taimanov against Polugaevsky and Petrosian. But he (Taimanov) had already played 8...Rb8, and later played that again as well. Everything was an experiment back then! [8...Na5!? was played in a game by Igor Ivanov, then was hardly seen for 18 years -- and then became quite popular. It's certainly worth a look! 9.Nc1 *(9.Nf4!? b5 10.h4!? Nd7 11.h5 e5 12.Nfd5 exd4 13.Bxd4 Ne5 14.hxg6 fxg6 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Rd1 Nac6 17.Be3 b4 18.Nb5 Rxa2 19.Bh6 Bxh6 20.Qxh6 Rf7 21.Qc1 Be6 22.f4 Bxd5 23.exd5 Qe7 24.Be2* 1-0 (48) Shankland,S (2671)-Patel,A (2410) Greensboro 2017*)* 9...e5 10.d5 c5 11.dxc6 bxc6 12.b4 Nb7 13.Nb3?! *(13.Be2* and just get castled*)* 13...a5 14.a3 Be6 15.Rd1 axb4 16.axb4 Nd7! 0-1 (32) Muir,A (2285) -Ivanov,I (2500) Swansea 1987; 8...Rb8 is the main line, which has been deeply investigated. The latest big thing is 9.Rc1!? , a positional approach, intending **a)** Past fads include 9.Nc1; **b)** 9.Rd1; **c)** 9.h4!? h5 10.Nc1 *(10.0-0-0; 10.Rc1!?)* 10...e5 11.d5 Nd4 12.Nb3 *(12.N1e2!?)* 12...Nxb3 13.axb3 is similar to the game, but the difference shows itself in Black's main move 13...c5; 9...Bd7 *(9...b5? 10.cxb5 axb5 11.Nxb5)* 10.Nd1 b5 Black players have fished around: *(10...Re8; 10...e6)* 11.c5 Obviously this is highly sophisticated maneuvering, but Black still isn't sure how to handle it.] **9.h4** White fires the first shot to soften up Black's king position. [The even more blunt 9.g4 has a minus score.; 9.Nc1 was the standard plan for a while; 9...Nh5!? (and 9...e5 was the straightforward response at first; 10.d5! left Black unhappy going either forward or back.*(10.Nb3)*) 10.Nb3?! Again this. *(10.N1e2!?; 10.d5!?)* 10...e5 *(10...a5 11.d5 Ne5 12.Be2 f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.f4 Ng4 15.Bxg4 fxg4 16.0-0 g3 17.h3 c5* 0-1 (37) Vovk,Y (2611)-Smirin,I (2658) Kishinev 2016*)* 11.d5 Ne7 12.0-0-0 f5 13.Kb1 b6 was a protracted draw by Guseinov a few years ago: 14.a3 Kh8 15.Bd3 Ng8 16.Nc1 Rf7 17.exf5 gxf5 18.N1e2 Nhf6 19.g3 Qf8 1/2-1/2 (62) Karthikeyan,P (2497)-Guseinov,G (2645) Porticcio 2017] **9...h5** [9...b5 10.h5 bxc4 *(10...e5* led to a friendly repetition: *11.Nd5 bxc4 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.d5 c3 14.Nxc3 Nd4 15.0-0-0 Qe7 16.Kb1 Rfb8 17.Ne2 Nb5 18.Nc3 Nd4 19.Ne2 Nb5 20.Nc3* 1/2-1/2 (20) Levitt, J (2455)-Lawton,G (2365) Southampton 1986*)* 11.hxg6 fxg6 12.Nf4 e6 13.Bxc4 d5 was a quick and early win by a very famou player: 0-1 (23) Andersson, B-Botvinnik,M Stockholm 1962] **10.Nc1**



[10.Rc1 was played against Bay Area youthful star Christopher Yoo, who got into trouble and lost: 10...Rb8 11.Nd1 b5 12.c5 The modern plan although usually without h4/ h5. 12...Re8 13.Nf2 e6 14.Bg5 e5 15.d5 Nd4 16.Nxd4 exd4 17.c6 Bc8 18.Be2 Re5 19.Nd3 Re7 20.Nf2 White offers a repetition here also, but Yoo avoids. 20...Qe8 21.Kf1 Re5 22.Nd3 Re7 23.Re1 Kh7 24.g3 Qh8 25.Kg2 Re8 26.Nf2 Kg8 27.Bd3 Nh7 28.Bf4 b4 29.a3 bxa3 30.bxa3 1-0 (45) Kelires,A (2508)-Yoo,C (2414) Heraklion 2019] **10...e5!** The standard opening combination **11.d5 Nd4 12.Nb3 Nxb3** [Another common sequence was the only other game here: 12...c5 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.Nxd4 exd4 15.Bxd4 Re8 Sometimes this blows up in White's center, but more usually Black can't quite get enough for the pawn. Here the higher rating prevailed: 16.Be2 Rb8 17.Rd1 Be6 18.0-0 c5 19.Be3 Nd7 20.f4?! Qxh4 0-1 (41) Valbuena Mota,A (2072)-Roa Alonso,S (2383) Galapagar 2005] **13.axb3 Nh7N** keeping an eye on g5 and, frankly out of the way. **14.b4 f5 15.c5** Both sides expand on the side where they have prospects. **15...Kh8** A sort of "wait and see" strategy -- but Guseinov is already envisaging the game's ultimate path. **16.Bd3 Qe7+/=**



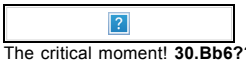
Black stands ready to go right or left depending on where White's king ends up. **17.cxd6?** Opening the c-file, but for whom? The possibility of c5-c6 was worth keeping as an option. [17.Ra5!? **17...cxd6=** It is hard to find a specific progress for White on the queenside. Stockfish pretty clearly doesn't know what to do for White (moving to and fro), and makes it the usual "0.00." **18.Na4?!**



The initiative on the queenside slips away -- while Black still has his kingside chances. [18.Ra3] **18...Bxa4! 19.Rxa4 Rac8?!** [19...Nf6!=/+ 20.Bg5 *(20.0-0 fxe4 21.fxe4 Qd7 22.b5 Ng4)* 20...Qd7 picks up time on the rook 21.Bxf6!? Rxf6 *(21...Qxa4?? 22.Qh6+)* 22.Ra3 Kh7 and Black's bishop is superior.] **20.b5** [20.Ra3 -c3] **20...axb5 21.Bxb5** [21.Rb4!? Ra8 22.Ke2!?] **21...Qf7?!** [21...fxe4 22.fxe4 Nf6 provokes White to trade on f6, when again the dark squared bishop finally emerges.] **22.0-0** [22.Bd3+/=] **22...f4!? 23.Bf2 Bf6** Black methodically prepares the opening of the g-file. **24.Rc1 Rxc1+?!** [24...g5!? 25.Rac4 Rxc4 26.Rxc4 gxh4] **25.Qxc1 g5 26.Rc4 gxh4 27.Rc7** White is getting something going. **27...Qg6**



White: 11:17 Black: 26:22 (Guseinov is hardly taking any time for the whole game!) **28.Bd7?!** Very sensible looking! But Black can stymie White. [28.Kh2!? Rg8 and now Stockfish likes 29.Qh1!!] **28...Rg8 29.Qf1** [29.Bh3? Ng5-+] **29...Qg7!**



The critical moment! **30.Bb6??** [30.Rxb7 h3 31.Ra7 appears to hold tight for White. 31...hxg2 *(31...Qxg2+ 32.Qxg2 Rxg2+ 33.Kf1 Rh2 34.Kg1 Rg2+=)* 32.Qe2 Ng5 looks scarey for White, but in fact there is no substantive threat: 33.Bf5 Qh6 34.b4 h4 35.Kxg2! Nxe4+ 36.Kh2 Ng3 37.Qd3] **30...Bd8!-+** Total collapse. **31.Rxb7 Bxb6+ 32.Kh1 h3! 33.g4 fxg3** (with over 25 minutes still on the clock!) **0-1**

(6) Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1801) - Kevin Fong (chessappeals) (1422) [E92]

Live Chess Chess.com, 10.11.2020

[de Firmian, Nick]

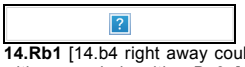
Before going into the annotations, Kristian Clemens sent us an email with the following comment regarding his game:

I spent three minutes on my 19th move, 19. c5, because I realized it would involve sacrificing a pawn, and as some old master once said, it can be harder to sacrifice a pawn than a queen. While I was trying to gather the courage to make the move, I remembered reading a great article on chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://chess.com/) by Greg Serper in which Serper remembered analyzing a game with his mentor Mikhail Botvinnik (https://www.chess.com/article/view/can-you-smell-chess-moves (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chess.com/article/view/can-you-smell-chess-moves)). The game featured was Kramnik-Kasparov, Linares 1994, and it made an impression on me, partially because it came from the opening I played yesterday against Kevin Fong, which I've played successfully for five years.

My favorite part of Kramnik's game was when he sacrificed a pawn with 30. Nc4! and 31. b5!, setting up a perfect light-square blockade. (I can't seem to paste a diagram, but here's the game: https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1070706 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1070706).) Botvinnik liked the idea a lot, comparing it to Capablanca's games, and I remembered the theme in my game, when I unapologetically copied it with 19. c5 and 23. Nc4. I felt a lot more brave knowing that one of my favorite players had played the same idea against the World Champion 26 years ago. While the computer didn't think much of my position (+0.04), I felt much more optimistic once I did it. It wasn't an original idea or a perfect game, and I crashed back to earth in Round 2, but I enjoyed being able to feel like a World Champion for five minutes during the TNM. The moral of the rambling story is- study the games of your heroes, and you might get to play like them... for one or two moves at least!

Enjoy!

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 The Petrosian System against the KIng's Indian. The late world champion would simply take the advantage in space with the advanced d-pawn. **7...a5 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 Na6 10.0-0 Qe8 11.Nd2 Nh7 12.a3 h5 13.f3 f5**



14.Rb1 [14.b4 right away could be good as Black cannot capture twice on b4 with the rook on a8 unprotected.] **14...f4** [14...Bh6 is a worthy alternative as Black seeks to get the bishop outside with pawn chain with ...Be3+] **15.b4 axb4 16.axb4 g5 17.Bf2 Nf6 18.h3?!** [18.c5! g4 19.cxd6 cxd6 20.Nc4 quickly starts the play on the queenside. White would have a clear edge.] **18...b6** [18...g4 right away starts the kingside action 19.hxg4 hxg4 20.fxg4 Qg6 is at least equal for Black.] **19.c5** Kristian breaks through at the cost of a pawn. It is a worthy sacrifice and takes Black's focus off of the kingside. The psychological impact is also important as chessappeals begins to think too defensively. [Interesting is 19.Ra1 as 19...Bd7?! 20.c5! Nxb4 21.Rxa8 Qxa8 22.c6 Bc8 23.Qb3 will win a piece] **19...bxc5 20.bxc5 Nxc5 21.Bxc5 dxc5 22.Nb5 Qe7 23.Nc4 Ba6?!** now the battle is only on the queenside where White has the edge. Black could keep equality by continuing with the plan - [23...g4! 24.d6 cxd6] **24.d6! cxd6 25.Nbxd6** The extra black c-pawn is not important for now. What is important is that White has a strong queenside initiative and Black has been held up on the kingside. It is much easier to play the white position as he has the tactical possibilities. **25...Rfd8**



26.Nf5! Qe6 [26...Rxd1 27.Nxe7+ Kf7 28.Rfxd1 Kxe7] **27.Qc2** A marvelous positon for White. The knight on f5 is very powerful and the light squares in the black camp are weak. **27...Rab8 28.Rfd1 Qc8??** a blunder under pressure [28...Rxd1+ 29.Rxd1 Bf8 30.Ra1 leaves Black suffering but keeps everything together for now] **29.Ne7+** kclemens won by resignation **1-0**

Current standings are below:

SwissSys Standings. November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tota
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2685	gguseinov	W23	W8					2.0
2	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2499	KyronGriffith	W13	W9					2.0
3	GM James Edwa Tarjan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)	10991820	2469	tirantes	W14	W10					2.0
4	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W20	W11					2.0
5	NM Arun Dixit (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14607904)	14607904	2199	Limelight2727	W16	W12					2.0
6	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W18	W17					2.0
7	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1664	LightningDragon8	B---	W22					2.0
8	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W24	L1					1.0
9	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1983	ninjaforce	W25	L2					1.0
10	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W26	L3					1.0
11	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1943	ashikuzzaman	W21	L4					1.0
12	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W19	L5					1.0
13	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1940	kondsaga	L2	W25					1.0
14	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1908	mwncklmann	L3	W24					1.0
15	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	H---					1.0
16	Nicholas Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	L5	W26					1.0
17	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	W22	L6					1.0
18	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	L6	W23					1.0
19	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1711	ahyanzaman	L12	B---					1.0
20	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1895	J3Chess24	L4	D21					0.5
21	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	L11	D20					0.5
22	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	etvat	L17	L7					0.0
23	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	L1	L18					0.0
24	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L8	L14					0.0
25	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	L9	L13					0.0
26	Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1753	1-h4-1-0	L10	L16					0.0

SwissSys Standings. November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online: u1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tota
1	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1724	pgstar3	W19	W9					2.0
2	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	W11	W10			H---	H---	2.0
3	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1409	pranavpradeep2006	W14	W15					2.0
4	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	811	Sebbymeister	W8	W7					2.0
5	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1545	programmingmax	W12	D6					1.5
6	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1180	sfdeals	W21	D5					1.5
7	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1519	rimus11	W13	L4					1.0
8	Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)	17310102	1365	MrL0cust	L4	W16					1.0
9	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	W18	L1					1.0
10	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1347	chesspoki	W20	L2					1.0
11	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	L2	W17					1.0
	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?										

12	17079795)	17079795	1057	andrewaballantyne	L5	W21						1.0
13	Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)	17179258	1043	JeffNorthSF	L7	W20						1.0
14	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	870	Bruce_Hedman	L3	W19						1.0
15	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	B---	L3						1.0
16	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	D17	L8						0.5
17	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	930	adichi	D16	L11						0.5
18	Samuel Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	16380615	662	comfyqueso	L9	H---	H---	H---				0.5
19	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1161	kevin_mx_sun	L1	L14						0.0
20	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	30055583	unr.	night_breeze	L10	L13						0.0
21	Nate Andaya (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30054738)	30054738	unr.	nathaniei	L6	L12						0.0

SwissSys Standings. November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	W2						1.0
2	Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)	14708926	827	JuditSztaray	L1						0.0

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Marathon Report

The Mechanics' Institute has started a brand new chapter in it's history with the establishment of the Thursday Night Marathon Online (ThNM). This event differs from the Tuesday Night Marathon in that it has a longer time control (G/60+5) and is one game per week. Games are manually paired on Chess.com and are USCF rated.

The idea behind this event is that long-term, it will continue to be an online Mechanics' marathon after live play returns, and the Tuesday Night Marathon will resume live at Mechanics'. The Thursday marathon will be an online option for players that will continue on.

We based the prize pool for the event on 20 players, considering it was a brand new event. A whopping 36 players have registered so far, here are the current standings after round 1.

SwissSys Standings. Thursday Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	To
1	Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W23					1.
2	Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W24					1.
3	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2186	microbear	W25					1.
4	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	15424820	2084	chesspilot01	W26					1.
5	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W27					1.
6	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W28					1.
7	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W29	H--				1.
8	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	knvsback	W30					1.
9	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	W31					1.
10	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W34					1.
11	Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1753	1-h4-1-0	W32					1.
12	Timothy Horng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13282721)	13282721	1730	aYzz	W33					1.

13	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	11296106	1643	zenwabi	W36			1.
14	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	X--			1.
15	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	Kaline340Green	W35			1.
16	Robert H Frank (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10498325)	10498325	1200	cyber-droid	X22			1.
17	Danny Du Uy Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	863	caodanny	X--			1.
18	Richard W Koepcke (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10493269)	10493269	2200	rkoepcke	H--			0.
19	Marc H Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	H--			0.
20	Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)	12693378	595	rahimftd	H--	H--	-	0.
21	Willia Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)	17048414	537	OlympusMons00	H--			0.
22	Mohammad Amir Ali (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30029248)	30029248	1565	Deshbondhu	F16			0.
23	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1545	programmingmax	L1			0.
24	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L2			0.
25	Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	17350313	1475	draidus	L3			0.
26	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1434	jacobchess857	L4			0.
27	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1428	noydan100	L5			0.
28	Andrew Nicho Paul (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14232850)	14232850	1385	chessplayer3740	L6			0.
29	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L7			0.
30	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1347	chesspoki	L8			0.
31	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	16897133	1238	pjkrizzle	L9			0.
32	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1180	sfdeals	L11			0.
33	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	L12			0.
34	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	870	Bruce_Hedman	L10			0.
35	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	L15			0.

36	B J Day (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12586048)	12586048	unr.	mrbillstunes1	L13	0.



Chess.com Club's League Week 1 Report

The Chess.com club's league got off to a great start for Mechanics' as we defeated Rio Grande Valley Rising Stars 1.5-.5 to take the full point. We won the rapid portion of the match 19-5 in which each player played two games against the same opponent with a time control of G/15+2, and drew the blitz portion 11-11, games with a G/3+2 time control. We would have won both matches, put the author of this report (Abel) missed a mate in 2 and proceeded to lose the final game of the round. Thankfully my teammates picked me up to get the tie, and therefore, the full point for the match.

We had a strong turnout of player for Mechanics', as GM Jim Tarjan, IM Elliott Winslow, FM Kyron Griffith, NM Mike Sailor, and NM Mike Walder led the charge.

We next face Chess Kids Nation, a strong team out of Florida this Saturday starting at 9:30am. For more information including the links for the match, please follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/online-leagues (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/online-leagues)

Results from last week can be found here:

https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/300397 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/300397)
https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/300399 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/300399)

In the Streamer Battle League week 4, we faced off against ChessDojo. The match ended in a draw 1.5-1.5, as we forfeited the lower section (u/1400) because of no players, won the middle section (1400-1799) by a score of 4-2, and then drew the top section (1800+) 4-4, led by FM Kyron Griffith's 2 wins and a final game win by NM Mike Sailor that sealed the tie. Great job Mechanics'!

Match results are here:
1800+: https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/300441 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/300441)
1400-1799: https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/300440 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1/300440)

This week we will get a full point BYE and resume the following week.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Support the Mechanics' Institute and

Save Big in the Process!

Join the Mechanics' Institute, and realize savings on our events and classes while supporting our mission to provide a center for cultural and intellectual advanncement

We are doing a membership drive through the end of the year for new members and to encourage current members to renew.

$120/year for a regular membership
$65/year for a student membership
You will save big if you are a regular participant in our tournaments and/or classes!

Here are some of our registration costs and savings
you can achieve with membership:

Tuesday Night Marathon: $30 member, $50 non-member registration fee
Weekend USCF rated events: $20 member, $40 non-member registration fee
Basically, your membership pays for itself if you attend just six tournaments, classes, or other chess events per year!

Plus you get everything that a Mechanics' Institute membership offers.

Benefits of Mechanics' Institute Membership

- Discount on most chess events or classes.
- Full use of the Library and its services, including online databases, ebooks, and more!
- Free or reduced admission to cultural events, programs, classes, and book groups.
- Access to the Chess Room and its tournaments and classes.
- WiFi access throughout the Library, Chess Room, and 4th floor meeting room.
- Membership access at other membership (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)libraries. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)

Join Mechanics' at: https://www.milibrary.org/join (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/join)
Please forward this information to others who might be interested in joining.
Please enter chess in the referred by column and check off chess as a general interest.

Any questions? Please contact us at chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org).

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 11/17: https://www.chess.com/live#r=613342
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chess.com/live#r=613342)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Thursdays 5:00pm-6:00pm, 11/19: https://www.chess.com/live#r=613344
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chess.com/live#r=613344)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe

Casual meeting to talk about chess, life and everything. Join 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead as they give a lecture and class in a fun casual atmosphere where you can discuss games, learn strategy, discuss chess current events and interact in a fun casual atmosphere. Enter our Monday chess café for the pure love of the game. Class suitable for ALL level of players and FREE for MI members.

FREE for Mechanics' members. $5 for non-members.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - The Art of Attack in Chess by FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates: 11/16 through 12/21 (6 classes)

Learn to attack the king in this six-week class using Vladimir Vukovic's book, The Art of Attack in Chess (1963 revised 1993 by GM John Nunn), as our text.
We will take lessons from chapters such as "The classic bishop sacrifice", "The attack against the uncastled king", "Focal-points" and "The attack on the king as an integral part of the game".
Vukovic also talks about mating patterns, defense, and much more.
Join us in an investigation into one of the greatest chess books ever written, a classic enjoyed by chess players around the world.

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

Ongoing starting from November 18

Are you an adult who wants to put learning chess on top of your New Year's resolution! Get a head start with us at the Mechanics' Institute! This virtual class is open to any MI member who has no knowledge of the game or who knows the very basics and wants to improve. Taught by MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez along with Judit Sztaray and other MI staff, we will patiently walk through all the basics at a pace suitable for our class. Our goal is to teach piece movement basics, checkmate patterns, importance of development, and general strategy. We will also show students how to play online so they may practice. The goal of the class is to open a new world of fun and joy through the magic and beauty of chess, from one of the oldest and proudest chess clubs in the world.

Registration: Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembers
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembers)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, November 14: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133401
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=133401)

Sunday, November 15: starts at 2:00PM - join from 1:45PM

8SS G/5+2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentNov15SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentNov15SUN)

Monday, November 16: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=144999 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=144999)

Tuesday, November 17: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=145000 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=145000)

Wednesday, November 18: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=145001 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=145001)

Thursday, November 19: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=145002 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=145002)

Friday, November 20: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=145003 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=145003)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments Every Week!

Next one: November 15, @2PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rating only (not over-the-board)
Every player must be a US Chess member.
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening.

Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered:

NEW Class: Get Those Chess Boards Out! – Tuesdays 4-5PM
As parents, many of us now see kids staring at a screen for hours during the school day. We understand having another online class may not be so exciting. What if we are able to offer a class for beginners where they can feel and interact with the pieces to capture an important part of the early learning experience? That's why we are introducing a new class for our young, beginner players!
Let's get those chess boards out and use it during the class!
Coach Colin will interact with the players via zoom, but they will talk, use the chess board, set it up and set up different positions, and learn and play on a physical board. No shared screen during the class! It's all interactive, using physical chess pieces! **Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/get-those-chess-boards-out) for more information.**

Starting at Chess – Mondays 3-4PM
This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be

applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players -- Tuesdays 3-4PM or Thursdays 4-5PM
This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess – Thursdays 5-6PM
This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class. Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

11/17 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)
Start at 6:30PM

11/19 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot)
Start at 6:30PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Chessmonster666: back in the house.

You can call me the sacrificial lamb; you can call me the house pro - you can even call me to dinner - I am chessmonster666 and I take on ALL comers: large and small. I can be found playing online one half-hour before the start of the Tuesday Night Marathon, from 5pm to 6pm.

We live-stream this spectacle on our twitch channel: twitch.tv/mechanicschess and the games are played on chess.com.

It's called the Paul Whitehead Arena, and even if I'm not sure of all the rules (how does one accept a draw?) I know this: I'm out for blood and I take no prisoners.

The time control is a fast 3 minutes a side with a 2 second increment, and MI Chess Room Director Abel Talamantez is on Zoom with me, distracting me, talking about this and that: I do believe he's actually rooting for the MI club players (who make up the majority of my opponents).

Can you believe it?

I know those folks; they are my people too. But I have a job to do, and my job is to show them who's boss: I'm putting my money where my mouth is, so to speak. After all, week after week, I'm commenting on their games, criticizing their moves – all from the safety of the "broadcast booth".

I can tell, even over the Net, that they want revenge!

We've had a bunch of these Arenas now, I usually get in 8 to 10 games or so, and I have a pretty good percentage. I find these games sort of fall into the "Master vs Amateur" category: I'm less prone to blunders, take advantage of errors with more consistency, play various positions with greater familiarity.

Below are a sampling, with very light notes. I'm fond of making up little stories about chess games, retelling in a few words what transpired over the board, and that I've done as well.

So, if you leave your house one day to take a stroll in the dark, dark forest, watch out: Chessmonster666 may be lurking under a bridge, behind a tree, or in a cave: ready to spring out and getcha!

(1) MikeSailer (2116) - chessmonster666 (2248) [A48]

Live Chess Chess.com, 20.10.2020

[Whitehead,Paul]

Storyline: The Black king survives in the center, the Black Queen sneaks in for a checkmate. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 d6 4.e3** [If I was white I would prefer 4.h3 here, providing an easy retreat for the bishop on f4.] **4...Nh5 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 g5 7.Nfd2 Nf6 8.Bg3 Bg7 9.h3 e6 10.Bd3 b6 11.c4 Bb7 12.Nf3 Ne4 13.Bh2 Nd7 14.Nbd2 f5 15.Qc2 Ndf6**



Black has a nice, active position.**16.a4 a5 17.c5 bxc5 18.Bb5+ Ke7 19.0-0 g4 20.hxg4 Nxg4 21.Bf4 Nxd2 22.Nxd2 cxd4 23.exd4 Bxd4 24.Rae1 Kf6!?**



This is a bit too much. [24...Ne5 was better.] **25.Qc4** [Interesting was 25.Rxe6+ Kxe6 26.Qc4+ followed by 27.Qxd4.] **25...Be5 26.Bxe5+ dxe5 27.f3?** [27.Nb3] **27...Qxd2 28.fxg4 Qxg2#**



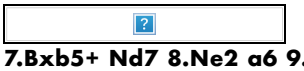
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(2) chessmonster666 (2256) - django_49 (1562) [B00]

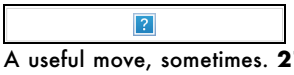
Live Chess Chess.com, 20.10.2020

[Whitehead,Paul]

Storyline: Black gives away a few pawns, and gets chased all over the board by White's energetic play. **1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nd2 c5 4.d5 d6 5.a4 e5 6.a5 b5?**



7.Bxb5+ Nd7 8.Ne2 a6 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.Nc4 Rb8 11.f4 Nf6 12.Nc3 Be7? Inexplicably hanging another pawn. **13.fxe5 dxe5 14.Nxe5 Qc8 15.Nc4 0-0 16.0-0 Ba8 17.Nb6 Qb7 18.Bf4 Rbe8 19.Qd3 Bd8 20.Nxa8 Qxa8 21.h3**



A useful move, sometimes. **21...Nd7 22.Qg3 Nf6 23.Bh6 Nh5 24.Qg4 Re5 25.Rf5 Rxf5 26.exf5 g6 27.Bxf8 Kxf8 28.fxg6 hxg6 29.Rf1 Qb7 30.Qxg6 Ng7 31.Qh7 Ne8 32.Qh8+ Ke7 33.Qe5+ Kd7 34.Rxf7+**



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(3) axel340 (1815) - chessmonster666 (2255) [A04]

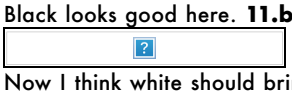
Live Chess Chess.com, 20.10.2020

[Whitehead,Paul]

Storyline: White bails out with a Queen trade and a lost pawn, but the Black Knights corral the White King. **1.Nf3 d6 2.g3 e5 3.d3 f5 4.e4 Nf6 5.exf5 Bxf5 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c3 Qd7 9.d4 e4 10.Nfd2 d5**



Black looks good here. **11.b4 Bh3 12.a4 h5 13.f3 h4 14.Bxh3 Qxh3 15.g4 exf3 16.Qxf3 Qxg4+ 17.Qxg4 Nxg4 18.a5 Kd7 19.b5 Nd8**



Now I think white should bring his pieces into the center. Instead, he bunches them up on the queenside... **20.Ba3 Bf6 21.Nb3 b6 22.Bb4 Ne6 23.N1d2 Ne3 24.Rf3 Nc2 25.Ra4? Rh6 26.axb6 cxb6 27.Na1** Going through major contortions to avoid losing another pawn... **27...Rg6+ 28.Kh1 Ng5 29.Rf2 Ne3 30.Nf3 Ne4 31.Re2 Nd1!** A sneaky attack! **32.Ne5+ Bxe5 33.dxe5 Ndf2+ 34.Rxf2 Nxf2#**



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(4) youngmorphy84 (1498) - chessmonster666 (2294) [B22]

Live Chess Chess.com, 27.10.2020

[Whitehead,Paul]

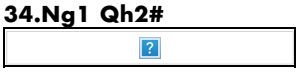
Storyline: The loss of 3 pawns proves to be too much, and White's Queenside action meets Black's Kingside response. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4 Bd6 6.Bb5+ Nc6 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Re1 0-0 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bh4 c4 11.Ba4 Nf5 12.Bg3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Bg4 14.Nbd2 Qd7 15.Qc2 Bf5 16.Qd1 Rfe8 17.Re3?**



[A blunder. 17.Nf1 intending 18.Ne3, when black is marginally beter.] **17...Rxe3 18.fxe3 Bxg3 19.Bc2 Re8 20.Ba4 a6 21.b4 Bc7 22.b5 axb5 23.Bxb5 Rxe3 24.a4 Rxc3 25.a5 Qe8 26.Qa4 Bd7 27.a6 bxa6 28.Qxa6 g5!**



Deciding on an active course. **29.Qb7** [29.Re1 can be met by 29...Re3] **29...Qe3+ 30.Kh1 Qf4 31.Ra8+ Kg7 32.Bxc6 Rc1+ 33.Nf1 Rxf1+ 34.Ng1 Qh2#**



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GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Blitz and Bullet

The big story in the chess world these days is of course the "Queen's Gambit" series, which has given chess more mainstream attention than it's had in years.

Its fictional lead character strikes an appeal with the general public which likes to believe that one can simply have a great natural talent that conquers years of hard work from the world's best players. Oh well, it's fun to think that (in my personal experience all the best players were hard workers at chess and dedicated for many years).

Back in the world of reality we have the world's top chess players in a battle of speed, where 5 min games are the slow games, 3 min is average and 1 min (bullet chess) is the fast games. This chess.com 16 player knockout tournament has most of the best players in the world, including Magnus Carlsen, Wesley So, Nakamura, Vachier-Lagrave, Firouzja, Nepomniachtchi, Aronian and Fabiano Caruana. The first round is soon to finish with the favorites advancing, but we will have chess entertainment from this tournament for a while.

(1) Maghsoodloo,Parham - Carlsen,Magnus [C67]

10.11.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8



This is the famous Berlin Defense endgame, which Kramnik used to draw against Kasparov every time with Black in their World Championship match. Magnus plays it but figures it's an endgame and thus he will win in the end. In truth the play is very complicated and will offer winning chances to both sides. **9.h3 h6 10.Nc3 Bd7 11.Ne2 c5 12.Rd1 Kc8 13.Nf4 Bc6 14.Nd5 b6 15.c4 Kb7 16.Bf4 Rd8 17.Rd2?!** Looks logical to double rooks on the d-line, yet Magnus takes the opportunity to drive the white bishop out of play for a while. **17...g5! 18.Bh2 Ng7 19.Rad1 Ne6 20.g4 Bg7 21.Bg3 Rd7 22.h4 Rhd8 23.b3 b5** Play is complicated with tactical possibilities. Black stands better as the light-squared bishop is a potent force. **24.Kf1 a5 25.Ke2 a4 26.Ke3 axb3 27.axb3 Ra8 28.hxg5 Ra3! 29.Rd3 hxg5 30.Nd2 bxc4** [30...Nd4 is probably even better, but remember this is a blitz game. What is so impressive is that Magnus is playing at grandmaster level for a normal tournament game.] **31.Nxc4 Ra8**

32.Nf6 Rd4! pawns are still even and White is holding on, but he is experiancing the Magnus squeeze. **33.f3 Ra2 34.R1d2 Ra1 35.Rxd4?** Feeling the pressure, White "does" something as he has to make a move. Now though the black pawns get straightened out and the black bishops come to life. **35...cxd4+ 36.Kf2**



36...Bf8! with the dark-squared bishop joining the attack there is no good defense for White. **37.Nb2 Bb4 38.Rc2 Ra2** a nasty pin **39.Re2 Ra3** winning a pawn. Now Black has an easily winning game. **40.Nc4 Rxb3 41.Ne4 Bd5 42.Rc2 d3 43.Rc1 Bxe4 44.fxe4 d2 45.Rd1 Rd3 46.Kg2 Nc5 47.Bf2 Nxe4 48.Be3 Kc6 49.Kf3 Kd5 50.Nb2 Rb3** Maghsoodloo resigns. A very impressive performance by the champion, playing blitz chess at high tournament level. *

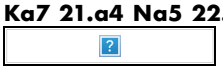
(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Maghsoodloo,Parham [A00]

10.11.2020

I can't resist showing this game, which is one of the bullet games (1 min each). Chess wise it's not so interesting, but it shows you what even the top players will do in bullet chess. The most important thing there is not to blunder, and if you can get your opponent to stop and think - well that's the end because they just run out of time. So I hope readers enjoy the highly unusual moves by the champion and his opponent. **1.c3 c6 2.f3** This is supposed to be the worst move on the board, but Magnus is just trying to have fun and be provacative. **2...f6** Why not? The World Champion did this, Parham thinks he can too. **3.Kf2 Kf7 4.Ke3 Ke6**



5.Kf2 Kd6 6.Ke3 Kc7 7.Kd3 Ok, it's silly. Still Magnus is fully intent on winning the game. **7...Qe8 8.Kc2 d6 9.Qe1 e6 10.Kd1 Ne7 11.Na3 Nd7 12.Nc2 Nb6 13.d3 Bd7 14.Bd2 Nbc8 15.Kc1 c5 16.Kb1 Nc6 17.e4** Now the players start to play seriously and develop their pieces and move pawns to control the center. At least they spent little time on the clock to get to this odd position. **17...Kb8 18.Ne2 Nb6 19.d4 a6 20.Ne3 Ka7 21.a4 Na5 22.b4 Nb3**



23.a5 Na4 24.Ra3 Nxd2+ 25.Qxd2 cxb4 26.cxb4 Rc8 27.d5! even in bullet chess Magnus has his postional sense. This takes space, locks in Black's dark-squared bishop and thus keeps the h8 rook from coming to play for a while. **27...exd5?! 28.Nxd5 f5 29.Qd4+?!** [29.Nec3!] **29...Kb8 30.Nec3 fxe4 31.Nxe4 Bc6?!** [31...Qe5! challenges the powerful white queen] **32.Bc4 Qg6 33.g3 h5 34.h4 Qf5 35.Rd1 Rh6 36.Bb3?!**



36...Nc5? moving the attacked knight. Black had to enter the tactical line [36...Qxf3! 37.Rd3 Qh1+ 38.Rd1 Qf3 which is about even. Easy to say with 15 seconds on your clock.] **37.bxc5 dxc5 38.Qe3 c4 39.Bxc4 Bxa3 40.Qxa3** Two pieces for the rook and active play is very nice for White. **40...Rd8 41.Qd3 Re6 42.Kb2 Re5 43.Nec3! Qf8 44.f4 Ree8 45.Qd4 Qd6 46.Bb3 Qg6 47.Qb6 Qxg3**



48.Nb4! Qg2+ 49.Ka3 Rxd1 50.Nxa6+ Ka8 51.Nc7+ Kb8 52.Bxd1? [52.Nxd1 is just over] **52...Re1?** [52...Qd2! might get an undeserved draw (if there is such a thing as undeserved in chess)] **53.a6** Ouch. Maghsoodloo lost here as the pawn queens with check in two moves. So Magnus won the match 24-5 and advanced to the round of 8. *

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305163822/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #944

November 21, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Thanksgiving Message
- Mechanics' TNM Report
- Mechanics' Thursday Night Marathon Report
- FIDE Trainer Seminar
- Mechanics' League Play
- Dr. Alexey Root
- Become a Mechanics' Institute Member
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Pacific Regional Grade Level
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Thanksgiving Message from Chess Department

All of us in the chess department of the Mechanics' Institute would like to first and foremost take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the support, encouragement, engagement, and participation in all our activities this year. Under these very difficult circumstances, we have sought above all to provide quality programming in the hopes of keeping our community together and actively engaged in an activity we all love. It has been a great pleasure to see so many familiar faces online, and see the growth in new members participating. With your support, we have been able to expand our class offerings, keep providing quality online events, continued our stream which really helps bring us all together and visible, and we have been entrusted to organize national championship events, making the Mechanics' Institute and San Francisco, a true chess hub in the United States. We hope 2021 will evolve into one of our best years, one of hope, one of community, and one that guides the Mechanics' Institute in continuing its storied chess history, which is 166 years running.

From all of us in the chess department, thank you for being active and for playing and learning with us. We are all here for each other, and we look forward to seeing the sun rise to a new day in chess in the coming year.

Mechanics' Institute Chess Team

Mechanics' Institute November Tuesday Night Marathon Report

The November Tuesday Night Marathon Rounds 3&4 are in the books, with two players emerging in a tie for the lead in the top section. GM Gadir Guseinov and FM Kyron Griffith won their 3rd round games and faced off against each other in round 4. Their game ended in a draw, but the post game analysis between the two players in the game chat was quite interesting. Kyron was gracious enough to annotate his game for us based on the discussion in theri chat, and it is provided in the games analysis, along with GM Nick de Firmian's annotation of the game. Both players lead the top section with 3.5/4.

What was unfortunate was the very anticipated match between GM Jim Tarjan and NM Mike Walder in round 3. Internet issues plagued Tarjan in Oregon, and after a few moves, Walder graciously offered a draw in a show of sportsmanship. Tarjan received a half point bye for round 4. 6 players are at 3/4, including Tarjan.

In the u/1800 section, Phillip Gerstoft and Pranav Pradeep are tied for the lead at 3.5/4, with 3 other players at 3/4.

Here are the current standings after 4 rounds

Standings after Round 4

SwissSys Report: November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online

SwissSys Standings. November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2685	gguseinov	W26	W11	W
2	Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2499	KyronGriffith	W21	W6	W
3	GM James Edwa Tarjan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)	10991820	2469	tirantes	W15	W13	D5
4	Arun Dixit (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14607904)	14607904	2199	Limelight2727	W22	W14	L2
5	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W23	W16	D3
6	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1983	ninjaforce	W27	L2	W
7	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1943	ashikuzzaman	W17	L9	W
8	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1664	LightningDragon8	B---	W19	L1
9	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W10	W7	L1
10	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1895	J3Chess24	L9	D17	W
11	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W24	L1	W
12	Tejas Mahesh (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15086558)	15086558	1988	ChessTX9	H---	H---	L1
13	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W25	L3	W
14	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W18	L4	W
15	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1908	mwncklmann	L3	W24	W
16	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	W19	L5	L7
17	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	L7	D10	D
18	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1711	ahyanzaman	L14	B---	L1
19	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	etvat	L16	L8	D
20	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	H---	H-
21	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1940	kondsaga	L2	W27	L1
22	Nicholas Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	15088356	1883	nicarmt	L4	W25	L6

	15088356)							
23	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	L5	W26	L1	
24	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L11	L15	D2	
25	Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1753	1-h4-1-0	L13	L22	W	
26	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	L1	L23	L2	
27	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	L6	L21	D2	

SwissSys Standings. November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online: u1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1724	pgstar3	W12	W7	D2
2	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1409	pranavpradeep2006	W9	W13	D1
3	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	W4	W18	L5
4	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	L3	W16	W19
5	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	811	Sebbymeister	W11	W17	W3
6	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1545	programmingmax	W19	D8	W17
7	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	W21	L1	D9
8	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1180	sfdeals	W14	D6	W10
9	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	870	Bruce_Hedman	L2	W12	D7
10	Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)	17168772	1490	Evariel	H---	H---	L8
11	Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)	17310102	1365	MrL0cust	L5	W15	W20
12	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1161	kevin_mx_sun	L1	L9	B---
13	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	B---	L2	W15
14	Nate Andaya (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30054738)	30054738	unr.	nathaniei	L8	L19	W22
15	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	D16	L11	L13
16	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	930	adichi	D15	L4	W21
17	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1519	rimus11	W20	L5	L6
18	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	16412414	1347	chesspoki	W22	L3	U---

	16412414)						
19	**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	17079795	1057	andrewaballantyne	L6	W14	L4
20	**Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)**	17179258	1043	JeffNorthSF	L17	W22	L11
21	**Samuel Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)**	16380615	662	comfyqueso	L7	H---	L16
22	**Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)**	30055583	unr.	night_breeze	L18	L20	L14

SwissSys Standings. November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6
1	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	W2					
2	**Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	14708926	827	JuditSztaray	L1					

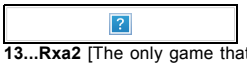
Here are some games from Tuesday night, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian. Included as the final game is FM Kyron Griffith's annotation of his game against GM Guseinov.

(6) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2045) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2637) [E91]

Mechanics' Nov TNM Chess.com (3.1), 18.11.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 Bg4 To call this Guseinov's "pet line" is an understatement -- he has over sixty games in the databases, thus slightly edging out Beat Zueger's 60 for the superfan award. It does take the game far away from the electrified madness of the Mar Del Plata and Bayonet variations, and thus has attracted some devotees. **7.Be3 Nfd7** and this: 55 times. **8.Rc1** [8.d5!? Avrukh has two wins against Guseinov with this, avoiding Rc1.] **8...a6!?** One annotator dubbed this the 'Azeri' move, for how many of that country's players major it in their repertoire. [8...e5 is the older move;; Gadir has played 8...c5 in four of the ten games after 8.Rc1 with no seeming preference otherwise.] **9.b4!?** [Half his games (3) here went 9.d5 c5 (to stop 10.Nd4), with a win and two draws.] **9...c5** Black took his first think of the game choosing -- [9...a5!? has been the other move, with adequate results -- but Guseinov has only played the text (two games).] **10.bxc5 dxc5 11.d5 b5 12.cxb5** [12.0-0 Qa5 13.Qb3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 bxc4 15.Qb7 Nb6 16.Na4 Qxa4 17.Qxb6 c3 18.Qxc5 Re8 saw Black making the most of that huge asset, the pawn at c3; 0-1 (43) Chuchelov,V (2592)-Guseinov, G (2505) Istanbul 2003] **12...axb5 13.Nxb5**



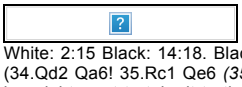
13...Rxa2 [The only game that made it here went 13...Qa5+ 14.Bd2 Qa4? *(14...Qxa2 15.0-0* when Avrukh shows some advantage for White*)* 15.a3! Qxe4 16.Rc4 Qf5 17.Rf4 Qh5 18.h3 Bxf3 19.Rxf3 Qxd5 20.Nc7 and White cashed the Exchange for pawn game: 1-0 (60) Volkov,S (2634)-Guseinov, G (2573) Warsaw 2005 [Avrukh,B]] **14.0-0 Qa5** Avrukh hints in his notes to the above game that this might be Black's best chance for salvation, but his knights still have trouble finding action. **15.h3! Bxf3 16.gxf3** Now White hs the two bishops and a strengthened center, but the weakening of the king's defense comes back to bite him in a few moves. **16...Na6?!** [16...Rb2!? 17.Ra1 Qb6 18.Na3! heading for c4] **17.Na7!** As noted by Avrukh in another position -- c6 is a pretty nice outpost if White can get it. [17.f4! is about as good, though.] **17...Ndb8 18.Bxa6** [18.f4! here, too] **18...Qxa6 19.Bxc5** White is up a pawn, but gives it back, overlooking something. **19...Be5** White: 19:57 Black: 23:14



20.Nc6? Played too quickly! Dreaming of somehow taking on e7 and marching the d-pawn, but there won't be a d-pawn after... [20.Be3! Qf6 21.Nc6 was the way to do it, with a clear plus if not a won game already.] **20...Nxc6 21.dxc6 Qxc6 22.Qd5** White used almost half his remaining time to work out, incorrectly, what would happen after [22.Bxe7 -- it wasn't as bad as it looks after 22...Qe6 if White notices 23.f4! (everything else is crushed by . ..Qxh3 and mate) 23...Qxe7 (23...Bxf4 24.Qf3! A couple of only moves by White and a draw is in sight. 24...Re8 *(24...Bxc1 25.Bxf8)* 25.Qxf4 Rxe7 26.Kg2! Qxe4+ 27.Qxe4 Rxe4 28.Ra1 That is, in sight if the 2278 player can hold R+2 v R+3 vs. the 2665 former European Under-10 champion and Olympic gold medalist.)] **22...Qf6!=/+** Life remains rough in spite of the limited field -- the aforementioned kingside weakness! **23.Be3** [23.Qxa2?? Qg5+ 24.Kh1 Qf4 and mate!] **23...Ra3 24.Kg2 Rfa8?!** Stockfish is starting to show "0.00" (dead draw), but of course White didn't know that during the game -- nor did he have time to get his bearings. [24...Bf4!?=/+ 25.Rc6 e6 26.Qc5 keeps it together or tries to.] **25.Rc5** Black has nothing now **25...Bf4 26.Rfc1?!** [26.Rc6 Qh4 27.Bd4= 0s across the list.] **26...Bxe3 27.fxe3**



27...Qa6? [27...h5!-/+ /=/+ -- Certainly Black keeps things going.] **28.Qd2?** [28.Qd4! appears to cause Black enough trouble --; But a player with over four minutes might have noticed 28.Qxa8+! Qxa8 29.Rc8+ Qxc8 30.Rxc8+ Kg7 31.Kf2 when Black's winning chances are not nonexistent, but White should hang on.] **28...h5** [28...Rd3! 29.Rc8+ Rxc8 30.Rxc8+ Kg7! 31.Qb2+ f6 Black might still work some Q+R magic.] **29.f4?** [29.Rc6 is a candidate for the draw;; 29.Kg3 also. But nothing is easy at this point.] **29...Rd3 30.Qe2 Qa3 31.Kf3** [31.Rc8+ Rxc8 32.Rxc8+ Kh7 33.Kf2 Qd6 34.Rc2 Kg7 Maybe White can hold this, but it's very uncomfortable.] **31...Kh7!**



White: 2:15 Black: 14:18. Black lets White panic, which he does. **32.f5?** [32.Rc8 Rxc8 33.Rxc8 Rb3 continues to "massage" White, when combined with time shortage will be good. 34.Rc2 (34.Qd2 Qa6! 35.Rc1 Qe6 *(35...Rd3)*)] **32...Rad8 33.fxg6+ fxg6** White just handed Black the f-file! But after the next it is moot. **34.Kg2?? Rd2** Guseinov's pet line comes through again! But he might want to take it to the shop, as the opening was bumpy. Next round it will be Guseinov vs. Kyron Griffith, one of the star matchups, with GM James Tarjan and Mike Walder a half point behind. **0-1**

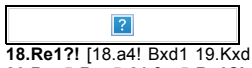
(1) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2226) - NM Arun Dixit (Limelight2727) (2028) [B27]

Mechanics' Nov TNM Chess.com, 18.11.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 The Accelerated Dragon is an opening much favored by former MI Chess Director John Donaldson. Here 5. c4 heads to a positional game where white has some space advantage, but Kyron plays for more active possibilities. **5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5** taking the game to a postition that was well investigated 40 years ago but may now be littled remembered **8...Nd5** This is the classic older move in this variation, not backing down. Yet the subtle [8...Ng8! may well be an easier way to equality] **9.Nxd5 cxd5 10.Qxd5 Rb8 11.0-0-0!** This brave way to guard the b2 pawn seems to give White some edge. **11...Qc7?!** [11...Bb7 12.Qc5 0-0 13.c3 Be4 gives some compensation for the pawn] **12.f4**

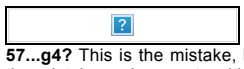
[12.Bd4! seems to be a strong neutalizing move which contests the power of Black's Dragon bishop and asks what does black have for the pawn. 12...Bb7 *(12...0-0 13.b3)* 13.Qc4 Qxc4 14.Bxc4 Bxg2 15.Rhe1 threatens both 16.Bxa7 and 16 e5-e6] **12...0-0 13.Qc5** [The computer likes 13.b3 d6 14.exd6 exd6 15.Qxd6 Qb7 16.Bd4 when White who has two pawns more to begin any complications.] **13...Qb7 14.b3 d6!** This gets Black some play on the queenside **15.Qxa7 Qxa7 16.Bxa7 Ra8 17.Bd4 Bg4**



18.Re1?! [18.a4! Bxd1 19.Kxd1 would be a marvelous ending for White as the passed queenside pawns block the black rooks and will eventually advance for the win] **18...Rxa2 19.Bd3 dxe5 20.Bxe5 Bxe5 21.fxe5 Be6?!** [21...Bf5! 22.Bxf5 gxf5 23.Rhf1 Rd8 24.Kb1 *(24.Rxf5? Ra1+ 25.Kb2 Rxe1)* 24...Rda8 is a pawn up for White but the double rooks make for counterplay against the king] **22.Rhf1 Rc8 23.Kd1** [23.Kb1! Rca8 24.Re3 consolodates with the passed pawns] **23...Rc3 24.Be4 Bf5 25.Kd2?!**



[25.Bxf5 gxf5 26.Re2 Ra1+ 27.Kd2 Rxc2+ 28.Kxc2 Rxf1 29.b4! is a potent passed pawn] **25...Raxc2+! 26.Bxc2 Rxc2+ 27.Ke3 Rc3+ 28.Kd4 Rxb3 29.Rf2 h5** Now Black should be able to hold the draw with accurate play **30.Re3 Rb1 31.h3 Rd1+ 32.Kc5 Be6 33.Rb2 Rc1+ 34.Kd4 Rc4+ 35.Kd3 □ 35...Rc7 36.Ke2 Kg7 37.Kf3 Bd5+ 38.Kf2 Be6 39.Rbe2 Rc4 40.Re4 Rc5 41.Rb4 Bd5 42.Ra4 Rc7 43.Ra5 Be6 44.Rb5 Rd7 45.Reb2 g5 46.Rb7 Rd5 47.Rxe7 Rxe5 48.Re2 Rf5+ 49.Kg1 Kg6 50.Re8 h4 51.Rg8+ Kf6 52.Rf2 Rxf2 53.Kxf2 Kf5 54.Rb8 Ke4 55.Rb5 f6 56.Ra5 f5 57.Ra7**



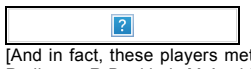
57...g4? This is the mistake, leaving the h4 pawn unprotected. Black has played the endgame very well and here only needs to do nothing, such as 57...Bd5 **58.Rh7!** Kyron quickly jumps on the mistake and converts with the extra material **58...g3+ 59.Kg1 f4 60.Rxh4 Ke3 61.Rh8 Bd5?!** [Black could put up more resistance with 61...Ke4 62.Rf8 Bb3 63.h4 Bd1] **62.Re8+ Be4 63.h4 f3 64.h5!** KyronGriffith won on time [64.h5 Kf4 65.Rxe4+ Kxe4 66.h6] **1-0**

(5) Ashik Uzzaman (ashikuzzaman) (1825) - Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1795) [C36]

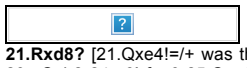
Mechanics' Nov TNM Chess.com, 18.11.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

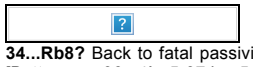
1.e4 e5 2.f4 Ashik is quite fond of gambits and quick attacks. **2...exf4 3.Nf3 d5** while Kristian prefers the quieter waters. The problem is, they're hard to find in the King's Gambit! **4.exd5 Nf6 5.d4 Nxd5 6.c4?** Too loose! Some bishop move, preparing to castle, is prudent.



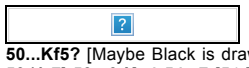
[And in fact, these players met previously, back when the TNM was face to face: 6.Bc4 Be6 7.Qe2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.c3 c5 10.Kh1?!N *(10.Bxd5 Qxd5 11.Bxf4 Nc6 12.Rd1 Rad8 13.Ne5* 1-0 (43) Pruijssers,R-Beekhuis,M Apeldoorn 2001*)* 10...Nc6 11.Rd1 Qd7 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Bg4 0-1 (51) Uzzaman,A (2096) -Clemens,K (1917) MI TNM, San Francisco April 10, 2018] **6...Bb4+** Computer-approved. [6...Ne3!? Straight up could well be better. (and Bangiev gave it an exclamation point!) 7.Bxe3 fxe3 8.Qd3 Bb4+ Black is just better. 9.Nc3 0-0 10.0-0-0 Bxc3! 11.Qxc3 Qe7 12.Re1 Re8 13.Bd3 Nc6! 14.Bb1 Bg4 15.d5 Ne5! 16.Rxe3 Bxf3! 0-1 (48) Grabarczyk,B (2394) -Markowski,T (2531) Plock 2000 [Bangiev,A]] **7.Kf2** White wants to be able to deal with the knigh coming to e3. **7...Ne3!** Not quite always played. [What to make of this gamelet? 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.d5 Bc5+ 10.Ke1 0-0 11.dxc6 Ng4 12.Be2 Nf2 13.Rf1 Nd3+ 14.Bxd3 Qxd3 15.Nbd2 Re8+ 16.Kd1 Qe2+ 17.Kc2 Bf5+ 0-1 (17) Hoffmann,J-Wich,M Wiesbaden 1999] **8.Bxe3!** [8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.d5 *(9.Be2 0-0-/+)* 9...Ng4+ 10.Ke2 Qe7+ 11.Kd1 Nf2+ 12.Kc2 Bf5+ 13.Kb313...b5! 14.Qxb5 Rb8 15.Qxc6+ Bd7 16.Qxc7 Ba4+ 0-1 (16) Kraft, V-Heimrath,R Zirndorf 1985; 8.Qb3 Ng4+ 9.Kg1 Be1!?] **8...fxe3+ 9.Kxe3 0-0 10.Nc3 Bg4 11.Be2 c6** Slightly slow. Black's advantage lays in White's ridiculous king position and some fast development was in order. [11...Nc6! 12.Nd5 Re8+ 13.Kf2 when Black stands very well after 13...Re4 *(or 13...Bd6)*] **12.Kf2 Nd7** Well, the fact is that f6 and maybe even b6 are great squares for the knight as well. **13.a3** [Best was to "castle by hand" with 13.Re1 Re8 14.Kg1 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Rxe1+ 16.Qxe1 Nb6 but Black still has a clear advantage.] **13...Be7 14.Rf1 Nf6 15.Kg1 Qc7 16.Ne5 Bxe2 17.Qxe2 Rad8 18.Rad1 Bd6 19.Ne4 Bxe5 20.dxe5 Nxe4**



21.Rxd8? [21.Qxe4!=/+ was the way to go. 21...Rxd1 *(21...Rde8!? 22.Rfe1 Re6* picks on the one weak pawn, on e5, with a slight advantage*.)* 22.Rxd1 Qb6+ 23.Kh1! *(23.Qd4?? Rd8)* 23...Qxb2 24.e6! fxe6 25.Qxe6+ Kh8 26.Qe7 Rg8 27.h3 White is a pawn down but clearly more active.] **21...Rxd8 22.Qxe4 Re8?** [22...Qb6+ 23.Kh1 Qd4!-+ and Black dominates via the d-file control and White's weak pawns.] **23.Qd4 Qxe5 24.Qxe5 Rxe5 25.Rd1 Kf8 26.Rd7 Re7 27.Rd8+ Re8 28.Rd7 Rb8** Black decides to avoid the repetition and try to win with his extra pawn. But that white rook is at least compenation. **29.b4 Ke8 30.Rc7** A standoff. Black tries too hard to win and ... **30...h5 31.Kf2 g6?! 32.Ke3 Kf8 33.Kd4 Rd8+ 34.Kc5**



34...Rb8? Back to fatal passivity. [Best play, as any endgame manual will say, is to activate the rook with 34...Rd2 35.Rxb7 Rxg2 when White has only a small advantage.] **35.h4 Kg7 36.g3?** [Better was 36.a4! g5 37.hxg5 a5 38.bxa5 Ra8 39.Kb4!+-] **36...Kf6 37.a4** [37.Kd6+/=] **37...Ke6?** [Black is holding after 37...Kf5! 38.Rxf7+ Kg4] **38.a5 f6 39.a6! bxa6 40.Rxc6+** [As good but requiring severe calculation: 40.Rxa7 g5 41.Rxa6 gxh4 42.Rxc6+ Ke5 43.gxh4] **40...Kf5 41.Rxa6 Rc8+ 42.Rc6 Re8 43.b5** White has a number of little advantages that add up to a win, but it's a particularly difficult rook ending. **43...g5 44.Rc7 gxh4** [44...Ra8 45.Kc6 Kg4 46.Kb7+-] **45.gxh4 Ra8 46.Rg7** [46.Kc6 Kg4 47.Kb7] **46...Ke5** [46...Ke4 47.Re7+ Kd3 48.Rd7+ Kc3 49.Kd5] **47.Rh7?** Putting the win at risk. [47.Re7+ forces the king in front of the f-pawn; 47...Kf4 48.Kd6 It's always the c-pawn.] **47...f5 48.Rxh5 Ke4 49.Rh7! f4 50.Re7+**



50...Kf5? [Maybe Black is drawing after 50...Kd3! 51.Rd7+ Ke3 52.Kd5 f3] **51.Kd6** [51.Kd4!] **51...f3 52.c5** [More accurate is 52.Rf7+ Ke4 53.c5 Rd8+ 54.Ke6 Re8+ 55.Kd7] **52...Rb8** [52...Rd8+ 53.Kc7] **53.c6 Kg4 54.c7** [54.Rf7!] **54...Rf8 55.Re1 Kxh4 56.Rf1 Kg3 57.Kd7 Rf7+ 58.Kd8 Rf8+ 59.Kd7 Rf7+ 60.Kc6 Rf8 61.Kb7 Kg2 62.Rxf3 Kxf3 63.c8Q Rxc8 64.Kxc8 Ke4 65.Kb7 Kd5 66.Kxa7 Kd6 67.b6 Kc6 68.b7** ashikuzzaman won by resignation. A bumpy road, but Ashik brought it home. The rook ending is worthy of some effort in study. **1-0**

(2) Philip Gerstoft (pgstar3) (1785) - Sebby Suarez (SebbyMeister) (1549) [B01]

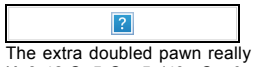
Mechanics' Nov TNM Chess.com, 18.11.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 Bf5 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bd3 Bg6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Re1 c6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Ne2 0-0 11.Bxg6 hxg6 12.c4



White has played logical moves to gain a small advantage in space. Black has a solid position that is hard to crack. **12...Re8 13.Qb3 b6?!** A slight weakening of the queenside. 13...Qb6 would keep the solid pawn structure. **14.Ne5** [14.Rad1!] **14...Nfd7 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Nf4?!** now Black is able to trade off pieces and has no troubles **16...Nxe5 17.Rxe5 Nd7 18.Re3 Qd6 19.Ne2 Rad8 20.Rd1 Nf6 21.Red3 Nh5 22.g3 Nf6 23.h4 Rd7 24.Nf4 Nh5 25.Ng2 Red8 26.Ne3 Nf6 27.Qc3 Ne4 28.Qe1 Qe7?!** [28...Nf6 keeps the game perfectly level. Now the white knight is able to jump to a strong post] **29.Ng4! Nf6 30.Ne5 Rd6 31.b4 c5?** [Black feels under pressure and decides to do something, but this lets White win a pawn. It was best to just wait with a move like 31...Qc7] **32.bxc5 bxc5 33.dxc5 Rxd3 34.Rxd3 Rxd3 35.Nxd3 Qd7 36.Ne5 Qc7 37.c6!**



The extra doubled pawn really shows it strength. Black is tied down and can do little. **37...Ne8 38.Qe4 Nf6** [38...f6 39.Nxg6 Kf7 40.Nf4 Qd6 41.h5] **39.Qd4 Kf8 40.c5 Ke7** [40...Nd5 41.Nd7+ Kg8 42.Qe5 Qxe5 *(42...Qxc6 43.Qb8+ Kh7 44.Nf8+ Kh6 45.Nxe6!)* 43.Nxe5 Kf8 44.f4 Ke7 45.Kf2 is a winning knight ending] **41.f4 Nh5 42.Kg2 Nf6 43.Qb4!** the white queen heads to b7 where it will cause great problems **43...Qd8?!** [43...Ne8 44.Qb7 Kf8 holds out longer, though White could win by marching the king up to a6 45.Kf3 Ke7 46.Ke3 Kf8 47.Kd3 Ke7 48.Kc4 Kf8 49.Kb5 Ke7 50.Ka6 Kf8 51.Qxc7 Nxc7+ 52.Kxa7] **44.Qb7+ Ke8 45.Qxf7#** pgstar3 won by checkmate **1-0**

(4) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2610) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2236) [B12]

Mechanics' Nov TNM Chess.com, 17.11.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Ne2 Re8 9.0-0 So: it's back to the quiet line. [9.Qc2 was standard, to see how Black reacts before deciding which side to castle on -- and then along came 9...h5!! and things haven't been the same. Since 2017 when it first appeared in master play there have been over 600 games in the databases, with a plus score for Black. Those opening books that declared 5... exf6 a dry line hoping for a draw are going to need rewriting! Here is a light in the wilderness: 10.Be3 Nd7 11.0-0-0 b5?! *(11...Nf8* has done fine*)* 12.d5 c5 13.Bxb5 Rb8 14.c4 a6 15.Ba4 1-0 (63) Duda,J (2757)-Carlsen,M (2863) Stavanger 8th Norway Chess 2020 and another earlier game.] **9...Qc7** [9...Nd7 10.Bf4 Nf8 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Re1 g6 13.Ng3 saw Carlsen win, but as usual, others weren't so fortunate. 1-0 (39) Carlsen,M (2863)-Svane,R (2613) Lichess.org INT 2020] **10.Ng3 g6**

11.Qf3 [11.Ne4! is more aggressive as Black would lose material after 11...Bxh2+ 12.Kh1 when both 13. Nxf6 and 13. g3 are threatened] **11...f5** Kyron has been playing this line for only a few months now; uninfluenced by 5...exf6's quieter history he assumes an aggressive stance. **12.Bh6 Be6 13.Rae1 Nd7**

14.Bxf5?N Miscalculation? Over-optimism? A change to the "trend" of the game? In any case, the engines are steadfast in their claim: this is unsound. [One earlier, quiet game: 14.b3 Nf6 15.c4 Ng4 16.Bc1 Bd7 17.h3 Nf6 18.Bb2 Rxe1 19.Rxe1 Re8 20.Rd1 f4 21.Nf1 b6?! 22.Nh2 h5 23.Nf1 and White managed to win: 1-0 (41) Lapertosa Viana,J (2130) -Orfali,M (2055) ICC INT 2009] **14...Bxf5 15.Nxf5 gxf5 16.Qxf5 Bf8! 17.Bf4 Bd6** Kyron, unsure what is going on, repeats. **18.Bh6 Bf8 19.Bf4 Qd8!** [19...Qc8 also thwarts White.; 19...Bd6 20.Bh6 would be a three-fold repetition.] **20.Bg5**

20...Qc8?!-/+ [20...f6!-+ when 21...Bg7 is an almost universal followup, with Stockfish making it in the high -2s.] **21.Qg4!** The only move to make it interesting, but it's clear by now that the attack doesn't exist. **21...Kh8** [21...f5!? is a radical price for a tempo: 22.Qxf5 Nb6] **22.Qf5 Kg8** [22...f6! 23.Bxf6+ Nxf6 24.Qxf6+ Bg7 25.Qf7 Rf8 26.Qe6 a5 Both players have about half their time remaining. There isn't any reason Black shouldn't play on.] **23.Qg4 Kh8 24.Qf5 Kg8** Game drawn by repetition. A curious game -- Guseinov got a little crazy and Griffith didn't have the defensive will to follow through. Still, a draw leaves them both tied for first-second with two rounds to go. **1/2-1/2**

Here is the same game, annotated by FM Kyron Griffith

(7) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2610) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2236) [B15]

TNM Chess.com, 18.11.2020

[kwgkw]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 Recapturing here with the e pawn instead of the g-pawn has gained a following only in the past few years. Historically, recapturing with the g-pawn was considered the obvious reply as chess players are typically taught to take towards the center. However practice has shown that black's quick and flexible development is ample compensation for the slightly damaged pawn structure. White has a number of different ways to set up his pieces here but the most challenging is the c3 - Bd3 - Qc2 - Ne2 setup. Finally, white would love to reach an endgame without any further pawn transformations. The 4 on 3 queenside pawn majority would promise great endgame chances while black's crippled majority on the kingside is nowhere near as impressive. **6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Ne2** [More common is: 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 Where black has the popular move h5!? here although the alternatives h6 and g6 are fine as well. 9...h5] **8...Re8** [8...Qc7 After the game, GM Guseinov advised that I take a look at this move. The main idea is to prevent white from castling kingside. I was initially worried that white could reply with Qc2 and try to castle queenside, but perhaps in this particular case black should prefer h6 over h5. 9.Qc2 h6! and now white is less interested in castling queenside as black's counterplay will come quickly on that wing while white's play on the kingside will be slower as compared to if black had played h5. *(9...h5 10.Be3* Black has been slightly tricked here. We reach a position similar to a tabiya, but black's Queen is on c7 instead of Re8. This limits black's options slightly, although in practice black should be fine*.)*] **9.0-0 Qc7 10.Ng3 g6?!** I realized this move was dubious as soon as I played it. I simply wanted to achieve a g6-f5 pawn structure and lock down the white knight. Unfortunately now it has a moment to jump to freedom. **11.Qf3?!** Returning the favor with an inaccuracy. Now my plan is justified. [11.Ne4! Black either has to go on the defensive or give up the bishop pair here. 11...Be7 (11...Bxh2+ This may be the best practical chance but it is quite speculative 12.Kh1 Rxe4 *(12...Nd7 13.g3 f5 14.Bf4* and black's bishop is lost*)* 13.Bxe4 Bd6) 12.Bc4 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Qb3 Qd7 is quite unpleasant] **11...f5 12.Bh6 Be6 13.Rae1 Nd7 14.Bxf5?!** I actually said out loud "what the he**?!" when I saw this move. It feels like it shouldn't work - black's position is solid and all his pieces are developed. That being said it is tricky to refute as black always has to worry about his king. **14...Bxf5 15.Nxf5 gxf5 16.Qxf5 Bf8** The only move or else white would be winning. GM Guseinov mentioned after the game that he had missed this one. In fact it is now black who has the edge. [16...Nf8 as mentioned on the broadcast gets mated quickly 17.Qf6] **17.Bf4 Bd6 18.Bh6 Bf8 19.Bf4 Qd8!** I was happy I played this move instead of taking the easy draw. On one hand it is unclear how black is going to untangle, but on the other hand white doesn't have any immediate threats. I felt that black was better here but it is tough to prove. **20.Bg5 Qc8?!** [20...f6 was the opportunity for black to keep the edge] **21.Qg4 Kh8 22.Qf5 Kg8 23.Qg4 Kh8 24.Qf5 Kg8** Game drawn by repetition = [24...f6 25.Bxf6+ Nxf6 26.Qxf6+ Bg7 27.Qf7 The engine gives a -0.5 evaluation here but I think black has a large task ahead of him to prove that.] **1/2-1/2**

For more information on the November TNM, please follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online

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Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Marathon Report

The second round of the new Thursday Night Marathon was played, and many of the favorites went on to win, setting up some exciting 3rd round matchups in 2 weeks. Next week will be an off week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. With perfect scores at 2/2 are IM Elliott Winslow, FM Allan Savage, NM Michael Walder, Pranav Sairam, Ako Heidari, Stewart Katz, Eric Hon and Adam Mercado. Here are the current standings.

Standing after Round 2

SwissSys Standings. Thursday Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W13	W14	2.0
2	**Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)**	13778105	2186	microbear	W19	W15	2.0
3	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W20	W17	2.0

	10345120)						
4	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	knvsback	W22	W26	2.0
5	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	W23	W18	2.0
6	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W30	W24	2.0
7	Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W33	W12	2.0
8	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	15424820	2084	chesspilot01	W34	W16	2.0
9	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W21	H---	1.5
10	Richard W Koepcke (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10493269)	10493269	2200	rkoepcke	H---	W29	1.5
11	Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	unr.	gguseinov	H---	W28	1.5
12	Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1753	1-h4-1-0	W25	L7	1.0
13	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1545	programmingmax	L1	W31	1.0
14	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W36	L1	1.0
15	Timothy Horng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13282721)	13282721	1730	aYzz	W35	L2	1.0
16	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	11296106	1643	zenwabi	W38	L8	1.0
17	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	X---	L3	1.0
18	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	Kaline340Green	W37	L5	1.0
19	Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	17350313	1475	draidus	L2	W35	1.0
20	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1428	noydan100	L3	W36	1.0
21	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L9	W37	1.0
22	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1347	chesspoki	L4	W38	1.0
23	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	16897133	1238	pjkrizzle	L5	W33	1.0
24	Robert H Frank (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10498325)	10498325	1200	cyber-droid	X32	L6	1.0
25	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1180	sfdeals	L12	W34	1.0
26	Danny Du Uy Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	863	caodanny	X---	L4	1.0
27	Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)	12693378	595	rahimftd	H---	H---	1.0
	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?						

28	**10490936)**	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	L11	0.5
29	**Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)**	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	H---	L10	0.5
30	**Andrew Nicho Paul (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14232850)**	14232850	1385	chessplayer3740	L6	H---	0.5
31	**Willia Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)**	17048414	537	OlympusMons00	H---	L13	0.5
32	**Mohammad Amir Ali (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30029248)**	30029248	1565	Deshbondhu	F24	U---	0.0
33	**Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1513	rimus11	L7	L23	0.0
34	**Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)**	17083655	1434	jacobchess857	L8	L25	0.0
35	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	16738735	1105	victor6688	L15	L19	0.0
36	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	870	Bruce_Hedman	L14	L20	0.0
37	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	L18	L21	0.0
38	**B J Day (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12586048)**	12586048	unr.	mrbillstunes1	L16	L22	0.0

Pairings:

No rounds on Thanksgiving Thursday! Next round is on December 3!

FIDE Trainers Seminar December 11-13

The Mechanics' Institute will be organizing its first FIDE Trainers Seminar on December 11-13, 2020. This seminar is for coaches and players looking to enhance their education in coaching and understanding the learning of chess. Participants at the conclusion of the seminar will take an exam towards the awarding of a FIDE title for trainers.

The instructors and lecturers for this seminar include GM Melik Khachiyan, GM Jacob Aagaard, GM Dejan Bojkov, IM John Donaldson, IM Kostya Kavutskiy, WIM Dr. Alexey Root, Dr. Judit Sztaray and Abel Talamantez. Topics for the seminar include Some of the topics covered will be the role of the trainer, fair play in chess, psychological issues, study of classical games, tactics training, training in calculation, and means of improvement.

For more information and to register, please follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fide-trainer-online-seminar-dec-11-13 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fide-trainer-online-seminar-dec-11-13)



Chess.com Club's League Week 2 Report

The Mechanics' Institute went don in defeat in week 2, losing to a very tough Chess Kids Nation team. We lost 15-9 in the rapid and 11.5-2.5 in the blitz. Their team had a very deep bench of solid strong players that made it difficult for our mid-lower boards. Congratulations to them on an outstanding performance.

Mechanics' has chosen to take a bye for this weekend, so we will get a half point and be playing in week 4 next Saturday.

The Mechanics' Institute received a full point bye in week 4, and we will be facing off this Saturday against the St. Louis Chess Club at 1pm PST. The match will be played in 3 sections based on Chess.com rapid rating, 1800+, 1400-1799, and under 1400. Anyone who is a member of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club online community is eligible to play. Here are the match links for Saturday.

1800+: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=341364 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=341364)
1400-1799: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=341363 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=341363)
under 1400: https://www.chess.com/live#tm=341361 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chess.com/live#tm=341361)

WIM Dr. Alexey Root

Alexey Root has her latest installment of Grandmaster Chef out, with a focus on GM Ding Liren. Find out what he likes to eat as well as a brand new chess inspired recipe by NM Mike Walder by reading the article here: https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-ding-liren (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-ding-liren)

Nice Game From FM Paul Whitehead's Arena

We thought it would be great to include this fine win by NM Michael "f-pawn" Aigner against FM Paul Whitehead during Paul's Tuesday G/2+1 arena before the start of the TNM. A terrific shot by fpawn shows he still is a blitz force to be reckoned with. Enjoy!

(3) NM Michael Aigner (fpawn) (2205) - FM Paul Whitehead (chessmonster666) (1232) [B24]

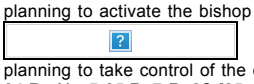
Mechanics' Nov Arena Chess.com, 17.11.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

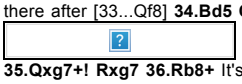
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.g3 Choosing the Closed Sicilian for the slow buildup, like Spassky used to do. **3...Nc6 4.Bg2 g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.Be3 d6 7.f4 Nge7 8.Nf3 Nd4** Black could also just castle, but this early knight jump to the center is fine. **9.0-0 Nec6** However the other knight should have stayed in it's place. Castling is safer. **10.e5!? dxe5** [10...0-0!] **11.Nxe5!**



White's aggressive play causes trouble to the less developed black side. **11...Nxe5 12.fxe5 Bxe5 13.Ne4 0-0 14.c3** Now White wins back the sacrificed pawn on c5 and gains control of the center. **14...Nc6 15.Bxc5 Re8 16.Qf3 f5 17.Nf2** [17.d4! would be better as Black can't really take the knight on e4. White would hold a clear edge.] **17...Bd7 18.d4 Bg7 19.Rfe1 b6** [19...Na5! planning to activate the bishop to c6 would gain Black even chances] **20.Ba3 Qf6 21.Nd3 Rad8 22.Bd6?**



planning to take control of the e5 square, but there is a flaw... **22...Nxd4! 23.Qf2** making the best of it with just losing one pawn. Hopeless would be [23.cxd4 Qxd4+ 24.Kh1 Qxd6] **23...Nc6 24.Rad1 e5 25.Bc7 Rc8?** [25...e4 26.Nf4 Ne5 27.Bxd8 Qxd8 would be terrific compensation for the exchange. Now White is ok again.] **26.Bxe5 Nxe5 27.Nxe5 Rxe5 28.Rxd7 Rxe1+ 29.Qxe1 a5 30.Qd2 Qe5 31.Rb7 Qc5+?!** The queen is not as good here as on e5. [31...Kh8! is even material and even chances] **32.Kh1 Kh8 33.Qd7 Rg8?** The losing move. Black would still hang in there after [33...Qf8] **34.Bd5 Qf2**



35.Qxg7+! Rxg7 36.Rb8+ It's mate next **1-0**

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Support the Mechanics' Institute and

Save Big in the Process!

Join the Mechanics' Institute, and realize savings on our events and classes while supporting our mission to provide a center for cultural and intellectual advanncement

We are doing a membership drive through the end of the year for new members and to encourage current members to renew.

$120/year for a regular membership
$65/year for a student membership
You will save big if you are a regular participant in our tournaments and/or classes!

Here are some of our registration costs and savings
you can achieve with membership:

Tuesday Night Marathon: $30 member, $50 non-member registration fee
Weekend USCF rated events: $20 member, $40 non-member registration fee

Basically, your membership pays for itself if you attend just six tournaments, classes, or other chess events per year!

Plus you get everything that a Mechanics' Institute membership offers.

Benefits of Mechanics' Institute Membership

- Discount on most chess events or classes.
- Full use of the Library and its services, including online databases, ebooks, and more!
- Free or reduced admission to cultural events, programs, classes, and book groups.
- Access to the Chess Room and its tournaments and classes.
- WiFi access throughout the Library, Chess Room, and 4th floor meeting room.
- Membership access at other membership (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)libraries. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)

Join Mechanics' at: https://www.milibrary.org/join (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/join)
Please forward this information to others who might be interested in joining.
Please enter chess in the referred by column and check off chess as a general interest.

Any questions? Please contact us at chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org).

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 11/23: https://www.chess.com/live#r=656238 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chess.com/live#r=656238)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Thursdays 5:00pm-6:00pm, Off:

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe

Casual meeting to talk about chess, life and everything. Join 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead as they give a lecture and class in a fun casual atmosphere where you can discuss games, learn strategy, discuss chess current events and interact in a fun casual atmosphere. Enter our Monday chess café for the pure love of the game. Class suitable for ALL level of players and FREE for MI members.

FREE for Mechanics' members. $5 for non-members.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - The Art of Attack in Chess by FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates: 11/16 through 12/21 (6 classes)

Learn to attack the king in this six-week class using Vladimir Vukovic's book, The Art of Attack in Chess (1963 revised 1993 by GM John Nunn), as our text.
We will take lessons from chapters such as "The classic bishop sacrifice", "The attack against the uncastled king", "Focal-points" and "The attack on the king as an integral part of the game". Vukovic also talks about mating patterns, defense, and much more.
Join us in an investigation into one of the greatest chess books ever written, a classic enjoyed by chess players around the world.

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

November 18, 2020 - January 20, 2021

Are you an adult who wants to put learning chess on top of your New Year's resolution! Get a head start with us at the Mechanics' Institute! This virtual class is open to any MI member who has no knowledge of the game or who knows the very basics and wants to improve. Taught by MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez along with Judit Sztaray and other MI staff, we will patiently walk through all the basics at a pace suitable for our class. Our goal is to teach piece movement basics, checkmate patterns, importance of development, and general strategy. We will also show students how to play online so they may practice. The goal of the class is to open a new world of fun and joy through the magic and beauty of chess, from one of the oldest and proudest chess clubs in the world.

Registration: Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembers (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembers)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

2020 Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship

Save the date scholastic players for the Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship Saturday November 28! This USCF online rated event will feature sections based on grade levels, with kids competing for trophy and medal prizes. 5 rounds with a time control of G/25+5. Games will be played on Chesscom or Chesskid depending on section and games will be manually paired by Chief TD Judit Sztaray.

Register now to get in on the post Thanksgiving scholastic chess action online at the Mechanics' Institute!

Click here to register and for information on this big chess event to close out the 2020 year:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/pacific-regional-grade-level-online-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/pacific-regional-grade-level-online-championship)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, November 21: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/10+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146326 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146326)

Sunday, November 22: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146327 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146327)

Monday, November 23: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146898 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146898)

Tuesday, November 24: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146899 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146899)

Wednesday, November 25: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146900 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146900)

Thursday, November 26: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: OFF THIS WEEK

Friday, November 27: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146901 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=146901)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments

Every Week!

Next one: December 5, @3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rating only (not over-the-board)
Every player must be a US Chess member.
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening.

Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered:

NEW Class: Get Those Chess Boards Out! -- Tuesdays 4-5PM
As parents, many of us now see kids staring at a screen for hours during the school day. We understand having another online class may not be so exciting. What if we are able to offer a class for beginners where they can feel and interact with the pieces to capture an important part of the early learning experience? That's why we are introducing a new class for our young, beginner players!
Let's get those chess boards out and use it during the class!
Coach Colin will interact with the players via zoom, but they will talk, use the chess board, set it up and set up different positions, and learn and play on a physical board. No shared screen during the class! It's all interactive, using physical chess pieces! **Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/get-those-chess-boards-out) for more information.**

Starting at Chess -- Mondays 3-4PM
This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players -- Tuesdays 3-4PM or Thursdays 4-5PM
This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess -- Thursdays 5-6PM
This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class. Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

11/24 Tuesday - Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)
Start at 6:30PM

12/3 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot)
Start at 6:30PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

Friendly Rivalries, Part 20

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

I feel very lucky to have lived through a "Golden Age" of chess, the years directly following the Fischer-Spassky match in 1972. I have written quite a bit in these pages about my experiences the games I played, and the characters I encountered in my youth. There's always a new chapter it seems, another event or person that I suddenly can recall with a smile or a rueful nod of my head.

Charles Powell (1944-1991) was a strong Master who moved to San Francisco in the early 1980's. He had graced the cover of Chess Review after winning the Armed Forces Championship with an 11-1 score in 1968. Powell won the Virginia State Championship seven times: he was a legend in his home state, as I learned when I moved there in 1998.

In 1964, in Richmond VA, Powell destroyed Bobby Fischer in a wonderful game during Fischer's swing through the States giving simultaneous exhibitions in that year. The game can be seen here:

https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1647184 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1647184)

I remember Charlie as a friendly, easy-going guy who was fond of catching up on the news - he was often reading the newspaper during his games! Unfortunately, his health was not good, and he died at the age of only 48. I heard he was studying to be a lawyer…

A bit more on Charles Powell here:

http://tartajubow.blogspot.com/2019/02/charles-powell_5.html (https://web.archive.org/web/20210305153707/https://tartajubow.blogspot.com/2019/02/charles-powell_5.html)

I played Charley four times, all of them in the Charles Bagby Memorial / Northern California State Invitational Championships, held at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club. These were wonderful events, with very strong players… I've written about them before, and perhaps I will do so again.

Charley took me out the first game, we drew the second, but then…

Well, you can see below for yourself how it went.

(1) Paul Whitehead - Charles Powell [B01]

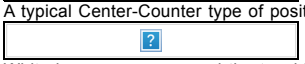
Bagby Mem./N. Cal. Ch. San Francisco, 1982

[Whitehead, Paul]

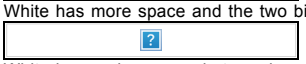
A hard-fought game. White pressed, and a promising exchange wasn't followed up very well. Black held on through an unbalanced position, and white eventually fell on his own sword. **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.g4 Bg6 8.Ne5 e6 9.Bg2 c6 10.0-0 Nbd7**



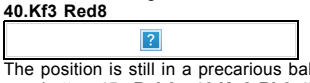
A typical Center-Counter type of position. **11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.Bf4 Bb4 13.Ne2 0-0 14.a3 Be7 15.c4 Qa6 16.Qc2 Rac8 17.b4 b5 18.c5 Qb7 19.Bd2 Nd5 20.f4**



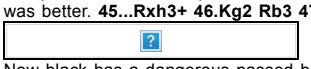
White has more space and the two bishops. **20...Bf6 21.Qd3 Rfe8 22.Ng3 Be7 23.Rae1 Rcd8 24.f5 Nf8 25.fxe6 Nxe6 26.Rxe6 fxe6 27.Qxg6 Rf8 28.Qxe6+ Kh8 29.Nf5 Bf6 30.Qe4 g6**



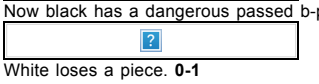
White has a nice game, but no clear win. Black defends stubbornly. **31.Ng3 Qg7 32.Ne2 Qe7 33.Qxe7 Nxe7 34.Be3 Kg8 35.Rd1 Rfe8 36.Bf2 Nd5 37.Bxd5+ Rxd5 38.Nf4 Rd7 39.Kg2 Kf7 40.Kf3 Red8**



The position is still in a precarious balance. **41.Ne2 g5 42.a4 a6 43.axb5 axb5 44.Ra1 Rh8 45.Ra6** White's active approach (opening the a-file) is landing him in trouble. Defending with 46.Kg2 was better. **45...Rxh3+ 46.Kg2 Rb3 47.Rxc6 Rxb4**



Now black has a dangerous passed b-pawn. **48.Rb6 Re7 49.Nc3 Bxd4 50.Nxb5 Bxf2 51.Nd6+ Ke6 52.Rxb4 Bxc5**



White loses a piece. **0-1**

(2) Charles Powell - Paul Whitehead [A48]

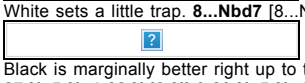
Bagby Mem./No. Cal. Ch. San Francisco, 1984

[Whitehead, Paul]

Our second encounter was a rather careful draw. **1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 Nf6 5.e4 0-0 6.Be2 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.Re1**



White sets a little trap. **8...Nbd7** [8...Nxe4 9.Nxe4 Bxe4 10.Bd3 favors white.] **9.Bf1 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.c3 h6 12.Bh4 Qe7 13.Qc2 Nc5?! 14.b4 Ncd7 15.Nc4 Qe6**



Black is marginally better right up to the end. **16.Nfd2 Nh5 17.Ne3 Bf6 18.Bc4 Qe7 19.Bg3 c6 20.Rad1 b5 21.Be2 Nxg3 22.hxg3 a5 23.a3 Bg5 24.Bf1 axb4 25.axb4 Nb6 26.Nb3 Bc8 27.Nc5 Na4 28.Nd3 Nb6 29.Nc5 Na4 30.Nd3 Nb6**



1/2-1/2

(3) Paul Whitehead - Charles Powell [A05]

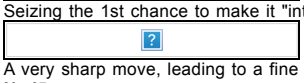
Bagby Mem./ N. Cal. Ch. San Francisco, 1985

[Whitehead, Paul]

Our 3rd encounter could have gone either way, but Charles lost his way somewhere and I was able to cash in my chips. I'd evened the score! **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0-0 c5 5.d3 g6 6.e4 Bg7 7.e5**



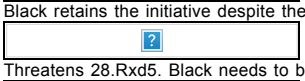
Seizing the 1st chance to make it "interesting". **7...Nd5 8.d4 Nc7 9.Re1 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Bxf3!**



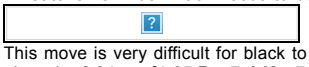
A very sharp move, leading to a fine exchange sacrifice. **11.Bxf3 Nc6 12.Qh4 Nxe5 13.Bxa8 Qxa8 14.Nd2 f5 15.f4 Bf6 16.Qh3 Ng4 17.c3 Qd5 18.Nb3 h5 19.Qg2 h4 20.h3 Nh6 21.Qxd5 Nxd5**



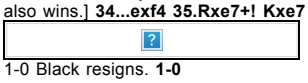
Black retains the initiative despite the trade of queens. **22.Bd2 hxg3 23.Rad1 Nf7 24.Kg2 Rh4?!** Not a mistake, but black starts to drift. **25.Kxg3 Rh5 26.Kh2 e6 27.Bc1**



Threatens 28.Rxd5. Black needs to be careful here, perhaps the solid 27...Nc7. **27...Ne7?! 28.Nd4 g5 29.Nb5!**



This move is very difficult for black to deal with. **29...gxf4?** This loses. 29...Ng8!? **30.Nc7+ Kf8** [30...Kd8 31.Nxe6+] **31.Rxd7 e5 32.Ne6+ Ke8 33.Rxa7 Nh6 34.Bxf4!** [The immediate 34.Rxe7+ also wins.] **34...exf4 35.Rxe7+! Kxe7** [Or 35...Bxe7 36.Ng7+] **36.Nxf4+**



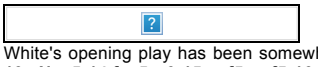
1-0 Black resigns. **1-0**

(4) Charles Powell - Paul Whitehead [A43]

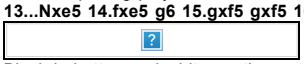
Bagby Mem./ N. Cal. Ch. San Francisco, 1986

[Whitehead, Paul]

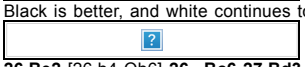
Charles had rather a poor opening, and I won this game with barely a shot fired. **1.d4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.0-0 Be7 7.Ne5 0-0 8.f4 Ne4 9.Nd2 Nxd2 10.Qxd2 cxd4**



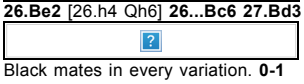
White's opening play has been somewhat artificial, and black has an easy game. **11.cxd4 Qb6 12.e3 f5 13.g4?** This is uncalled for, and it is black that ends up benefiting from the open g-file. **13...Nxe5 14.fxe5 g6 15.gxf5 gxf5 16.Rf3 Bd7 17.Qd1 Kh8 18.Bd2 Rg8 19.Bc3 Rg7 20.Rg3 Bg5**



Black is better, and white continues to drift. **21.Qd2 Rag8 22.Kh1 Qd8 23.Qe2 Qe8 24.Bf3 Bb5 25.Qd2 Qg6!**



26.Be2 [26.h4 Qh6] **26...Bc6 27.Bd3 Qh6 28.Qe2 Be8!** Every black piece is attacking. **29.Rf1 Bh5 30.Qd2 Bh4 31.Rxg7 Qxg7**



Black mates in every variation. **0-1**

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

The lead character of the “Queen’s Gambit” is a young prodigy who storms the chess world and surprisingly beats the established chess champions. This part of the story is actually based on fact as the 1960’s saw such a phenomenal teenage talent arise in the United States. That player was of course Bobby Fischer, whom author Walter Tevis was extremely aware of when he wrote the “Queen’s Gambit.” Quite a number of the unusual traits of the book’s heroine, Beth Harmon, will seem familiar to older chess fans who remember so well the eccentric Fischer.

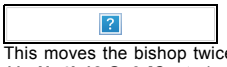
We give below one of the key games that established the young Fischer as a unique talent. That is against Donald Byrne (in 1956), who along with his brother Robert where the best siblings in the country. Young Bobby managed to beat Donald in 1956, but then had to meet his higher ranked brother Robert in a key game of a later US Championship. I hope the readers enjoy these two marvelous battles.

The other famous brothers duo in chess besides the Byrnes is the MI’s own Paul Whitehead with his brother Jay. Our man about town (or online tournaments at least), Elliott Winslow, had a fascinating game with Jay that he shared on our new Monday online Chess Café (4:00-5:30pm). I can’t resist showing this game with the amazing way that White took over all the squares a mobile queen could move to.

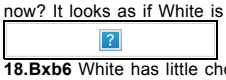
(1) Byrne,Donald - Fischer,Robert James [D97]

New York Rosenwald New York, 1956

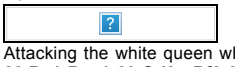
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 0-0 5.Bf4 d5 The Grundfeld Defense was a favorite of Fischer's throughout his career. The position becomes open and active with chances for both sides. **6.Qb3 dxc4 7.Qxc4 c6 8.e4 Nbd7** The white pawns on e4 and d4 occupy the center and give White more space. Black though has already castled and has a small lead in development, which can be important if White is not careful in maintaining the center. **9.Rd1 Nb6 10.Qc5 Bg4 11.Bg5?**



This moves the bishop twice, which gives Black a chance to make use of the lead in development with a tactical sequence. White could have kept equal chances with the simple [11.Be2] **11...Na4! 12.Qa3** [Capturing the knight allows Black to hit back in the center with great effect - 12.Nxa4 Nxe4 13.Qb4 *(13.Qxe7 Qxe7 14.Bxe7 Rfe8)* 13...Bxf3 14.Bxe7 Bxd1 15.Bxd8 Raxd8 16.Nc3 Rxd4 and White will lose as the active Black pieces target the king.] **12...Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nxe4 14.Bxe7 Qb6 15.Bc4** [15.Bxf8 Bxf8 16.Qb3 Nxc3] **15...Nxc3 16.Bc5 Rfe8+ 17.Kf1** What now? It looks as if White is going to come out of this in good shape, but young Bobby finds a devastating shot. **17...Be6!!**



18.Bxb6 White has little choice but to take the queen. On [18.Bxe6 Qb5+ wins; and 18.Qxc3 Qxc5!] **18...Bxc4+ 19.Kg1** See how Bobby keeps control with clever play from the minor pieces. **19...Ne2+ 20.Kf1 Nxd4+ 21.Kg1 Ne2+ 22.Kf1 Nc3+** It's the same position as before but the white d-pawn is gone which makes the knight on c3 protected by the bishop **23.Kg1 axb6 24.Qb4 Ra4!**



Attacking the white queen while defending the bishop on c4. Now Black takes a material advantage as well and Donald Byrne can do little to resist. **25.Qxb6 Nxd1 26.h3 Rxa2 27.Kh2 Nxf2 28.Re1 Rxe1 29.Qd8+ Bf8 30.Nxe1 Bd5** with a rook, two bishops and three pawns for the queen there is no hope for White, but he plays it out to mate. **31.Nf3 Ne4 32.Qb8 b5 33.h4 h5 34.Ne5 Kg7 35.Kg1 Bc5+ 36.Kf1 Ng3+ 37.Ke1 Bb4+ 38.Kd1 Bb3+ 39.Kc1 Ne2+ 40.Kb1 Nc3+ 41.Kc1 Rc2# 0-1**

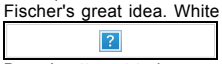
(2) Byrne,Robert Eugene - Fischer,Robert James [D71]

USA-ch New York (3), 18.12.1963

This game was from the 1963 US Championship where Fischer plays Robert Byrne, Donalds brother. While Donald was a strong chess master, Robert was a grandmaster and one of the very top players in the country. This game was important for who would win the championship that year. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3** Robert avoids 3. Nc3 d5 which would be the classical Grunfeld. HIs third move tries to take the game into quieter territory. **3...c6 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.e3 0-0 8.Nge2 Nc6**



This is a Neo-Grunfeld with nearly symmetrical pawn structure. It looks like Robert Byrne has gotten his wish with a less tactical position. **9.0-0 b6 10.b3 Ba6 11.Ba3 Re8 12.Qd2 e5!** This accepts an isolated d-pawn but gives the black pieces a lot of activity in compensation. **13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Rfd1?!** This seems to make sense to move the rook from f1 so that the knight on e2 is not pinned, but it was better to move the other rook (as we will see later). [14.Rad1!; White cannot grab the d-pawn - 14.Nxd5? Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Bxe2 wins] **14...Nd3 15.Qc2?!** [Not seeing Fischer's great idea. White could be only slightly worse after 15.Nf4 Ne4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Rab1] **15...Nxf2!**

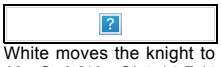


Byrne's attempt to keep a solid game are destroyed by this knight sacrifice. Yet at the time it was played all the spectators thought it was unsound. **16.Kxf2 Ng4+ 17.Kg1 Nxe3 18.Qd2 Nxg2!** This is the move that turbocharges the black attack. Taking the exchange back with 18...Nxd1 would leave White his crucial light-squared bishop. **19.Kxg2 d4!** opening the long white diagonal **20.Nxd4 Bb7+ 21.Kf1** [White cannot retreat 21.Kg1 because 21...Bxd4+ 22.Qxd4 Re1+ 23.Kf2 Qxd4+ 24.Rxd4 Rxa1 is an easily winning ending.] **21...Qd7!** As this point in the game the spectators thought that White held the advantage. Robert Byrne looked, and looked deeply and saw that there is no way to stop black's attack so he resigned. e.g. 22. Ndb5 Qh3+23. Kg1 Bh6 is curtains. **0-1**

(3) Winslow,Elliott C (2340) - Whitehead,Jay E (2425) [B65]

San Francisco 2nd San Francisco (4), 03.1986

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.f4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Qa5 11.e5 dxe5 12.Qxe5 The game was kindly explained by Elliott Winslow himself on our friendly MI Chess Cafe which is online Mondays 4:30-5:30. All levels of players join in, so we hope you do too! **12...Qb6?** [Jay wants to play a complicated middle game instead of the slightly worse endgame he would get after 12...Qxe5 13.fxe5 Nd5 14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.Bd3 .That's very natural, but there is an amazing problem to this move.] **13.Na4!**



White moves the knight to the rim (in priciple supposed to be bad). Yet here is an amazing position that the black queen runs out of decent squares in an open board. Certainly a surprise! **13...Qc6** [13...Qb4 14.Rd4 is immediately trapped, as is; 13...Qf2 14.Rd2] **14.Bb5! Nd7** [The black queen does have an escape square, which even wins a pawn. The problem is that is opens the g-file which White uses to get to the black king. After 14...Qxg2 15.Rhg1 Qxh2 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Qxf6 g6 18.Nc3 White has won a piece and also has a winning attack with the extra development.; No better is 14...Qe4 15.Qxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe7 with at least a piece up for White in the endgame.] **15.Qe2! Bxg5** Jay takes his best chance, two pieces and a pawn for the queen. **16.Bxc6 Bxf4+ 17.Kb1 bxc6 18.Qe4! e5 19.Qxc6 Rb8 20.Rxd7** No hope for Black here. Mr. Winslow wraps up quickly. **20...Bxd7 21.Qxd7 Rfd8 22.Qc6 Bxh2 23.Nc3** One of the classic battles of the Bay Area. Of course there are more to come in the MI's TNM! **1-0**

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Newsletter #945

November 27, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Thanksgiving Message
- Mechanics' TNM Report
- Mechanics' Thursday Night Marathon Report
- FIDE Trainer Seminar
- Mechanics' League Play
- Dr. Alexey Root
- Become a Mechanics' Institute Member
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Pacific Regional Grade Level
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Happy Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving everyone from the chess department. We hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday and we thank you for your support!

Mechanics' Institute November Tuesday Night Marathon Report

The Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Marathon concluded this week with GM Gadir Guseinov defeating GM Jim Tarjan in a great positional game to win the TNM with a score of 5.5/6. This much anticipated matchup showcased Guseinov's patience, slow build up, and precision, against an always dangerous and tough Tarjan. Guseinov defeated Tarjan in round 5 and then sealed the deal with a 6th roun win against NM Arun Dixit. FM Kyron Griffith took sole 2nd place in the TNM after a final round victory over IM Elliott Winslow, finishing with 5/6. Rising young talent Nicholas Weng took sole 3rd place with a sharp final round win over Ethan Guo.

In the under 1800 section, Philip Gerstoft and Pranav Pradeep tied for first with a score of 5.5/6, with their only draw coming against each other in round 3. Tying for 3rd with 4/6 were Bryan Hood, Sebby Suarez, Kevin Sun , and Nate Andaya.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all the players who participated!

Here are two games from the final rounds, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(2) GM Jim Tarjan - GM Gadir Guseinov [A26]

TNM Chess.com, 24.11.2020

The battle of the heavyweights. **1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 d6 4.Nc3 e5 5.e4 Nc6 6.Nge2** Tarjan likes this Botvinnik pawn set-up with the white side. It has shown up in a number of his recent games. **6...f5 7.d3 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nd5** [9.Rb1 with the idea of pushing the b-pawn is the standard plan, Tarjan's move seems equally good.] **9...Be6** [9...Nxd5 10.cxd5 Ne7 11.Be3 c6 12.dxc6 bxc6 gives Black central control from the pawns at the cost of a little loosening of the position] **10.Bg5 Qd7 11.Qd2 Kh8**



This is a complex position with various options for White. **12.Rac1** [12.Nxf6 Bxf6 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Bxf6+ Rxf6 15.b4 Would again be the standard queenside expansion. White should have an edge here.] **12...Rae8 13.b3 Ng8 14.exf5** [Grandmasters may prepare one plan but switch to annother if the tactics change. Yet there was also good reason to follow through on the previous move with 14.c5] **14...Bxf5 15.Rce1 Nd8 16.d4 Nf7 17.Be3 c6 18.Ndc3 e4**



19.f3?! This starts to change the game in Black's favor. A stronger plan, suggested by the computer, was [19.d5 c5 20.Nf4 Nf6 21.Ne6! which gains play since 21...Bxe6 22.dxe6 Qxe6 23.h3 h5 24.Bf4 Qf5 25.Qc2 White wins the pawn back with an edge.] **19...exf3 20.Rxf3 Nf6 21.Ref1 d5 22.cxd5 cxd5 23.Nf4 Nd6 24.h3?** This ends up as a weakeness that gets taken. [White should have played 24.Nd3 Nfe4 25.Nxe4 dxe4 26.Nc5 Qc8 27.R3f2 b6 with a small edge for Black but nothing severe. Now White is in trouble.] **24...Nfe4 25.Nxe4 Bxe4 26.R3f2 Bxg2 27.Rxg2**



27...g5! 28.Ne2 [Somewhat better was 28.Nd3 Rxf1+ 29.Kxf1 Qxh3 30.Kg1 Ne4 31.Qe1 when Black is a pawn ahead with also a big positional advantage, yet White could still hope.; 28.Nxd5? Rxf1+ 29.Kxf1 Ne4] **28...Rxf1+ 29.Kxf1 Qxh3 30.Bxg5 Ne4** [Even better was 30...Qh1+ 31.Ng1 Ne4 32.Qe3 Qh5! winning immediately as the bishop on g5 is threatened and also the deadly ...Qe1+] **31.Qe3 Qh1+ 32.Qg1?** losing immediately [32.Rg1 Qh5 33.Bf4 Nxg3+ 34.Rxg3 Rxe3 35.Rxe3 is a winning ending for Black with queen and pawn for rook and knight. White could still play at least.] **32...Qxg1+** GGuseinov won by resignation. Black wins the bishop on g5. **0-1**

(1) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2043) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2235) [D30]

Live Chess Chess.com, 24.11.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 Avoiding the crazy lines of [5...dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7] **6.cxd5 exd5 7.e3 Be7** We have now transposed into the (usually) calm lines of the Queen's Gambit Declined, Exchange Variation. **8.Qc2 h6** [8...0-0 9.Bd3 Re8 is the most common line, avoiding moving any black pawns on the kingside for the moment] **9.Bf4 0-0 10.h3 Re8 11.Bd3 Nf8**



12.0-0-0?! [12.0-0 or; 12.Bh2 should be a safe, pleasant position for White. Winslow decides to go for the gusto and mix it up.The opposite sides castling suddenly makes the game very exciting as White wants to pawn storm the kingside and Black to attack on the queenside. I expect Beth Harmon would approve. She wouldn't play the Queen's Gambit for a draw.] **12...Qa5 13.Kb1 Be6 14.g4 Ne4!** Kryon remembers that for good attacks you need to control the center. **15.Rhg1?!** White needs to deal with the center squares immediately. [15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Nd2 b5 17.Ndxe4 Ng6 18.Bg3 b4 19.Na4 Bd5 20.f3 Bh4 is compensation for the pawn] **15...Bb4 16.Bxe4 dxe4** now White can't take the e-pawn **17.Nd2 Bd5 18.a3?!** [18.Nxd5 cxd5 19.a3 would keep the disadvantage to a minimum. Black would have more play, but all the white pawns are solid.] **18...Bxc3! 19.Qxc3 Qb5** Black's control of the light squares on the queenside is more impotant than anything White can do on the kingside. **20.Rc1 Ne6 21.Bg3 Ng5 22.h4 Nf3 23.Nxf3 exf3 24.Rgd1?** [24.g5 keeps White in the game (though under strong pressure). Now Black takes full command of the position as White can't break out of the light square bind.] **24...a5 25.Ka1 a4 26.Qd3 Qb3!**



27.Qxb3 axb3 The black bishop on d5 is a powerhouse. White cannot generate active play on either side of the board and must await Black's advance. **28.g5 hxg5 29.hxg5 Kh7!** note the difference between the two monarchs. Kyron's king comes up to attack and Elliott's is stuck in the corner. **30.Rd3 Kg6 31.Rc5 Rh8 32.Rd1 b6 33.Rc3 Kxg5** The extra pawn is decisive. Bishops of opposite color give hopes for a draw only if all the rooks get exchanged, which Kyron will not allow. **34.Kb1 Kf5 35.Kc1 Ke4**



The centralized black king deserves a diagram. It's perfectly safe on e4 as the white pawns are blockaded and the white rooks can't break through. **36.Kd2 f6 37.Bc7 b5 38.Bd6 g5 39.Rg1 Rag8 40.Ra1 f5 41.a4** Winslow takes his chance to finally gain some activity. **41...bxa4 42.Rxa4 Ra8?** [42...Rh1! 43.Ra7 Re8 stops the threatened check on e7 and the Rh1 invades to take the f2 or b2 pawn. This would be a quick finish.] **43.Rxa8 Rxa8 44.Rc1 Rh8 45.Rg1 Rh5 46.Be7?** low on time White makes a mistake by attacking the g5 pawn and taking the guard off of the h2 square. He could still have put up resistance with [46.Kc3!] **46...Rh2 47.Ke1**



47...Kd3! Kyron charges in. The black monarch finishes the job. **48.Bxg5 Kc2 49.Bf4 Rg2 50.Rh1 Kxb2 51.e4 fxe4 52.Be3 Kc2** KyronGriffith won on time **0-1**

For more information on the November TNM, please follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/november-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online

Here are the final standings:

SwissSys Report: November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online

SwissSys Standings. November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2685	gguseinov	W27	W19	W
2	**Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2499	KyronGriffith	W22	W3	W
3	**Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	1983	ninjaforce	W20	L2	W
4	**GM James Edwa Tarjan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)**	10991820	2469	tirantes	W7	W12	D(
5	**Arun Dixit (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14607904)**	14607904	2199	Limelight2727	W15	W14	L2
6	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W23	W16	D4
7	**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	15239016	1908	mwncklmann	L4	W26	W

	15239016)						
8	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1664	LightningDragon8	B---	W18	L1
9	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W10	W13	L1
10	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1895	J3Chess24	L9	D21	W
11	Tejas Mahesh (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15086558)	15086558	1988	ChessTX9	H---	H---	L7
12	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W24	L4	W
13	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1943	ashikuzzaman	W21	L9	W
14	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W17	L5	W
15	Nicholas Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	L5	W24	L3
16	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	W18	L6	L1
17	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1711	ahyanzaman	L14	B---	L1
18	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	etvat	L16	L8	D2
19	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W26	L1	W
20	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	L3	L22	D2
21	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	L13	D10	D1
22	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1940	kondsaga	L2	W20	L1
23	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	L6	W27	L1
24	Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1753	1-h4-1-0	L12	L15	W
25	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	H---	H-
26	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L19	L7	D2
27	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	L1	L23	L2

SwissSys Standings. November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online: u1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1724	pgstar3	W4	W10	D2
2	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1409	pranavpradeep2006	W8	W18	D1
3	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	W12	W21	L5

4	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	16898540	1161	kevin_mx_sun	L1	L8	B---
5	**Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	16875347	811	Sebbymeister	W14	W16	W3
6	**Nate Andaya (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30054738)**	30054738	unr.	nathaniei	L11	L13	W19
7	**Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	16380642	1545	programmingmax	W13	D11	W16
8	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	870	Bruce_Hedman	L2	W4	D10
9	**Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)**	17168772	1490	Evariel	H---	H---	L11
10	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	swimgrass	W22	L1	D8
11	**Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)**	16964125	1180	sfdeals	W6	D7	W9
12	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	16738735	1105	victor6688	L3	W15	W13
13	**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	17079795	1057	andrewaballantyne	L7	W6	L12
14	**Stan Polivyanenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17310102)**	17310102	1365	MrL0cust	L5	W20	W17
15	**Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)**	16695036	930	adichi	D20	L12	W22
16	**Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1519	rimus11	W17	L5	L7
17	**Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)**	17179258	1043	JeffNorthSF	L16	W19	L14
18	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	B---	L2	W20
19	**Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)**	30055583	unr.	night_breeze	L21	L17	L6
20	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	D15	L14	L18
21	**Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)**	16412414	1347	chesspoki	W19	L3	U---
22	**Samuel Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)**	16380615	662	comfyqueso	L10	H---	L15

SwissSys Standings. November 2020 Tuesday Night Marathon Online: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Total
1	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	W2	1.0
2	**Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	14708926	827	JuditSztaray	L1	0.0

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Marathon Report

The Thursday Night Marathon has an off week this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be back next week with round 3.

For more information about this event, follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot)

Here are the current standings for our G/60+5 USCF rated Thursday Night Marathon:

Standing after Round 2

SwissSys Standings. Thursday Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W13	W14	2.0
2	**Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)**	13778105	2186	microbear	W19	W15	2.0
3	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W20	W17	2.0
4	**Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)**	12458563	1835	knvsback	W22	W26	2.0
5	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	16571026	1831	A-boy415	W23	W18	2.0
6	**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W30	W24	2.0
7	**Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)**	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W33	W12	2.0
8	**Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)**	15424820	2084	chesspilot01	W34	W16	2.0
9	**Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)**	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W21	H---	1.5
10	**Richard W Koepcke (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10493269)**	10493269	2200	rkoepcke	H---	W29	1.5
11	**Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	unr.	gguseinov	H---	W28	1.5
12	**Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)**	16191192	1753	1-h4-1-0	W25	L7	1.0
13	**Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	16380642	1545	programmingmax	L1	W31	1.0
14	**Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)**	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W36	L1	1.0
15	**Timothy Horng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13282721)**	13282721	1730	aYzz	W35	L2	1.0
16	**Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)**	11296106	1643	zenwabi	W38	L8	1.0
17	**Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)**	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	X---	L3	1.0
18	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	12796129	1569	Kaline340Green	W37	L5	1.0
19	**Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)**	17350313	1475	draidus	L2	W35	1.0

20	**Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)**	16280288	1428	noydan100	L3	W36	1.0
21	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L9	W37	1.0
22	**Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)**	16412414	1347	chesspoki	L4	W38	1.0
23	**Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)**	16897133	1238	pjkrizzle	L5	W33	1.0
24	**Robert H Frank (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10498325)**	10498325	1200	cyber-droid	X32	L6	1.0
25	**Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)**	16964125	1180	sfdeals	L12	W34	1.0
26	**Danny Du Uy Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)**	16939797	863	caodanny	X---	L4	1.0
27	**Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)**	12693378	595	rahimftd	H---	H---	1.0
28	**Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)**	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	L11	0.5
29	**Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)**	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	H---	L10	0.5
30	**Andrew Nicho Paul (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14232850)**	14232850	1385	chessplayer3740	L6	H---	0.5
31	**Willia Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)**	17048414	537	OlympusMons00	H---	L13	0.5
32	**Mohammad Amir Ali (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30029248)**	30029248	1565	Deshbondhu	F24	U---	0.0
33	**Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1513	rimus11	L7	L23	0.0
34	**Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)**	17083655	1434	jacobchess857	L8	L25	0.0
35	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	16738735	1105	victor6688	L15	L19	0.0
36	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	870	Bruce_Hedman	L14	L20	0.0
37	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	L18	L21	0.0
38	**B J Day (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12586048)**	12586048	unr.	mrbillstunes1	L16	L22	0.0

FIDE Trainers Seminar December 11-13

The Mechanics' Institute will be organizing its first FIDE Trainers Seminar on December 11-13, 2020. This seminar is for coaches and players looking to enhance their education in coaching and understanding the learning of chess. Participants at the conclusion of the seminar will take an exam towards the awarding of a FIDE title for trainers.

The instructors and lecturers for this seminar include GM Melik Khachiyan, GM Jacob Aagaard, GM Dejan Bojkov, IM John Donaldson, IM Kostya Kavutskiy, WIM Dr. Alexey Root, Dr. Judit Sztaray and Abel Talamantez. Topics for the seminar include Some of the topics covered will be the role of the trainer, fair play in chess, psychological issues, study of classical games, tactics training, training in calculation, and means of improvement.

For more information and to register, please follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fide-trainer-online-seminar-dec-11-13 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fide-trainer-online-seminar-dec-11-13)

WIM Dr. Alexey Root

Dr. Alexey Root has a great new article on ChessBase on the chess culture in Uruguay, inspired by Gonzalo Muniz, who dropped into our Twitch stream during one of our events. Alexey was also in the chat and connected with Gonzalo to discuss the chess scene in Uruguay. Click the link below to the article, which shows how chess can be a unifying activity and a reflection of a culture and community. Enjoy! https://en.chessbase.com/post/outdoor-chess-uruguay (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://en.chessbase.com/post/outdoor-chess-uruguay)

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Support the Mechanics' Institute and

Save Big in the Process!

Join the Mechanics' Institute, and realize savings on our events and classes while supporting our mission to provide a center for cultural and intellectual advanncement

We are doing a membership drive through the end of the year for new members and to encourage current members to renew.

$120/year for a regular membership
$65/year for a student membership
You will save big if you are a regular participant in our tournaments and/or classes!

Here are some of our registration costs and savings
you can achieve with membership:

Tuesday Night Marathon: $30 member, $50 non-member registration fee
Weekend USCF rated events: $20 member, $40 non-member registration fee
Basically, your membership pays for itself if you attend just six tournaments, classes, or other chess events per year!

Plus you get everything that a Mechanics' Institute membership offers.

Benefits of Mechanics' Institute Membership

- Discount on most chess events or classes.
- Full use of the Library and its services, including online databases, ebooks, and more!
- Free or reduced admission to cultural events, programs, classes, and book groups.
- Access to the Chess Room and its tournaments and classes.
- WiFi access throughout the Library, Chess Room, and 4th floor meeting room.
- Membership access at other membership (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)libraries. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)

Join Mechanics' at: https://www.milibrary.org/join (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/join)
Please forward this information to others who might be interested in joining.
Please enter chess in the referred by column and check off chess as a general interest.

Any questions? Please contact us at chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org).

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 12/1: https://www.chess.com/live#r=688462 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.chess.com/live#r=688462)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Thursdays 5:00pm-6:00pm, 12/3:

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe

Casual meeting to talk about chess, life and everything. Join 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead as they give a lecture and class in a fun casual atmosphere where you can discuss games, learn strategy, discuss chess current events and interact in a fun casual atmosphere. Enter our Monday chess café for the pure love of the game. Class suitable for ALL level of players and FREE for MI members.

FREE for Mechanics' members. $5 for non-members.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - The Art of Attack in Chess by FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates: 11/16 through 12/21 (6 classes)

Learn to attack the king in this six-week class using Vladimir Vukovic's book, The Art of Attack in Chess (1963 revised 1993 by GM John Nunn), as our text.
We will take lessons from chapters such as "The classic bishop sacrifice", "The attack against the uncastled king", "Focal-points" and "The attack on the king as an integral part of the game". Vukovic also talks about mating patterns, defense, and much more.
Join us in an investigation into one of the greatest chess books ever written, a classic enjoyed by chess players around the world.

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

November 18, 2020 - January 20, 2021

Are you an adult who wants to put learning chess on top of your New Year's resolution! Get a head start with us at the Mechanics' Institute! This virtual class is open to any MI member who has no knowledge of the game or who knows the very basics and wants to improve. Taught by MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez along with Judit Sztaray and other MI staff, we will patiently walk through all the basics at a pace suitable for our class. Our goal is to teach piece movement basics, checkmate patterns, importance of development, and general strategy. We will also show students how to play online so they may practice. The goal of the class is to open a new world of fun and joy through the magic and beauty of chess, from one of the oldest and proudest chess clubs in the world.

Registration: Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

2020 Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship

Save the date scholastic players for the Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship Saturday November 28! This USCF online rated event will feature sections based on grade levels, with kids competing for trophy and medal prizes. 5 rounds with a time control of G/25+5. Games will be played on Chesscom or Chesskid depending on section and games will be manually paired by Chief TD Judit Sztaray.

Register now to get in on the post Thanksgiving scholastic chess action online at the Mechanics' Institute!

Click here to register and for information on this big chess event to close out the 2020 year:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/pacific-regional-grade-level-online-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/pacific-regional-grade-level-online-championship)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, November 28: starts at 9:30AM

5SS G/25+5: Pacific Regioanl Grade Level Online Championship

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/pacific-regional-grade-level-online-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/pacific-regional-grade-level-online-championship)

Sunday, November 29: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148049 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148049)

Monday, November 30: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148050 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148050)

Tuesday, December 1: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148051 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148051)

Wednesday, December 2: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148055 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148055)

Thursday, December 3: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148057 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148057)

Friday, December 4: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148059 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=148059)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments
Every Week!

Next one: December 5, @3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rating only (not over-the-board)
Every player must be a US Chess member.
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening.

Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered:

NEW Class: Get Those Chess Boards Out! -- Tuesdays 4-5PM
As parents, many of us now see kids staring at a screen for hours during the school day. We understand having another online class may not be so exciting. What if we are able to offer a class for beginners where they can feel and interact with the pieces to capture an important part of the early learning experience? That's why we are introducing a new class for our young, beginner players!
Let's get those chess boards out and use it during the class!
Coach Colin will interact with the players via zoom, but they will talk, use the chess board, set it up and set up different positions, and learn and play on a physical board. No shared screen during the class! It's all interactive, using physical chess pieces! **Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/get-those-chess-boards-out) for more information.**

Starting at Chess -- Mondays 3-4PM
This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players -- Tuesdays 3-4PM or Thursdays 4-5PM
This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Registe and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess -- Thursdays 5-6PM
This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class. Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

12/1 Tuesday - December Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 8SS G/35+2

Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/december-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/december-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

12/3 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot)
Start at 6:30PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Chessmonster666: old and slow.

Joining the Paul Whitehead Arena (see https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/943#paul (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/943#paul) for more details) on Tuesday, November 17th, I was unpleasantly surprised by a new time control of 2 minutes a side (fast, but OK by me) with a 1-second increment (uh-oh: way too fast!).

There are things I like about blitz, but when you throw in pre-moves and time controls with actual physical obstacles (sticky mouse, 1-second increment) then I start losing interest – not to mention losing chess games!

Chess is (or should be) a game of skill using your brain. Or, as in my case, what's left of it.

Nevertheless, my final score of 10-4 wasn't too bad: I may be old and slow, but I'm not down and out!

Below I take a quick look at those four losses, for the following reasons:

- Explaining my losses improves my game.

- Explaining my losses is better than drowning my sorrows in drink.

- Explaining my losses enables me to make excuses for my mistakes.

I've been told that next week we are back to the old 3/2 format, and I'm grateful. I'm old-school, really, and don't much fancy chance, or lady-luck in my chess.

See you then.

(1) chessmonster666 (1868) - vish1080 (2208) [B31]

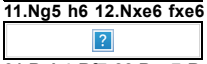
Live Chess Chess.com, 17.11.2020

[Whitehead,Paul]

Storyline: white completely outplays black and wins 2 pawns. Then he blunders badly with 36.Qg4?? dropping a rook. Say no more! **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 e5 6.d3 Nge7 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Nc4 d6 9.Bxc6 Nxc6 10.a4 Be6**



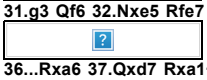
11.Ng5 h6 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Be3 d5 14.Na3 d4 15.Bd2 Qf6 16.Rf1 Rad8 17.Nc4 b6 18.Qe2 g5 19.Rab1 Ne7 20.b4 cxb4



21.Bxb4 Rf7 22.Bxe7 Rxe7 23.a5 bxa5 24.Nxa5 Rf8 25.Nc4 Kh7 26.Ra1 Rc8 27.Ra5 Rcc7 28.Nxe5 Qf4 29.Nc4 Rf7 30.Rfa1 e5



31.g3 Qf6 32.Nxe5 Rfe7 33.Nc4 Qe6 34.Ra6 Qd7 35.Qh5 Re6 36.Qg4??



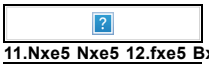
36...Rxa6 37.Qxd7 Rxa1+ 38.Kg2 Rxd7 vish1080 won by resignation **0-1**

(2) fpawn (2205) - chessmonster666 (1232) [B24]

Live Chess Chess.com, 17.11.2020

[Whitehead,Paul]

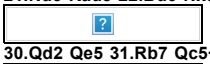
Storyline: a nice game! Some mutual errors, but as his time ticked down black made more. Finally, white finishes him off with a pretty tactic. **1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.Be3 d6 7.f4 Nge7 8.Nf3 Nd4 9.0-0 Nec6 10.e5 dxe5**



11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.fxe5 Bxe5 13.Ne4 0-0 14.c3 Nc6 15.Bxc5 Re8 16.Qf3 f5 17.Nf2 Bd7 18.d4 Bg7 19.Rfe1 b6 20.Ba3 Qf6



21.Nd3 Rad8 22.Bd6 Nxd4 23.Qf2 Nc6 24.Rad1 e5 25.Bc7 Rc8 26.Bxe5 Nxe5 27.Nxe5 Rxe5 28.Rxd7 Rxe1+ 29.Qxe1 a5



30.Qd2 Qe5 31.Rb7 Qc5+ 32.Kh1 Kh8 33.Qd7 Rg8? [33...Qf8] **34.Bd5 Qf2 35.Qxg7+!!**



[35.Bxg8?? Qf1#] **35...Rxg7 36.Rb8+** fpawn won by resignation **1-0**

(3) Oli_MS (1874) - chessmonster666 (1866) [A48]

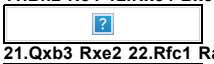
Live Chess Chess.com, 17.11.2020

[Whitehead,Paul]

Storyline: White drops a piece on the 21st move, black blunders it back, white wins on time on the 48th. I suppose this is chess... **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.c4 e6 8.Nc3 Qe7 9.h3 b6 10.b4 Bb7**



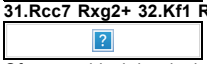
11.Bh2 Ne4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Nd2 Bb7 14.Rc1 a5 15.a3 axb4 16.axb4 Ra2 17.Nb3 Rfa8 18.c5 Bd5 19.cxd6 cxd6 20.Rc7 Bxb3



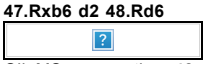
21.Qxb3 Rxe2 22.Rfc1 Raa2 23.Bg3 h5 24.h4 g5 25.hxg5 Qxg5 26.Rxd7 h4 27.Bf4 Rxf2 28.Rc8+ Kh7 29.Qd3+ Qg6 30.Qxg6+ Kxg6



31.Rcc7 Rxg2+ 32.Kf1 Rgf2+ 33.Kg1 Rxf4 34.exf4 Bxd4+ 35.Kf1 f5 36.Rf7 Bf6 37.Rh7 d5 38.Ke1 Rb2 39.Rb7 Rxb4 40.Rhd7 Re4+



Of course black is winning, but with only 1 second per move could not keep up, even losing on time at the end. **41.Kf1 Rxf4+ 42.Kg1 h3 43.Kh2 Rf3 44.Rh7 d4 45.Rxh3 Rxh3+ 46.Kxh3 d3 47.Rxb6 d2 48.Rd6**



Oli_MS won on time **48...Bc3 49.Rxe6+ Kg5 50.Rd6 Kf4** is still winning for black. **1-0**

(4) stratus_junior (2290) - chessmonster666 (1880) [E64]

Live Chess Chess.com, 17.11.2020

[Whitehead,Paul]

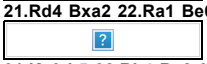
Storyline: A hard fought game where black eventually came out on top...only to lose on time yet again. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 c6 9.h3 a5 10.Be3 exd4**



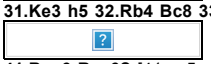
11.Bxd4 Re8 12.Re1 a4 13.e5 dxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Qxd1 16.Raxd1 Be6 17.c5 a3 18.b3 Ra5 19.Na4 Rxa4 Perhaps not entirely correct. **20.bxa4 Ra8**



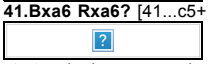
21.Rd4 Bxa2 22.Ra1 Be6 23.Rxa3 Nd7 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Rc3 Ra5 26.Rb4 Nxc5 27.Ra3 Bc8 28.Rd4 Be6 29.f4 Kf6 30.Kf2 h6



31.Ke3 h5 32.Rb4 Bc8 33.Kf3 Be6 34.g4 hxg4+ 35.hxg4 Bc8 36.g5+ Ke7 37.Ke3 Be6 38.Kd4 Kd6 39.Bf3 Kc7 40.Be2 Na6



41.Bxa6 Rxa6? [41...c5+ should have been easy to see, but black was on the 1-second increment...] **42.a5 Ra8 43.Kc5 Rd8 44.a6?** [44.Rd4] **44...Rd5+ 45.Kc4 Ra5+ 46.Kd4 Rxa3 47.Rxb7+**



stratus_junior won on time. Black is winning with 47...Kd6 or 47...Kc8. **1-0**

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

The coronavirus pandemic continues, yet fortunately online chess is continuing even more so. The 1.5 million dollar Champions Chess Tour consists of 10 online super-tournaments and has just kicked off with the first event of the brand new season – the $100,000 Skilling Open. That rapid play event started with 16 of the world's best in a round robin preliminary event. Eight of the players "made the cut" to advance to the knock-out matches. Some surprising exits were the young stars Alireza Firouzja and Jan Kristoff Duda along with world #3 Ding Liren.

Magnus Carlsen tied for first in the preliminary round robin, tied with the USA's Hikaru Nakamura. Yet Carlsen had some bumps along the road, particularly against the Russians. We give below his game against Ian Nepomniachtchi and with it the question, "Do you think you could beat Magnus in one chess game?"

You probably have an answer in your mind, but I will ask you again after you've seen the game.

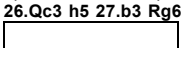
(1) Nepomniachtchi,Ian - Carlsen,Magnus [C60]

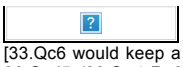
Chess Tourn Skilling, 22.11.2020

Here is a battle between the player tied for first in the Candidates Tournament and the World Champion. We could well see the title match next yeat between these two players, though the games would be classical time control and so fewer errors. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7** Magnus plays an offbeat line of the Ruy Lopez, something he is unlikely to try in a classic match. **4.Nc3 Ng6 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4 Bc5 7.Be3 Bxd4 8.Bxd4 Qg5 9.g3 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Ne5** Rather tricky play from Magnus, but Nepo has more space and isn't going to fall for a knight fork. **11.Be2 Nc6 12.Qc4 d6 13.Nd5 Qd8 14.Qc3 0-0 15.0-0-0 Re8 16.f3 Be6 17.Bb5 Bd7 18.h4!**

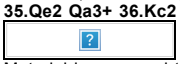


Classically played by Nepomniachtchi. White should simply take more territory and try to squeeze the position. Magnus doesn't care as much if he is worse in a rapid or blitz game, figuring there will be mistakes to come. **18...a6 19.Ba4?!** [19.Be2! is out of the way. This allows the black pawns to advance with tempo.] **19...b5 20.Bb3 a5 21.a3 b4!?** Magnus sacs a pawn to get open lines on the queenside. **22.axb4 axb4 23.Nxb4 Nxb4!?** [perhaps a little better is 23...Ne5 24.Rhe1 c5 25.Nd5 Bb5 would be enough play for the pawn] **24.Qxb4 Be6 25.Bxe6 Rxe6 26.Qc3 h5 27.b3 Rg6 28.f4 Ra6 29.Kb2 Re6?! 30.Qc4?!** [30.e5! is clearly better for White] **30...Qf6+ 31.c3 Ra8 32.Rhe1 Qe7 33.Rd5?**

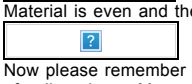




[33.Qc6 would keep a small edge. This allows Magnus a surprising shot to get the heavy pieces over to the a-file.] **33...c6!** suddenly White is in trouble. **34.Rd4** [On 34.Qxc6 Qa7! 35.Rd2 d5! 36.Qxd5 *(36.Qa4 Ra6)* 36...Qa2+ 37.Kc1 Qa1+ 38.Kc2 Ra2+ 39.Kd3 Qxe1 40.Rxa2 Qb1+ 41.Rc2 Rg6! leaves the black queen and rook causing decisive trouble to the white king] **34...d5 35.Qe2 Qa3+ 36.Kc2 Qa2+ 37.Kd3 Qxb3 38.Qc2**



Material is even and the black heavy pieces attack the white king. After 38...Qb5+ 39 Ke3 Ra3 Black has a huge advantage. Instead Magnus played **38...Qb4**



Now please remember the question I asked you earlier, whether you think you could beat Magnus in one game. The move played was of course a mouse slip, which happens in our new world of online chess. Magnus quickly resigned before giving Nepomniachtchi the chance to offer a sporting draw. The good news is that this didn't affect the tournament since Magnus tied for first and qualified for the knockout matches. **1-0**

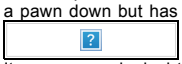
(2) Nakamura,Hikaru - Firouzja,Alireza [B19]

Skilling Prelim, 24.11.2020

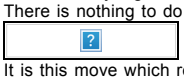
Young Firouzja is the #1 up and coming teenage talent of the chess world. He plays Nakamura, one the "old" players in his mid-thirties. Yet of course Hikaru is still one of the very top players of rapid chess, and he will often hit you with a trick or tactic that is hard to avoid in these quicker time controls. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3** The players follow the main line of the Caro-Kann, just as Spassky and Petrosian used to play sixty years ago. Black is very solid with just a bit less space. **10...e6 11.Bf4 Qa5+ 12.Bd2 Bb4 13.c3 Be7 14.c4 Qb6 15.Bc3 Ngf6 16.Ne5 Rd8 17.Qe2 Bb4!**



with these exchanges Firouzja alleviates his space disadvantage and achieves completely equal chances. **18.0-0 Bxc3 19.bxc3 0-0 20.Rab1 Qc7** [20...Qa5!? 21.Rxb7 Nxe5 22.dxe5 Nd7 would be an active way to play. It seems Black would be for choice.] **21.f4 c5 22.Qf3 Nb6 23.Rfd1?!** [23.Ne4 immediately is more to the point] **23...Nfd7!** Black begins to get pressure against the doubled pawns. **24.Ne4 cxd4 25.cxd4 f5?!** this is loosening. Black would maintain the advantage with [25...Nxe5 26.fxe5 Qxc4] **26.Nc5! Nxc5 27.dxc5 Qxc5+ 28.Kh2 Qc7 29.a4!** Nakamura is a pawn down but has a powerful knight on e5. He plays for activity as his last move seeks to open the b-file to hit b7. **29...Rxd1 30.Rxd1 Rd8?**



It seems very logical to trade down to eliminate the pressure, but this allows a tactic, a typical "Naka shot" that occur frequently in his games. 30...a5 would have stayed equal. **31.Qxb7! Qxb7** There is nothing to do but take the queen sacrifice. **32.Rxd8+ Kh7 33.Ng6 Qc8** The only defense to 34. Rh8 mate is to give back the queen. **34.Rxc8 Nxc8 35.c5!**



It is this move which restricts the black knight that gives White a winning ending. **35...Kg8 36.Kg3 Kf7 37.Kf3 Ke8** [37...Ne7 38.Nxe7 Kxe7 39.Ke3 Kd7 40.Kd4 Kc6 is an easily winning king ending 41.Ke5 Kxc5 42.Kxe6 Kb4 43.Kf7 Kxa4 44.Kxg7 Kb5 45.Kxh6 a5 46.Kg6 a4 47.h6 White queens first] **38.Ke3 Kd7 39.Kd4 a6 40.Ke5** the black pawns fall **40...Kc6 41.Kxe6 Kxc5 42.Kf7 Kb4 43.Kxg7 1-0**

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214853/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #946

December 5, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Giving Tuesday Marathon
- Mechanics' TNM Report
- Mechanics' Thursday Night Marathon Report
- FIDE Trainer Seminar
- IM John Donaldson Championship
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Dr. Alexey Root
- Become a Mechanics' Institute Member
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Pacific Regional Grade Level
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Giving Tuesday Marathon

Tuesday December 1st was Giving Tuesday, traditionally the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, and is known as a day of generosity in support of people and organizations to make a positive impact on their communities. We thought we would make it a day of fun and thrilling chess events while raising awareness and asking for support for the Mechanics' Institute through membership and direct giving. What transpired was a full day of engagement with our chess community, bringing both local and national talents together for an action filled day of events, culminating in the start of our December Tuesday Night Marathon.

We began with a noon blitz tournament, which had a decent tournout from some of our regular players and some exciting games. 19 players played in our special bitz event, where we had a tie for first between Oli_MS from Uruguay and LittlePinkCorvette with 5/6. Full results can be found here:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-giving-tuesday-blitz-1798704 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-giving-tuesday-blitz-1798704)

Next we had a very special interview with Mechanics' Institute CEO Kimberly Scrafano. We discussed how we are facing the challenges of the pandemic and how the many facets of the Institute are working together to come up with solutions while in shelter and place and preparing for brighter days in 2021. You can watch the full interview on our YouTube channel here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtNS-8NbF14 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtNS-8NbF14)

We then had a very special Arena on Chess.com with the UC Berkeley Chess Team. NM Kireet Panuganti and Nathan Fong came on the stream while they played our Mechanics' players. The Mechanics' regulars played them tough however, going to show that our club players can give even the most talented students a tough time when it comes to chess. NM Arun Dixit ended up winning the Arena, full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/uc-berkeley-chess-team-arena-688466 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/uc-berkeley-chess-team-arena-688466), as well as the stream: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POZwt0f4IS4 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POZwt0f4IS4) Also in this video thread you can find a short version of the Monday Chess Cafe from GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead.

Right before the start of the Tuesday Night Marathon, we had our Giving Tuesday main event of the day, a 1-hour G/3+2 Arena with regining and 8-time US Women's Champion GM Irina Krush. This was a very fun Arena in which Judit Sztaray, WIM Dr. Alexey Root and FM Paul Whitehead joined me on the broadcast to cover Irina putting on a show against our always tough Mechanics' players, going 7/7 and winning the Arena. Here is one of her games, using a queen sacrifice that she said after was intentionally done for flair in defeating NM Kireet Panuganti.

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(3) GM Irina Krush (Irochka83) (2364) - NM Kireet Panuganti (kkpanu9) (2065) [E33]

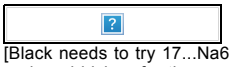
Live Chess Chess.com, 01.12.2020

[de Firmian]

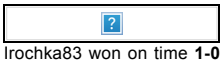
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 Capablanca's line against the Nimzo-Indian. **4...Nc6** one of the less usual replies to Capa's line. **5.Nf3 d6 6.Bd2!** This small move with the bishop gets the right setup for White and ensures an edge out of the opening. Irina knows her stuff. **6...0-0 7.a3 Bxc3 8.Bxc3** The bishop sits well on this square which helps control center and the long diagonal. **8...Qe7 9.b4 e5 10.d5 Nb8 11.e4**



White has a clear space advantage. **11...c6 12.Be2 cxd5 13.cxd5 g6?!** better to get the other pieces developed **14.0-0 Nh5 15.Rfc1! Nf4 16.Bf1 Bd7** [16...f5 17.g3 fxe4 18.gxf4 exf3 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.Qd2 Qd6 21.Qe3 Nd7 22.Bh3 and the raking white bishops give White a huge advantage; White is also much better after 16...Nd7 17.g3 Nh5; perhaps best is 16...Bg4 17.Ne1 Rc8 18.Nd3] **17.Bd2! Rc8?**



[Black needs to try 17...Na6 18.Bxf4 exf4 19.Qd2 Qxe4 20.Rc4 Qe7 21.Re1 Qd8 22.Qxf4 though White still has a great advantage.] **18.Qxc8+! Bxc8 19.Rxc8+ Kg7 20.Rac1** White has just a rook and bishop for the queen but completely dominates the board. The black rook and knight are pinned and undeveloped in the corner. Meanwhile Irina is ready to invade on the 7th rank with the other rook. There is no good defense. **20...a5 21.bxa5 Qd7 22.g3 Nh5 23.R1c7**



Irochka83 won on time **1-0**

We want to thank Irina for being so generous with her time. She was gratious enough to join us after the Arena for a brief interview, which can be seen at the end of the stream. To watch the Arena and interview, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-B3JNh0pRo&t=198s (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-B3JNh0pRo&t=198s)

Full results are found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/gm-irina-krush-special-arena-710432 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/gm-irina-krush-special-arena-710432)

It was a fun filled day with a variety of chess action. We were happy to bring people together through chess, and we appreciate the generosity of the UC Berkeley chess team and GM Irina Krush for giving their time in support of Mechanics'.

If you would like to support the Mechanics' Institute through membership, please follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/join (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/join)

Membership give you big discounts on our chess events and classes, and in some cases free access to classes while being eligible to enjoy the full benefits of membership to the Institute, including borrowing privileges to our library, access to author and speaker events, and access to our cinema/lit events.

Thank you everyone for all your support!

Mechanics' Institute November Tuesday Night Marathon Report

The Mechanics' Institute December Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off as the culmination of a full day of events from our Giving Tuesday campaign, and we have the largest turnout yet for our online TNM, with 60 players participating as of this writing. The final marathon of the year is one open section, with top seeds GM Gadir Guseinov, FM Kyron Griffith, and IM Elliott Winslow and several 1800+ players all participating in this 8-round G/35+2 USCF rated event.

There were no major upsets, with 6 rounds to go. Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Standings. 2020 December TNMO: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	R 4
1	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2600	gguseinov	W31	W23		
2	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W32	W24		
3	**NM Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)**	13778105	2202	microbear	W33	W25		
4	**Arun Dixit (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14607904)**	14607904	2199	Limelight2727	W34	W26		
5	**NM Kireet Panuganti (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13843374)**	13843374	2138	kkpanu9	W35	W27		
6	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W36	W28		
7	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1997	kclemens	W37	W30		
8	**Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)**	16089208	1889	J3Chess24	W40	W21		
	Ako Heidari							

9	(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W50	W18	
10	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W51	W19	
11	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1958	ninjaforce	W52	W20	
12	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1724	pgstar3	W60	W17	
13	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1829	vish1080	W41	D15	
14	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	D47	W44	
15	William Sartorio (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14715380)	14715380	2063	unusualkid	W49	D13	
16	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	KyronGriffith	H---	W47	
17	Kevin Yanofsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15901193)	15901193	1968	kyanofsky	W38	L12	
18	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	W42	L9	
19	Ranen A Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1803	dashrndrx	W43	L10	
20	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W46	L11	
21	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	etvat	W48	L8	
22	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	13001390	1954	nathanf314	H---	H---	
23	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W53	L1	
24	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	W54	L2	
25	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1940	ashikuzzaman	W55	L3	
26	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W56	L4	
27	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	W57	L5	
28	Nicholas Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	W58	L6	
29	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1866	mwncklmann	H---	H---	
30	Zachi Baharav (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13464604)	13464604	1813	fastZachi	W59	L7	
31	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	L1	W53	
32	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1711	ahyanzaman	L2	W54	
33	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	starserika18	L3	W55	
34	Mateo Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14907254)	14907254	1687	mateosh	L4	W56	

35	**Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)**	16761994	1664	LightningDragon8	L5	W57	
36	**Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)**	13836822	1652	ibalek	L6	W58	
37	**Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	16380642	1556	programmingmax	L7	W59	
38	**Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)**	16545130	1506	chessboi2010	L17	W60	
39	**Willia Harris III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15953392)**	15953392	1184	15953392	H---	H---	
40	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	16738735	1105	victor6688	L8	W48	
41	**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	17079795	1033	andrewaballantyne	L13	W49	
42	**Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)**	16964125	931	sfdeals	L18	W50	
43	**Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)**	16695036	930	adichi	L19	W51	
44	**Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)**	16380615	662	ComfyQueso	B---	L14	
45	**Leon Diaz Herrera (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355661)**	17355661	unr.	Aeqetes	H---	H---	
46	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	unr.	Bruce_Hedman	L20	W52	
47	**Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	16875347	811	Sebbymeister	D14	L16	
48	**Christoph Bradley (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16047844)**	16047844	1654	ifyoustayreti	L21	L40	
49	**Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)**	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L15	L41	
50	**Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)**	16380657	1556	SunnyCountry	L9	L42	
51	**Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1513	rimus11	L10	L43	
52	**Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)**	12446259	1495	nmbrown2	L11	L46	
53	**Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)**	17168772	1490	Evariel	L23	L31	
54	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	L24	L32	
55	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L25	L33	
56	**Peter Jam Rushton (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16453812)**	16453812	1239	pedrojrush	L26	L34	
57	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	16898540	1161	kevin_mx_sun	L27	L35	
58	**Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)**	17179258	1043	JeffNorthSF	L28	L36	
59	**Elliott Regan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15032065)**	15032065	943	TTVchessmaster	L30	L37	
60	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	30037403	unr.	Vincitore51745	L12	L38	

30037403)						

Here are some games from the first two rounds, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(4) Nitish Nathan (BreatheChessAlways) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) [A41]

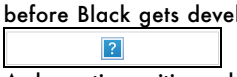
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[de Firmian,Nick]

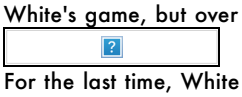
1.d4 d6! A glance at Nitish's games on Chess. com show that he overwhelmingly prefers the Modern London system, 1.d4 and 2. Bf4 against just about everything. So Guseinov plays to specifically cause that very move order some grief. **2.Bf4** [2.e4!? would just be into the Pirc and/or Czech complexes.; 2.Nf3 could still be a London system (after all, for a couple hundred years the most common London move order was 1.d4, 2. Nf3 and 3.Bf4), when Black could still stir up idiosyncrasy with 2...Bg4!?] **2...g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nd7** Thanks to his holding back on ...Nf6, Black gets his pawns rolling, contesting the dark squares so often White's birthright in the London. **5.h3 e5 6.Bh2 f5!?**



7.c4 Sensible, [but 7.Bc4!? is a ray of hope, taking advantage of Black's forgetting about the light squares. 7...e4 *(7...Nh6!?* as in the game, also thinking about castling still.*)* 8.Ng1 Ne7 9.Ne2 Nf6 10.Bb3 1-0 (77) Miroshnichenko,E (2606)-Zhou,Y (2449) chess.com INT 2018] **7...Nh6 8.Nc3 Nf7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 c6** [10...g5!?] **11.Qd2** [11.c5? e4 12.Nd2 dxc5 picks off a pawn (even if it does let the London bishop back into the game).; 11.Qc2 keeps the path from d1 to d8 available.] **11...Qe7 12.Rad1 e4 13.Ne1 Nf6** White's game is still preferable, but it's necessary to do something with it before Black gets developed. **14.Nc2 Bd7 15.b4 g5 16.c5** [16.d5!?; 16.b5!?] **16...d5** [16...dxc5 17.bxc5 Rad8] **17.b5**



A dramatic position, akin to many of the lines of the King's Indian. White has a queenside pawn storm going, Black tries to organize one of his own on the kingside. The London bishop helps to hold things back, but the difference, like in the KID, is that if/when Black gets in there's an enemy king to pay up. **17...Nh8!?** Grandmaster Guseinov either blunders or sets a positional trap. **18.Bd6!?** Just winning an Exchange. But the bishop could certainly be missed when the pawns make contact. **18...Qf7 19.Bxf8 Rxf8** and White crashes through with his extra rook on the queenside, winning? So say the engines, but Nitish loses his way in short order. **20.f4!?** Certainly sensible, [as in a different vein is 20.Rb1] **20...exf3** Stockfish at first goes wild for White's game, but over time its opinion softens. **21.Bxf3 Ng6**



For the last time, White is an exchange up and should find a suitable file for rooks. The b-file of course. Instead White overlooks a little tactic: **22.Qe2?!** [22.Rb1] **22...g4 23.hxg4 fxg4 24.Bxg4?!** [24.Bxd5!? cxd5 25.e4 tries to put up a fight.] **24...Bxg4 25.Qxg4 Nxg4 26.Rxf7 Rxf7 27.Nb4 Nxe3 28.Re1 Bxd4 29.Ne2 Bxc5 30.Nd3 Nc2+** That could have gone bad for the grandmaster. Nitish let himself be snookered. **0-1**

(5) Ahyan Zaman (ahyanzaman) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) [E67]

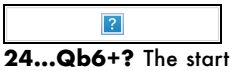
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[de Firmian,Nick]

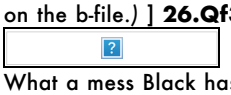
1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 Nf6 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 Nbd7 7.e3 [Usually White takes a more aggressive approach: 7.0-0 e5 8.e4] **7...e5 8.dxe5** The various exchange variations of the King's Indian might seem unambitious at first, but many of them contain more than a little pressure on weak points. **8...dxe5 9.0-0 c6** Black doesn't want to suffer a knight into d5, but has to put up with some danger on the dark squares now. **10.b3 Re8 11.Bb2 Qc7** [11...e4!? The indirect attack on b2 means that White won't be able to win this pawn right away, but it could still be a problem down the line.] **12.Qc2 Nc5**



13.b4? White gets "intermezzo'ed" now; [13.Ng5 and into e4 with exchanges might be an attempt to keep the balance. But clearly something has gone wrong.] **13...Bf5** Black takes over. **14.e4!?** White tries to confuse the issue. **14...Ncxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4** [15...Nxe4?! 16.g4 looks like it wins a piece, but it turns out Black has 16...Nf6! 17.gxf5 e4! followed by ...Ng4 with complications that eventually net an exchange and a tenable game.] **16.Qe2 Rad8** It's not easy to consolidate here, although various moves could just be winning. [16...Qd6!? 17.c5 Qd3! could well be the silver bullet.] **17.Rad1 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 e4** Black might have thought he was crashing through with his extra pawn, but Ahyan puts up serious resistance. **19.Qb3** [In fact Stockfish prefers 19.Qe2 and suggests 19...h5!? with some advantage still. Perhaps Alpha Zero is influencing other computers with its love of mobilizing rook pawns. Does nobody remember Bent Larsen's rook pawn advocation from the 1960s?] **19...e3!?** Clutching somewhat at straws. [The computer path is 19...Ng4! 20.Rxd8 Qxd8 21.Rd1 Qg5 to work on the kingside. Bordering on a win.] **20.fxe3 Ng4** Still, this looks pretty good. **21.Bxg7** [21.Bc1!? h5 White may no longer be down a pawn but the positional factors (weak e-pawn, loose kingside) spell advantage Black.] **21...Kxg7 22.Rxd8 Qxd8 23.Qc3+ f6** This looks solid but a few moves later things get shaky. **24.e4**



24...Qb6+? The start of a misadventure. [24...Re7! intending ...Rd7 and the d-file is a win; 25.Bh3 Rxe4 recovers the extra pawn without consequence.] **25.c5 Qa6?** [25...Qd8! 26.Bf3 Ne5 27.Rd1 Qe7 28.Kg2 Rd8 isn't bad, while *(28...h5! 29.h4 b6 30.Rd6?! bxc5 31.bxc5 Qb7* and Black finds his entry on the b-file.*)*] **26.Qf3!**

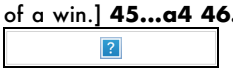


What a mess Black has made of his game! But there was one more error: **26...f5?** Black thought a desperate defense was necessary, but it backfires. [26...h5! 27.Bh3 (27.h3 Ne5! 28.Qxf6+ Kg8= is a surprisingly tight box which White has no way into. (or 28...*Kh7=)*) 27...Rf8 28.Bxg4 hxg4 29.Qxg4 Black has fine counterplay on any queen penetration (while retaking the pawn totally holds as well).] **27.exf5 Qc4 28.fxg6** [28.Qd1!] **28...hxg6 29.h3** [29.a3 consolidates 29...Re1!? 30.Qf8+ Kh7 31.h3] **29...Qd4+ 30.Kh1 Nf6 31.Qf4?!** White starts to fall behind on the clock while making subpar moves.This just increases Black's chance to hold. Young players need to ramp up their ending study! [31.g4; 31.Qf2; 31.b5!?] **31...Qxf4 32.Rxf4 Re2?!** Black also burns a big chunk of his remaining time on shaky moves. [32...Re1+! first: 33.Rf1 Re2+/= 34.a3 Nd7] **33.a3+/- Nd7** and

again, using four of the remaining twelve minutes. **34.Re4?!** [34.Rd4! and if 34...Ne5 only then 35.Re4] **34...Rd2 35.a4** [35.g4; 35.Bf1] **35...Kf6** Now White is ahead on the clock! 10:30 to [35...g5!?] **36.Rf4+** [36.h4 both mobilizes the majority and makes Bh3 available.] **36...Ke7**



[Black really should just go back home with 36...Kg7] **37.b5?** This just doesn't work. [37.h4 is still problematic (read: losing) for Black.; As is 37.a5] **37...cxb5 38.c6** [38.axb5 Nxc5 39.Rc4 b6] **38...bxc6 39.Bxc6 bxa4 40.Bxa4?!** [40.Rxa4 White will end up with a nominal advantage of two vs. one on the kingside – an almost certain draw.] **40...Ne5** This also should be a draw. But despite being up on time, White never gets his ending bearings and finally lets Black sneak his a-pawn through. **41.Kg1 g5 42.Re4 Kd6 43.Re3 a5 44.Be8 Ra2 45.Kf1** [45.h4 g4 46.h5! stops Black's dreaming of a win.] **45...a4 46.Re4 a3 47.Rd4+ Kc5**



48.Rd1?? The big blunder. [48.Ra4 behind the pawn where it belongs, still keeps a draw.] **48...Rb2** Somehow it's a case of a knight dominating a bishop on a completely open board. **49.Ba4 a2 50.Rc1+ Nc4 51.Be8 Rb1 52.Rxb1 axb1Q+ 53.Kf2 Kd4 54.Kf3 Qd1+ 55.Kf2 Ne5 56.Bb5 Qf3+ 57.Ke1 Ke3 58.h4 Qf2+ 59.Kd1 Qd2#** A disaster for young Ahyan, but he gets stronger and stronger; soon he'll be surpassing his dad! **0-1**

(6) Kevin Yanofsky (kyanofsky) - Philip Gerstoft (pgstar3) [E91]

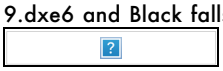
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[de Firmian,Nick]

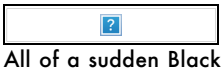
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Nbd7 Most King's Indian players are willing to resort to tactical methods to combat the center: [6...e5! One reason for the chosen move is to avoid the Exchange Variation, which isn't to some KID players' taste. 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8; 6...c5 7.dxc5 Qa5 is another way to go; while 6...Bg4!? may still be seen this tournament, as it's GM Guseinov's workhorse line. 7.Be3 Nfd7; Or 6...Na6 when ...e5 will be more comfortable should White exchange.] **7.Be3 c5?!** This doesn't go so well with the previous move. [7...e5 is back to the Gligoric Variation.] **8.d5**



Now the standard Benoni trade of Black's e-pawn would require some awkward preparation, **8...Ng4** This doesn't really gain anything... [8...e6?? 9.dxe6 and Black falls apart (d6 hangs).] **9.Bg5 a6 10.0-0**



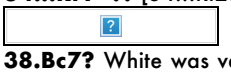
[There's nothing wrong with the "automatic" reaction 10.a4] **10...f5?!** Black's desperate bid for counterplay comes at quite a cost (e6, half-open e-file). **11.exf5 Rxf5 12.Bd3?!** logical to clear the e-file with tempo, but [12.Qd2 Nde5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Rae1 continues to mass in preparation for moving forward.] **12...Rf8 13.Qe2 Nde5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Rae1 Bf6?!** [15...h6 16.Bd2 b5!? Benko Gambit style, even if Black doesn't just get the pawn back right away. White should just keep it relatively closed, with 17.b3] **16.Bh6! Re8 17.Ne4 Bh8?!** [17...b5!? That knight is at least the match for Black's dark-squared bishop.] **18.f4** It's a plan, but now White must be very accurate. [18.Ng5! accentuates White's space and attack on the kingside. 18...Nxd3 19.Qxd3 Bxb2] **18...Ng4 19.Bg5 Bd4+ 20.Kh1 Ne3 21.Rf3!+- Bg4**



All of a sudden Black wins an exchange, but White has so much going for him that he's still got a won game. **22.h3?** [22.Ng3! when f4-f5 tears up Black's kingside.] **22...Bxf3 23.Qxf3 Nf5 24.g4 Ng7** White's superior control grants good compensation (and that knight on g7 vs. the White pawns on d5 and g4!) but his advantage has slipped mostly away. Black will need to open lines for his rooks. From here on White runs down his clock trying to find a way to proceed, going quickly from 12 minutes to 2 without succeeding. **25.Ng3?!** Overlooking something? [25.h4 b5 26.b3 and there's still no entry for Black.] **25...Qa5!?** [25...b5!? 26.b3 Qa5 27.Re2 Bf6 28.Bh6 bxc4; 25...Bf6!?] **26.Rf1 Qd2 27.h4 Qe3**



Black thinks trading queens will increase his chances. (2:38 vs. 8:07) **28.f5?** [28.Qxe3 Bxe3 29.Kg2 prepares h5] **28...Qxf3+ 29.Rxf3 gxf5** White has done Black's work for him – now the rooks can get in. **30.Nxf5 Nxf5 31.Bxf5** (2:12 left) **31...Kg7!** (6:12 left) **32.Be6** (0:21 left!) **32...Rf8! 33.Rxf8 Rxf8?** [33...Kxf8! leaves White resourceless; ...b5 will find a file for the rook.] **34.Bxe7** Now White has counterplay with a passed d-pawn. **34...Rf1+?!** [34...Rf2! 35.Bxd6 Rxb2 White's king can't participate.] **35.Kg2 Rf2+ 36.Kg3 Rxb2 37.Bxd6 Rxa2**



38.Bc7? White was very short on time [38.Be7 runs up against 38...Re2 stifling the pawn advance; 38.g5!? a5 39.h5 a4 when Black's a-pawn is the biggest threat.] **38...Rd2** [38...a5! touchdown!] **39.d6?** [39.Bf4] **39...Be5+** and wins! White had no time to find the "Resigns" button. **40.Kf3 Bxd6 41.Bxd6 Rxd6 42.Bc8 Rb6 43.Ke4 Rb4 44.Kd5 a5 45.Kxc5 Rb1 46.Kd6 a4 47.c5 a3 48.Be6 Kf6 49.Bc4 Rb2 50.Kc7 Ke5** A difficult game for both players! Yet another youngster with a combative style, Philip Gerstoft with a sharper opening knowledge will be a big threat to come. **0-1**

(1) William Sartorio (unusualkid) - Vishva Nanugonda (vish1080) [B32]

MI Dec TNM Chess.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

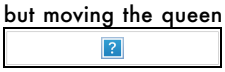
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 This the Kalishnikov Variation, one of many reasonable ways to play the Sicilian as Black. **5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3** [6.c4 is the most usual continuation for White, taking more control of the center] **6...a6 7.Na3 Be7 8.Nd5 Nf6 9.Nxf6+ Bxf6 10.Nc4!** getting the knight back into play before ...b5 keeps it in the corner **10...Be7 11.Be3 b5?!** [11...Be6] **12.Nb6 Rb8 13.Nd5** [A good alternative is 13.Nxc8 Qxc8 14.Be2 with the bishop pair and good control of the light squares] **13...0-0 14.g3 Be6 15.c3 f5 16.Bg2 Kh8 17.0-0 Na5 18.b3?!** a better way to prevent ...Nc4 is [18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Nb4! which leaves some weak squares for Black in the center and queenside that are hard to all cover] **18...Qd7 19.Qd2 Bxd5 20.Qxd5** [20.exd5 would still keep some edge.] **20...f4!**



21.gxf4? This leads to trouble, opening up the white kingside. Needed was [21.Bd2 f3 22.Bh1 is still about equal] **21...exf4 22.e5** [now 22.Bd2 f3 just wins the bishop on g2] **22...fxe3 23.fxe3 Qa7?** [23...Qc7! supporting the d6 pawn is just simply a piece ahead] **24.exd6 Qxe3+ 25.Kh1 Bf6 26.Rae1 Qxc3 27.d7!**



This pawn causes trouble and the black knight on a5 is out of play, giving White a lot of play for the lost piece. **27...Rbd8** [27...Nb7!? tries to get the knight back in the game. White can try 28.Re8 Rfxe8 29.dxe8Q+ Rxe8 30.Qxb7 Qe5 31.Qxa6 Be7 with a small edge for Black as the white king has only one pawn defender in the bishops of opposite color middle game.] **28.Rc1 Qe3 29.Rfe1?!** [29.Rce1] **29...Qf2 30.Qe6 Qxa2?** taking a pawn but moving the queen to the edge of the board. This gives White a chance to use the advanced d-pawn [30...Qd2! is still better for Black] **31.Rc8 Qd2**



32.Rxd8? [32.Rf1! threatens 32. Rxd8 Rxd8 33. Qe8+ and there's no good defense to it since 32...Rg8 33. Bd5 is a killer.] **32...Bxd8 33.Qe8 Kg8** a draw was agreed since 34. Qe6+ Kh8 repeats the position. A hard fought battle! **1/2-1/2**

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Marathon Report

The Mechanics' Thursday Night Marathon resumed thos week after a week off for Thanksgiving. Here are the standings after 3 rounds.

Standing after Round 3

SwissSys Standings. Thursday Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	R 5
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W14	W20	W10		
2	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W28	W15	W8		
3	**Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)**	15424820	2084	chesspilot01	W27	W26	W7		
4	**Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)**	13778105	2186	microbear	W12	W23	H---	H---	
5	**Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)**	12458563	1835	knvsback	W30	W33	D9		
6	**Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	unr.	gguseinov	H---	W19	W18		
7	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	16571026	1831	A-boy415	W13	W16	L3		
8	**Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)**	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W25	W11	L2		
9	**Richard W Koepcke (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10493269)**	10493269	2200	rkoepcke	H---	W22	D5		
10	**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W29	W31	L1		
11	**Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)**	16191192	1753	1-h4-1-0	W24	L8	W28		
12	**Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)**	17350313	1475	draidus	L4	W32	W24		
13	**Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)**	16897133	1238	pjkrizzle	L7	W25	W26		
14	**Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	16380642	1545	programmingmax	L1	W35	W33		
15	**Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)**	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	X---	L2	W30		
16	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	12796129	1569	Kaline340Green	W38	L7	W31		
	Michael Xiao								

17	(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L18	W38	W23		
18	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W17	H---	L6		
19	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	L6	W34		
20	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W37	L1	D21		
21	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	16154827	1416	nxbex	H---	H---	D20		
22	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	H---	L9	W38		
23	Timothy Horng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13282721)	13282721	1730	aYzz	W32	L4	L17		
24	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1180	sfdeals	L11	W27	L12		
25	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L8	L13	W35		
26	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	11296106	1643	zenwabi	W39	L3	L13		
27	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1434	jacobchess857	L3	L24	W37		
28	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1428	noydan100	L2	W37	L11		
29	Andrew Nicho Paul (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14232850)	14232850	1385	chessplayer3740	L10	H---	H---		
30	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1347	chesspoki	L5	W39	L15		
31	Robert H Frank (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10498325)	10498325	1200	cyber-droid	X36	L10	L16		
32	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	L23	L12	W39		
33	Danny Du Uy Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	863	caodanny	X---	L5	L14		
34	Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)	12693378	595	rahimftd	H---	H---	L19		
35	Willia Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)	17048414	537	OlympusMons00	H---	L14	L25		
36	Mohammad Amir Ali (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30029248)	30029248	1565	Deshbondhu	F31	U---	U---		
37	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	870	Bruce_Hedman	L20	L28	L27		
38	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	L16	L17	L22		
39	B J Day (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12586048)	12586048	unr.	mrbillstunes1	L26	L30	L32		

FIDE Trainers Seminar December 11-13

The Mechanics' Institute will be organizing its first FIDE Trainers Seminar on December 11-13, 2020. This seminar is for coaches and players looking to enhance their education in coaching and understanding the learning of chess. Participants at the conclusion of the seminar will take an exam towards the awarding of a FIDE title for trainers.

The instructors and lecturers for this seminar include GM Melik Khachiyan, GM Jacob Aagaard, GM Dejan Bojkov, IM John Donaldson, WIM Dr. Alexey Root, Dr. Judit Sztaray and Abel Talamantez. Topics for the seminar include Some of the topics covered will be the role of the trainer, fair play in chess, psychological issues, study of classical games, tactics training, training in calculation, and means of improvement.

For more information and to register, please follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fide-trainer-online-seminar-dec-11-13 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/fide-trainer-online-seminar-dec-11-13)

2nd Annual IM John Donaldson Championship December 19-20, 2020

The Mechanics' Institute will hold the 2nd annual IM John Donaldson Championship the weekend of December 19-20th. It will be played on Chess.com over 2 days, 3 rounds per day with a time control of G/60+5. There will be a $2000 prize pool based on 50 entries. Join us in closing out 2020 with one of our largest prize pool events in honoring former MI Chess Director and current US Olympiad Captain John Donaldson. GM's and IM's free. For information and registration, please follow this link:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-annual-im-john-donaldson-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-annual-im-john-donaldson-championship-online)

Mechanics' Chess Social

We had IM Keaton Kiewra on our Mechanics' Chess Social on Friday December 4th and it was a fascinating interview talking about his own chess career, philosophy of coaching chess, online play and how his multi-disciplined background in psychology, poker, meditation, and spirituality has helped him have a heightened sense of awareness in his own development, coaching, and detecting online cheaters. Watch the interview on our YouTube channel by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2_SCXwsQp8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2_SCXwsQp8)

WIM Dr. Alexey Root

Dr. Alexey Root has released the latest installment of Grandmaster Chef, featuring GM Ian Nepomniachtchi. Click here to read the article from ChessBase: https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-ian-nepomniachtchi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-ian-nepomniachtchi)

NM Michael Walder made the dish from the article, pictured here, photo by Elliott winslow:

Learn what this is by reading the article!

Also, Alexey and Judit will be presenting seperately at ChessTech2020, which will be held online and covering all things regarding cyber chess. Check out a Chess Life Online article here to see all the speakers, schedule and registration: https://new.uschess.org/news/international-conference-highlight-booming-digital-chess-realm (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://new.uschess.org/news/international-conference-highlight-booming-digital-chess-realm)

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
Since 1854

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- Access to the Chess Room and its tournaments and classes.
- WiFi access throughout the Library, Chess Room, and 4th floor meeting room.
- Membership access at other membership (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)libraries. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)

Join Mechanics' at: https://www.milibrary.org/join (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/join)
Please forward this information to others who might be interested in joining.
Please enter chess in the referred by column and check off chess as a general interest.

Any questions? Please contact us at chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org).

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 12/8: https://www.chess.com/live#r=711926
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chess.com/live#r=711926)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Thursdays 5:00pm-6:00pm, 12/10: https://www.chess.com/live#r=722731
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chess.com/live#r=722731)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe

Casual meeting to talk about chess, life and everything. Join 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead as they give a lecture and class in a fun casual atmosphere where you can discuss games, learn strategy, discuss chess current events and interact in a fun casual atmosphere. Enter our Monday chess café for the pure love of the game. Class suitable for ALL level of players and FREE for MI members.

FREE for Mechanics' members. $5 for non-members.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - The Art of Attack in Chess by FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates: 11/16 through 12/21 (6 classes)

Learn to attack the king in this six-week class using Vladimir Vukovic's book, The Art of Attack in Chess (1963 revised 1993 by GM John Nunn), as our text.
We will take lessons from chapters such as "The classic bishop sacrifice", "The attack against the uncastled king", "Focal-points" and "The attack on the king as an integral part of the game".
Vukovic also talks about mating patterns, defense, and much more.
Join us in an investigation into one of the greatest chess books ever written, a classic enjoyed by chess players around the world.

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

November 18, 2020 - January 20, 2021

Are you an adult who wants to put learning chess on top of your New Year's resolution! Get a head start with us at the Mechanics' Institute! This virtual class is open to any MI member who has no knowledge of the game or who knows the very basics and wants to improve. Taught by MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez along with Judit Sztaray and other MI staff, we will patiently walk through all the basics at a pace suitable for our class. Our goal is to teach piece movement basics, checkmate patterns, importance of development, and general strategy. We will also show students how to play online so they may practice. The goal of the class is to open a new world of fun and joy through the magic and beauty of chess, from one of the oldest and proudest chess clubs in the world.

Registration: Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Wednesday 6:30-8PM - Online class with FM Paul Whitehead

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online-class-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/OnlineClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship Report

The Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship brought together 54 players for a weekend post Thanksgiving grade level championship played on Chesskid.com. It was fun and exciting to see so many kids compete, and we got a glimpse of some up and coming future Bay Area talent. The games were manually paired and the event ran very smoothly. Kudos to Judit Sztaray, Chief Tournament Director for running a smooth event while keeping many of the kids company in the Zoom helpdesk.

Here is one game from the tournament in the first round that I thought was very intriguing. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(2) Jashith Karhi (CoolPowerfulGhoul) (1490) - Dani Rivera Villa (alexandermex) (1274) [B92]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

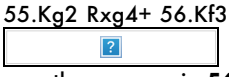
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Bg5 [8.f4!] **8...h6?! 9.Bh4?!** [9.Bxf6! Qxf6 10.Na5 Qd8 11.Nc4 will give White control of d5] **9...Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nd5 Bg5 13.Bg4** the opening has turned out to be about even **13...Re8 14.Bxe6?!** this solves Black's only positional trouble which was how to contest the d5 square **14...fxe6 15.Ne3 Bf4** [15...Bxe3! 16.fxe3 Qb6 17.Qf3 Nc6 would be a nice position for Black with the better pawn structure] **16.Nc4! d5 17.exd5 exd5 18.Ne3 d4 19.Nc4?!** [19.Nf5! is a more aggressive square for the knight] **19...Re6?!** [development is called for - 19...Nc6] **20.Re1 Qd5 21.Ncd2 Rg6?! 22.Qf3! Qd7?!** [22...Qc6! keeps more control of the center light squares. Now White gains a strong initiative.] **23.Nc5 Qb5 24.Qd5+ Kf8?**



[24...Kh7 is a much safer place for the king, though White would still have a clear advantage] **25.Ne6+! Rxe6 26.Qxe6 Nc6** [Black can't take the knight on d2 - 26...Bxd2 27.Rxe5 threatens the queen and 28. Rf5 +] **27.Nb3** [27.Ne4! is a beautiful centralized square] **27...Re8 28.Qd6+ Kf7 29.Qc5 Na7?** oops **30.Qxa7 Qc6 31.Na5 Qb5 32.Qxb7+ Qxb7 33.Nxb7 Re7 34.Nd6+ Ke6 35.g3 Bg5 36.h3?** returning the favor **36...Kxd6 37.h4 Bf6 38.Rad1 Kc5 39.f4?** [39.c3! breaks up the central pawns and would be a fairly easy endgame win] **39...e4** White is still winning with best play, but the black pawn duo on d4 and e4 is bound to cause a lot of trouble **40.g4?! Bxh4 41.b4+?! Kc4** now the black king also has a good square to help the pawns **42.Re2 e3 43.a4 Bf6 44.Rb1 Rb7** [44...d3! 45.cxd3+ Kxd3 46.Kf1 Bc3 47.b5 Re4!] **45.c3?** giving away this last pawn removes a key defender to stopping the black pawn duo **45...Kxc3 46.b5 a5 47.b6 Kd3 48.Ree1 Bh4 49.Red1+ Ke4 50.Rdc1 Bd8 51.Rc8 Bxb6 52.Rc6**



52...Rf7? [52...d3! 53.Kg2 *(53.Rcxb6 Rxb6 54.Rxb6 d2 55.Rd6 e2* wins)] **53.Rcxb6 Rxf4 54.R6b2?** the rook isn't good here [54.Re6+ Kd3 55.Kg2 Rxg4+ 56.Kf3 h5 57.Rc6 Kd2 58.Rb2+ Kd3 59.Rb3+ Kd2 60.Rb2+ would be a draw] **54...g5 55.Re2 d3**



now the pawns win **56.Ree1 Rxg4+ 57.Kh2 Kf3 58.Rf1+ Ke4 59.Rbc1 e2 60.Rfe1 Kf3 61.Rb1 Rh4+ 62.Kg1 Rg4+ 63.Kh2 Kf2 64.Rxe2+ dxe2 65.Rf1+ Kxf1 66.Kh3 Rxa4 67.Kh2 Kf2** alexandermex won by resignation **0-1**
Here are the tentative final standings, congratulations to the winners and all the participants:

TENTATIVE Final Results

SwissSys Report: Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship

SwissSys Standings. Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship: Kindergarten - Grade1

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	Carl Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110834)	17110834	313	AtomicSillyTiger	W10	W2	W3
2	David Kuperman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17140478)	17140478	778	NeatDryPie	W6	L1	W7
3	Avani Shenoy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015624)	30015624	950	AquaJollyPopsicle	W9	L4	L1
4	Jeffrey Zhao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17185671)	17185671	488	NewJumpyPanda	W12	W3	W5
5	Cyrus Julia Babai (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16841338)	16841338	751	CyrusB16841338	W11	W7	L4
6	Shlok Kumbhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055831)	30055831	unr.	shlokee	L2	W10	L8
7	Patrick C Moore (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30024957)	30024957	unr.	summerknight12	W8	L5	L2
8	Arjun Heman Gorur (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015823)	30015823	133	MasterArjun	L7	W11	W6
9	Aiden X Gilling (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30049972)	30049972	100	LongJumpingTrain	L3	W12	W11
10	Thomas C Moore (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30024974)	30024974	unr.	SummerKnight11	L1	L6	B---
11	Ryan Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30054726)	30054726	unr.	RyanWBayAreaChess	L5	L8	L9
12	Julian German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17270874)	17270874	unr.	GermanChessWizard	L4	L9	U---

SwissSys Standings. Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship: Grade 2 - 3

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	R 4
1	Ryuta Watan Nunez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17015848)	17015848	1061	GeyyaYippe2000	W14	W3	W13	W
2	Prithiv Arokiadass (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17318768)	17318768	921	Bigbusyracecar	L11	W19	W7	W
3	Sreyan Ghosh (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248390)	17248390	681	sreyangbayareachess	W6	L1	D5	W
4	Daniel Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17081711)	17081711	1006	WiryAncientNutmeg	W19	W11	W9	D
5	Jashith Karthi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30016333)	30016333	846	CoolPowerfulGhoul	L7	W16	D3	W
6	Shankar Parasuram (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16967084)	16967084	937	sparasuram	L3	W14	W12	W
7	Dani Rivera Villa (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17345287)	17345287	546	alexandermex	W5	L13	L2	W
8	Shelton Cai (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16851095)	16851095	745	BestTractor	W17	L9	W11	D
9	Ethan Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30021739)	30021739	unr.	BestMiddleSun	W18	W8	L4	W
10	Vishwa Guntupalli (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17181620)	17181620	409	bestdizzyteeth	W15	L12	L14	W
11	Dominic Matar (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16748251)	16748251	677	Tastycelery	W2	L4	L8	W
12	Serena Yiqing Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16887121)	16887121	720	QuietUnicorn	W20	W10	L6	D
13	Neal Sundar (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17307025)	17307025	822	nealsundar	W16	W7	L1	D
14	Jeremy Zhang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17076230)	17076230	691	JeremyZ	L1	L6	W10	D
15	Kurtis Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16893680)	16893680	817	wrongpilot	L10	W20	W18	D
16	Alexande Yagudaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17267488)	17267488	473	BoldGrubbyelf	L13	L5	B---	W
17	Avnis Gunasekaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015415)	30015415	312	Avnish	L8	L18	H---	D
18	Jackson Hi Blouet (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17090260)	17090260	701	dryhandsomelamb	L9	W17	L15	D
19	Benjamin Hong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16724714)	16724714	683	bmhong	L4	L2	W20	D
20	Arthur Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30072174)	30072174	unr.	IcyBoldEgg	L12	L15	L19	D

SwissSys Standings. Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship: Grade 4 - 5

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	R 4
1	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	811	MSCFriSebbyS	W10	W9	W8	W
2	Leia 1 Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110828)	17110828	898	PinkAiryCloud	W14	W12	W3	L
	Shiv Sohal							

3	(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	30032729	unr.	opalmilitarydugout	W12	W14	L2	W
4	Akash Vadali (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16868053)	16868053	unr.	Chessp9999	D7	W5	W9	W
5	Shreyus Sane (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16548501)	16548501	159	DearMagicalZebra	W13	L4	W7	L
6	Cyrus Julia Babai (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16841338)	16841338	751	CyrusB16841338	B---	B---	H---	H
7	Eric Japson (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16252148)	16252148	521	saferelaxedkite	D4	L8	L5	W
8	Om Gaddam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355551)	17355551	unr.	magicom	H---	W7	L1	W
9	Willia Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)	17048414	537	Dinosaurus333	W11	L1	L4	L
10	Pranathi He Gorur (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015817)	30015817	325	MasterPranathi1	L1	B---	W11	L
11	James C Moore (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30024947)	30024947	unr.	SummerKnight20	L9	W13	L10	W
12	Aathya Srinivasan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16827837)	16827837	543	AwesomeHat	L3	L2	L13	B
13	Tanmay B Kanumuri (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015702)	30015702	592	PureGoldenCreature	L5	L11	W12	L
14	Jacob Se Davidson (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16709881)	16709881	338	cinderace2001	L2	L3	B---	L

SwissSys Standings. Pacific Regional Grade Level Online Championship: Grade 6 - 12 Merged

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5
1	Anshul Redd Kolli (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15089371)	15089371	767	Fitfunland	L3	B---	W4	W6	W5
2	Alexander Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15843203)	15843203	725	OnlySlowFan	W8	W6	W3	W7	L4
3	Shrinivas Ba Iyer (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16691948)	16691948	1443	DullDistinctcyclone	W1	W4	L2	L5	W7
4	Jerry Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16480854)	16480854	575	nextspace	W5	L3	L1	B---	W2
5	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1055	DarkCapableCharm	L4	W7	W6	W3	L1
6	Ethan Yan		unr.	goldstrongmachine	W7	L2	L5	L1	B---
7	Anantha Parasuram (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16967078)	16967078	959	aparasuram	L6	L5	B---	L2	L3
8	Adrien Cheng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16318903)	16318903	1433	rarethirddessert	L2	U---	U---	U---	U---

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, December 5: starts at 3:00PM

6SS G/10+2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentDec5SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentDec5SAT)

Sunday, December 6: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149811 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149811)

Monday, December 7: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149812 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149812)

Tuesday, December 8: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149813 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149813)

Wednesday, December 9: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149814 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149814)

Thursday, December 10: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149815 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149815)

Friday, December 11: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149816 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=149816)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments Every Week!

Next one: December 5, @3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rating only (not over-the-board)
Every player must be a US Chess member.
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening.

Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered:

NEW Class: Get Those Chess Boards Out! – Tuesdays 4-5PM
As parents, many of us now see kids staring at a screen for hours during the school day. We understand having another online class may not be so exciting. What if we are able to offer a class for beginners where they can feel and interact with the pieces to capture an important part of the early learning experience? That's why we are introducing a new class for our young, beginner players!
Let's get those chess boards out and use it during the class!
Coach Colin will interact with the players via zoom, but they will talk, use the chess board, set it up and set up different positions, and learn and play on a physical board. No shared screen during the class! It's all interactive, using physical chess pieces! **Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/get-those-chess-boards-out) for more information.**

Starting at Chess – Mondays 3-4PM

This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players -- Tuesdays 3-4PM or Thursdays 4-5PM
This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess – Thursdays 5-6PM
This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class. Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

12/8 Tuesday - December Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/december-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/december-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

12/10 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot)
Start at 6:30PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
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Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

William Lombardy on the West Coast: 1978 and 2017.

Legendary Grandmaster William Lombardy (1937-2017) blew into San Francisco sometime in August 2017, having exiled himself from New York City where landlords and feuds and practically his entire history lay; ours here in California not to question why, but only to sometimes listen to his tales and yarns, in wonder and exasperation.

Bill found refuge here on the West Coast, suddenly appearing among us, and the chess community here that knew him not, embraced and took him in...

Yet.

He was gone – dead – in just 3 months after his arrival, a sudden passing on in the home of MI Chess Club member Ralph Palmeri, who had taken Bill in when Bill had no place to stay, when Bill was sleeping on a park bench in Union Square sometimes, at others sitting in all-night burger-joints in the Tenderloin.

Another MI Chess Club member took this man (and Catholic priest!) into their home for a month: Richard Hack. We are a generous chess tribe!

His presence at the club was steady: he opened and closed the club for weeks at a time, giving lessons, holding forth, playing games, hawking his autobiographic magnum opus (see below).

He talked about Bobby Fischer, who he knew as a boy: Lombardy was Fischer's second in Reykjavik.

His presence at the club was also noted 3 times in the newsletters, at first obliquely on August 11th:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/795 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/795)

Then, on September 22nd:

"Grandmaster **William Lombardy** is visiting San Francisco and gave a well-received lecture this past Tuesday night. He is available for lectures and lessons and has signed copies of his book *Understanding* chess*: My System, My Games, My Life* for sale. Contact the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org) for more information."

And then, horrifically, on October 27th, a memorial tournament AND an obituary:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/804 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117224303/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/804)

I really enjoyed hanging out with Bill at the club: he was cranky and opinionated, brilliant and worldly, battle-scarred yet triumphant: a flawed human being - aren't we all! – and an incredibly strong chess player.

As I learned first-hand, long ago.

In 1978 I travelled down to Lone Pine, joining 72 other players participating in this amazing tournament. Players came from all over the world, including ex-World Champion Tigran Petrosian! I've written about this event previously, but there's always more to add.

Lombardy came on my radar in two ways during the event: firstly, by calling to TD Isaac Kashdan's attention the fact that Sammy Reshevsky had blatantly cheated his opponent in a time-scramble (true, and upheld), and secondly by giving this long-haired youngster a lesson on the 64 squares.

See below.

RIP, William Lombardy. It was great to meet you.

(1) William James Lombardy - Paul Whitehead [B44]

Lone Pine Lone Pine, CA USA (3), 04.04.1978

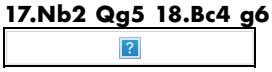
[Whitehead,Paul]

Lombardy and I met in the 3rd round. Bill would eventually finish with a 5-4 score, and I made a respectable finish of 4-5, despite starting off 0-3. This game followed a familiar arc for me: a decent position where I get into trouble trying to force matters. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Nxc6** White doesn't get much from this approach, but Bill is content to just swat the ball back and forth. **7...bxc6 8.Bd3 e5**

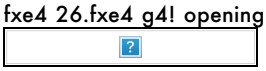
9.0-0 0-0 10.Qc2 Re8



[Also possible is 10...Bc5 and if 11.Na4 Bd4 with a complex game.] **11.Na4 d5 12.Bg5 d4 13.c5 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.a3 Ba5 16.b4 Bc7 17.Nb2 Qg5 18.Bc4 g6 19.Qb3 Re7 20.Qg3 Kg7**



Black is slightly better due to the bishop pair. **21.Nd3 f5 22.f3 Bd7 23.Qxg5 hxg5 24.h3 Rh8?!** [Black starts to go wrong. 24...a5! and if 25.Rfb1 fxe4 26.fxe4 g4! opening the game for the bishops was better.] **25.Nf2 Ree8 26.Rab1 Rb8 27.a4 Kf6 28.Rb2 Rh4?! 29.g4 f4?! 30.Kg2 Rhh8**



Black has deprived himself of play on the kingside and is drifting, but the position is still (perhaps) holdable. However, black continues to play aimlessly, and white eventually pounces. **31.Rfb1 Rhc8 32.Nd3 Rh8** [32...a5!] **33.b5! Ba5 34.bxc6 Rxb2+ 35.Rxb2 Bxc6 36.Bd5 Rc8 37.Kf2 Bc3 38.Rb3 Ba5 39.Rb1 Bc3 40.a5! Bxa5**



41.Ra1 Bc3 42.Ra6 Winning a piece and the game. I never knew what hit me, and this is a perfect example of an experienced player out-smarting a young talent. **1-0**

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

The Return of So

Wesley So had a great streak soon after immigrating to the United States in 2014. He continued to improve his chess game in 2015 and 2016 and had a banner year in 2017 where he improved his ELO rating to 2822, gaining the #2 ranking in the world. That year he won the prestigious Tata Steel Masters along with the US Championship, ahead of fellow world title contenders Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura.

It looked as if Wesley was on the fast track to challenge for the World Championship, but the following two years were something of a setback. His rating dropped 50 points and attention shifted to others in the world's top ten. Fabiano won the Candidates Tournament and became the challenger, while Hikaru became the one clear rival to Magnus in speed and rapid chess (and also gained 30k internet followers.) Thus even in the US he was looked upon as the #3 man.

Yet the last year has belonged to Wesley. He started last November a year ago with a resounding defeat of Magnus in the finals of the Fischer Random Chess World Championship. That may have looked like an aberration, but then he tied for first in the world class field of the St. Louis Blitz and Rapid in September and won the US Championship again just last month with an incredible score of 9/11, bringing comparisons to Fischer. Now he has topped al of that by winning the Skilling Open, besting 16 of the world's top players and defeating the great World Champion Carlsen in the finals match. It seems Wesley is the only player who really can beat Magnus some times, and we will watch him closely this coming year.

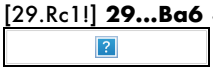
(1) So,Wesley - Nakamura,Hikaru [C54]

Skilling sem-finals, 28.11.2020

Here Wesley meets fellow American Nakamura in the semi-finals. As this was rapid chess everyone considered Hikaru to be the favorite. That opinion is likely changing now. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3** This Guioco Piano is one of the most popular openings at the top level these days. **5...d6 6.0-0 h6 7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2 a5 9.Nf1 Be6 10.Bb5** Keeping the bishops on the board is a more complex choice, giving the opponent more chances to go wrong. **10...Bb6 11.Ng3 Nh7 12.h3 Ng5 13.Nxg5 hxg5 14.d4** The action is the center finally begins. **14...exd4 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.cxd4 c5?!** This results in a semi-blocked position which the white knight likes. More promising was [16...d5 17.e5 f5! which gives Black dynamic play] **17.d5 Bd7 18.a4 Re8?!** [18...Qf6!] **19.Bd2 c4 20.Qf3 Rb8 21.Bc3**



White has gotten a clear opening edge with his bishop and knight looking towards the kingside and the d5 pawn as a cramping influence. **21...Bc5 22.Re2 f6 23.Nf5 Bb4 24.Bd4 Bc5 25.Bc3 Bb4 26.Ne3 Bc8** [Black could consider exchanging with 26...Bxc3 27.bxc3 c6 which is still worse but takes the focus off the kingside] **27.Bd4 Ba6?!** this bishop is best left on c8 to keep guard of the white knight's invasion **28.Nf5! Bc8 29.Ne3?!** [29.Rc1!] **29...Ba6 30.Nf5 Bc8 31.Rc1!** Now White is back on track. Black is in difficulties. **31...Qd7 32.Rec2 Ba6**



33.h4! gxh4 34.Qg4 suddenly the white queen, knight and bishop are winning on the kingside while Black has been focused on guarding the c4 pawn. **34...Kf8**



35.Bxf6! gxf6 36.Qxh4 Kg8 37.Re2 Re5 [37...Qh7 38.Qxf6 is crushing] **38.Re3 Rxf5 39.Rh3** Wesley wins with elan. 39. exf5 would have also been easy. **39...Rg5 40.Qh8+ Kf7 41.Rh7+** Nakumura resigned and went down to defeat in the match. 41...Kg6 42. Rh6+ is mate shortly. **1-0**

(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Nepomniachtchi,Ian [D85]

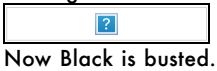
Skilling sem-finals, 28.11.2020

We give this game from the semi-finals of Wesley's opponent in the finals - the champ himself. The game is noteworthy in that Magnus had lost to Nepomniachtchi in the preliminaries of the tournament with a horrible mouse slip. One thinks Magnus may have been mad in the rematch. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bd2** looking for a different pawn structure than the usual 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3. White would like to get the dark-

squared biship on the long diagonal to contest Black's fianchettoed bishop. **5...Bg7 6.e4 Nxc3 7.Bxc3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.d5! Bxf3 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.gxf3** Magnus is playing with real aggression. His pawns are doubled on the kingside and enough pieces have been exchanged so that Black need not worry about becoming cramped. Yet White is just charging forward. **12...Ne5**



13.0-0-0!? I suppose this is to be expected considering White's temperment this game. **13...c6 14.Bh3!** this looks a bit unnatural but covers important squares, such as c8 **14...Kg8** [14...Nxf3? 15.Qc3+] **15.Qc3 Qb8?** the losing move as White finds a surprising rejoiner. Nepo's idea is that 16. f4 Ng4 17. Bxg4? Qxf4+ wins a pawn. He should have tried instead [15...Qc7] **16.d6!**



Now Black is busted. 17. dxe7 is a big threat and the other problem is the black knight is getting trapped. **16...exd6 17.f4 Re8 18.Rhe1 a5 19.Kb1 a4 20.fxe5 Rxe5 21.f4 Rc5 22.Qf6 a3 23.b3 Rh5 24.Rxd6!** threatening 25. Red1 and 26. Rd8 + **24...Qe8**



25.Be6! fxe6 26.Red1 We can assume this game was sufficient revenge for the mouse slip game. **1-0**

(3) So,Wesley - Carlsen,Magnus [B33]

Skilling finals, 29.11.2020

Thus came the finals match. No surprise at all that Carlsen made it through the field. Arriving at the finals was already thought of as a successful tournament for So. People didn't really think he could knock off the champ in rapid chess. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5** Carlsen's favorite Sveshnikov Sicilian. He used it against Caruana in the World Championship match and frequently throughout his career. **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.Qf3!?** already an unusual move. Wesley has come to mix it up. **9...a6 10.Qa3 b6 11.Bg5!**



11...Be7?! Carlsen is feeling the pressure and reacts with a normal move that allows White an opening edge. [11...Qxg5? 12.Nc7+ wins, but; 11...f6 may hold the balance] **12.Bxe7 Kxe7 13.0-0-0 Bb7 14.Nc3 Nd7 15.f4! Qc7** [no good is 15...exf4 16.Re1+ Kf8 *(16...Ne5? 17.Rxe5+)* 17.Qxd6+] **16.fxe5 Nxe5 17.Qb4 h5 18.Be2 Kf8 19.Rhf1** White is fully mobilized. **19...Re8 20.Rf5 h4 21.Rf4 Qd8 22.Kb1 Rh6 23.Rdd4 h3 24.g3 Bc8 25.a4 Kg8 26.Rde4 Qc7 27.Rh4?!** [Magnus has hung tough, as always. White could have kept a good edge with the centralizing 27.Qd4] **27...a5** [27...Rxh4! 28.Rxh4 Qc5 is equal] **28.Qd4 Rxh4 29.Rxh4 Bf5?!** [29...Qc5 again was called for. Black moves the bishop to a loose square.] **30.Rh5 Qc8 31.Qxb6 Ng4?**



Magnus chases after the h2 pawn so that his own pawn would be just two squares from queening. Unfortunately for him White can take take control with tactical themes. **32.Ba6! Re1+ 33.Ka2 Qe8** [Too late Magnus sees that 33...Qd7 34.Rxf5! Qxf5 35.Qd8+ Kh7 36.Bd3 wins the queen] **34.Rxf5 Ne3 35.Bb5 Qe7** Black resigned as 36. Rh5 is a piece ahead with also a strong attack. Congratulations Wesley! We look forward to your further events. **1-0**

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Newsletter #947

December 12, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Felix German
- Mechanics' TNM Report
- Mechanics' Thursday Night Marathon Report
- Rapid Recap
- IM John Donaldson Championship
- ChessTech2020
- PanAm
- Mechanics' Chess Social
- Dr. Alexey Root
- Become a Mechanics' Institute Member
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Felix German 1978-2020

I was shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden passing of one of the Mechanics' Institute's most devoted chess players. It is still only hours after I learned the news, and it is a painful reminder of how short life is and how suddenly things can change. Felix German was a club regular. a passionate player who loved the game in the truest sense. He participated regualrly in the Tuesday Night Marathons, weekend tournaments, team matches, and simultaneous exhibitions live at the club, as well as regularly in our online events. My first direct experience with him was during a simultaneous exhibition in January 2019 with GM Jeffrey Xiong, where he held a two pawn advantage in his game, offered Jeffrey a draw, and told me during the game how frustrated he was that he declined it. He went on to lose the game.

Photo by Abel Talamantez

If there exists a definition of a Mechanics' player, Felix had to be it. Passionate and emotional about his chess, in love with his club, and a regular participant in our activities. IM Elliott Winslow, Judit, and I were texting each other about Felix this morning, where Elliott wrote, "another brother down." There is a brotherhood and sisterhood among chess players, and certainly very powerfully so at the Mechanics' Institute. We will make sure his love of the club and of chess is honored at Mechanics' in some way, because the spirit he contributed to our chess community elevated our club, made it better and stronger. We will miss him, but he will always be remembered at Mechanics' Institute.

Here is Felix's last rated game, played during round 4 of the Tuesday Night Marathon. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(4) Zachi Baharav (fastZachi) (1677) - Felix German (FelixGerman) (1741) [A00]

Live Chess Chess.com, 09.12.2020

[de Firmian]

1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 e5 3.e4 d4 4.d3 Be7 5.f4 h5!? 6.fxe5 h4 Black has good play for the pawn with this h-pawn prying open the white kingside **7.g4 h3 8.Nxh3 Rxh3?!** This is too aggressive though. Black need not give material and would gain some edge with [8...Bh4+ 9.Nf2 Bxf2+ 10.Kxf2 Qh4+ 11.Kg1 Bxg4] **9.Bxh3 Bb4+ 10.Kf1 Qh4 11.Kg2 Nc6 12.Bf4?!** [White gives Black a few more chances than 12.Nd2 Bxd2 13.Bxd2 Nge7 14.Qe1!] **12...Nh6 13.Bxh6?!** [13.Qf3 Nxg4 14.Qg3 Qh5 15.Nd2 Ncxe5 16.Bxg4 Bxg4 17.Bxe5 Bxd2 18.Raf1 still holds the edge] **13...gxh6** [13...Qxh6 14.c3 Bc5 15.Qd2 g5! does well holding the dark squares] **14.c3?!** [14.Nd2 Bxd2 15.Qxd2 Bxg4 16.Bxg4 Qxg4+ 17.Kf1 Qf3+ 18.Kg1 0-0-0 19.Qg2!] **14...h5 15.Qe1 Qg5 16.cxb4 hxg4**

17.Qg3? White would still be doing well after [17.Rg1! gxh3+ 18.Kh1 Bg4 19.Nd2 Nxe5 20.Rg3 when he can defend against the attack] **17...gxh3+ 18.Kf2**

18...Qxg3+? letting White off the hook with the queen trade. Black would be winning after [18...Bg4! 19.Na3 Qd2+ 20.Kg1 Be6! as the white king is caught trapping his own rook, e.g. 21.Nc4 Bxc4 22.dxc4 0-0-0 23.Qxh3+ Kb8 24.Qg2 Qe3+ 25.Kf1 Nxe5 26.Re1 Qf4+ 27.Qf2 Qh6 28.h4 Nd3 29.Qg3 Nxe1 30.Qxe1 d3] **19.Kxg3 Nxb4 20.Na3** [20.Nd2!] **20...Nxd3?** [20...Bd7 is about equal] **21.Rad1 Nxe5 22.Rxd4** [22.Nb5! Rb8 23.Rxd4 c6 24.Nd6+ Ke7 25.Nxc8+ Rxc8 26.Kxh3 would be the exchange up and winning with best play. Black would have the centralized knight though which could cause some tricks.] **22...Ke7 23.Nb5 = 23...Be6** [23...c6! 24.Nd6 Be6 25.Kf4 Ng6+ 26.Ke3 Ne5] **24.Nxc7 Rg8+ 25.Kf4**

25...Ng6+?! [25...Rg4+! hopes for 26.Kxe5? f6# White would have retreated rather than take the knight one presumes.] **26.Ke3 Bc8 27.Nd5+ Ke6 28.Rf1** White is objectively winning with the exchange up, but there are always tricks to be tried. Felix keeps fighting and gets his opponenet into more time trouble. **28...Ke5 29.Rxf7 Be6 30.Rxb7 Nh4 31.Ne7 Rg1** [What to do when you are down in the position? An alternative was the tricky knight move 31...Ng2+ 32.Kd2 Kxd4 33.Nxg8 Bxg8 34.Rxa7 Kxe4 when White should win with best play but would have to deal with two pieces for the rook 35.a4 Bc4 36.Rc7 Bf1 37.a5 Nf4 38.Rc3 Nd3 39.a6 Nxb2 40.a7 Nc4+ 41.Rxc4+ Bxc4 42.a8Q+ Kf4] **32.Rd2 Ng2+ 33.Kf2 Rc1 34.Rb5+ Kf6 35.Nd5+ Kg6 36.Ne3 Nf4 37.Nf5 Rh1 38.Kg3 Rf1** FelixGerman won on time. White is objectively winning at the end, but Felix had caused enough confusion to flag fastZachi. This was another great battle of Mechanics' Institute chess! Felix was very active in the club for tournament games and I would always look forward to him joining my weekly arena for challenges. He will be sorely missed from our chess community.**0-1**

Mechanics' Institute November Tuesday Night Marathon Report

The December Tuesday Night Marathon completed rounds 3 & 4, with the favorites winning out, setting up intriguing round 5 & 6 matchups. GM Gadir Guseinov, IM Elliott Winslow, FM Kyron Griffith, and NM Eric Hon all won both their games. Kyron's two wins were both long and technical, and showcased his precision and tenacity for endgame play. Young Nicholas Weng continued his strong play in the tournament, defeating NM Arun Dixit, before losing to NM Eric Hon in round 4 for a total score of 3/4. Philip Gerstoft, who won the under 1800 section in the previous TNM is also looking strong at 3/4 in this open event. Mechanics' scholastic regular Andrew Ballantyne is having a breakout tournament as well, scoring a big upset over David Flires Gomez and drawing Kevin Fong, both upsets in terms of rating differential. He plays literally every week is is very active and it was a matter of time before he had a strong showing like this.

Here are some games from rounds 3&4, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2470) - Vishva Nanugonda (vish1080) (1829) [B32]

Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com (3.7), 08.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 The Kalyshnikov Sicilian, formerly back cousin of the Sveshnikov, has since come into equal standing. Same central grab, same backward pawn, both players have options with their unblocked bishop pawns (White's c-pawn, Black's f-pawn). **6.c4** Now White's second most common line, even if it gives Black some shaky play on d4. [6.N1c3 has taken over as the main move, but Black doesn't have to transpose: 6...a6 7.Na3 b5 *(7...Be7!?* has been seen a lot at the top (that is: Carlsen, Nakamura, Radjabov)*.)* 8.Nd5 Nf6 would be the Sveshnikov, with Black dodging the fashionable 7.Nd5 lines. *(8...Nge7!?; 8...Nce7!?)*] **6...Be7** This move has sorted out as number one. **7.N1c3** [7.N5c3!?; 7.b3!?] **7...a6 8.Na3 f5 9.exf5 Bxf5 10.Bd3 Be6 11.0-0 Nf6 12.Bg5** [12.Nc2; 12.Ne4!?] **12...0-0 13.Bxf6 gxf6!** Black adds another pawn to controlling the center, and... **14.Be4**

14...f5?! Too loose too soon? [14...Kh8 has been played a few times, with excellent results.] **15.Bd5 Bxd5** Not putting up much of a tempo fight. **16.Nxd5 Kh8 17.Nc2 e4 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.Qxd4+ Bf6 20.Nxf6 Qxf6 21.Rfd1 Qxd4 22.Rxd4**

Kyron banks on the double-rook ending and his big edge in experience -- Vishva is 11 and has been playing tournaments for "only" three years! Certainly Black has the worse position with weak pawns, but maybe it's not a loss. **22...Rf6?!** [22...b5! gives White pawns to worry about as well: 23.cxb5 axb5 24.Rxd6 Rfc8 (threatening the a-pawn) 25.g3 Rc2 26.b3 Rcxa2 27.Rxa2 Rxa2 28.Rd5 b4 29.Rxf5 *(29.Rb5 Kg7 30.Rxb4 Kg6* Black defends*)* 29...e3! 30.fxe3 Rb2 also looks like a draw (the engines certainly think so!). Remember: it's all about activity!] **23.Rad1 Rc8 24.g3 Rc6 25.b3 Kg7 26.Kf1 Kf7 27.Ke2 Ke7 28.Ke3 Rc5 29.b4 Rc7 30.a4 h5 31.h4 Re6 32.Kf4 Kf6 33.Rc1 Rc6 34.b5 axb5 35.axb5 Rc5 36.Ra1 e3 37.fxe3 Rce5 38.Ra3 Re4+ 39.Kf3 Rxd4 40.exd4 Re4 41.Rd3 b6 42.Rd2**

42...Kg6?? Played in less than a minute (with over 22 left). Black needs his king closer to the central and queenside action. [These three moves all hold: 42...Kf7; 42...Rg4; even 42...Re1] **43.c5!** White sacs his way to a passed b-pawn. **43...dxc5 44.dxc5 bxc5**

45.Rd6+? Here also, Kyron saw the R-d6-d5 move and played it in two seconds (with almost 19 left): [45.Rb2 is a lot easier, as well as thematic ("Rooks belong behind passed pawns!" can be found in every endgame manual). 45...Re7 46.b6 Rb7 47.Ke3 Kf6 48.Kd3 Ke5 49.Kc4 Kd6 50.Kb5] **45...Kg7** [Again, 45...Kf7] **46.Rd5 Kg6?!** [46...Kf6=] **47.Rxc5 Rb4?** [47...Kf6 48.Rc6+ Ke5] **48.Rc6+ Kg7 49.b6 Ra4 50.Ke3 Rb4 51.Kd3 Rg4 52.Rc4 Rxg3+ 53.Kc2 Rg6 54.Rb4 Rc6+ 55.Kd3 Rc8 56.b7 Rb8 57.Kd4 Kf6 58.Kd5 Kg6 59.Kc6** Bumpy for both players, but in the end class mattered. **1-0**

(6) NM Kireet Panuganti (kkpanu9) - GM Gadir Guseinov (Guseinov,Gadir) [B36]

Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com (4.1), 08.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nxd4 The Gurgenidze Variation of the Accelerated Fianchetto Sicilian. (Long enough!?) White has various ways to secure a space advantage, often with Nd5 or other exchanges, but Black has a fairly relaxed game. **7.Qxd4 d6 8.Be3 Bg7 9.Be2** White could do well to leave this at home for the moment; [9.f3 defends e4 as well as stops ...Ng4, so prepares for some knight move. 9...0-0 10.Qd2 is still more popular. And who knows, the bishop sometimes comes out on h3 (!).] **9...0-0 10.Qd2 a5** Guseinov is mostly partial to this move (+2 =8); [but 10...Be6 11.Rc1 Qa5 12.f3 Rfc8 13.b3 a6 14.Na4 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Nd7 16.g4 f5 was a couple hundred other games as well as ½-½ (30) Nakamura,H (2708)-Guseinov,G (2614) Bursa 2010] **11.Rd1 a4 12.c5?!** [Going strictly on results 12.0-0 is a much better move.] **12...Be6 13.cxd6 Qxd6 14.Qxd6 exd6 15.a3** This looks like White has established a positional advantage, but Black has counterplay. **15...Rfc8 16.f3** [16.Rxd6 Black equalizes with 16...Rxc3!? 17.bxc3 Nxe4 18.Rb6 Bxc3+ 19.Kf1 Nd2+ 20.Kg1 *(20.Bxd2 Bxd2* and White's a-pawn falls*)* 20...Nb3 also here, . ..Bb2 establishes a passed pawn when a3 goes.] **16...Ne8=** Now a bit of cat-and-mouse without much progress on the board, but while the grandmaster cruises along having hardly take any time (still over 30 minutes!), the international master finds himself thinking on most moves. He has 21:30 here... **17.Bd4 Bb3 18.Rd3 Bc4 19.Rd1 Bb3 20.Rd3 Bh6 21.Be3 Bf8 22.Kf2 Nc7 23.Bf4 Ra6 24.Rd2 Rc6 25.Bd1 Ne6 26.Bxb3 axb3 27.Be3 f5 28.Ke2 Bg7 29.Nd5 Re8 30.exf5**



... and here it is, 8:14 vs. 25:18. **30...Nd4+! 31.Kf2 Nxf5 32.Ba7?** [Just 32.Re1 isn't charming for White but should hold on. Good knight vs. good bishop.] **32...Kf7** Somehow Black has got a significant if not overwhelming edge. **33.g4?!** See later... **33...Ne7 34.Nb4 Rc4 35.Rhd1?**



[35.Be3 h5 36.h3 Nc6 37.Nd5 Rc2 still annoying] **35...Nc8??** This might look tight, but a window of opportunity for Black closes, and for White a window opens! [35...Nc6! 36.Be3 *(36.Nxc6 bxc6!-+)* 36...Nxb4 37.axb4 Rc2! 38.Re2 Rec8-+ Black gets to b2 which is all he needs. 39.Bd4 Rxe2+ 40.Kxe2 Rc2+ 41.Kd3 Bxd4 42.Kxd4 Ke6! when 43.Rb1?! Rxh2 ready with the h-pawn] **36.Bd4!** Now it's going to be White's b-pawn that goes, with a solid plus for White. **36...Bh6 37.Re2?** [37.Rd3! Rc2+ 38.Kg3! Ree2 39.f4! Rg2+ 40.Kf3 White may take on c2 after all...] **37...Rxe2+ 38.Kxe2 Rc2+ 39.Kd3?!** [39.Ke1= and Rd3xb3 sets up counterplay and draws] **39...Rxh2 40.Kc3?!** [40.Nd5=/+] **40...Bf4?!**



[40...Ne7!-/+] **41.Kxb3?** Curiously a mistake, that pawn isn't going anywhere. [41.Nd5! is a sort of free move. (Grab those tempos when you can!) 41...Bg3 (41...Bg5 42.f4! *(42.Kc4 Rc2+ 43.Kxb3 Rd2 44.Rxd2 Bxd2 45.a4=; 42.Kxb3)*) 42.Kxb3 Ne7 43.Nxe7 Kxe7 Black's advantage is just about nothing. He can create a passed pawn with ...h5, but there will be obstacles to getting it to the queening square. 44.Rc1! Kd7 45.Rg1! Be5 46.Bxe5 dxe5 47.Kc4! Rxb2 48.Rh1 just went "0.00" for all moves. Black is running out of pawns that matter.] **41...Ne7 42.Kc4 h5 43.gxh5 gxh5**



The ghost of 33.g4?! has definitely come back to haunt Kireet. **44.Rg1?!** [44.Kd3 still resists.] **44...Nf5** No counterplay, no rook activity. Black wraps it up. **45.Bc3 h4 46.Nd5 Bg3 47.a4 h3 48.a5 Rg2 49.Rxg2?! hxg2 50.Bd4 Nxd4** Guseinov show that he's not invulnerable, but in practice he keeps taking out everybody. Panuganti came close, but in the end... **0-1**

(7) Nicholas Weng (ninjaforce) (1958) - NM Eric Hon (microbear) (2202) [B89]

Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com (4.3), 08.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 This does have the advantage of avoiding the Prins Variation (3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3), which has been showing some signs of flourishing, including a featured par of a repertoire book. **4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Bc4!?** The Sozin Attack. **6...e6 7.Be3** [7.Bb3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 *(8...Qc7 9.Qe2 0-0* 1-0 (25) Lallee,C (2069)-Badaracco,C Buenos Aires 2001*)* 9.Qe2 a6 10.0-0-0 1-0 (32) Bronstein,D-Lein,A Leningrad 1971] **7...Be7 8.Qe2 0-0 9.0-0-0** And Velimirovic's famous version. **9...Qc7 10.Bb3 a6**



Through various move orders this is one of the most important positions of the Velimirovic Sozin Sicilian. White's next move is the most aggressive but it has a flaw. **11.g4!?** [11.Rhg1 starts ou seeming the more reasonable prelude but shortly gets extremely sharp.; 11.f4 only has a few games but they've gone comparatively well for White, plus Judit Polgar has played it, PLUS Shirov lost to it (an early game). Food for thought.] **11...Nxd4!?** Most seen, as it seemingly gets White to take with the rook, misplacing it. Or is it an added brick in the kingside attack, sometimes even with e4-e5 and Rd4-h4!? [11...Nd7 hopes to get right on ...Nc5 and ...Nxb3+, but leaves White to set up the kingside attack anyway White wants -- plus it gives White an added shot: 12.Nf5!? Velimirovic first, of course.; 11...Na5 12.g5 Nxb3+ 13.axb3 Nd7 is slower, as the knight on d7 hasn't much to do. 14.h4! has scored very highly.; 11...b5 risks some sort of combination involving Nxc6 and Nd5.] **12.Bxd4?!** [It was well established many years ago that 12.Rxd4! should be played. Black still has a viable game after 12...Nd7! Shirov is the man to yet be beaten in this line (0-4): **a)** 12...e5?! 13.Rc4! Qd8 14.g5 Nd7 *(14...Ne8 15.Rxc8!)* 15.Qh5 White rolls out the stock Velimirovic attack, with little opposition.; **b)** 12...b5 13.g5 Nd7 is not quite a transposition but close.; 13.g5 (13.f4 Nc5 14.f5 Bf6 15.g5!? Bxd4 16.Bxd4 b5 17.Qh5!? *(17.Rg1 Bb7 18.Rg4 Nxb3+ 19.axb3 e5 20.Be3 b4 21.Na4 Bc6* 0-1 (31) De Firmian,N (2545)-Shirov,A (2685) Tilburg 1993 CBM 039 [Boensch,U]*)* 17...Bb7 18.Rg1 Nxb3+ 19.axb3 e5 20.Be3 Rac8 21.Rg4 1-0 (32) Brenjo,S (2490)-Vujacic,I (2142) Montenegro 2009) 13...Nc5 14.Rg1 *(14.Qh5!?* is the "normal" approach.*; 14.e5!? dxe5 15.Rh4 g6 16.Rh6!? f5 17.h4* 1-0 (32) Bronstein,D-Lein,A Leningrad 1971*; 14.f4!? f5!)* 14...b5 15.Qh5 g6 16.Qh6 Rd8! 17.e5 Bf8 18.Qh3 Bg7 19.Rxd6 Bb7 0-1 (40) De Firmian,N (2605)-Shirov,A (2695) Biel 1995 CBM 049 [Shirov,A]] **12...e5 13.g5?!** [White can simply let the pawn go: 13.Be3 Bxg4 14.f3 Be6 when results have been enough to say "sufficient compensation" but no more.] **13...exd4 14.gxf6 dxc3 15.fxe7** [15.fxg7 Kxg7 16.Rhg1+ Kh8 17.Qe3 Qc5 18.Qg3 Qe5 19.f4 Qf6 20.e5 dxe5 21.fxe5 Qh6+ 22.Kb1 Be6 0-1 (22) Lehto,V (2295)-Veingold,A (2425) Jarvenpaa 1996] **15...cxb2+ 16.Kxb2** [Sometimes the pawn can be left to shield White's king, 16.Kb1 but here there's not much to be shielded from: 16...Qxe7-/+] **16...Qxe7-/+**



17.Qd3N [Previously the move was 17.Rd3 but after 17...Be6 18.Rhd1 Bxb3 19.axb3 Qe5+ 20.Kb1 a5! with a serious attack of his own: 0-1 (57) Peeters,M-Van Nies,P, Schagen 2006] **17...Rd8 18.Rhg1 Be6 19.Qd4 g6** With commonsense moves, defending against basic threats, Eric has a solid, pawn-up, advantageous game. If Nicholas is going to keep playing the Velimirovic he has some major work to do on it. **20.f4 Rac8 21.f5 Bxb3 22.axb3**



22...Qe5 Off with the queens [22...Qh4!?] **23.Rg2 Re8 24.fxg6 hxg6 25.Re2** [25.Qxe5! Rxe5! *(25...dxe5 26.Rd7 b5 27.h4)* 26.Rxd6 Rxe4 27.Rd7 b5 28.Rf2 f5 29.Rd6 Kg7 30.Rxa6 gives White the best chance to hold.] **25...Rc6!-+ 26.c3 f5?!** [26...Qxd4 might as well be played.] **27.Rg2!** The result is back in question. **27...Qxd4 28.Rxd4 fxe4?** [28...Kf7] **29.Rxg6+ Kf7 30.Rgxd6 Rxd6 31.Rxd6=** Black has let his whole advantage slip! **31...e3 32.Rd1 Kf6 33.Kc2 Kf5**



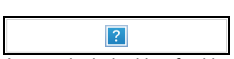
34.Re1?? [34.Kd3! gets very drawn, very quickly.] **34...Kf4** [or 34...Ke4] **35.Rf1+ Kg4 36.h4 e2** Fifty years ago this was the Wild West of chess -- but in this century, to play such openings one needs to know a few more book lines! In any case, well defended Mr. Hon! **0-1**

(1) Kevin Yanofsky (kyanofsky) - Chelsea Zhou (mwncklmann) [D36]

Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com, 08.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 The Exchange Variation seems to have gotten popular recently. **4...exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Qc2 0-0 9.Nf3 Re8 10.0-0 h6 11.Bh4** [11.Bf4 deserves consideration, looking for play like a London System. On 11...Nh5? 12.Nxd5! wins a pawn. 12...cxd5? 13.Bc7] **11...Ne4 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.b4!? Ndf6 14.b5 Nxc3** [Black is about equal after 14...cxb5 15.Bxb5 Bd7 16.Bxd7 Qxd7 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Ne5 Qe6 19.Qb2 b6] **15.Qxc3 cxb5 16.Bxb5 Ne4 17.Qb2 Rd8 18.Bd3 Rd6!?**



Aggressively looking for kingside play. White's pawn structure is better though. **19.Ne5 Rb6 20.Qe2 Qa3 21.Rfc1** [21.Bxe4! dxe4 22.Qc2 gives White the advantage] **21...Be6 22.Rc2 Nc3 23.Qe1 Na4 24.h3?** a blunder losing a piece. White could keep a nice advantage with [24.Qc1!] **24...f6** either the white bishop or the knight is lost **25.Rac1 fxe5 26.Bg6 e4 27.Qe2 Rf8 28.Qh5 Qd6** good defense to consolidate with the extra piece. All of White's pieces are trying to attack but mwncklmann brings the black pieces back to keep the king safe. **29.Rc7 Nb2 30.Be8 Bf5?**



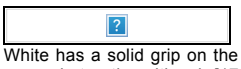
returning the favor and letting White get the piece back [30...Rf6 stopping Qg6 is still easily winning] **31.g4?** [31.Bf7+! Kh8 32.Qxf5 wins the piece back with advantage] **31...Bh7?!** [31...Nc4!] **32.Bg6??** [32.Rd7! Qf6 33.Rf7! has the idea 33...Rxf7? *(33...Bg6! 34.Rxf6 Bxh5 35.Rxb6 axb6 36.Bxh5 Rxf2* is about equal*)* 34.Bxf7+ Qxf7 35.Rc8+] **32...Qxg6** oops. Now it's two pieces. Nothing to be done now. **33.Qxd5+ Qe6 34.Qh5 Nd3 35.Rd1 Nxf2 36.Rdc1 Nd3 37.d5 Qf6 38.R1c2 Qf1+ 39.Kh2 Rf2+ 40.Kg3 Qg2+ 41.Kh4 g5+ 42.Qxg5+ hxg5+ 43.Kxg5 Rg6+ 44.Kh5 Qxh3# 0-1**

(2) Ethan Boldi (etvat) - Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) [E60]

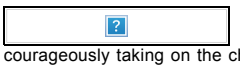
Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com, 08.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

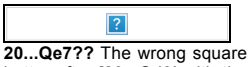
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0 5.b3 c5 breaking the symmetry with a principled move **6.Bb2 Nc6 7.d4 d6?!** this is a little passive. Black is fully equal after [7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 d5] **8.c4 e6 9.e3** [9.dxc5 dxc5 10.Ne5 takes some central squares] **9...Qc7 10.Nc3 a6 11.Re1 Rb8 12.Qd2 b5 13.d5** playing for space in the center [13.cxb5 axb5 14.dxc5 dxc5 15.a4 may gain a small queenside initiative] **13...exd5?!** [13...Na5! puts the knight to use and levels the chances] **14.cxd5 Na7 15.e4**



White has a solid grip on the center and the black knight on a7 is out of play. **15...b4 16.Nd1** [16.Na4!?] **16...Bb7 17.Qg5?!** leading the charge with the queen. This is tricky and tactical but a somewhat anti-positional. [17.a3 gets everyone working for the cause] **17...h6 18.Qh4 g5!**



courageously taking on the challenge **19.Nxg5 hxg5 20.Qxg5**



20...Qe7?? The wrong square for the queen! It's natural to want to bring pieces as close as possible to the black king for the defense, but this loses a key tempo and thus the game. Black is better after [20...Qd8! with the plan of ...Ne8. White has no really good way to continue the attack.] **21.Ne3!** suddenly White is completely winning. 22. Nf5 is a devastating threat **21...Nb5?!** this goes down without a fight. Black could try [21...Bc8 22.Nf5 Bxf5 23.exf5 Qd8 when White has to find 24.Re4! which wins. 25. Rg4 is threatened and 24...Ne8 25.f6! wins] **22.Nf5**



1-0

Here are the standings after 4 rounds:

SwissSys Standings. 2020 December TNMO: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2600	gguseinov	W20	W13	W9
2	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W40	W24	W10
3	**NM Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)**	13778105	2202	microbear	W47	W18	W22
4	**FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2470	KyronGriffith	H---	W46	W19
5	**Arun Dixit (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14607904)**	14607904	2199	Limelight2727	W33	W25	L11
6	**NM Kireet Panuganti (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13843374)**	13843374	2138	kkpanu9	W34	W26	W14
7	**Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)**	15088362	2120	etvat	W41	L14	W40
8	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W48	W27	W16
9	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1997	kclemens	W35	W28	L1
10	**Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)**	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W42	W30	L2
11	**Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	1958	ninjaforce	W50	W32	W5
12	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	13001390	1954	nathanf314	H---	H---	W47
13	**Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)**	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W43	L1	W34
14	**Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)**	16089208	1889	J3Chess24	W52	W7	L6
15	**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)**	15239016	1866	mwncklmann	H---	H---	W52
	Philip Gerstoft						

16	(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1724	pgstar3	W58	W23	L8
17	William Sartorio (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14715380)	14715380	2063	unusualkid	W49	D19	W31
18	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1940	ashikuzzaman	W60	L3	W38
19	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1829	vish1080	W21	D17	L4
20	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	L1	W43	W54
21	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1033	andrewaballantyne	L19	W49	W29
22	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W36	W29	L3
23	Kevin Yanofsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15901193)	15901193	1968	kyanofsky	W37	L16	W33
24	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	W59	L2	W48
25	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W61	L5	W35
26	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	W44	L6	W37
27	Nicholas Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	W53	L8	W51
28	Zachi Baharav (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13464604)	13464604	1813	fastZachi	W45	L9	W56
29	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	W39	L22	L21
30	Ranen A Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1803	dashrndrx	W54	L10	W57
31	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	D46	W55	L17
32	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W57	L11	W39
33	Mateo Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14907254)	14907254	1687	mateosh	L5	W61	L23
34	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1664	LightningDragon8	L6	W44	L13
35	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1556	programmingmax	L9	W45	L25
36	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1556	SunnyCountry	L22	L39	W61
37	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1506	chessboi2010	L23	W58	L26
38	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	15871762	1252	pranavpradeep2006	H---	H---	L18
39	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	931	sfdeals	L29	W36	L32
40	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1711	ahyanzaman	L2	W59	L7
41	Christoph Bradley (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16047844)	16047844	1654	ifyoustayreti	L7	L52	W60

42	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L10	L54	D44
43	Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)	17168772	1490	Evariel	L13	L20	W58
44	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1161	kevin_mx_sun	L26	L34	D42
45	Elliott Regan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15032065)	15032065	943	TTVchessmaster	L28	L35	W59
46	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	811	Sebbymeister	D31	L4	W55
47	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	starserika18	L3	W60	L12
48	Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)	13836822	1652	ibalek	L8	W53	L24
49	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L17	L21	H---
50	Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	12446259	1495	nmbrown2	L11	L57	W53
51	Willia Harris III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15953392)	15953392	1184	15953392	H---	H---	L27
52	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	L14	W41	L15
53	Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)	17179258	1043	JeffNorthSF	L27	L48	L50
54	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	930	adichi	L30	W42	L20
55	Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	16380615	662	ComfyQueso	B---	L31	L46
56	Leon Diaz Herrera (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355661)	17355661	unr.	Aeqetes	H---	H---	L28
57	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	unr.	Bruce_Hedman	L32	W50	L30
58	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30037403)	30037403	unr.	Vincitore51745	L16	L37	L43
59	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	L24	L40	L45
60	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L18	L47	L41
61	Peter Jam Rushton (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16453812)	16453812	1239	pedrojrush	L25	L33	L36

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Marathon Report

Here are the standings after 4 rounds of the Thursday Night Marathon. Pranav Sairam is having a very string tournament, but he will have his hands full next week as he faces a matchup with GM Gadir Guseinov. For more information, click on the event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot)

SwissSys Standings. Thursday Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	15424820	2084	chesspilot01	W27	W16	W13	W3

	15424820)							
2	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2600	gguseinov	H---	W11	W25	W7
3	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W15	W14	W8	L1
4	NM Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W19	W9	L7	W12
5	NM Richard W Koepcke (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10493269)	10493269	2200	rkoepcke	H---	W26	D12	W18
6	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2186	microbear	W10	W30	H---	H---
7	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W20	W17	W4	L2
8	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W31	W32	L3	W21
9	Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1753	1-h4-1-0	W33	L4	W20	W23
10	Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	17350313	1475	draidus	L6	W34	W33	W17
11	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	L2	W24	W28
12	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	knvsback	W22	W29	D5	L4
13	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	W23	W18	L1	D15
14	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W35	L3	D28	W26
15	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1545	programmingmax	L3	W37	W29	D13
16	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	11296106	1643	zenwabi	W39	L1	L23	W32
17	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	X---	L7	W22	L10
18	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	Kaline340Green	W36	L13	W32	L5
19	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L4	L23	W37	W33
20	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1428	noydan100	L7	W35	L9	W34
21	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L25	W36	W30	L8
22	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1347	chesspoki	L12	W39	L17	X30
23	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	16897133	1238	pjkrizzle	L13	W19	W16	L9
24	Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)	12693378	595	rahimftd	H---	H---	L11	X31
25	RIP Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W21	H---	L2	U---
26	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	H---	L5	W36	L14
	Jacob S Wang							

27	(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1434	jacobchess857	L1	L33	W35	D29
28	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	16154827	1416	nxbex	H---	H---	D14	L11
29	Danny Du Uy Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	863	caodanny	X---	L12	L15	D27
30	Timothy Horng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13282721)	13282721	1730	aYzz	W34	L6	L21	F22
31	Andrew Nicho Paul (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14232850)	14232850	1385	chessplayer3740	L8	H---	H---	F24
32	Robert H Frank (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10498325)	10498325	1200	cyber-droid	X38	L8	L18	L16
33	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1180	sfdeals	L9	W27	L10	L19
34	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	L30	L10	W39	L20
35	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	870	Bruce_Hedman	L14	L20	L27	X37
36	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	L18	L21	L26	W39
37	Willia Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)	17048414	537	OlympusMons00	H---	L15	L19	F35
38	Mohammad Amir Ali (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30029248)	30029248	1565	Deshbondhu	F32	U---	U---	U---
39	B J Day (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12586048)	12586048	unr.	mrbillstunes1	L16	L22	L34	L36

December 5 Weekend Rapid Recap

We held a weekend rapid on Saturday night December 5th and we had 18 players for our G/10+2 event. FM Kyron Griffith won the tournament with 5.5/6, a half point ahead of NM Eric Hon.

Here is one game from the tournament, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

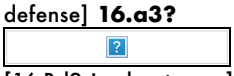
(3) NM Michael Aigner (fpawn) (2275) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2262) [B15] Live Chess Chess.com, 05.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

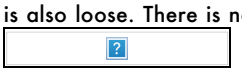
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 This variation of the Caro-Kann has become very popular recently. Black's 4 pawns on the kingside lead to interesting, unbalanced positions. **6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Ne2 Re8 9.Qc2 h5!**



fpawn has played the classical response to this variation and Kyron responds with the aggressive way of defending the h-pawn. This is the move that generates play for Black on the kingside squares. **10.Be3 Nd7 11.0-0-0** Aggressive and principled play from Michael. We have a real opposite side castling battle. **11...b5 12.Ng3** [12.d5!? should be carefully considered. That gives White squares in the center to make the play over the whole board.] **12...Nb6!** [12...h4 13.Nf5 Nb6 14.Nxh4 Be6 is an alternative, though probably favors White] **13.Nxh5 Nd5 14.Rde1 Be6 15.Kb1?!** These sharp attacking positions require brave moves, and this is too routine. [15.Bd2 gets the bishop out of take and opens the e-file. It's very complex but White should have an edge.] **15...Qa5** [15...b4 16.c4 b3! turbo charges the black attack. 17.axb3 *(or 17.Qxb3 Rb8)* 17...Nb4 leaves White suffering a difficul defense] **16.a3?**



[16.Bd2 is about even] **16...b4!** 16...Bxa3 is also good **17.cxb4?!** [17.axb4 Nxb4 18.cxb4 Bxb4 19.Re2 Qxh5 20.Qxc6 is certainly unpleasant for White with his open king, but he would still have fighting chances.] **17...Bxb4** White's position is collapsing on the queenside and the white knight on h5 is also loose. There is no good move, so Michael decides to go down fighting. **18.Nxg7 Kxg7 19.Qe2 Bxe1 20.Rxe1**



[20.Qh5 Nc3+ wins the queen on h5] **20...Nc3+! 21.bxc3 Rab8+ 22.Kc2 Qa4+** KyronGriffith won by resignation **0-1**

Here are the full results:

Saturday, December 5 7PM Rapid - 6SS G/10+2

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	To
1	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	USA	W18	W4	W7	W5	D2	W3	5.
2$	NM Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2202	USA	W15	W6	D5	W13	D1	W7	5.
3	Manas Paldhe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16418854)	16418854	1994	IND	W10	L5	W14	W6	W4	L1	4.
4	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	USA	W12	L1	W10	W7	L3	W8	4.
5	NM Michael Aigner (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12595730)	12595730	2207	USA	W8	W3	D2	L1	L7	W12	3.
6	Menachem Dorfman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16395755)	16395755	unr.	USA	W16	L2	W17	L3	D12	W15	3.
7	Vikram Rajmohan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15521827)	15521827	1955	USA	W14	W17	L1	L4	W5	L2	3.
8	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	MEX	L5	W9	L13	W11	W10	L4	3.
9	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	USA	D11	L8	D18	W15	L16	W14	3.
10	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	691	USA	L3	W18	L4	W17	L8	W16	3.
11	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	USA	D9	L13	W12	L8	L15	B---	2.
12	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1776	USA	L4	W15	L11	W14	D6	L5	2.
13	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	USA	U---	W11	W8	L2	U---	U---	2.
14	Kian Jamali (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761438)	16761438	1166	USA	L7	W16	L3	L12	B---	L9	2.
15	Travis Webb (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12721727)	12721727	1148	USA	L2	L12	W16	L9	W11	L6	2.
16	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	948	USA	L6	L14	L15	B---	W9	L10	2.
17	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	unr.	USA	B---	L7	L6	L10	U---	U---	1.
18	Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	USA	L1	L10	D9	U---	U---	U---	0.

2nd Annual IM John Donaldson Championship December 19-20, 2020

The Mechanics' Institute will hold the 2nd annual IM John Donaldson Championship the weekend of December 19-20th. It will be played on Chess.com over two days, three rounds per day with a time control of G/60+5. There will be a $2000 prize pool based on 50 entries. Join us in closing out 2020 with one of our largest prize pool events in honoring former MI Chess Director and current US Olympiad Captain John Donaldson. GM's and IM's free.

For information and registration, please follow this link:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-annual-im-john-donaldson-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-annual-im-john-donaldson-championship-online)

ChessTech 2020 Conference

Report from ChessTech2020
Chess and Technology Online Conference
5-6 December 2020
https://www.chessconference.org (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.chessconference.org/)
By Dr. Judit Sztaray

Last weekend I had the pleasure to attend one of the chess community's leading conference traditionally held in London in connection with the London Classics Tournament. Conference organizers John Upham and Stefan Löffler gathered online chess' leading experts and organized their presentations, talks and roundtable discussions over two days with representatives from many different countries, ranging from Australia, Russia, and countries in Europe, South, and North America. Topics ranged from Online coaching, tournaments, fair play, technical and social media, and broadcasting.

I was honored to co-present with one of the most renowned female arbiters, International Arbiter, WFM and FIDE lecturer Shohreh Bayat, who is known for being the chief TD of many prestigious international tournaments, such as the 2017 & 2018 Women's World Championship. She brought her expertise in fair play monitoring and game analysis, while I presented guidance for planning online tournaments, requirements, and staffing. We presented comparisons between platforms, which I'll discuss in greater details in the next Newsletter.

On the second day, David Cordover, Stefan Löffler, and I coordinated a roundtable discussion about current online chess events, and presented a few interesting and out-of-the-box events that we had. I enjoyed reporting on our signature traditional Tuesday Night Marathon which is now online since the summer, and how it helps keep our community connected with live broadcasting by the Mechanics' Institute chess staff and various guests online. I also mentioned our scholastic Halloween tournament which I hosted, encouraging kids on Zoom to wear their costumes, and our Summer Chess Festival, where we offered a variety of tournaments, including the traditional "boring" swiss tournament, but also had Fischer Random, fun blitz side event, and a scholastic tournament. I also mentioned that the weekly newsletter always helps in getting our community connected and to highlight our tournaments and games.

The main focus was on coming up with ideas on offering not just a "dry" chess tournament, but to offer players and communities a well rounded, entertaining experience. The three of us will write a short summary article about this, and I'm excited to share it with the Mechanics' community. Tune in next week to read a summary about the different platforms, comparison on some of the important functions, user experience, and functionality from the arbiter's perspectives.

2020-2021 Pan American Intercollegiate Online Chess Championships

The Mechanics' Institute was awarded the bid to organize the prestigious 2020-2021 Pan American Intercollegiate Online Chess Championships. This event will be held January 4-6, 2021, and will be held online on the Chess.com platform. This collegiate team championship event would have been held in Toronto this year, but the live event was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. We are proud to have been awarded the bid by the US Chess Federation to continue holding the event online, and keeping the spirit of competition among college teams from North, Central, and South American and the Carribbean.

The Texas Tech University team is the defending champion and ended a seven-year championship reign by Susan Polgar's Webster University last year. We are hoping to see many college chess powerhouse teams such as University of Texas @ Dallas, Saint Louis University, University of Missouri, University of Toronto, Harvard University, Princeton University, MIT, and our local favorite, University of California @ Berkeley. We are especially hopeful to see more teams from all around participate in this years event since it is online, as the barriers of travel and cost associated with flights and hotel rooms are removed.

We will have an all-star staff for this event making sure everything runs smoothly, including Judit Sztaray as Chief Organizer, NTD/FA Glenn Panner as Chief Tournament Director, a veteran of several Pan Am's and national championship events, NTD/IA Brian Yang, NTD/FA John McCumiskey, and several other seasoned experienced TD's to help with monitoring of games.

To Register and for event information, please follow thos link to our event page: https://www.milibrary.org/panam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/panam)

Mechanics' Chess Social

Our special guest this week on our Mechanics' Chess Social was US Chess Senior Director of Strategic Communication Dan Lucas. He has been with the USCF since 2005, was the former editor of Chess Life magazine and now is the head of communications which now also includes digital communications. We will talked with him about is tenure at US Chess, the challenges and opportunities that have presented themselves obver the past year, and what got him in the chess game. Here is the link to watch the interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xym_HCvyL4c (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xym_HCvyL4c)

WIM Dr. Alexey Root

Our good friend Alexey has written two fine articles showcasing outdoor/street chess communities from two very different parts of the world; St. Augustine, Florida and Canberra, Australia. Check out the street chess scenes by clicking on reading the articles here:

https://en.chessbase.com/post/outdoor-chess-st-augustine (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://en.chessbase.com/post/outdoor-chess-st augustine)

photo: Jennifer Jordan

https://en.chessbase.com/post/outdoor-chess-canberra (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://en.chessbase.com/post/outdoor-chess-canberra)

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Support the Mechanics' Institute and

Save Big in the Process!

Join the Mechanics' Institute, and realize savings on our events and classes while supporting our mission to provide a center for cultural and intellectual advancement. We are doing a membership drive through the end of the year for new members and to encourage current members to renew.

$120/year for a regular membership
$65/year for a student membership
You will save big if you are a regular participant in our tournaments and/or classes!

Here are some of our registration costs and savings
you can achieve with membership:

Tuesday Night Marathon: $30 member, $50 non-member registration fee
Weekend USCF rated events: $20 member, $40 non-member registration fee
Basically, your membership pays for itself if you attend just six tournaments, classes, or other chess events per year!

Plus you get everything that a Mechanics' Institute membership offers.

Benefits of Mechanics' Institute Membership

- Discount on most chess events or classes.
- Full use of the Library and its services, including online databases, ebooks, and more!
- Free or reduced admission to cultural events, programs, classes, and book groups.
- Access to the Chess Room and its tournaments and classes.
- WiFi access throughout the Library, Chess Room, and 4th floor meeting room.
- Membership access at other membership (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)libraries. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)

Join Mechanics' at: https://www.milibrary.org/join (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/join)
Please forward this information to others who might be interested in joining.
Please enter chess in the referred by column and check off chess as a general interest.

Any questions? Please contact us at chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org).

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 12/15:

GM Nick de Firmian Arena: Thursdays 5:00pm-6:00pm, 12/17:

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe

Casual meeting to talk about chess, life and everything. Join 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead as they give a lecture and class in a fun casual atmosphere where you can discuss games, learn strategy, discuss chess current events and interact in a fun casual atmosphere. Enter our Monday chess café for the pure love of the game. Class suitable for ALL level of players and FREE for MI members.

FREE for Mechanics' members. $5 for non-members.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - The Art of Attack in Chess by FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates: 11/16 through 12/21 (6 classes)

Learn to attack the king in this six-week class using Vladimir Vukovic's book, The Art of Attack in Chess (1963 revised 1993 by GM John Nunn), as our text.
We will take lessons from chapters such as "The classic bishop sacrifice", "The attack against the uncastled king", "Focal-points" and "The attack on the king as an integral part of the game".
Vukovic also talks about mating patterns, defense, and much more.
Join us in an investigation into one of the greatest chess books ever written, a classic enjoyed by chess players around the world.

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

November 18, 2020 - January 20, 2021

Are you an adult who wants to put learning chess on top of your New Year's resolution! Get a head start with us at the Mechanics' Institute! This virtual class is open to any MI member who has no knowledge of the game or who knows the very basics and wants to improve. Taught by MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez along with Judit Sztaray and other MI staff, we will patiently walk through all the basics at a pace suitable for our class. Our goal is to

teach piece movement basics, checkmate patterns, importance of development, and general strategy. We will also show students how to play online so they may practice. The goal of the class is to open a new world of fun and joy through the magic and beauty of chess, from one of the oldest and proudest chess clubs in the world.

Registration: Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, December 12: starts at 4:00PM

5SS G/5+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171597 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171597)

Sunday, December 13: starts at 2:00PM - join from 1:45PM

8SS G/5+2: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentDec13SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentDec13SUN)

Monday, December 14: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171598 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171598)

Tuesday, December 15: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171599 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171599)

Wednesday, December 16: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171600 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171600)

Thursday, December 17: starts at 4PM - join from 3:45PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171601 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171601)

Friday, December 18: starts at 4:15PM - join from 4:00PM

4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171602 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=171602)

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments Every Week!

Next one: December 13, @3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rating only (not over-the-board)
Every player must be a US Chess member.
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening.

Mechanics' Enrichment Chess Classes

Select from the following four levels that are offered:

NEW Class: Get Those Chess Boards Out! – Tuesdays 4-5PM
As parents, many of us now see kids staring at a screen for hours during the school day. We understand having another online class may not be so exciting. What if we are able to offer a class for beginners where they can feel and interact with the pieces to capture an important part of the early learning experience? That's why we are introducing a new class for our young, beginner players!
Let's get those chess boards out and use it during the class!
Coach Colin will interact with the players via zoom, but they will talk, use the chess board, set it up and set up different positions, and learn and play on a physical board. No shared screen during the class! It's all interactive, using physical chess pieces! **Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/get-those-chess-boards-out) for more information.**

Starting at Chess – Mondays 3-4PM
This class is for new players that need to develop basic skills that will lead to improvement, such as learning notation, elementary checkmates, piece values, piece development, importance of the center of the board, and the most important part of chess learning, the value of learning from mistakes and losses and how to improve from it. This class will build the foundations from which all learning will develop and teach them learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of a child's learning and development. Class is suitable for new players, non rated players, and players with a ChessKid rating under 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/StartingatChessTHURSDAYS34PM) to Register and for information**

Developing Players -- Tuesdays 3-4PM or Thursdays 4-5PM
This class is for students looking to go beyond the basics and learn the building blocks of advanced chess learning. We will cover tactics, mating patterns, opening principles, middle game attack planning and endgame techniques. This class is suitable for kids with a ChessKid rating 800-1300 or who have had tournament experience. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/DevelopingPlayersBeginnersIntermediateTHURSDAYS45PM) to Register and for Information.**

Mastering Your Chess – Thursdays 5-6PM
This class is for advanced scholastic players with tournament experience and understand tactics and mates who want to go beyond what can be calculated and think more abstractly about the game. We will go over middle and endgame theory, have students create their own tactics and learn positional play by going over historical games from the great players in history. Ideal for players with a ChessKid rating above 1300 or USCF rating over 800. **Click Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/MasteringYourChessIntermediateAdvancedTHURSDAYS56PM) to Register and for Information.**

Note: Minimum five students to start the class, maximum 10 student in each class. Information with link to join the class will be sent via email after your registration:
Classes are online: student must have laptop, with mic and webcam, and good internet connection in order to participate in classes!

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

If you have any questions, or need a sample of a class, please feel free to reach out to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

12/15 Tuesday - December Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/december-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/december-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

12/17 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot)
Start at 6:30PM

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Friendly Rivalries, Part 21.

Continuing from here:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/944#paul (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/944#paul)

Jon Frankle was yet another powerful chess master from the old days. His interest in chess pre-dates the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match – he seems to have come out of Iowa:

http://www.geocities.ws/bprice1949/iowachess.html
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.geocities.ws/bprice1949/iowachess.html)

Poking around on the internet a bit, I see that Jon obtained his PhD from UC Berkeley, lives in Silicon Valley, and has been a highly-regarded chess coach

I'm just hazarding a guess, but the highlight of Jon's chess career was probably becoming Northern California Chess Champion in 1987, winning the prestigious Bagby Invitational in 1987:

http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/ccj/1987ccj1_6.pdf
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/ccj/1987ccj1_6.pdf)

I finished dead last in that event.

Going over these games from long ago I am struck by Jon's aggressive play – he once crushed GM Miguel Quinteros in 25 moves – and also by my own play: sloppy, and with a poor choice of openings (that darn Rat Defense!).

Here's the Quinteros game:

https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1116111
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117214035/https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1116111)

I just plain underestimated this dangerous opponent...

We played three times, in three Bagby's at the Mechanics' Institute. I was black in all three games, won the 1st but lost the next two.

See for yourself:

(1) Jon Frankle - Paul Whitehead [B21]
Bagby Mem./No. Cal. Ch. San Francisco, 1982
[Whitehead,Paul]

Storyline: white plays in a hyper-aggressive style, but black hangs in there and eventually the game turns in his favor. **1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 4.c4 Nc6 5.Qxd3 d6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bg5 e6 8.Rd1 Qa5 9.Bd2 a6 10.Nd5**

10...Qd8 11.Nxf6+ Qxf6 12.Bc3 Qg6 13.h4 h5 14.Nf3 Be7 15.Be2 e5 16.c5 dxc5 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Qxg2 19.Rh2 Qg6 20.Kf1

20...Qe6 21.Qg3 Rg8 22.f4 Qg6 23.Qxg6 fxg6 24.Bc4 Rf8 25.Bd5 Bf6 26.Bc7 Bd7 27.e5 Bd8 28.Bxd8 Rxf4+ 29.Ke1 Rxd8 30.Rhd2

30...Rb8 31.Bg2 Bg4 32.Rc1 b6 33.Rc3 Ke7 34.Rcd3 Bf5 35.Rd6 Rxh4 36.Rc6 Rd4 37.Rxd4 cxd4 38.Rd6 h4 39.Rxd4 h3 40.Bf3

40...Ke6 41.Ra4 a5 42.b4 Kxe5 43.bxa5 bxa5 44.Kf2 Rb4 45.Rxa5+ Kf4 46.Bc6 Rb2+ 47.Kg1 g5 48.Ra4+ Kg3 49.Ra3+ Kh4 50.Rf3

50...g6 51.a4 g4 52.Rf2 Rb1+ 53.Rf1 h2+ 54.Kg2 Rb2+ 55.Kh1 Kh3 56.a5 g3 57.a6 g2+ 58.Bxg2+ Rxg2 59.a7 Rg1+

0-1 White resigns. **0-1**

(2) Jon Frankle - Paul Whitehead [B06]

Bagby Mem./No.Cal. Ch. San Francisco, 1985

[Whitehead,Paul]

Storyline: white goes all-out for attack, but it's unsound. Black blunders with 30...c2?? instead of 30...f5 or ...30...f6 winning. Swindle! **1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Bg5 c6 5.Qd2 b5 6.f3 Nd7 7.h4 Ngf6 8.Bd3 Qb6 9.Nce2 e5 10.c3 0-0**

11.Bh6 d5 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.h5 dxe4 14.hxg6 exd3 15.Qh6+ Kg8 16.gxh7+ Kh8 17.dxe5 Nd5 18.Rd1 Qe3 19.Qxe3 Nxe3

20.Rxd3 Nc2+ 21.Kf2 Nxe5 22.Rd6 Ne3 23.Rh5 N3c4 24.Rf6 Nxb2 25.Nf4 Nbc4 26.Nge2 Bd7 27.Ng3 a5 28.Ne4 b4 29.Rg5 bxc3 30.Rh6 c2?



31.Nf6! Ng6 32.Rhxg6 fxg6 33.Nxg6+ Kg7 34.Nxf8+ Kxf6 35.Rg6+ Ke7 36.h8Q c1Q 37.Qg7+ Ke8 38.Qxd7+ Kxf8 39.Qg7+ Ke8 40.Re6+

1-0 Black resigns. **1-0**

(3) Jon Frankle - Paul Whitehead [B06]

Bagby Mem./No. Cal. Ch. San Francisco, 1987

[Whitehead,Paul]

Storyline: white had an edge the whole game and black was destroyed with hardly a shot fired. This opening just never seemed to work out for me. **1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5 c6 5.Qd2 b5 6.f3 Nd7 7.Nd1 h6 8.Be3 Ngf6 9.a4 bxa4 10.Rxa4 Qc7**

11.Bd3 e5 12.Qa5 Qxa5+ 13.Rxa5 exd4 14.Bxd4 a6 15.Ne3 0-0 16.Ne2 Ne8 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nc3 Nc5 19.Be2 Rb8 20.b3 Nc7

21.Kf2 Be6 22.Rd1 Rfd8 23.b4 Nb7 24.Ra3 c5 25.b5 axb5 26.Bxb5 Bc8 27.Bc6 Ne6 28.Rb1 Nd4 29.Bd5 Rd7 30.Ra2 Rc7 31.Rab2

1-0 Black resigns. **1-0**

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

The Yerminator

We take a look back at one of the one of the great American players of the 1990's and 2000's, grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky. Yermo is of course well known to many Mechanics' players as he was the Grandmaster in Residence at the club from 1998-2008. He won two US Championships and played on many US national teams in these two decades. The national teams were at the Olympiad and World Team Championship events, where he had memorable victories over some of the world's biggest chess stars.

Yermo is well remembered at the MI for his lectures and teaching and also for his great results on the US chess circuit of big swiss system tournaments. He is still active and won the Western States Open in Reno a few years ago (a tournament which usually features a Mechanics' Institute team entry). Yermo and his wife (WIM Camille Baginskaite) and two sons moved to the heartland of the US ten years ago – in South Dakota. While some immigrants wish to only life in big urban cities, Yermo has embraced heartland American culture and enjoys the pleasures of the Midwest and western US.

(1) Timman,Jan H (2655) - Yermolinsky,Alex (2625) [B30]
Elista ol (Men) Elista (5), 03.10.1998

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Jan Timman was the west's big hope to challenge for the World Championship in the 1980's and early 90's. Here he plays the Rossalimo Variation of the Sicilian, which gained some popularity after Fischer used it extensively in his 1992 match with Spassky. **3...e6 4.0-0 Nge7 5.c3 a6 6.Be2 d5 7.exd5 exd5 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4!** Accurate play by Yermo gains equality in the opening. White can recapture with the queen on d4 to avoid the same isolated d-pawn as Black, but then 10...Nc6 would gain time in the opening. **10.cxd4 g6 11.Nc3 Bg7 12.Bg5 0-0 13.Re1** [13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Bxe7 Re8 15.Bc5 Bf5 16.Bf3 Be4 17.Re1 Rad8 is fair compensation for the pawn] **13...h6! 14.Bh4?!** [White should try 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Nxd5 Qd6 16.Bf3 Be6 17.Nc3 Qxd4 though Black is at least equal] **14...g5 15.Bg3 Nc6 16.Bf3 Be6 17.Be5** The only way to defend the d-pawn, but now Black gets the bishop pair. **17...Nxe5 18.dxe5 d4! 19.Na4 Qa5 20.Bxb7?** too greedy. Timman wins a pawn but will suffer against a long term initiative. **20...Rad8**

Black has given a pawn (temporarily) but his game is a picture of activity. All the black pieces are on the right squares whitle White has the offside knight and the black d-pawn to worry about. **21.Rc1 d3 22.Re4 Bd7!** The white position doesn't hold together after this move. If **23.Bc6** [23.b3 Bxa4 24.bxa4 d2 25.Rc2 Rb8 26.Bc6 Rfd8 27.g3 Rb1! wins. The black d-pawn is a monster.; 23.Nc3 d2 24.Qxd2 Bc6] **23...Bxc6 24.Rxc6 Qd5 25.Rcc4 Bxe5** material is equal but Black is winning. White has a terrible situation that his queen must do the job of blockading the d-pawn. **26.Nc3 Qd6 27.h4 d2 28.hxg5 hxg5 29.Re3 Bf4 30.Ne4 Qe6 31.Rec3**

31...f5 32.g3 The end is coming. White cannot allow ...Qe1+ **32...fxe4 33.gxf4 Rxf4 34.Rg3** everything loses also **34...Qxc4** Timman resigned. The USA beat the Netherlands in this match 4-0. The US team lead the Olympiad for 13 of the 14 rounds but was just notched by the Russians in the final round to only win the silver medal. **0-1**

(2) Yermolinsky,Alex (2596) - Thiel,Peter [D36]
US op 101st Saint Paul (5), 09.08.2000

Here Yermo plays against a very famous chess master, billionaire Peter Thiel of PayPal and Palentir fame. Older MI players will remember Peter at the club. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bg5 c6 6.cxd5** Yermo chooses the Exchange Variation of the QGD. He has always enjoyed a position where he can do a slow squeeze like a Boa Constrictor. **6...exd5 7.e3 Be7 8.Qc2 0-0 9.Bd3 Re8 10.0-0 Nf8 11.h3 g6 12.Rab1 Ne6 13.Bh6 a5 14.a3 Ng7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7**

Very good solid opening play by Peter. Yermo has his work cut out for him if he wants to win. **16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 Bd6 18.b5 Ra3 19.Ra1 Rxa1 20.Rxa1 Qe7?!** just a small inaccuracy. 20...Bd7 would leave the black queen with more influence on the queenside. Yermo starts to gain a little edge. **21.bxc6 bxc6 22.Na4 Bb7 23.Rc1 Ne4?** Black could keep the game close to even with [23...Rc8] **24.Bxe4!** giving up the second bishop and playing with two knights. The knights however have fine squares while the bishops are not doing too much. **24...dxe4 25.Nd2 f5 26.Nc5 Bc8 27.Qa4 f4!** well played. Black is in trouble and takes his best chance by playing actively. **28.Ncxe4 fxe3 29.fxe3 Bb4**

30.Nf1! the best way to consolidate the white position **30...Bf5?!** [30...Rf8!] **31.Nf2 c5?** under pressure Black goes astray. The c6 pawn is weak but now it is lost. **32.dxc5 Rb8** [32...Bxc5 33.Rxc5 Qxc5 34.Qxe8] **33.c6 Bd6 34.Ng4 h5 35.Qd4+ Kh7 36.Nf6+ Kh6 37.e4! Be6 38.e5** White is now just two pawns up and Yermo wraps it up efficiently. **38...Bc7 39.Kh1 Rb3 40.Nd2 Rb8 41.Qe3+ Kg7 42.Qc5 Kf7** [42...Qxc5 43.Rxc5 Bxe5 44.Nxh5+ gxh5 45.Rxe5] **43.Nf3 Bf5 44.Nd5** Black resigned. **1-0**

(3) Yermolinsky,Alex (2530) - Rensch,Daniel (2406) [E39]
Tonto Village Chess.com Tonto Village (4), 05.06.2011

Here Yermo plays against another chess celebrity - Danny Rensch, the funniest man in chess broadcasting. Danny is famous for his work at chess.com, but is also a strong international master. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 c5 7.dxc5 Nc6 8.Nf3 Bxc5 9.e3 b6 10.Be2 Bb7** Thus far logical play by both sides in a Nimzo-indian. **11.0-0 Be7 12.Rad1 Rc8 13.Rd2 Na5 14.b3 d5 15.Qb2 Qe8 16.cxd5 exd5?!** [16...Nxd5] **17.Rc2 Ne4 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Nd4** Black has the isolated d-pawn. This simple technical edge is the king Yermo would love to play. Danny is suffering. **19...Qf6** removing Black's isolated pawn, but still maintaining more control of the queenside squares. **20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Rfc1 Nc6 22.Nxc6** [22.Bg4!? Rc7 23.Qa3] **22...Qxb2 23.Rxb2 Bxc6 24.Rbc2** Yermo has a little edge in the endgame. He loves to grind down an opponent. **24...Bd7 25.Ba6 Rxc2 26.Rxc2 Rd8 27.Kf1 Bg4 28.Be2 Bxe2+ 29.Kxe2 Rd7**

30.g4 White is a little better because of the centralized king. It's hard to make progress though and instructive to see Yermo squeeze. Here he takes space on the kingside. **30...g6 31.h4 Kg7 32.Rc6 Rd5 33.Rc4 Re5 34.Kd2 Kf6 35.Rc7 Ra5?!** [35...Re7!] **36.a4 h5 37.gxh5 gxh5** [37...Rxh5?

38.Rxa7 Rxh4 39.Rb7 gets two passers on the queenside] **38.Kc3 Rc5+ 39.Rxc5 bxc5 40.Kc4 Kf5 41.Kxc5 Kg4 42.b4 Kxh4 43.b5**



where to go with the black king to let the h-pawn run? **43...Kg4?** [Danny chooses the wrong square. He should have played 43...Kg5 44.a5 h4 45.b6 axb6+ 46.axb6 h3 47.b7 h2 48.b8Q h1Q 49.Qe5+ Kg6 50.Kd5 when White can still cause suffering for Black, but the game should be drawn with best play 50...Qd1+ 51.Kxe4 Qh1+ 52.f3 f6] **44.a5 h4 45.b6 axb6+ 46.axb6 h3 47.b7 h2 48.b8Q h1Q 49.Qf4+** this is the big difference. Yermo wins a pawn with check now **49...Kh5** [49...Kh3 50.Qg3#] **50.Qxf7+ Kg5 51.Qf4+ Kg6 52.Kd5 Qd1+ 53.Kxe4 Qb1+ 54.Kf3 Qh1+ 55.Ke2 1-0**

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Newsletter #948

December 19, 2020

By Abel Talamantez

Table of Contents

- Happy Holidays
- Mechanics' TNM Report
- Mechanics' Thursday Night Marathon Report
- Online Chess Platforms
- IM John Donaldson Championship
- PanAm
- Become a Mechanics' Institute Member
- Twitch Arena
- Weekly Classes
- Scholastic Online Offerings
- Online Events Schedule
- FM Paul Whitehead's Column
- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Happy Holidays

We want to wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday next week! We will take a break from the newsletter next week in observance of the holidays, but we will be back on January 2, 2021 with a tournament recap of the conclusion of the December Tuesday Night Marathon and other chess happenings. Thank you all for your continued support of the Mechanics' Institute. Your participation in our events and classes, membership, and engagement through our streams have helped sustain us through this difficult time, and we look forward to an amazing year of chess in 2021!

Mechanics' Institute November Tuesday Night Marathon Report

GM Gadir Guseinov continued his perfect run in the December TNM, defeating two of his strongest opposition in IM Elliott Winslow and FM Kyron Griffith. He has 6/6 going into next weeks las two rounds. The battle for 2nd and 3rd is tight however, with 3 players at 5/6 including NM Kireet Panuganti, IM Elliott Winslow, and NM Michael Walder. Of these 3 players, Walder has not played Gadir, so we look for that matchup next week. Also chasing at 4.5/6 are FM Kyrn Griffith and Ashik Uzzaman.

To watch the coverage of round 5&6, please click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vY31cMJZHjc (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vY31cMJZHjc)

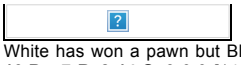
Here are some games from rounds 5&6, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(3) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2470) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2600) [B34]

Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com (6.1), 15.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Kyron likes the white side of this position **8...Nd5 9.Nxd5 cxd5 10.Qxd5 Rb8**



White has won a pawn but Black has open lines for compensation. Is it enough? The players seem to have different opinions as Gadir is happy with the black side. **11.0-0-0! Bb7 12.Qd2 Bxe5 13.Bxa7 Ra8 14.Qe3 0-0** [14...Bg7 15.Bd4] **15.Qxe5 Rxa7 16.Kb1?** [16.a3! is a far more effective way to hold the queenside squares. Kyron has played the opening very well and would hold a big advantage. 16...d6 17.Qe3 Ra4 18.h4 h5 19.Rd4 keeps White in control] **16...d6 17.Qe3 Qa8!** suddenly Black is getting good play for the pawn with the open files on the queenside **18.Bc4?!** [18.a3 Rb8 19.f3 would be about level] **18...Bxg2 19.Rhg1 Be4** Now Black holds an edge with the compact pawn structure and queenside attacking chances. **20.Bb3 Rb8?!** [20...Rc8!] **21.Rd4! Bf5?**



22.Rh4? [Missing an opportunity. 22.Bd5! simply wins the exchange with a winning position. Strangely there is nothing Black can do for a counterattack.] **22...Rxb3! 23.Qxb3 Be6** This inspired exchange sacrifice gives Black the advantage. The action is all on the queenside near the white king. **24.c4?** [24.Qc3 Bxa2+ 25.Kc1 is worse for White but he is still very much in the game] **24...Bf5+ 25.Kc1** This lets Black in. The alternative [25.Ka1 loses to 25...Bc2! which is the shot that Kyron may have missed earlier.] **25...Rxa2** Gadir now has a winning initiative. The black bishop is powerful and so Black controls the action. **26.Kd2 Qa5+ 27.Ke2 Qe5+ 28.Kf3 Rxb2 29.Qe3 Qf6 30.Kg3 Rc2 31.Qh6 Qe5+ 32.Qf4 g5 33.Qxe5 dxe5 34.Kf3 f6**



material is even but the White rook on h4 can't get out of the bad situation. **35.c5 e4+ 36.Ke3 Kf7 37.Rxe4** trading into a clear technical loss, but anything else was worse **37...Bxe4 38.Kxe4 Rxc5 39.Kf3 Rc4 40.h3** Two pawns up for Gadir in a rook endging is automatic. There is nothing left to say. **40...h5 41.Ra1 e5 42.Kg3 Kg6 43.Ra8 Kf5 44.Rh8 h4+ 45.Kg2 Kf4 46.Rf8 f5 47.Rf7 e4 48.Rf8 Rc2 49.Kg1 e3 50.fxe3+ Kg3 51.Rxf5 Rc1+ 52.Rf1 Rxf1+ 53.Kxf1 Kxh3** Kyron resigned. A great battle! **0-1**

(4) Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (1934) - Mateo Hansen (mateosh) (1687) [B01]

Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com (5.17), 15.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3 A switchup on the usual. But more, White keeps open c-pawn possibilities, both c2-c3 to guard a pawn on d4, and c2-c4 to get that pawn also working in the center. The theory on this is unsettled still. [3.Nc3 is of course the tried and true -- and blunt -- grab a tempo.] **3...Nf6** [3...Bg4 4.Be2 Nc6 gets castled quickly to pressure a pawn on d4 -- and keeps open possibilities of ...Nh6.] **4.d4 Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Be7** The less ambitious approach doesn't approach at all, and lets White gets space, maybe the two bishops, and the usual opening advantage from a fairly safe pawn on d4 vs. pawn on e6. **7.h3**



[7.c4!? Qd8 8.Nc3 c6 9.h3 Bh5 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qb3 Qb6 12.Rfd1 Qxb3 13.axb3 as described above: 1-0 (65), Timofeev,A (2580)-Mezentsev,I (2354) chess.com INT 2020] **7...Bxf3N** Adding the two bishops to White's plus column. [7...Bh5 8.c4 Qd7 9.Qb3 and Black felt compelled to take anyway, losing a tempo on top of everything else: 9...Bxf3 10.Bxf3 c6 11.Nc3 0-0 12.Rd1 1-0 (37), Alekseev,E (2616)-Swicarz,M (2378) Katowice 2017.] **8.Bxf3 Qb5**



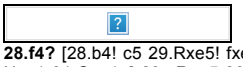
9.b3?! Too cautious! [9.c4! White is bordering on winning outright;; 9.Nc3! Same here too. White can even hit Black on the next move with 10.d5 and bust it open for the Bs.] **9...0-0 10.c4 Qa6** This is no picnic, but it lets Black off a hook. **11.Re1** [11.Bb2; 11.b4! is hard to bring oneself to play after 9.b3, but it puts the screws to Black's queen.] **11...Nc6**



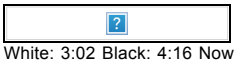
12.d5? White overlooks something, and so does Black. [12.Bb2; Even 12.Bxc6!? tightens up the central situation.] **12...Rad8** [There is a tactic: 12...exd5 13.cxd5 Nxd5! *(13...Rad8* is fine of course*)* 14.Qxd5 *(14.Bxd5? Bf6)* 14...Rad8 and Black IS going to get his piece back with ... Bf6 with none the worse of it. *(14...Bf6? 15.Be2 Qa5 16.Qxa5 Nxa5 17.Bd2 Nxb3 18.axb3 Bxa1* might look good, but White's pieces are better than the rook and two pawns here.*)*] **13.Nc3 Bb4 14.Bb2 Qa5 15.Re3** [15.a3!? Bxc3 16.b4 Bxb4 17.axb4 Qxb4 18.Qc1 exd5 19.cxd5 Nd4!+/=] **15...exd5?** [15...Bc5] **16.Nxd5+- Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Kh8 18.Qg4 f6 19.Rg3 g6 20.Qe6 Kg7 21.Rf3 Rd6 22.Qe2 Ba3?**



23.Bc3 [23.b4! Bxb4 24.g4] **23...Bb4 24.Bb2 Ba3 25.Re3 Bxb2 26.Qxb2 Qb6 27.Rae1 Ne5**



28.f4? [28.b4! c5 29.Rxe5! fxe5 30.Qxe5+ Rdf6 31.Qe7+ Kh8 32.Re6 puts Black away.] **28...Rxd5** [or 28...Nd3 29.Qc3 Nxf4! *(29...Nxe1?? 30.c5!)* 30.c5 Nxd5=] **29.fxe5??** [29.cxd5 Nd3 30.Qc3 Nxe1 31.Qxe1=] **29...Rxe5 30.Qc3?!** [30.Qf2-+] **30...Rfe8 31.Kf2 Rxe3 32.Rxe3 Rxe3 33.Qxe3 Qxe3+ 34.Kxe3 Kf7** Totally winning for Black. But: **35.Ke4 Ke6 36.c5 f5+ 37.Kd4 b6?!** [37...c6 38.b4 a6 shuts any dreams down.] **38.b4 g5** [38...b5!] **39.a4 h5 40.cxb6 cxb6!** [40...axb6? is still a win, but why give yourself headaches?] **41.a5 bxa5 42.bxa5 h4** [42...a6] **43.a6**



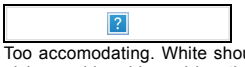
White: 3:02 Black: 4:16 Now a king move to d6, f6 or f7 would claim **43...g4??** Throwing away the win. [Even 43...f4 does it.] **44.hxg4 fxg4 45.Ke4 h3 46.gxh3 gxh3 47.Kf3** It turns out that White can take the h-pawn and get back to c1 in time. Counting: f3,g3,xh3, g3,f3,e3,d2,c1 for eight moves; Black has d5-c5-b5xa6-b5-b4-b3 for seven. White was going first, so on his eighth: Kc1. **47...Kd5 48.Kg3 Kc5 49.Kxh3 Kb5 50.Kg2 Kxa6 51.Kf1 Ka5 52.Ke1 Ka4 53.Kd1 Ka3 54.Kc1** There it is. **54...Ka2 55.Kc2 a5 56.Kc1 a4 57.Kc2 Ka3 58.Kb1 Kb3 59.Ka1 a3 60.Kb1 Ka4 61.Ka2** Game drawn by agreement. Both players showed strong play to a point, but slipped up in critical positions and let it go. Still, an entertaining and instructive battle. Mateo has been at it now for a while, with a bit more work his game should gel and his rating take off. **1/2-1/2**

(5) Nathan Fong (nathanf314) (1954) - NM Arun Dixit (Limelight2727) (2199) [B39]

Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com (5.3), 15.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 The modern way to head for the Accelerated Dragon [Black avoids the Rossolimo 2...Nc6 3.Bb5] **3.c4** [White could play 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nf6 when White can try to disrupt Black's smooth movement with 5.e5 **a)** 5.Nc3!? looking to kick the knight later 5...Nc6 6.Qa4 d6 7.e5!; **b)** 5.Bb5!? (Anticipation!) 5...Nc6 *(5...a6!?)* 6.Bxc6 *(6.Qa4 Bg7)* 6...bxc6 7.e5 *(7.c4!?)* ; 5...Nc6 6.Qa4] **3...Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Ng4!? 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 Ne6** The positional approach, with many interesting developments and strong adherents. [9...Nc6 might look "normal" but the knight doesn't find much to do there.; 9...e5!? dares White to win a pawn on d4 without getting overwhelmed by counterplay everywhere. The line still resists getting put away.] **10.Be2?!**



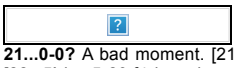
Too accomodating. White should keep his pawns healthy, [with 10.Qd2; or 10.Rc1] **10...Bxc3+!** Like the 9...e5 line, Black is willing to do something very commital to unbalance the game, here giving up his pride and joy, the Fianchetto'ed ("Dragon") bishop. **11.bxc3 b6?!** [11...Qc7! (preparing ...b6) has a huge score in practice, He's in no hurry to castle (if he ever does), while White's pawns remain easy targets.] **12.Qd5**



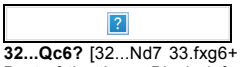
A bit of disruption! **12...Nc7?!** [12...Rb8?? 13.Qe5 had to be embarrassing! (it happened in a master game!); 12...Ba6! keeps the knight on its best square, holding c5 and ready for ...Rc8. The game is balanced in its imbalances in theory, but in practice White has more often made his dynamic features prevail. As in 13.f4 4-0!] **13.Qe5?!** Not wanting to encourage the knight to return to that nice square, but it loses time another way. [13.Qd4!+/= followed by trading off a weak pawn with e5 or c5 (without trading off the good dark squared bishop) works fairly well.] **13...f6 14.Qg3 Bb7 15.f3 Ne6 16.0-0 Rc8** Black is cozy, and hardly misses castling at all. **17.Rab1** [17.Rfb1!? with thoughts of a2-a4-a5, a "Deep State Minority Attack"] **17...Qc7** [or 17...Ba6 and Black is getting around to targeting the c-pawn(s).] **18.Qf2 Nf4!?** is the most clearcut of the choices, but these others are to be considered [18...0-0; 18...Kf7; 18...Ba6; 18...d6]



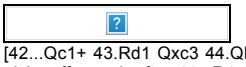
19.Bd1? [19.c5! Nxe2+ 20.Qxe2 bxc5 21.Qb5 Ba8 22.Bxc5! still slightly favors Black, as there are other weak pawns in White's camp, but the main one has been traded off. And the opposite colored bishops don't work out so badly either. The g2-f3-e4 barricade to Black's bishop is nice. The point is 22...Qxc5+?? 23.Qxc5 Rxc5 24.Rb8+] **19...Ba6 20.Bb3 Ne6-/+** Back again. Now Black is in control. **21.Rfd1**



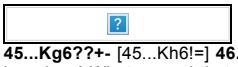
21...0-0? A bad moment. [21...Bxc4! It's time for this. Note 22.Ba4 Rd8 23.Rd2 0-0 and now it's time for that (so to have ...d6 available).] **22.Rd5?** The advantage jumps around for a while! [22.c5! bxc5 23.f4 launches an attack out of nowhere. 23...f5 *(23...Kg7 24.f5)* when best may well be 24.Qd2 Kh8 25.exf5 Rxf5 26.g3 with sustained pressure.] **22...Nc5?!=** [22...Bxc4! 23.Bxc4 Qxc4 24.Rxd7 Rc7-/+ leaves Black with the more effectively posted pieces.] **23.Rbd1 d6 24.h4?! Bb7?!** [24...Kh8-/+] **25.R5d2 h5 26.Qg3 Kf7 27.Bc2 Rg8 28.Bf4?! Ne6** [28...Bc6=/+] **29.Be3 Ba6 30.f4 Bxc4-/+** Black finally gets around to this pawn, with more to come. White: 12:32 Black: 12:10 **31.Qf3 Nc5 32.f5**



32...Qc6? [32...Nd7 33.fxg6+ Kg7-/+ The pawn loss is insignificant; the e5 and g4 squares will be considerable.] **33.fxg6+ Rxg6** [33...Kg7? 34.Qf4! Rh8 35.e5!+-] **34.Qxh5= Rcg8! 35.e5 Bd3** Best of the three; Black defends well, but the fact is that defense is harder, at the very least on the clock: White 8:43 Black: 4:56. [35...Ne4; 35...Nd3] **36.exf6 Bxc2?!** [36...exf6!?] **37.Rxc2 exf6 38.Bf4+/= Qe4?!** [38...Ne4+/=] **39.Rf2! Nd3 40.Re2!** Those defensive maneuvers cost White on the clock as well. **40...Qxf4** [40...Nxf4?? 41.Qh7+ R8g7 42.Qxg7++-] **41.Rxd3+/-** Black's king shows to be the more exposed. **41...Kf8?** White 2:08 Black 0:52 [41...Qc1+? 42.Kh2 Qf4+ 43.g3; 41...Qg4!? 42.Qd5+ Kg7 43.Kf1 f5 reshuffles Black's king and rooks to a safer configuration, with less of a plus for White.] **42.Qd5** [42.Rf3! Qh6 *(42...Qc4 43.Rfe3 Qc5 44.Qf3* followed by Kh2, and something will give*.)* 43.Qf5 Black's king is still on the wrong side of the rest of his army.] **42...Rg4?**



[42...Qc1+ 43.Rd1 Qxc3 44.Qb7! draws the king out.] **43.Rd4!** A sort of X-ray defense of h4; Black disintegrates. But the clocks! White 0:28 Black 0:30 **43...Qg3 44.Qxd6+?** [44.Qb7! at least picks off a rook after 44...R4g7 45.Qc8+ Kf7 46.Qd7+ Kg6 47.Rg4+ Kh6 48.Rxg3 Rxd7 49.Rxg8] **44...Kg7??** [44...Qxd6 45.Rxd6 Kg7 reduces White's advantage to nothing special.] **45.Re7+?!** So many moves were better, with the best (but not easy to spot) being [45.Qe7+ Kh6 *(45...Kg6 46.Rd7)* 46.Rxg4 Qxg4 47.Qxf6+]



45...Kg6??+- [45...Kh6!=] **46.Rxg4+** Good enough! [46.Qd5! Better!] **46...Qxg4 47.Qd3+! Qf5 48.h5+! Kg5 49.Qg3+??** With 16 seconds... [49.Qxf5+ Kxf5 50.h6 is won] **49...Qg4??** [49...Kxh5 is a draw! What an end that would have been!] **50.Qe3+?** [50.Qxg4+ Kxg4 51.h6 is again a win.] **50...Qf4?** [The last chance was 50...Kxh5 although here 51.Rh7+ Kg6 52.Qd3+ f5 53.Rh3 White has a real chance to still bring it in, what with Black's target of a king.] **51.Qxf4+** Finally White acquiesces to the won rook ending. **51...Kxf4 52.h6 Rh8 53.h7 f5 54.Rxa7 Ke4 55.Kf2 Kd3 56.Kf3 Kxc3 57.Kf4 b5 58.Kxf5 b4 59.g4 b3 60.axb3 Kxb3 61.g5 Kb4 62.g6 Kb5 63.Kf6 Kb6 64.Rf7 Rd8 65.Kg7 Kc6 66.h8Q Rxh8 67.Kxh8 Kd6 68.g7 Ke6 69.g8Q** with the two-second increment they'd both managed to double their clock time to over half a minute. No matter, as Black had just been playing without hope for quite a while. nathanf314 won by resignation. An extremely tense and difficult struggle all the way! **1-0**

(6) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2600) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2278) [B69]

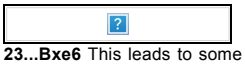
Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com (5.1), 15.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 This used to be a prelude to the Closed Sicilian: g3, Bg2, d3, maybe Be3 and Qd2, maybe f4 and a kingside assault, maybe Rb1 and b4 on the other side. But nowadays almost anything can happen. 3.d4 and 4.Qxd4 has been seen by Guseinov, and 3.Bb5+ lines, But those are after 2...d6; it's different now. **2...Nc6 3.Nf3** Arcing back to normal lines. [3.Bb5 is Tiviakov's odd line, when 3...Nd4 might not make sense according to not moving the same piece twice in the opening, but Black can annoy White's bishop advantageously.] **3...d6** Daring White to do something less common still, but it seems that today Guseinov wanted to test out a main line. **4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6** The Classical Sicilian. **6.Bg5** The Rauzer (Richter's line was later or and a somewhat erratic attacking line, so let's leave him out of this). [Last week there was a game with the Sozin, 6.Bc4 and into the Velimirovic Attack, which leads to irrational attacking lines and spectacular sacrifices. This week the play is more strategic, although attack on the kings is always in the air.] **6...e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.f4 Be7** Development? Old-school. Even with the boost of two games from the 1972 World Championship match this is the less-played line now. [More to the point is 9...b5 , as well as a lot more popular.] **10.Nf3 b5 11.Bxf6 gxf6** [11...Bxf6!? 12.Qxd6 Be7 13.Qd2 *(13.Qd3!?)* 13...b4 gives up a pawn to get Black's pawns rolling a little faster. The verdict is still forthcoming.] **12.Kb1** [12.Bd3 was one of those Fischer-Spassky games;; 12.f5 is a pawn sacrifice nobody has ever taken (in the big databases at least). Strategically Black pins his hopes on his pawn center working for him, not against. 12...Qb6 13.Kb1 0-0-0 14.Qh6 is the closest Guseinov has been to the current game: 1-0 (30) Guseinov,G (2611)-Rahmanov,S (2245) Baku 2010] **12...Qb6 13.Bd3 b4** The computer isn't too keen on this gung ho approach, but White is coming out on top in lines anyway. **14.Ne2 a5 15.f5** White pursues the plan of pressuring Black's central pawns, especially e6, trying to get a concession. **15...a4 16.Nf4 Qc5 17.Rhe1** Now Black has to be concerned with variou sacrificial operations to get at his center. **17...Ne5**



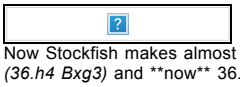
18.Nxe5?!N Guseinov was keeping up a quick pace, but this could end up getting pushed back. [Previously 18.fxe6 fxe6 19.Bf1 (setting up Nd4 with e6 in trouble) 19...b3 20.cxb3 axb3 21.a3 Kf7 22.Rc1 Qb6 23.Nd4 Rhc8 24.Be2 Rxc1+ 25.Rxc1 Qb7 26.Re1 Rc8 27.Bh5+ Ng6 28.Nfxe6 Bxe6 29.Qh6 1-0 (29) Klovans,J (2477) -Yrjola,J (2401) Cappelle-la-Grande 2005] **18...fxe5 19.Nh5** Now it's quite a difficult decision. **19...a3!?** Perhaps jumping the gun, but it could have worked out very well. [19...Kd8!? sidesteps knight checks and heads maybe for c7, connecting the rooks and keeping options.; 19...0-0-0 was the other decisive choice. The pawn cover isn't completely abandoning the king...] **20.b3?** This move needed preparation! [20.f6 Bf8 21.Ng7+ Kd8 22.b3! although Black's constant threat to do something drastic on the dark squares will continue to haunt White.; 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.Rf1 is another way to go, but Black comes out no worse after 21...Kd8 *(*or *21...Rg8 22.Nf6+ Bxf6 23.Rxf6 0-0-0!)*] **20...Rg8!?** [20...Qd4! is the forcing line: 21.c3 *(21.Qc1? Bg5* is just a worse version*)* 21...bxc3 22.Qe2 Qb4-/+ while Black hasn't broken through, he has fractured White's armor a bit -- and that c-pawn is going to have to be watched.] **21.Bc4 Qd4??** A muddled over-reaction. [21...0-0-0 White can't bring further pressure on the center. 22.f6 (22.Qh6 Rxg2-+ with winning counterpressure against c2 *(22...Bb5* is also very good*)*) 22...Bf8] **22.Qxd4 exd4 23.fxe6**



23...Bxe6 This leads to some awful pawns for both sides! [23...fxe6 24.Nf4 Rg4 looking for ...e5 25.Nxe6 Bxe6 26.Bxe6 Rxg2 27.Rxd4 Rb8 is an ugly bunch of exchanges, but leads to a fairly quiet opposite colored bishop situation, rooks regardless.] **24.Nf4** [24.Bb5+!? Kf8 25.Rf1 Bg4 26.Nf4 Ra5!=] **24...Bxc4 25.bxc4 Rc8 26.e5!?** [26.Rxd4 Bf6 27.e5 dxe5 28.Nd5 Kf8! 29.Nxf6 exd4 30.Nxg8 Kxg8 is Black's dream, although White is hardly worse.] **26...Kf8! 27.e6?!** [27.g3 Rxc4 28.exd6 Bxd6 29.Re4 Again, White has to be careful not to come out worse.] **27...Rxc4-/+** Black had five and a half minutes left (to White's 22!) but just didn't appreciate how well off he was. This seems to happen to a lot to Guseinov's opponents! **28.g3 Rg5! 29.Nd3 fxe6** [29...Rg6 30.exf7 *(30.Nf4 Rh6 31.h4 Bf6!)* 30...Kxf7 might not be as good as it started out looking, but certainly Black is no worse.] **30.Rxe6 Kf7** [30...Rf5 takes squares from White and keeps the pawn and the advantage.] **31.Re4?!**



White was "blitzing" Black, playing almost faster, with that same 22 minutes remaining! (Black had 4 at this point). [31.Rh6] **31...Bf6?=** [31...Rf5!-/+ 32.Nf4? *(32.h4 Rf3 33.Rf4+ Rxf4 34.Nxf4 Bf6 35.Rf1 Be5!)* 32...Bf6-+ Not easy with just a few minutes, but not impossible. *(32...Re5-+)*] **32.Rf1!** now there are real problems with the f-file. **32...Kg7?** [32...h5! 33.Ref4 Rg6 34.Rf5 Ke7 *(34...Rh6 35.Rb5 Ke6* keeps it under control, even if it does drop the b-pawn*)* 35.Rxh5 Bg5 finds a cozy square on e3, with equality] **33.Re6?** [33.h4! Rxg3 34.Nf4 gets a fork in, but 34...Be5! *(34...Rc5* might hold on as well*)* 35.Nh5+ Kh6! (35...Kg6?? 36.Nxg3 Bxg3 37.Rg4+! *(37.Rg1? Kf5)*) 36.Nxg3 Bxg3 leaves Black with a horrible ensemble of pawns to accompany the bishop, but -- White has no advantage.] **33...Be5!= 34.Re7+ Kg6 35.Rf8**



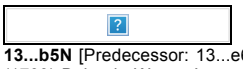
Now Stockfish makes almost anything "0.00", i.e. a draw. **35...Rf5??** Black panics with three minutes on the clock, probably Grandmaster Derangement Syndrome. [In fact, 35...Rh5! 36.Rf2 *(36.h4 Bxg3)* and **now** 36...Rf5 is even a bit of plus for Black.] **36.Re6++- Bf6 37.Nf4+ Kg7 38.Rfxf6 Rxf6 39.Nh5+ Kg6 40.Nxf6 d3 41.cxd3 Rd4 42.Ne4+ 1-0**

(7) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2278) - Nicholas Weng (ninjaforce) (1958) [E81]

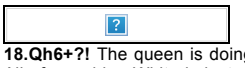
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[de Firmian,Nick]

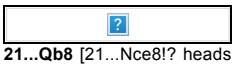
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 This little move shows up a lot among the Bay Area players. White plays against the Gruenfeld, that is, the Exchange Variation doesn't let Black trade for a knight on c3. [3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3] **3...c5** But besides the Saemisch King's Indian, Black can head the game in other directions, such as various Benoni structures. **4.d5 Bg7 5.e4 d6 6.Nc3** [6.Ne2 e6 7.Nec3!? exd5 8.cxd5 Nh5!? tries to take advantage of White's knight deserting the kingside.] **6...0-0** Black has one slight plus from this move order, that White has committed to d4-d5 before Black's ...Nc6, so Black isn't threatened immediately (not that those lines are bad). **7.Bg5 Na6?!** Black takes his time, and almost gets checkmated in the process. The three most played moves are 7...a6, 7...h6 and 7...e6 -- and Kasparov has more than once played all three one after the other! [7...a6 8.a4 h6 9.Be3 e6 10.Qd2 exd5 11.cxd5 Re8 *(11...Ne8; 11...Nh7)* 12.Nge2 Nbd7 has lead to many tense confrontations when the pawns finally get going.; 7...h6; 7...e6] **8.Qd2 Nc7 9.Nge2** [Sam Shankland played 9.Bd3 back in 2014 when he was a mere 2600 player: 9...Bd7 10.Nge2 a6 11.a4 b5 12.axb5 axb5 13.Rxa8 Qxa8 14.Nxb5 Nxb5 15.cxb5 Qa1+ 16.Qc1 Qxc1+ 17.Bxc1 Rb8 18.Nc3 Ne8 19.Bg5 Bf8 20.Kd2 Nc7 21.Ra1 Nxb5 22.Nxb5 Bxb5 23.Bxb5 Rxb5 24.Ra8 ½-½, Shankland,S (2616)-Romanov,E (2642) Fagernes 2014] **9...a6 10.a4 b6** Black has chosen the "slow and steady" method of getting in ...b5, without allowing a4-a5, when Black's pawns might lose their resiliency (but the b-file would be opened up for Black anyway). **11.Bh6** Black's plan is slow: White plays for checkmate! **11...Rb8 12.Ng3 Bd7** This is too slow now. [How about 12...Bxh6 13.Qxh6 b5!? 14.axb5 axb5 15.h4 *(15.cxb5 Bd7)* 15...bxc4 16.h5 Rxb2 17.Bxc4 g5!? The point is Black has all sort of defensive methods, checkmate just isn't happening.] **13.h4**



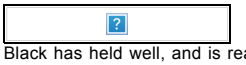
13...b5N [Predecessor: 13...e6 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.dxe6 Nxe6 16.h5! White correctly ignores the d-pawn and plays to stymie Black's king and rook: 1-0 (38) Jordanova,S (2111)-Pencheva,I (1799) Bulgaria Women's open chmp, Vratsa 2012] **14.h5** [14.axb5 axb5 15.h5 could be more accurate; White wanted to prevent Black from using b5.] **14...bxa4** [The computers are excited about 14...b4 but no human would be, and after 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.Qh6+ (17.e5!? bxc3 18.exf6+ Kh8 19.Qh6! *(19.Qxc3 exf6+/=)* 19...Rf7 20.bxc3 exf6 21.Qxg6) 17...Kg8 *(17...Kh8 18.Nce2)* 18.e5! dxe5 *(18...bxc3 19.exf6 Rf7 20.Bd3! cxb2 21.Rb1+-* and White crashes in on g6.*)* ; 14...bxc4 15.Bxc4 e5 is a thought, when 16.Bg5! plays to slam the door on Black's bishop with h6.] **15.e5 dxe5 16.hxg6?!** [16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Bd3!? White should never be worried about ... Rh8, since h6+ followed by winning on the queenside is available (Black did all the work opening files there!).] **16...fxg6 17.Bxg7 Kxg7**



18.Qh6+?! The queen is doing a good job covering b2 and should hold off jumping in until it leads to something. [18.Nge4! sets up a powerful duo of pawns in the center after Nxc5.] **18...Kg8** All of a sudden White is just down two pawns and having to back up to keep it from being worse! **19.Nge4** [Stockfish offers 19.Bd3 Rf7 20.Bxg6 Rg7 21.Bd3 as the best of a bad situation, when there are various drawing lines: 21...Rxg3 *(21...Rxb2 22.Nh5 Nxh5 23.Qxh5 Ne8* is the same as*; 21...Nce8 22.Nh5 Nxh5 23.Qxh5 Rxb2 24.Bxh7+ Kf8 25.Bd3* with checks up and down the h-file: 0.00*.)* 22.Bxh7+ Kf7 *(22...Nxh7?? 23.Qxh7+ Kf8 24.Ne4 Rg7 25.Qh8+ Rg8 26.Qxe5+-)* 23.Ne4 Rg7 24.Ng5+ Kf8] **19...Rf7 20.Nxc5** [20.Qd2! tries to hold the line: 20...Nxe4 21.Nxe4 Ne8 22.Nxc5 Qc8!? *(22...Rf4!?)*] **20...Rxb2 21.Qe3**



21...Qb8 [21...Nce8!? heads to all sorts of good squares, while White's king remains in the center.] **22.Qxe5?!**



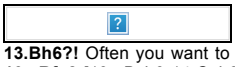
Black has held well, and is ready to take over, with one of three aggressive moves he'd be winning: [22.Be2 Qb4 23.0-0! (23.N5xa4 Rxe2+! 24.Kxe2 Qxc4+ 25.Qd3 when all the lateral queen moves are winning or close to: 25...-- *(25...Qb4; 25...Qd4; 25...Qf4)*) 23...a3 *(23...Ncxd5 24.cxd5 Qd4!* is an unexpected shot *25.Qxd4 exd4 26.N3e4 Rxe2* it's amazing White might survive after *27.Nxd7 Nxd7 28.Rxa4)*] **22...Qb4??** [22...a3!?; 22...Rc2!?; 22...Qb6!? 23.Nd3 Rb3 24.Nc1 Ng4! 25.fxg4 Qf2+ 26.Kd1 Bxg4+ 27.N3e2 Rf4! White comes out with a lot of pieces but no king] **23.Nd3+-** Young Nick just overlooked this. The fun is actually over, even if it seems close here and there. **23...Qb3 24.Nxb2 Qxb2 25.Rb1 Qc2** [25...Qa3 26.Bd3] **26.Be2** White resorts to boring: get castled, bring both rooks into the game, terminate Black. **26...Nce8 27.0-0 Nh5** Counterattack? **28.Rfc1 Qd2 29.Rd1 Qh6 30.c5 Nf4 31.c6 Bh3** [31...Rf5 32.cxd7] **32.Bf1** [32.Rb8 works, but safety first.] **32...Qh4 33.Rb8 Rf8 34.Rd4** Very close, Nick! As so often, the higher-rated player is not invincible; it's up to anyone to see the opportunities and grab them! Because those masters usually won't leave them lying around for too long. [34.Rd4 Bxg2 35.Bxg2 Qg3 36.Rxf4] **1-0**

(1) Christopher Bradley (ifyoustayreti) (1654) - Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (1934) [B38]

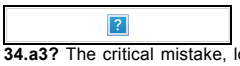
Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com (6.13), 15.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 Bg7 5.e4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 d6 So we arrive at a Maroczy Bind by transposition. Black is safe, but White just has that space advantage. **7.Be2 0-0 8.Be3 Nc6 9.0-0 Bd7 10.Nc2** This retreat is fine, though not necessary. It avoids exchanges and doesn't alter the character of the position. **10...a5 11.f3 a4 12.Qd2 Qa5**



13.Bh6?! Often you want to trade off your opponents fianchettoed bishop, but not here. White's dark-squared bishop was doing a valuable job on e3 influencing the center and queenside. **13...Rfc8** [13...Bxh6 14.Qxh6 a3!? 15.Nxa3 Qb6+ 16.Kh1 Qxb2 17.Nab5 Qb4 was also a reasonable choice for Black.] **14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Rfd1 Ne5 16.Na3 Be6 17.Nd5** Headed for an equal endgame. **17...Nxd5 18.Qxa5 Rxa5 19.cxd5 Bd7 20.Rac1 Rac5 21.Rxc5 Rxc5** Black has achieved a fully equal endgame with chances to push for the win. If you play the black side of a Maroczy this is what you are aiming for. **22.Rd2 f5 23.Rc2** [23.f4!] **23...fxe4 24.fxe4 Kf6 25.Kf2 Ng4+** This knight is strong on e5 so it is a bit strange to trade it off. **26.Bxg4 Bxg4 27.Rd2** [27.Rxc5 dxc5 28.Nc4 allows the knight to help the central pawns] **27...Ke5 28.Ke3 b5 29.h3 Bd7 30.Rc2?!** [30.Nc2! with the plan to bring the knight to f3 and drive away the black king would keep the game level] **30...e6 31.dxe6 Kxe6 32.Rxc5 dxc5 33.Nc2 Ke5**



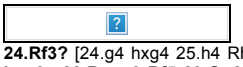
34.a3? The critical mistake, losing the e-pawn and letting the black bishop come to life. White is only slightly worse after [34.Ne1 followed by Nf3+ to chase the black king away] **34...Bc6 35.g3 Bxe4 36.Ne1** A pawn up and the black bishop dominating the knight. There's nothing to be done for White. **36...b4 37.Kd2 Kd4 0-1**

(2) Uzzaman (ashikuzzaman),Ashik (1940) - Zhou (mwncklmann),Chelsea (1866) [B23]

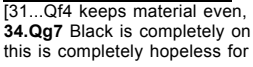
Mechanics' December TNM Chess.com (6.5), 15.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 The O'Kelly Variation, which can be fine against an open Sicilian (where White plays d4). Ashik decides to play a closed variation where ...a6 is not as useful. **3.f4 b5 4.Nf3 Bb7 5.d3 d6 6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0** Chelsea has played reasonably with the queenside advance, but White has a bit of an edge with the better central and kingside play. **8...e6 9.h3 h5 10.e5** [10.f5! would be a safer way to get the advantage on the kingside] **10...dxe5 11.Nxe5?!** [11.fxe5!] **11...Qc7** now the central play is balanced **12.Qe1 Bd6 13.Bxc6+ Bxc6 14.Nxc6 Qxc6 15.a4 b4 16.Ne4 0-0-0!?** fighting play, but 16...Be7 would keep a safe solid position **17.Nxd6+ Rxd6 18.b3 Rd5 19.Bb2 Rg8 20.Qf2 Nh7** Planning for ...g5 would to open the kingside. Black could also try to do this with 20...Rf5 so the black knight would stay more centralized **21.Rae1 g5 22.Re4** [22.Re5! would control more of the battleground squares] **22...gxf4 23.Rxf4** The position is still equal but White needs to be careful with the open g-file **23...Rdg5**



24.Rf3? [24.g4 hxg4 25.h4 Rh5 26.Rxf7] **24...Qd6?** [24...h4! 25.g4 f5 would tear open the kingside 26.Qg2 Rxg4!] **25.Kh2 h4 26.Rg1** [26.Qg2! hxg3+ 27.Kg1] **26...Rh5?!** [26...R8g6] **27.Re3 hxg3+ 28.Rgxg3 Rf5 29.Qg2 Rd5 30.Kg1** [30.Be5! Rxg3 *(30...Rxe5 31.Rxg8+)* 31.Bxg3 Qd7 32.Re5] **30...Rxg3 31.Rxg3 Kd7?**



[31...Qf4 keeps material even, though White has a good advantage after 32. Qf3.] **32.Rg7!** It's not just the pawn White wins. The black king loses much of his shelter. **32...Nf8 33.Rxf7+ Kc6 34.Qg7** Black is completely on the run now. **34...Rf5 35.Rxf5 exf5 36.Be5! Ne6 37.Qf6 Qd5 38.Qxf5 Nd4 39.Qc8+ Kb6 40.Qb8+** [40.Qc7#] **40...Qb7 41.Qxb7+ Kxb7 42.Bxd4 cxd4** Of course this is completely hopeless for Black. **43.Kf2 Kc6 44.Kf3 Kd5 45.Kf4 Ke6 46.Ke4 1-0**

SwissSys Standings. 2020 December TNMO: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2600	gguseinov	W12	W14	W26
2	NM Kireet Panuganti (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13843374)	13843374	2138	kkpanu9	W28	W15	W24
3	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W38	W32	W25
4	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W47	W49	W30
5	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	KyronGriffith	H---	W40	W19
6	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1940	ashikuzzaman	W60	L7	B---
7	NM Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2202	microbear	W44	W6	W9
8	Arun Dixit (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14607904)	14607904	2199	Limelight2727	W23	W21	L11
9	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W42	W33	L7
10	William Sartorio (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14715380)	14715380	2063	unusualkid	W35	D19	W45
11	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1958	ninjaforce	W55	W29	W8
12	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	L1	W54	W51
13	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	13001390	1954	nathanf314	H---	H---	W44
14	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W54	L1	W28
15	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	W39	L2	W50
16	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1866	mwncklmann	H---	H---	W34
17	Ranen A Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1803	dashrndrx	W51	L25	W48
18	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	etvat	W43	L24	W38
19	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1829	vish1080	W20	D10	L5
20	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1033	andrewaballantyne	L19	W35	W33
21	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W58	L8	W31
22	Zachi Baharav (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13464604)	13464604	1813	fastZachi	W37	L26	W36
23	Mateo Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14907254)	14907254	1687	mateosh	L8	W58	L27
24	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1889	J3Chess24	W34	W18	L2
25	RIP Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W41	W17	L3

26	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W31	W22	L1
27	Kevin Yanofsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15901193)	15901193	1968	kyanofsky	W50	L30	W23
28	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1664	LightningDragon8	L2	W39	L14
29	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W48	L11	W46
30	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1724	pgstar3	W57	W27	L4
31	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1556	programmingmax	L26	W37	L21
32	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	W52	L3	W47
33	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	W46	L9	L20
34	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	L24	W43	L16
35	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L10	L20	H---
36	Leon Diaz Herrera (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355661)	17355661	unr.	Aeqetes	H---	H---	L22
37	Elliott Regan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15032065)	15032065	943	TTVchessmaster	L22	L31	W52
38	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1711	ahyanzaman	L3	W52	L18
39	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1161	kevin_mx_sun	L15	L28	D41
40	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	811	Sebbymeister	D45	L5	W56
41	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L25	L51	D39
42	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1556	SunnyCountry	L9	L46	W58
43	Christoph Bradley (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16047844)	16047844	1654	ifyoustayreti	L18	L34	W60
44	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	starserika18	L7	W60	L13
45	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	D40	W56	L10
46	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	931	sfdeals	L33	W42	L29
47	Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)	13836822	1652	ibalek	L4	W53	L32
48	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	unr.	Bruce_Hedman	L29	W55	L17
49	Nicholas Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	W53	L4	W59
50	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1506	chessboi2010	L27	W57	L15
51	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	16695036	930	adichi	L17	W41	L12

	16695036)						
52	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	L32	L38	L37
53	Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)	17179258	1043	JeffNorthSF	L49	L47	L55
54	Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)	17168772	1490	Evariel	L14	L12	W57
55	Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	12446259	1495	nmbrown2	L11	L48	W53
56	Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	16380615	662	ComfyQueso	B---	L45	L40
57	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30037403)	30037403	unr.	Vincitore51745	L30	L50	L54
58	Peter Jam Rushton (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16453812)	16453812	1239	pedrojrush	L21	L23	L42
59	Willia Harris III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15953392)	15953392	1184	15953392	H---	H---	L49
60	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L6	L44	L43

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Marathon Report

Here are the standings after 5 rounds of the Thursday Night Marathon. Congratulations to GM Gadir Guseinov, who won his final round game to pass Pranav Sairam and win clear first. For more information, click on the event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-novdec-2020-pilot)

SwissSys Standings. Thursday Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2600	gguseinov	H---	W8	W29	W4
2	NM Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W15	W10	L4	W7
3	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	15424820	2084	chesspilot01	W30	W14	W18	W9
4	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W13	W16	W2	L1
5	NM Richard W Koepcke (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10493269)	10493269	2200	rkoepcke	H---	W22	D7	W25
6	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2186	microbear	W11	W32	H---	H---
7	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	knvsback	W27	W31	D5	L2
8	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	H---	L1	W28	W21
9	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W20	W19	W12	L3
10	Roger V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1753	1-h4-1-0	W24	L2	W13	W23
11	Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	17350313	1475	draidus	L6	W26	W24	W16
12	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W35	W36	L9	W17

	15206848)							
13	Ya Dancig Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1428	noydan100	L4	W37	L10	W26
14	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	11296106	1643	zenwabi	W34	L3	L23	W36
15	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L2	L23	W38	W24
16	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	X---	L4	W27	L11
17	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L29	W33	W32	L12
18	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	W23	W25	L3	D20
19	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W37	L9	D21	W22
20	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1545	programmingmax	L9	W38	W31	D18
21	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	16154827	1416	nxbex	H---	H---	D19	L8
22	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	H---	L5	W33	L19
23	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	16897133	1238	pjkrizzle	L18	W15	W14	L10
24	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1180	sfdeals	L10	W30	L11	L15
25	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	Kaline340Green	W33	L18	W36	L5
26	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	L32	L11	W34	L13
27	Stephen Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16412414)	16412414	1347	chesspoki	L7	W34	L16	X32
28	Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)	12693378	595	rahimftd	H---	H---	L8	X35
29	RIP Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W17	H---	L1	U---
30	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1434	jacobchess857	L3	L24	W37	D31
31	Danny Du Uy Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	863	caodanny	X---	L7	L20	D30
32	Timothy Horng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13282721)	13282721	1730	aYzz	W26	L6	L17	F27
33	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	12814843	470	Vincitore51745	L25	L17	L22	W34
34	B J Day (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12586048)	12586048	unr.	mrbillstunes1	L14	L27	L26	L33
35	Andrew Nicho Paul (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14232850)	14232850	1385	chessplayer3740	L12	H---	H---	F28
36	Robert H Frank (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10498325)	10498325	1200	cyber-droid	X39	L12	L25	L14
37	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	870	Bruce_Hedman	L19	L13	L30	X38
	Willia Fitzgerald							

38	(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)	17048414	537	OlympusMons00	H---	L20	L15	F37
39	Mohammad Amir Ali (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30029248)	30029248	1565	Deshbondhu	F36	U---	U---	U---

Overview on Chess Platforms

by Judit Sztaray

It's time to take a quick look at what's out there in the virtual chess platforms world. The basic concept is the same everywhere: play chess against someone online. There are important differences between websites about which players should be aware though.

The main platforms we'll be comparing are: Chess.com, LiChess, Chess24, Tornelo and ICC. We all know Chess.com and LiChess, being the two most popular sites, ICC is gaining more popularity. Chess24 is a popular platform in Europe and around the world, and the newest in the game is Tornelo, developed by an amazing Australian guy, David Cordover.

Pre-move is when a player makes a move on the opponent's time before the opponent has completed their previous move. If the player makes a legal pre-move, the host system shall execute it immediately upon completion of the opponent's move. It is extremely popular in blitz and bullet chess. Different platforms handle pre-moves very differently!

On Chess.com players can make up to five pre-moves on the opponent's turn. They will be played in the order you made them, subject to the limitations described above. On LiChess, Chess24 and ICC players can only make one pre-move only. Making another pre-move cancel the previously selected one. On Tornelo currently players cannot make pre-moves, but it's coming soon though!

Chess clocks are displayed for each player's screen and maintained by the host system. Platforms handle chess clocks differently. On Chess.com and ICC the clock starts automatically as soon as the game starts, before making the first move. On Lichess & chess24 the clock starts only after making the first move. On Tornelo the tournament director can actually decide and set for each tournament specifically.

Draw Claims: Platforms automatically declare draws at certain scenarios, for example: stalemate, triple occurrence, 50-move rule, insufficient material to continue, insufficient material to win on time. Chess.com, Lichess, ICC & Chess24 automatically rules the game a draw. On Tornelo it has to be set manually, can be automatic or through the Arbiter.

Draw Offer: players can offer a draw to their opponents using a dedicated button on the platform close to their board. On Chess.com and ICC draw car be offered before the first move. On Lichess & Chess 24 both player has to make one move before draw can be offered to the opponent. On Tornelo it is a manual setting, again.

When it comes to drawing by insufficient material, Chess.com does not follow US Chess or FIDE rules, but has a combination of rules that best serves the players. Their implementation is designed to provide the best experience for the players, who mostly play blitz and bullet, almost no classical games. The following combinations will result in draws for insufficient material and will be automatically claimed by the chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://chess.com/) server:

- K vs K
- K vs K+N or K vs K+B
- K vs all the pieces flag (timeout vs insufficient material)
- K vs K+N+N
- K+N / K+B vs K+N / K+B (K+minor vs K+minor, even with opposite colored bishops)
- K+N vs K+P or K+B vs K+P if the player with the pawn flags, any pawn including a and h pawns!

As far as functionality goes, here are the uniqueness of the platforms. Since we use chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://chess.com/), I'll skip this platform since many of you are well aware of the functionality.

Tornelo is a great new platform that has an amazing tournament functionality, where arbiters can be connected to players and have control over many traditional arbiter functionalities. However, you can't just go online and practice and play a few games.

Lichess is open source, and requires no money to use the site to full potential or to get rid of annoying ads. It has functionality for simultaneous exhibition and their study collection feature is every coach's dream.

ICC is one of the oldest out there, having been around for more than 25 years, launched in 1995! Their newest improvement is direct uploading of swisssys pairing files, and the system starts the games: this would combine the manual pairing by TD and the platform automatization, which is a great potential for scaling any event.

Hope this little comparison of platforms help you make a choice or get interested in new platforms to try out. Do you have any opinion about any of the platforms? Let us know @ chessroom@milibrary.org.

2nd Annual IM John Donaldson Championship December 19-20, 2020

The Mechanics' Institute will hold the 2nd annual IM John Donaldson Championship the weekend of December 19-20th. It will be played on Chess.com over two days, three rounds per day with a time control of G/60+5. There will be a $2000 prize pool based on 50 entries. Join us in closing out 2020 with one of our largest prize pool events in honoring former MI Chess Director and current US Olympiad Captain John Donaldson. GM's and IM's free. For information and registration, please follow this link:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-annual-im-john-donaldson-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-annual-im-john-donaldson-championship-online)



Support the Mechanics' Institute and

Save Big in the Process!

Join the Mechanics' Institute, and realize savings on our events and classes while supporting our mission to provide a center for cultural and intellectual advancement. We are doing a membership drive through the end of the year for new members and to encourage current members to renew.

$120/year for a regular membership
$65/year for a student membership
You will save big if you are a regular participant in our tournaments and/or classes!

Here are some of our registration costs and savings
you can achieve with membership:

Tuesday Night Marathon: $30 member, $50 non-member registration fee
Weekend USCF rated events: $20 member, $40 non-member registration fee
Basically, your membership pays for itself if you attend just six tournaments, classes, or other chess events per year!

Plus you get everything that a Mechanics' Institute membership offers.

Benefits of Mechanics' Institute Membership

- Discount on most chess events or classes.
- Full use of the Library and its services, including online databases, ebooks, and more!
- Free or reduced admission to cultural events, programs, classes, and book groups.
- Access to the Chess Room and its tournaments and classes.
- WiFi access throughout the Library, Chess Room, and 4th floor meeting room.
- Membership access at other membership (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)libraries. (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/membership-libraries)

Join Mechanics' at: https://www.milibrary.org/join (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/join)
Please forward this information to others who might be interested in joining.
Please enter chess in the referred by column and check off chess as a general interest.

Any questions? Please contact us at chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org).

Take on the Mechanics' Chess Staff Live on Twitch!

The chess room staff at the Mechanics' Institute are taking on all comers now weekly, as each of us will live stream an arena tournament where we will commentate our own games! You might be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraorinaire FM Paul Whitehead. Try to take down Organizer sensation Dr. Judit Sztaray or Chess Director Abel Talamantez. We will all be live on Twitch playing, reviewing about our games, and talking about anything that comes up in the chat. Come hang out with us at the Mechanics' online club, perhaps we may even give out an occasional free prize!

Arenas are an hour long, and the chess staff will be paired against the first available player to play at the conclusion of their games. All other players will be paired with the next available opponent. This will continue for the whole hour. While there is no guarantee you will be paired against a chess staff member, you will have a very good chance at it, depending on the number of players playing. All games will be streamed live on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess

Check out the times here:

FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 12/22: https://www.chess.com/live#r=818783 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.chess.com/live#r=818783)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe - Ongoing

Casual meeting to talk about chess, life and everything. Join 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead as they give a lecture and class in a fun casual atmosphere where you can discuss games, learn strategy, discuss chess current events and interact in a fun casual atmosphere. Enter our Monday chess café for the pure love of the game. Class suitable for ALL level of players and FREE for MI members.

FREE for Mechanics' members. $5 for non-members.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - The Art of Attack in Chess by FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates: 11/16 through 12/21 (6 classes) - Last class this Monday!

Learn to attack the king in this six-week class using Vladimir Vukovic's book, The Art of Attack in Chess (1963 revised 1993 by GM John Nunn), as our text.
We will take lessons from chapters such as "The classic bishop sacrifice", "The attack against the uncastled king", "Focal-points" and "The attack on the king as an integral part of the game".
Vukovic also talks about mating patterns, defense, and much more.
Join us in an investigation into one of the greatest chess books ever written, a classic enjoyed by chess players around the world.

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register at: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

November 18, 2020 - January 20, 2021
New session starts on January 27, 2021!

Are you an adult who wants to put learning chess on top of your New Year's resolution! Get a head start with us at the Mechanics' Institute! This virtual class is open to any MI member who has no knowledge of the game or who knows the very basics and wants to improve. Taught by MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez along with other MI staff, we will patiently walk through all the basics at a pace suitable for our class. Our goal is to teach piece movement basics, checkmate patterns, importance of development, and general strategy. We will also show students how to play online so they may practice. The goal of the class is to open a new world of fun and joy through the magic and beauty of chess, from one of the oldest and proudest chess clubs in the world.

Registration: Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Mechanics' Chess - Scholastic Tournaments

Free daily non-rated tournaments on chesskid.com:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Saturday, December 19: 6SS G/15+2 - USCF Online rated tournament starts at 3PM
Register for the tournament: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentDec19SAT
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineTournament/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentDec19SAT)

Sunday, December 20: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:30PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=182238
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=182238)

Monday, December 21: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:30PM

4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=193877
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=193877)

Tuesday, December 22: starts at 4:00PM - join from 3:30PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=193879
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=193879)

Wednesday, December 23: starts at 4PM - join from 3:30PM

4SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=193880
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=193880)

Thursday, December 24: starts at 4PM - join from 3:30PM

5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=193881
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=193881)

Friday, December 25: starts at 4PM - join from 3:30PM

4SS G/10+5: OFF

If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

US Chess Online Rated Scholastic Tournaments Every Week!

Next one: December 19, @3PM on chesskid.com
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-chesskidcom)

US Chess online rated - affecting online rating only (not over-the-board)
Every player must be a US Chess member.
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
Convenient, safe platform & tight fair play screening.

Mechanics' Scholastic Enrichment

Winter Camps - Dec 21-24 and Dec 28-31

**Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualWinterChessCamps
(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualWinterChessCamps)**

This week's theme: Heating up for the Holidays with IM's at MI.

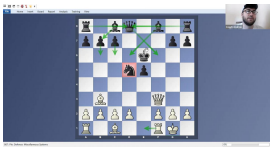
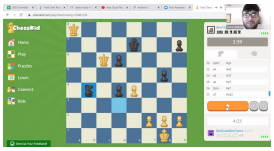
First week of Winter Camp we won't be looking at famous grandmaster games but International Masters only!
Monday we will be hanging out with reindeer? Comet, Prancer, and Rudolf! We will kick the week off seeing some games from IM Anna Rudolf. Tuesday we will Rosen the temperature even more by diving into traps with games by IM Eric Rosen. On the last day of camp before holiday break we will see some games from Papa "Polar" Bear himself as you may know him on chesskid.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://chesskid.com/) but others know him as IM Danny Rensch. Hope you can all attend Heating up for the Holidays with IM's at MI.

Tentative Schedule
9-9:15 warmup puzzle or games on chesskid.com while wait for everyone to show up on zoom.
9:15-10: first lecture
10-10:30 in-camp tournament
10:30-10:45 break (bathroom, snacktime)
10:45-11:00 warmup puzzle or games while wait for everyone to get back to computer
11-11:30 second lecture
11:30-12:00 tournaments/games/puzzle competition

Register Online for the regular virtual chess camps: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualWinterChessCamps (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/VirtualWinterChessCamps)

Camp Registraiton Fee: 3 hours for $39/daily fee

Refund policy: Full refund minus a $5 administration fee if cancelled more than 24 hours before the start of class. No refunds within 24 hours of the start of class.

2021 Winter & Spring - Enrichment Classes

Class schedule and registrations is updated and open on:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#classes (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#classes)
Classes are starting on the second week of January.

If you would like us to offer virtual chess classes at your child's school, please reach out to us and we can make it happen!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will continue to hold regular online events in various forms. Here is the upcoming schedule for players:

12/22 Tuesday - December Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/december-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/december-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)

Before playing in our online tournaments, be sure to do the following:
1. Sign up and log in to chess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fchess.com%2F)
2. Sign up to be a member of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club at https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chess.com%2Fclub%2Fmechanics-institute-chess-club-1). You need to become a member before you can play.
3. Please fill out the Google Form, so we know who you are, and can inform you about changes, and ad hoc events: https://forms.gle/UbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117223316/http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=8zbzyfabb.0.0.vetfp5dab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FUbE3ocC4TaLZV3ZK8)

Any questions? chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Felix German, a short remembrance

I'd known Felix for a quite a while before we played a few games in the 3/2 Blitz Arena that precedes the TNM and bears my name. He always seemed a bit shy somehow, and very passionate about chess. Like many of the Russian expatriates he was a bit of a mystery to me: does being strong at chess come with an Eastern European accent? Lately it seems he had made a breakthrough in his chess, playing hyper-aggressively against the stronger players – it seemed only a matter of time before he landed some big fish.

But time was not on his side.

I think this victory over me showed another side of his chess: patient and opportunistic, with good technique. Maybe right now he's honing his chess skills with the stars of the game he loved so much: with Fischer and Morphy, Capablanca and Tal.

I think that's where he'd like to be.

(1) FM Paul Whitehead (chessmonster666) (2132) - Felix German (FelixGerman) (1930) [B01]

Live Chess Chess.com, 29.09.2020

[Whitehead,Paul]

1.e4 d5 The dreaded Center-Counter Defense! I do well against it (usually), but never feel I get enough out of the opening. **2.exd5** [I got my revenge c couple of months later with the insipid 2.d3!? c5 3.Nd2 d4 4.Ngf3 Nc6 5.a4 e5 6.Nc4 Qc7 7.g3 Nf6 8.Bg2 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.c3 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.g4 Bg6 13.cxd4 cxd4 14.Bd2 Nxe4 15.dxe4 Bxe4 16.Re1 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 f6 18.Rac1 Rac8 19.Qd5+ Kh8 20.Be4 Bb4 21.Qb5 Bxd2 22.Nxd2 a6 23.Qd3 g6 24.Bxc6 bxc6 25.Qxa6 Qd6 26.Qc4 h5 27.Kg2 Kg7 28.f3 h4 29.Ne4 Qc7 30.b4 f5 31.Ng5 e4 32.Ne6+ 1-0 (32) chessmonster666 (2266)-FelixGerman (1916) Chess.com 2020] **2...Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bg5 c6 6.Qd2 Bf5 7.Nf3 e6 8.Bd3 Bg6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Rad1 0-0**



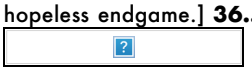
White is better, with a nice centralized position and more space. **11.Bxg6 hxg6 12.Rfe1 Nbd7 13.Ne5 Rad8 14.a3 Qc7 15.Qe2 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nd5 17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Qb5?!** A silly move. **19...Rc8 20.c3 Rc5**



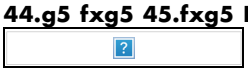
Now white plays on the kingside, while black uses the classic minority attack. Chances are equal. **21.Qb4 Rfc8 22.g3 Qc7 23.Qg4 Rc4 24.Qe2 a6 25.f4 b5 26.h4 a5 27.h5 gxh5 28.Qxh5 b4 29.axb4 axb4 30.Re2 bxc3**



In this sharp position white has a draw at best. Playing for more (or just plain confused) white soon slides downhill. **31.Rh2 Kf8 32.Qh8+ Ke7 33.Qh4+?** Chasing the king...to safety! [33.Qxg7] **33...Kd7 34.bxc3 Qc5+ 35.Kh1 Qe7** Maybe too cautious. [35...Rxc3 or; 35...Qe3 switching to attack were better.] **36.Qxe7+?** Capitulation. [36.Qg4! threatening both 37.Rxd5+ and 37.Qxg7 would make it a fight. Trading queens leads to a hopeless endgame.] **36...Kxe7 37.Ra2 Rxc3 38.Ra7+ R8c7 39.Rxc7+ Rxc7 40.Kg2 f6**



From here on in black plays what is essentially a flawless technical wrap-up, giving me absolutely no chance. **41.exf6+ gxf6 42.g4 Rc4 43.Kf3 Kd6 44.g5 fxg5 45.fxg5 Ke7 46.Rg1 Kf7 47.g6+ Kg7 48.Ke3 Rh4 49.Kf3 Rh6 50.Ra1 Rxg6**



51.Kf4 Kf6 52.Ra8 e5+ 53.Ke3 Rg7 54.Rf8+ Rf7 55.Rd8 Ke6 56.Re8+ Kf5 57.Rd8 d4+ 58.Kd3 Kf4 59.Rd6 Ra7 60.Rf6+ Kg5



61.Rf8 Ra3+ 62.Ke4 Re3+ 63.Kd5 d3 64.Rf1 e4 65.Kd4 Re2 66.Kc3 Kg4 67.Kd4 Kg3 68.Ra1 d2 69.Rd1 e3 70.Kd3 Re1



A nice game by Felix, who took full advantage of my indecisive play. 0-1

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Peter Biyiasas - Grandmaster of the Bay Area

My colleague Paul often writes about the old days, and since the "Queen's Gambit" reminds us of the chess world of the 1960s, I decided to also revisit the past. This week we also look back in time to the Bay Area chess scene of the 1970s and 80s. The thriving scene had Walter Browne, Jim Tarjan, John Grefe and many strong chess masters. One player that should not be forgotten is the affable Greek, Canadian transplant Peter Biyiasas. He landed in Canada and became the top player along with Soviet defector Igor Ivanov (who walked away from the Russian plane that was refueling in Canada) and Canadian grown talent Kevin Spragget. Peter played in four Olympiads for Canada and two Interzonals in the 1970's. He was the best player in the Pacific North-west and beat Yasser Seirawan the first 6 games they played. (This taught Yasser a lot and he eventually turned the tables.)

Peter moved to the US in 1979 and settled in the Bay Area. He married Ruth Haring, who herself played in the Chess Olympiad for the US Women's team. Many know of Ruth as the former president of the USCF. (She tragically passed away two years ago, likely affected by the terrible air of that fire season.)

Mechanics' Institute tournament players will recognize the name of their son, Theodore Biyiasas, who became a strong chess expert.

Peter once applied for the job of chess club director at the Mechanics' Institute, but Max Wilkersen was chosen instead. That was probably fortunate for Peter as he then started a fine career as a programmer for IBM. He hasn't played much chess in the last two decades but is fondly remembered by the old guard. Once a chess player, always a chess player!

(1) Peter Biyiasas - Jan Timman [B50]
Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee NED (6), 22.01.1980

Here Peter battles against the best western chess player of the 1980's - Jan Timman. Timman was the #3 player in the world for much of the 80's and is very famous in his home country, the Netherlands. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 a6 4.g3 Nc6 5.Bg2 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 g6**



8.e5! This shocking move opens the game for the bishops and gains a big advantage. **8...dxe5?! 9.Qxc6+! bxc6 10.Bxc6+ Qd7 11.Bxd7+ Kxd7** Material is even but White has much the better pawn structure. The black pawn on c5 is a target and the doubled black e-pawns reduce Black's activity. **12.Na4 Kc6 13.b3 e6?!** Black needs to shore up the long diagonal quickly. He would keep better chances with [13...f6] **14.Bb2 f6 15.0-0-0 Bd6 16.Rde1 Ne7 17.Re4!** The rook jumps into the battle from this square. **17...Nf5 18.Rc4 Rab8 19.Re1 Rb4 20.Ree4 Rhb8 21.Ba3 R4b5 22.c3 Bf8 23.Re2 Kd5**



24.g4! This will win material. Either the black c5 pawn will go or the e5 pawn will be undermined **24...Nd6** [24...Nh4 25.g5! fxg5 26.Rce4 Nf3 27.R4e3 and Black cannot hold the position together] **25.Rxc5+ Rxc5 26.Bxc5 Bh6 27.Kc2 Bf4 28.Be3 g5 29.d4 exd4**



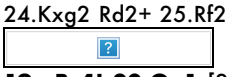
30.Bxf4 gxf4 31.c4+! Black's position collapses. **31...Nxc4 32.bxc4+ Kxc4 33.Rxe6 d3+ 34.Kd2 Rb4 35.Re4+ 1-0**

(2) Jay E Whitehead - Peter Biyiasas [C44]
Lone Pine Lone Pine, CA USA (3), 22.03.1977

This is a battle of two of the top players of the Bay Area scene in the 1970's and 80's. Many MI members are familiar with Jay Whitehead, Paul's brother. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 d3** safe and practical but allowing White an edge in the opening. Peter would usually choose such opening paths as he didn't want to get into an opening argument with his opponent, prefering to battle in the middle game and endgame. **5.Bxd3 Bc5 6.0-0 d6 7.b4 Bb6 8.a4 a5 9.b5 Ne5 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.Ba3?!** This looks aggressive but it would have been better for White to put the knight here and head for the c4 square. **11...Be6 12.Qe2 Qh4** direct and aggressive. **13.Kh1?**



Jay just doesn't want to develop his knight, which is begging to get out! After 13. Nd2 White is doing fine, but now he gets in real trouble. **13...Nf6!** Sometimes a simple developing move is very powerful. Peter has chosen to bring his knight out and the extra piece on the kingside makes all the difference. The threat of ...Ng4 is tremendous. **14.g3** [14.h3 Bxh3 15.gxh3 Qxh3+ 16.Kg1 Ng4 Is the end.] **14...Qh3 15.f3 0-0-0 16.Bc2 Nh5 17.Rg1** trying hard to defend by offering the exchange **17...Rd7!** Another simple, powerful developing move. Morphy would be proud. Peter simply brings all his pieces into play and there is no defense. **18.Rg2** [18.Nd2 Rhd8 19.Nf1 Bxg1 20.Kxg1 Nxg3! 21.hxg3 Bc4 22.Qg2 Bxf1 23.Rxf1 Qxg2+ 24.Kxg2 Rd2+ 25.Rf2 Rxf2+ 26.Kxf2 Rd2+ 27.Ke3 Rxc2 is a trivial endgame win] **18...Rhd8 19.Bc1**



19...Bc4! 20.Qe1 [20.Qxc4 Rd1+ 21.Bxd1 Rxd1+ 22.Rg1 Nxg3#] **20...Bf1!** Jay resigned. It is mate in 4 moves. **0-1**

(3) Vladimir Kovacevic (2510) - Peter Biyiasas (2485) [A45]
Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee NED (11), 28.01.1980

This is another game from the famous Wijk aan Zee tournament. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 g6** Peter allows the doubled pawns for the bishop pair. A fair enough trade. **3.Bxf6 exf6 4.e3 Bg7 5.h4 h5 6.Nh3 d6 7.Nf4 Bh6 8.Qf3 Nd7** Both players were likely happy with their positions. This is out of theory and each side has pluses and minuses. **9.Bc4 c6 10.Nd2 f5 11.e4?!**



This looks like a sensible opening break, but it goes against the usual plan of White's position which is to keep the game static and let the knights find good posts. In an open position the bishops can be very powerful. **11...Nf6! 12.e5 Ne4 13.0-0-0** [13.Nxe4 fxe4 14.Qxe4 d5 15.Nxd5 Bf5! is a huge edge for Black.] **13...d5 14.Bb3 a5 15.a4 Qb6** Black has the very strong e4 square and prospects on the queenside. It is hard for White to generate any play. **16.Nf1?! Qb4! 17.Ne3 Be6 18.Kb1 Bxf4 19.Qxf4 b5!** Now the Black attack is rolling and it's very hard to offer White any good advice. **20.Rd3 bxa4 21.Ba2 Rb8 22.Nd1 c5 23.Qe3 c4 24.Ra3**



24...Nxf2! a little combination that wins material **25.Rxa4** [25.Qxf2 Qxa3] **25...Qxa4 26.Qxf2 0-0 27.Qf4 Rb6 28.Rh3 Rfb8 29.Kc1** desperation **29...Qxa2 30.Ra3 Rxb2!** The queen sacrifice wraps it up efficiently. White has no way out. **31.Rxa2 Rxa2 32.Kd2 a4 33.Qg5 Ra1 34.Qe7 Rbb1 35.Nc3 Rb8 36.Qd6 Re8 37.Nb5 Rc8 38.Kc3 Rb1 39.Nc7 a3 40.Nxe6 a2! 41.Qa6 a1Q+ 0-1**

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