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Chess Room Newsletter #949

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Newsletter #949

January 2, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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Happy New Year!

We look forward to 2021 as the Mechanics' Institute will continue to organize premier online events and classes, find new ways to bring communities and cultures together through chess, and fine new innovative ways to engage children and underrepresented groups to chess. We hope we see a return of all the things we love about the Mechanics' Institute and its historic chess room, and we hope the experiences of the past year create an even greater passion and appreciation for live play, and the positive social/emotional benefits of engaging in competititon, recreation, friendship and companionship through chess for many years to come. Our team is here for you, staying active and engaged and we will see you all in 2021 either online, and hopefully soon, live at the Mechanics' Institute in downtown San Francisco. See you soon!

Abel Talamantez

Chess Director

2020-2021 Pan-American Intercollegiate Online Chess Championships Organized by the Mechanics' Institute Starts Monday!

The biggest collegiate team championship is coming to the Mechanics' Institute starting Monday January 4, 2021, and going through Wednesday, January 6, 2021, as the 2020-2021 Pan-American Intercollegiate Online Chess Championships will kick off at 9:00am Pacific time, with live coverage for all three days and all nine rounds of the event. We will have 60 colleges and universities participating, with more than 240 players, representing schools from the Unites States, Canada, and Mexico. Time control for the games is G/25+5, and we will broadcast games on our Twitch channel with commentary by GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead, WIM Ivette Garcia Morales, and Abel Talamantez. We will also have special guests throughout the tournament on the broadcast, including GM Sam Shankland, GM Patrick Wolff, IM Kostya Kavutskiy, WGM Carla Heredia, WIM Dr. Alexey Root, FM Kyron Griffith, and many more.

The Red Raiders of Texas Tech University will be looking to defend their title against top college chess teams like Susan Polgar's Webster University team, University of Texas @ Dallas, Saint Louis University, Princeton, Harvard, CalTech, Stanford, UC Berkeley, and over 50 other teams. Follow the action on our channel to see who will come out on top: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess).

For full event schedule, registered teams and players, click the event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-2021-pan-american-intercollegiate-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-2021-pan-american-intercollegiate-championship-online)

Special thanks to our amazing team of organizers and TD's, which make up some of the top talent in the country. FA Judit Sztaray is our Chief Organizer, with NTD/FA Glenn Panner as the Chief Tournament Director. Assistant Chief Tournament Director will be NTD/IA Brian Yang, with NTD/FA John McCumiskey running the pairings. We will also be assisted by a talented staff of assistant TD's in the back room, monitoring nearly 500 cameras behing the scenes and making sure the event is coordinated smoothly.

Follow the action next week starting at 9:00am Monday!

2020 December Tuesday Night Marathon Report

The final two rounds of the 2020 December Tuesday Night Marathon were held on December 22, 2020 with GM Gadir Guseinov holding solidly with two draws to finish in clear first with 7/8. FM Kyron Griffith finished strong with 2 wins to take clear second place with 6.6/8. In a tie for third place with 6/8 were IM Elliott Winslow, NM Mike Walder, NM Arun Dixit, and Nicholas Weng. Full results as well as the under prizes can be seen on the event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/december-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/december-2020-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Here are a few games from the final two rounds, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

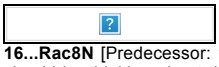
(1) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2600) - NM Michael Walder (FlightsOfFancy) (2075) [B77]

Mechanics' TNMO Chess.com (7.1), 22.12.2020

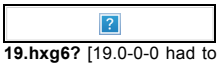
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Guseinov is fond of this second move, often venturing into rare lines. **2...Nc6 3.Nf3** heading back towards the Open Sicilian [3.Bb5!? , the Tiviakov System, has been in Guseinov's repertoire.; White could also play 3.g3; as well as the Grand Prix: 3.f4] **3...g6** [3...e5!? 4.Bc4 Be7 is hard to believe, what with that hole on d5, but it's a developed system, even recommended by some grandmasters -- and as so often, played with quite a bit of success at the highest levels by Carlsen.] **4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0** [The other big line is 7...Qa5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bb3 *(*The older *9.Nb3 Qc7 10.f4 d6 11.Be2* looks like the pre-Yugoslav Attack Dragon days*)* 9...d6 10.h3 Bd7 and now the more sophisticated 11.Re1 has taken over *(11.f4* was the original procedure*)*] **8.Bb3 d6 9.f3 Bd7 10.Qd2 Nxd4** An option Black has via this move order -- This is similar, but much older [than the Topalov Variation 10...Rc8 11.0-0-0 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5] **11.Bxd4 b5**

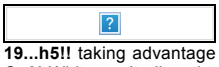
12.a4 A long think by Guseinov's standards! Since White hasn't castled yet (compared to the Topalov Variation) he has certain advantages: the a-pawn will be guarded twice (after Black's next move), plus White could castle kingside (or stay in the center!) and in general play more positionally. [12.h4 a5 13.a4 *(13.a3)* ; 12.a3!? a5 13.h4 h5 14.Rd1!? is an interesting middle-of-the-road containment strategy.] **12...b4!?** [12...bxa4 used to be the main move, but not any more (Carlsen might have something to do with that).] **13.Nd5** the standard move, but the various retreats have a lot to be said for them. **13...Nxd5 14.Bxg7** [14.exd5 discourages what follows 14...Bxd4 15.Qxd4 Qa5 16.h4!? *(16.0-0 Rac8* has been seen in three games of Guseinov's (he was Black!) already, plus a quick Anand game: *17.Rfe1 Rfe8 18.Kh1 Qc5 19.Qh4* 1/2-1/2 (19) Anand,V (2790)-Carlsen, M (2810) Wijk aan Zee 2010*; 16.Kf2!?* was Negi's alternative, also tricky for Black.*)* 16...e5 17.dxe6 Bxe6 18.0-0-0 was in Negi's Grandmaster Repertoire 1.e4 series, quoting 1-0 (51) Navara,D (2692)-Malakhov,V (2715) Sibenik 2009.] **14...Kxg7 15.exd5 Qb6!?** The idea is to wait until White castles queenside, then shift the queen to a5 and pick off the a-pawn. [15...a5 might be a bit static, but noteworthy again from another Anand-Carlsen game: 16.h4 e5 17.dxe6 Bxe6 18.0-0-0 Bxb3 19.cxb3 Re8 20.h5 Qf6 1/2-1/2 (31) Anand,V (2800)-Carlsen,M (2826) Kristiansund 2010] **16.g4!?** Sensible to inhibit ...h5 as a defensive move, but it costs a tempo -- precious in the Dragon -- and hasn't been seen since the beginning days of this line. [16.h4 has been met successfully by 16...h5 *(16...h6* hasn't done as well*)* 17.0-0-0 Qa5 when the vast majority of games have drawn! 18.g4 *(18.Qd4+!?* eliminates the defense seen in this game, but almost every game has seen a draw*.)* 18...Bxa4!? was a more recent wild game that went Black's way: 19.Kb1 *(19.Qd4+)* 19...Bxb3 20.cxb3 Rh8 21.Rc1 Rae8 22.Rc6 Qb5 23.Rc7 a5 24.g5 a4 25.Qd4+ Kh7 26.bxa4 Qxa4 27.Re1 Rhf8 28.Ra7 Qb5 29.f4 Kg8 30.f5 gxf5 31.Kc2 b3+ 32.Kd1 Rc8 33.g6 Rc5 0-1 (33) Vachier Lagrave,M (2796)-Giri,A (2771) Stavanger 2017; The one time Guseinov has had White here previously, he played 16.Qf2 and the game was immediately drawn: Guseinov-Zavgorodniy, Alushta 2011.]



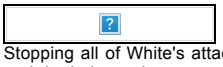
16...Rac8N [Predecessor: 16...f5 17.0-0-0 *(17.g5!?)* 17...fxg4 18.fxg4 Bxg4 19.Rde1 Rf7 20.Qg5 Bf5 21.Rxe7 Raf8 22.Re2 1/2-1/2 (22) Spassov,L-Schoeneberg,M Ybbs 1968; Maybe Black should be thinking about the e-file: 16...Rae8!?; or 16...e5!?] **17.h4** [17.0-0-0!? Qa5 18.h4 Bxa4 19.Kb1 is typical, but White's pawns have yet to make contact.] **17...f5!** Black, not completely atypically, starts play on the f-file! And succeeds in throwing his far higher rated opponent off. Mike has really been bringing his best to his games with Gadir, only losing his way after establishing excellent, even just winning positions. [17...h6 18.h5 g5 19.0-0-0 prepares f3-f4 with further inroads.] **18.h5** Maximum contact! [18.g5 allows 18...f4 with the f5 square freed for Black's bishop] **18...fxg4**



19.hxg6? [19.0-0-0 had to be tried, but 19...Rxf3!? *(*aw well as *19...Bf5!?)* 20.Rde1 *(20.Kb1 Bf5-+)* 20...Kf6!! and it's Black's time now.]



19...h5!! taking advantage of White's king's over-long stay in the center! **20.0-0-0** Too late! But [20.Rxh5? Qg1+ 21.Ke2 gxf3+ 22.Kd3 Qxg6+ picks off the rook.] **20...Rxf3! 21.Rde1** [21.Rxh5 Qe3! White can't allow the queens to come off with that monster g-pawn still on the board.] **21...Kxg6!**



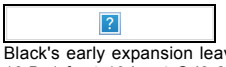
Stopping all of White's attacking play. But -- with this move Walder offered a draw! After the game on the Twitch broadcast he said he was still spooked by losing to Guseinov after winning a rook in their previous game. But he had a good 18 minutes on the clock (as usual Guseinov had almost 30 minutes left!), and ...Bf5 is going to be an overwhelming counterattack. Indeed White is lost, and Guseinov was happy to accept. **1/2-1/2**

(2) Nicholas Weng (ninjaforce) (1958) - NM Tom Maser (Talenuf) (1900) [C60]

Mechanics' TNMO Chess.com (7.9), 22.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 Maser has been playing the Steinitz Defense Deferred since way before Weng was born. **5.0-0 Bd7 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 g6 8.h3** An unnecessary move, even if some superstars have played it. [8.d4 Qe7 (8...b5 9.Bb3 *(9.Bc2)*) 9.d5 *(9.Nbd2 Bg7 10.Nf1 0-0 11.Ng3)* 9...Nb8 10.c4 intending Nc3, b4 gets queenside play going right away.] **8...Bg7 9.d4 0-0 10.Nbd2 Qe8** A slightly stylish maneuver, guarding h5 further along. [Here's a recent game: 10...Re8 11.Bb3 h6 12.a3 Nh5 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Nf1 Nf4 15.Ne3 Na5 16.Bc2 Be6 17.Nd2 Nd3 18.Rf1 h5 19.b4 Nc6 20.Nb3 Nxc1 21.Rxc1 Bh6 22.Qe2 b6 23.Rcd1 Qg5 24.Kh1 Ne7 25.Nd2 Qf6 26.Bb3 Red8 27.Bxe6 Qxe6 28.Ndc4 Bxe3 29.Nxe3 Qb3 30.Qc4 Qxc4 31.Nxc4 f6 32.h4 1-0 (100), Nakamura,H (2736)-Artemiev,V (2716) Speed Chess Super Swiss KO, chess.com 4.10/0] **11.Bc2 Nh5 12.Nf1 f5 13.exf5 gxf5**



Black's early expansion leaves him loose and prone to tactical device, but with dynamic chances. Still, one must remain diligent. **14.Ne3N** [14.Nh4 Ne7 15.Bg5 Nc6 16.d5 Nd8 17.g4 Nf7 18.Bc1 fxg4 19.hxg4 Qd8 20.g5 Nf4 21.Bxf4 exf4 22.Kh1 Qxg5 0-1 (43), Montilla Carrillo,E (2350)-Castaner Harster,X (2205) Sant Boi 1998] **14...Bf6??** Tom just forgot about his f-pawn. There isn't much else to this game. [14...Kh8 15.Nd5 *(15.Nh4 Ne7)* 15...Rc8=] **15.Nxf5+- Kh8 16.Bh6** complicating, when keeping it simple just wins. **16...Rg8 17.Qd2 Rg6?!** But this doesn't work at all. **18.N5h4! Rxh6?!** [18...Bxh4 19.Nxh4 Rg8] **19.Qxh6 Qf7 20.Ng6+** [After 20.Ng6+ Kg8 White has a big choice of wins, including various captures on e5, or just back to h4. 21.dxe5! is the most overpowering.] **1-0**

(3) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2470) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2278) [B90]

Mechanics' TNMO Chess.com (8.2), 22.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 [6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.f4 b5 11.f5 Bc4 12.Kb1 h5 13.Bd3 Qc7 14.a3 0-1 (48) Svidler,P (2750)-Karjakin,S (2725) Nice 2010] **6...e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 h5 9.Qd2** [9.Nd5!?] **9...Nbd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8** This could end up being committal -- see Black's 15th. [10...Be7 11.Kb1; 10...Qc7] **11.Kb1 Be7 12.f4** In fact, White has played 14 (!!) different moves here. [12.h3 b5!? *(12...h4 13.Bd3 b5 14.f4)* ; Relevant: 12.h4 b5 13.a3 0-0 14.Bg5 Re8 15.g4 hxg4 16.fxg4 Bxg4 17.Re1 d5 18.Nxd5 Nxd5

19.exd5 Bf5 20.Bd3 e4 21.Nd4 Bxg5 22.hxg5 exd3 23.Rxe8+ Qxe8 24.Nxf5 dxc2+ 25.Ka2 Qe4 26.Ne7+ Qxe7 27.Qh2 c1N+ 28.Ka1 Nb3+ 29.Ka2 Nc1+ 30.Ka1 Nb3+ 31.Ka2 Nc1+ 1/2-1/2 (31) Wei,Y (2732)-Giri,A (2764) Chess.com INT 2020; Other than 12.Rc1 (1-0!) 12...0-0 *(12...b5!)* 13.Nd5 Bxd5 *(13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Bf5)* 14.exd5 1-0 (52) Szalanczy,E (2242)-Marosi,L (2185) Budapest 2014; Stockfish has a fondness for 12.Rg1 -- humans haven't fared so well with it (3-7).; 12.a3!? (Now that's prophylaxis!) has done the best, over all of seven games.] **12...b5 13.f5 Bc4 14.Bd3** [14.Bxc4?! bxc4! *(14...Rxc4)* 15.Nc1 Qc7-/+ Black's queen will be excellently situatied on b7; 14.a3] **14...Qc7** [14...Nb6!? 15.h3 h4 16.Qf2 Na4 17.Nxa4 bxa4 18.Bxc4 Rxc4 19.Nd2 Nxe4 20.Nxe4 Rxe4 21.Qf3 Qa8 22.f6 gxf6 23.Bf2 Qc6 24.Rd2 Rc4 25.Qd3 d5 26.Rhd1 d4 27.Qf5 Rg8 28.Bxh4 Rg6 29.g4 Qe6 30.Qh5 Qc6 31.Qf5 Rg8 32.Bf2 Qb5 33.b3 Rc6 34.h4 Qc5 35.Qf3 a3 36.h5 0-1 (36) Zakhartsov,V (2452) -Khismatullin,D (2617) Sochi 2016] **15.a3**

15...0-0? And this is definitely committal! A major lesson in the Najdorf, and in general, is to recognize when the king is safe enough in the center, for now, and the tempo is better spent elsewhere. [15...Rb8! is to the point -- Black wants to get his counterplay moving. Now ...b4 is available. 16.Qe2 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 b4! 18.axb4 Rxb4 19.Bg5 (19.Qxa6 0-0! 20.Bg5 *(20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.exd5 Rc8)* 20...Rb6 21.Qe2 Ra8 and Black triples on the a-file. 0-1 (70) Compagnone,G (2307)-Cade,S (2369) ICCF email 2017) 19...0-0 20.g4 hxg4 21.h3 g3 22.Qxg3 Rc8 23.Qg2 Kf8 24.Rhg1 Ke8 The king on e8 is safer, now that the rook is into play on c8.0-1 (48) Svidler,P (2750)-Karjakin,S (2725) Nice 2010] **16.g4 hxg4 17.Rdg1 d5** A sort of desperation **18.h3 g3 19.Rxg3 Nh5!?**

20.Qg2?N This could have let Black off the hook! [20.Rg2! isn't winning -- that would be too strong a claim -- but it was just fine: 20...d4 21.Nxd4! exd4 22.Bxd4 Qd6 23.Bxc4 Rxc4 24.Nd5 Rxd4 25.Qxd4 Re8?! *(25...Rc8!?; 25...Ne5!?)* 26.Rhg1 Bf8 27.Rg5! Qc5 28.Qd2 *(28.Qd3!)* 28...Ndf6 29.Nxf6+ Nxf6 30.Qg2 Kh831.Rxg7!! Qxg1+ 32.Qxg1 Bxg7 33.Qa7 Rxe4 34.Qxa6 1-0, Kuhne,D (2393)-Arbrile,G (2338) ICCF email 2018]

20...f6?? Black used less than four of his remaining 15:41 to come up with this unfortunate defense. Freeing the f7 square for the rook but taking f6 away from -- well, Black had a lot of pieces that might have wanted to go there! [20...Nxg3!? 21.Qxg3 f6 works a lot better -- no lame knight on h5. 22.Nxd5! Bxd5 23.exd5 Bc5 24.Bc1! White has advantage, and Black continues to be concerned about his king.; But more pertinent was 20...Qd6 which appears to hold: 21.Bxc4 bxc4 22.Rxg7+ Nxg7 23.Rg1 Bf6 24.Na5! *(24.Bh6?? Kh7! 25.Bxg7 Rg8-+)* 24...d4 25.Nb7 Qc6 *(25...Qb6!? 26.Nd5 dxe3 27.Nxb6 Nxb6=* keeps the game going.*)* 26.Na5 is a repetition!] **21.Bxc4** Kyron suspected there was something up, and finally had a Big Think (better late than never -- and he had the time, 27 minutes, to afford it). **21...dxc4 22.Nd5 Qd8** White: 15:29 Black: 8:33 **23.Na5** [23.Rg6! could well be even better.] **23...Rf7?!** Black used over half his remaining time on this. [23...Nxg3 24.Nb7 Nxh1!? 25.Nxd8 Bxd8 Somehow Black miscounted or something, since this would at least give him hope.] **24.Nb7** This is hopeless. **24...Qe8 25.Rg6! c3?! 26.b4** "Human move" -- Squelching counterplay. [26.Qg4; 26.Rg1] **26...Rc4 27.Na5 Qc8 28.Rg1 Bf8 29.Rh6 Nf4 30.Bxf4 exf4 31.Qg6 Re7 32.Nxe7+ Bxe7 33.Qxg7#** KyronGriffith won by checkmate **1-0**

(4) William Sartorio (unusualkid) (2063) - Asjik Uzzaman (ashikuzzaman) (1940) [B72]

Mechanics' TNMO Chess.com (8.6), 22.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 a6 The "Dragodorf!" **7.f3 b5** [7...Bg7 8.Qd2 h5 could be a bit too far. But still, 9.a4 b6 10.Bc4 Bb7 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.Rad1 Rc8 13.Ba2 Ne5 14.Qe2 Qc7 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Bxd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 Qc4 0-1 (36) Khanin,S (2584)-Fedoseev,V (2678) Lichess.org INT 2020] **8.Qd2 Bb7 9.Nb3!?** in the spirit of one of the modern lines against the Najdorf (5...a6 6.Nb3!?), but so far only played in games by Experts. [9.0-0-0 seems rather hardheaded in the face of Black's already advanced b-pawn. 9...Nbd7; 9.g4!? hasn't been played as much but scores well,; as has 9.Be2!?; 9.a4! was Negi's preferred line in the Grandmaster Repertoire series.] **9...Nbd7 10.0-0-0** [The computers like 10.Nd1!? Admittedly Na5 will be annoying!; 10.Be2 and 0-0 is indicated.] **10...Rc8 11.g4** [11.Kb1 Bg7 12.Bh6 Bxh6 13.Qxh6 b4 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Nf6 16.Bd3 Qb6 17.Rhe1 Bxd5 18.Re2 Kd7 19.Be4 Bxe4 1/2-1/2 (19) Brinck Claussen,B (2323)-Skaanning Pedersen,K (2198) Esbjerg 2007] **11...Ne5**

12.Be2N [Last game reference: 12.Qf2 Bg7 13.Bd4 Nfd7 14.h4 h5 15.gxh5 Rxh5 16.Be2 b4 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5 a5 19.Kb1 Qc7 20.Bb5 Kf8 21.f4 Ng4 22.Bxg7+ Kxg7 23.Qe2 Ndf6 24.Rdg1 Nh6 25.Bd3 a4 26.Nd4 Qc5 27.Rxg6+ Kh8 28.Rxf6 Qxd4 29.Rxf7 Nxf7 30.Qxh5+ Kg7 31.Qg4+ 1-0 (31) Chigaev,M (2145)-Chernyavsky,A (2210) Dagomys 2009] **12...Nc4** [Black could catch up on development: 12...Bg7] **13.Bxc4 Rxc4?!**

[13...bxc4 14.Nd4 at least sets up later play on the b-file.] **14.e5?!** [14.Nc5!+- wreaks havoc in Black's setup.] **14...Nd7 15.exd6 Bxf3 16.Nd5?** [16.Na5! is a tactical sequence that leads to an advantage after 16...Bxh1 17.Nxc4 Bf3 18.dxe7 Bxe7 19.Nd6+ Bxd6 20.Qxd6 Qe7 *(20...Bxd1? 21.Nd5)* 21.Qd4 f6 22.Rd2] **16...e6?!** [16...Bxh1! 17.Rxh1 Ne5=] **17.Bg5!**

17...f6? [17...Bxd1!? 18.Rxd1 *(18.Bxd8? Rxc2+=/+)* 18...f6 19.Nxf6+ Nxf6 20.d7+ Kf7 21.Rf1+/=] **18.Nxf6+! Nxf6**

19.Bxf6?? [19.d7+!+- Qxd7 *(19...Kf7? 20.Rdf1)* 20.Bxf6 Qxd2+ 21.Nxd2!] **19...Qxf6 20.d7+ Kd8** and now it's Black with the chances. **21.Qa5+ Rc7 22.Qb6**

22...Bxd1?? At first glance a key defensive resource, but in fact it overlooks a real one. [22...Bd5?? fails: 23.Rxd5 Qf4+ 24.Rd2; But 22...Qf4+! first: 23.Kb1 The best of a bad situation 23...Bd5! Now White's best shot is 24.Rxd5!? exd5 25.Re1 but 25...Qf7! when the advantage is with Black -- it's only a question of how big it is. *(25...Kxd7?? 26.Qe6+ Kd8 27.Qe8#; 25...Be7 26.Qb8+ Kxd7 27.Qxh8 Qxh2* is just equal*)*] **23.Rxd1** Actually it's pretty clear now that White is winning. **23...Bh6+ 24.Kb1 Bf4**

25.Qb8+? There it goes again! Either knight move towards c6 would be very good, [while 25.g5!! smashingly takes advantage of the overloaded queen and bishop.] **25...Ke7 26.d8Q+ Rxd8 27.Qxd8+ Kf7** Incredibly, Black is holding after all this. **28.Rd7+ Rxd7 29.Qxd7+ Qe7**

30.Qxe7+? Not a good ending; the bishop rules both sides. **30...Kxe7 31.h3 Kd6** [31...e5! should win] **32.c3 e5 33.Kc2 e4 34.Kd1 Kd5 35.Ke2 Bg5 36.Nd4?!** [36.Na5] **36...Bc1 37.b4 Kc4 38.Nb3 Bf4 39.Nc5 e3?** [39...Kxc3 40.Nxa6 Kb2 wins] **40.Nxa6 Kxc3 41.Nc5** Now White can draw **41...g5 42.a3 Kb2 43.a4 bxa4 44.Nxa4+ Ka3 45.Nc5 Kxb4 46.Ne6 Kc4 47.Ng7 Kd5 48.Nf5 Ke4 49.Nh6 Bg3 50.Nf5 Bf2 51.Nh6 Bh4 52.Nf5 Bf2 53.Nh6 Ke5 54.Kf3 Kd4**

55.h4?? White maybe knows too much, and tries to get a famous draw. [It so happens that White can lock up a draw with 55.Ke2 Ke4 56.Ng8 Kf4 57.Nf6 h6 58.Nh5+ *(or 58.Ng8 Kg3 59.Nxh6 Kxh3 60.Kf3=* as long as White doesn't try to take on e3, but just holds the line.*)*] **55...gxh4??** and Black lets it happen! [55...Kd3! 56.Nf5 *(56.Nf7!? e2 57.Ne5+ Kd2 58.Nc4+ Ke1!-+)* 56...e2 57.Kxf2 Kd2-+] **56.Nf5+ Kd3**

57.Nxe3! Bxe3 58.Kg2 Bg5 59.Kh1 It's fun to watch Stockfish giving Black a huge plus score here, when we humans know about bishop and wrong rook pawn(s). Many a game has been saved by heading for this paradoxical ending, often the opponent does a doubletake before remembering what's happening. **59...Ke2 60.Kg2 Ke3 61.Kh1 Kf3 62.Kg1 Kxg4 63.Kh1 Kf3 64.Kg1 Ke2 65.Kh1 Kf1 66.Kh2 Be3 67.Kh1 Bf2 68.Kh2 Bg1+ 69.Kh1 h3** A wonderful up-and-down battle! **1/2-1/2**

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/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2600	gguseinov	W31	W26	W25
2	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2470	KyronGriffith	H---	W42	W20
3	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W36	W27	W43
4	Arun Dixit (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14607904)	14607904	2199	Limelight2727	W23	W9	L6
5	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2075	FlightsOfFancy	W32	W44	W18
6	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	1958	ninjaforce	W38	W17	W4
7	NM Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	13778105	2202	microbear	W22	W14	W12
8	NM Kireet Panuganti (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13843374)	13843374	2138	kkpanu9	W24	W28	W29
9	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W56	L4	W46
10	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	15088362	2120	etvat	W52	L29	W36
11	William Sartorio (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14715380)	14715380	2063	unusualkid	W45	D20	W30
12	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W53	W16	L7
13	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	13001390	1954	nathanf314	H---	H---	W22
14	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1940	ashikuzzaman	W55	L7	B---
15	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1866	mwncklmann	H---	H---	W49
16	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	W33	L12	L40
17	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W51	L6	W33
18	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1724	pgstar3	W60	W19	L5
19	Kevin Yanofsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15901193)	15901193	1968	kyanofsky	W47	L18	W23
20	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1829	vish1080	W40	D11	L2
21	Ranen A Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1803	dashrndrx	W50	L43	W51
22	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	starserika18	L7	W55	L13
23	Mateo Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14907254)	14907254	1687	mateosh	L4	W56	L19
24	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1664	LightningDragon8	L8	W39	L26
25	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W46	W35	L1

26	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W58	L1	W24
27	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	Mangonel	W48	L3	W32
28	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	W39	L8	W47
29	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1889	J3Chess24	W49	W10	L8
30	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	D42	W54	L11
31	Pudur Ramaswamy (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16106884)	16106884	1718	MatnMatt20	L1	W58	W50
32	Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)	13836822	1652	ibalek	L5	W57	L27
33	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	931	sfdeals	L16	W53	L17
34	Leon Diaz Herrera (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355661)	17355661	unr.	Aeqetes	H---	H---	L35
35	Zachi Baharav (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13464604)	13464604	1813	fastZachi	W41	L25	W34
36	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1711	ahyanzaman	L3	W48	L10
37	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	L43	L50	D39
38	Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	12446259	1495	nmbrown2	L6	L51	W57
39	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1161	kevin_mx_sun	L28	L24	D37
40	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1033	andrewaballantyne	L20	W45	W16
41	Elliott Regan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15032065)	15032065	943	TTVchessmaster	L35	L46	W48
42	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	811	Sebbymeister	D30	L2	W54
43	RIP Felix German (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12624534)	12624534	1976	FelixGerman	W37	W21	L3
44	Nicholas Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	W57	L5	W59
45	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L11	L40	H---
46	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1556	programmingmax	L25	W41	L9
47	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	16545130	1506	chessboi2010	L19	W60	L28
48	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	L27	L36	L41
49	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	L29	W52	L15
50	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	930	adichi	L21	W37	L31
51	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	17344551	unr.	Bruce_Hedman	L17	W38	L21

	17344551)						
52	**Christoph Bradley (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16047844)**	16047844	1654	ifyoustayreti	L10	L49	W55
53	**Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)**	16380657	1556	SunnyCountry	L12	L33	W56
54	**Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)**	16380615	662	ComfyQueso	B---	L30	L42
55	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L14	L22	L52
56	**Peter Jam Rushton (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16453812)**	16453812	1239	pedrojrush	L9	L23	L53
57	**Jeff North (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17179258)**	17179258	1043	JeffNorthSF	L44	L32	L38
58	**Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)**	17168772	1490	Evariel	L26	L31	W60
59	**Willia Harris III (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15953392)**	15953392	1184	15953392	H---	H---	L44
60	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30037403)**	30037403	unr.	Vincitore51745	L18	L47	L58

2020 IM John Donaldson Championship Report

Our 2nd Annual IM John Donaldson Championship capped off a fine year of chess at the Mechanics' Institute, with this two-day, three-section championship event. There were dramatic moments and games, and very competitive sections. In the top section, the top two seeds GM Gadir Guseinov and GM James Tarjan tied for first with 5/6, though both getting there by differen means. Though they both drew their game against each other, GM Guseinov blundered in his round 1 game against Alan Finkelstein and was in a losing position. But the veteran found all the right moves in defending his position, holding on for a draw and playing solidly the rest of the tournament. Tarjan had a requested bye in round 4, and was cruising in his final round game again Alan Finkelstein. However, Finklestein showed great resilliency and set up an incredible opportunity to possibly mate Tarjan, but Tarjan found an escape and held on for the win. Shaake Sivakumar and Alan Finkelstein shared third place with 4/6.

In the under 2000 section, Ako Heidari and Rithwik Narendra won their final round games to share first place with 4.5/6. In the under 1600 section, Adrien Cheng bounced back from a round 2 loss to win the rest of his games and take sole first place with 5/6.

We were treated to a very special event after the first day of action, as IM John Donaldson participated in a one hour arena and joined the broadcast providing banter. It was a fun and entertaining event, where John showed his game is still very strong, going undefeated. You can watch the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JExkl9jEg64 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JExkl9jEg64)

Full results can be found on our event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-annual-im-john-donaldson-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-annual-im-john-donaldson-championship-online)

Here are some games from the event, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

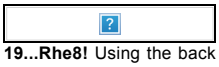
(5) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2634) - Alan Finkelstein (stratus_junior) (1906) [C07]

Mechanics' 2nd Donaldson 2000+ Chess.com (1.1), 19.12.2020

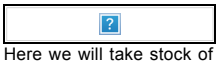
[de Firmian]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 An active variation against the Tarrasch French. The board becomes very open. **4.Ngf3 cxd4 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Bc4 Qd7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Nb3 Nf6 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 a6** White has won his pawn back as the players have followed theory. Guseinov tries to get an edge from his slight lead in development. **11.Bg5 Be7 12.Re1 h6 13.Bh4 b5 14.Bb3 Bb7 15.Bxf6?!** played with the continuation of the next move in mind, but White would do better with 15. Qd3 **15...Bxf6**

16.Nxe6? Such action with this piece sacrifice that Gadir couldn't restrain himself. It's not good though. **16...Qxd1 17.Nxg7+ Kf8 18.Raxd1 Kxg7 19.Rd7**



19...Rhe8! Using the back rank mate threat to get the pieces out. **20.Rxf7+ Kg6 21.Rxe8 Rxe8 22.f3 Re7! 23.Rxe7 Bxe7**



Here we will take stock of the position, as this was the logical outcome of White's piece sacrifice on move 16. White has 3 pawns for the bishop but is much worse and has almost no winning chances. The black bishops can easily restrain and also attack the white pawns. Gadir is struggling against his young opponent. **24.Kf2 Bg5 25.c4 Bc1 26.cxb5 axb5 27.Bc2+ Kf6 28.b3 b4** This one pawn holds up two on the queenside. **29.Kg3 Bc8 30.Kh4 Bg5+ 31.Kh5 Bd7 32.g3 Be8+ 33.Kg4 h5+ 34.Kh3 Bd7+ 35.Kg2 Be3** Note how the Black bishops push around the white king. **36.h4 Bc6 37.Bd3 Bd7 38.Kf1 Bf5** This lets the white king to help out somewhat. Black would have good winning chances with [38...Be8 39.Ke2 Bb6 when if 40.f4 now 40...Bg6! would be good as trading here would let the black king in.] **39.Ke2 Bc5 40.Bb5 Bd6 41.f4 Bb1 42.Kd2 Bc5 43.Be2 Bf2?** [43...Kg6! 44.g4 hxg4 45.Bxg4 Bd6 should win the game. Black needs to keep the b-pawn alive.] **44.Bxh5 Bxg3 45.Kc1** Just in time the white king comes to the queenside **45...Bg6** [45...Bxa2? 46.Kb2] **46.Bxg6 Bxf4+ 47.Kb1 Kxg6 48.a3 bxa3 49.b4!**

White just manages to disrupt the protection of Black's last pawn by pushing the passers. Great defense by Gadir and a near miss by stratus junior. **1/2-1/2**

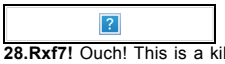
(6) NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2242) - Vishva Nanugonda (vish1080) (1829) [B32]

Mechanics' 2nd Donaldson 2000+ Chess.com (2), 19.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 This has now become quite a respectable variation of the Sicilian. **5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3** [6.c4 is a slower paced game where White tries to keep a grip on the center] **6...a6 7.Na3 Be7** [7...Nf6] **8.Nc4** repositioning the knight on the rim is very logical and gives White chances for an edge **8...Be6 9.Ne3** [9.Be3 Nf6 10.Nb6 Rb8 11.Be2 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 d5 13.Nc5 d4 14.Nxe6 fxe6 allows Black to win the piece back, but White may wish to try this after 15.Bd2 Qxb6 16.Bd3] **9...Nf6 10.g3!? 0-0 11.Bg2 Nd4 12.0-0 b5?!** [12...Rc8 immediately would give White worries about the c2 pawn when the Nc3 moves] **13.Ncd5! Rc8?!** Now Black gets pushed back. It was better to try [13...Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.exd5 though White holds an edge with the bishop pair] **14.c3 Nc6 15.a4**

A picture perfect setup for White in this opening. He controls the d5 square and now starts to pry open the queenside. **15...Rb8 16.Bd2 Bxd5 17.exd5 Na5 18.axb5 axb5 19.b4 Nc4 20.Nxc4 bxc4 21.Qe2 Qc7?!** [21...Qc8 is better defensively as it guards the c4 pawn and prevents the coming Ra6] **22.f4** [22.Ra6!] **22...exf4 23.Rxf4 Rfc8 24.h3 Bf8 25.Ra6 Qb7 26.Rc6!** This rook is major trouble for Black as it sits deep inside his camp and has the support of the pawn and g2 bishop. Black is losing the c4 pawn and tries something desparate. **26...Nxd5? 27.Bxd5 Rxc6**



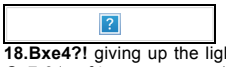
28.Rxf7! Ouch! This is a killer. **28...Qb6+** It doesn't help to give up the queen as a rook goes too - [28...Qxf7 29.Bxf7+ Kxf7 30.Qf3+ Kg8 31.Qxc6] **29.Be3 Qb5 30.Qf3** With crushing threats. Black resigned. **1-0**

(7) Alan Finkelstein (stratus_junior) (2469) - GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes) (2058) [A90]

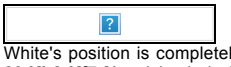
Mechanics' 2nd Donaldson 2000+ Chess.com (6.2), 20.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

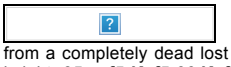
1.d4 f5 Grandmaster Tarjan chooses the Dutch Defense, which is not as solid as the Nimzo-Indian or QGD but ensures an unbalanced, fighting game. **2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 d5 5.Bg2 Bd6 6.0-0 0-0 7.b3 c6 8.Bb2 Nbd7 9.Qc2 Qe7 10.Nc3 b6 11.cxd5** A very reasonable time to open up the position. White could also maintain the tension with [11.Rfc1] **11...cxd5 12.Nb5 Ba6 13.Nxd6 Qxd6** So White has won the bishop pair and in return Black has gotten free movement for his pieces. **14.Rfc1 Rac8 15.Qd1 Ne4 16.Ne1 f4 17.Rxc8 Rxc8**



18.Bxe4?! giving up the light-squared bishop is suspect as it is a strong defender of the kingside. White could have gained an opening edge with [18.f3 Nef6 *(18...Nc3 19.Bxc3 Rxc3 20.Qd2 Qc7 21.gxf4* snags a pawn*)* 19.g4 This looks somewhat strange, but the white pieces and pawns work well in this position.] **18...dxe4 19.e3?** This is just a terrible mistake, turning a roughly even game into a lost position. **19...f3!** Black is now positionally winning with the f3 pawn providing mating threats. Also good though was [19...fxe3 20.fxe3 Rf8] **20.Rc1 Rxc1 21.Qxc1 Qd5 22.h3 Nf6 23.Qc7 Qb5!** The deadly threat of ...Qf1+ forces White to go into a pawn down ending **24.Qc4 Qxc4 25.bxc4 Bxc4 26.a3 Bb3!**



White's position is completely hopeless now. His king and knight can't get into play and even the bishop is restricted. **27.g4 Nd5** [27...g5 would keep White in a box on the kingside] **28.h4 h6 29.Kh2 Kf7** [A quick win is 29...Nxe3 as 30.fxe3 *(30.Nxf3 Nd1)* 30...f2 makes a queen] **30.h5 Kf6 31.Kg3 Kg5?! 32.Nxf3+!** seizing a chance out of nowhere **32...exf3 33.e4 Ne7 34.e5**



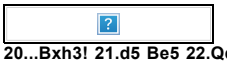
from a completely dead lost position White has conjured the terrible threat of 35. Bc1 mate! What can Black do? **34...Nf5+!** Tarjan had this resource to get our of trouble. White must take the knight. **35.gxf5 Kxf5 36.Kxf3 Kg5 37.Bc3 Kxh5** We are back to the material count of one more pawn for Black. It looks like White should have drawing chances with the bishops of opposite color, but his d and e pawns are blocked by the e6 pawn and black bishop so practically Black is two pawns ahead. **38.Kg3 Kg5 39.Bd2+ Kf5 40.f3 g5 41.Be3 Bd5 42.Bg1** [42.Bd2 h5 43.Bb4 would be a better defense, though wouldn't hold the game anyway. Blacks powerful bishop and ability to get passed pawns on both wings is enough to win.] **42...h5 43.Bh2 b5 44.Bg1 h4+ 45.Kf2 a5 0-1**

(8) Sebby Suarez (SebbyMeister) (1358) - Adrien Cheng (ricechessmaster1) (1433) [C56]

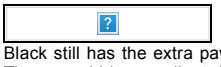
Mechanics' 2nd Donaldson u1600 Chess.com (6.1), 20.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.0-0 A tricky move in this age old line. It puts the opponent on their own without the book continuation. **6...d5?!** This gives White the initiative. Best to be brave and grab the center pawn with [6...Nxe4! 7.cxd4 d5 8.dxc5 dxc4] **7.exd5 Nxd5 8.cxd4 Be7 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.Qb3?!** [White would have a serious initiative after 10.d5 Nb8 11.Bf4] **10...0-0 11.Ne5 Qe8** [Black would be fine with the aggressive 11...Nxd4 12.Bxf7+ Kh8 13.Qd1 c5] **12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Be3 a6 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Qf6 16.Rac1 c6 17.Bf3 Bd6 18.h3 a5** [on 18...Bxh3 19.Qxb7] **19.a3?!** This is the start of trouble. The white queen gets driven away from the b-file **19...a4 20.Qc3**



20...Bxh3! 21.d5 Be5 22.Qd2 Bd7 23.dxc6 Bxc6 24.Bxc6 bxc6 So Black has won a pawn. The position is open with play over the whole board. **25.Rc2 Rab8 26.Bg5 Qg6 27.Rd1?!** This square is not as good as [27.Re1] **27...f6 28.Be3 Qh5 29.g3 Bxb2** [29...Qf3] **30.Bc5** [White could try for a very active position with 30.Rxc6 Bxa3 31.Qc2] **30...Rfe8 31.Re1? Rxe1+ 32.Qxe1 Be5 33.Bb4 Rd8 34.Rd2 Rxd2 35.Qxd2 Qe8?!** [35...h6!] **36.Qc2 h6 37.Qxa4 Bd4 38.Qb3+ Kh8 39.Qf3 c5 40.Bc3 Qa4 41.Bxd4 Qxd4**



Black still has the extra pawn though we have now reached a queen ending. Can he convert it? **42.Qf5?!** [42.Qe3! woud be a strong defense since Black would lose if queens get traded here. There would be excellent drawing chances.] **42...Kg8** [42...c4!] **43.Qh5 c4 44.Qe8+ Kh7 45.Qc8 Qd3!** This fine move covers all the checks and prepares to run the c-pawn. Black is winning now. **46.a4 c3 47.a5 c2 48.a6 Qd1+ 49.Kg2 c1Q 50.Qf5+ Kg8 51.Qe6+ Kf8 52.a7**

52...Qd8 safe and secure. White can do nothing with the a-pawn now, but ...Qh1 mate was quick. **53.Qe4 Qcc8 54.Qb4+ Kg8 55.Qb3+ Kh8 56.Kg1 Qa8 57.Qa4 Qc7 58.f4 Qcxa7+ 59.Qxa7 Qxa7+ 60.Kg2 g5 61.f5 h5 62.g4 hxg4 63.Kf1 Qe3 64.Kg2 Kg7 65.Kh1 Qe2 66.Kg1 Kf7 67.Kh1 Ke7 68.Kg1 Kd6 69.Kh1 Ke5 70.Kg1 Kf4 71.Kh1 Kg3 72.Kg1 Qg2# 0-1**

(9) Adam Mercado (A-boy415) (1831) - Rithwik Narendra (rukja) (1820) [C56]

Mechanics' 2nd Donaldson 1600-1999 Chess.com (3), 19.12.2020

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bc5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Be3 Bxd4 11.Bxd4?! White now gets pushed backwards. The game would be level after the better [11.Qxd4 c5 12.Qd3] **11...c5 12.Be3 d4 13.Bc1 Bb7 14.f3 Ng5 15.f4?! Ne4!**

The knight jumps back to where it was before and this time Black permanantly owns the e4 square. The bishops of opposite color ensure that Black has serious attacking chances. **16.Nd2 f6 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Qe2 Qd5 19.Re1 f5**

This position is worth a diagram. Black has control of the long white diagonal and the central squares d4 and e4. White is strategically lost. **20.b3 a5 21.a4 Rab8 22.Ba3 Rb6 23.Rad1?!** [The last chance was to play the endgame after 23.Qc4 Qxc4 24.bxc4 Rc6 even though that's a miserable position] **23...Rg6** Black wins material **24.Rd2** [24.g3 Bf3] **24...Rxg2+ 25.Qxg2 Bxg2 26.Rxg2 Re8 27.Rg5 h6 28.Rxf5?!** losing the rook, but there was no hope anyway **28...Qe6 29.Bxc5 Qxf5 30.Rf1 Re6 31.Bxd4 Rg6+ 32.Kf2 Qxf4+ 33.Ke2 Qxd4 34.Rf5 Qe4+ 35.Kd2 Qxf5 36.e6 Rxe6 37.c3 Qd5+ 38.Kc1 Re1+ 39.Kc2 Qd1+ 40.Kb2 Re2+ 41.Ka3 Qa1# 0-1**

SwissSys Standings. 2nd Annual Donaldson Championship: 2000+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	
1	**Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2700	gguseinov	D4	W7	W3	W
2	**GM James Edwa Tarjan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)**	10991820	2469	tirantes	W11	W6	W13	W
3	**Shaaket Sivakumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15250088)**	15250088	2064	banoob44	W12	W10	L1	W
4	**Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)**	14958842	2058	stratus_junior	D1	W11	W16	W
5	**Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)**	15462690	2242	jij2018	W9	W14	H---	
6	**Shaashw Sivakumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15089302)**	15089302	2078	dontmesswithme_2	W18	L2	L8	D
7	**Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)**	15176393	2002	SmilyFace4	H---	L1	W17	L
8	**Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	1977	ninjaforce	L10	W9	W6	W
9	**Artem Kiryukhin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15456235)**	15456235	1982	Feugon	L5	L8	W11	W
10	**Eshan Guha (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15473182)**	15473182	2144	BigPiano	W8	L3	L12	W
11	**Jacob Chiang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16093205)**	16093205	2039	patzernation	L2	L4	L9	B
12	**Alexander Nishio (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14894235)**	14894235	1891	NoobFectedXD	L3	B---	W10	
13	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2081	FlightsOfFancy	W17	W16	L2	
14	**Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)**	16380312	1829	vish1080	B---	L5	W15	
15	**Sounak Bagchi (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15744984)**	15744984	1998	DampFalcon	L16	D17	L14	
16	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W15	L13	L4	U
17	**Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)**	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	L13	D15	L7	
18	**Clarence E Lehman (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10497272)**	10497272	1904	FrankJamesMarshall	L6	U---	U---	U

SwissSys Standings. 2nd Annual Donaldson Championship: 1600-1999

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
	Ako Heidari							

1	(https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	oka_ako	W10	D2	D3	D7
2	Rithwik Narendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14903560)	14903560	1820	rukja	W12	D1	W5	D6
3	Steven Witt (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13885775)	13885775	1927	StevenWitt	H---	W13	D1	W4
4	Leonardo Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16132551)	16132551	1494	MegaCharizardLeo	L7	W12	W8	L3
5	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	H---	H---	L2	D1
6	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	H---	W11	W7	D2
7	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	12797931	1789	KingSmasher35	W4	W8	L6	D1
8	Mateo Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14907254)	14907254	1687	mateosh	W9	L7	L4	D1
9	Andersen Yang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16304918)	16304918	1475	mutantpenguin	L8	W10	L11	W1
10	Kyle Chang (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16418462)	16418462	1663	SophisticatedFork	L1	L9	W13	D8
11	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	14799653	1812	PlayerCreate1	H---	L6	W9	H--
12	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583	LittlePinkCorvette	L2	L4	B---	D5
13	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1511	programmingmax	H---	L3	L10	L9

SwissSys Standings. 2nd Annual Donaldson Championship: u1600

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	Adrien Cheng (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16318903)	16318903	1433	ricechessmaster1	W11	L5	W10	W8
2	Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)	17168772	1490	Evariel	W10	L3	W11	L9
3	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1358	Sebbymeister	W17	W2	W8	L6
4	Anagha Dhurjati (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17003536)	17003536	1336	amdink	W15	L8	L13	W5
5	Sean Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962568)	16962568	1086	SlowCynicalQuip	W16	W1	L7	L4
6	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	W12	W13	H---	W3
7	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	16154827	1416	NXBex	H---	H---	W5	W1
8	James Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16084360)	16084360	1384	MeLikeGame	W14	W4	L3	L1
9	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1057	andrewaballantyne	L13	W12	W14	W2
10	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	16551291	977	figsnoring	L2	W17	L1	L12
11	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	954	adichi	L1	W16	L2	L14

12	**Shelton Cai (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16851095)**	16851095	745	NerdySpaceY	L6	L9	W15	W1
13	**John Simpson (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30064115)**	30064115	unr.	Sanfransimpson	W9	L6	W4	L7
14	**Anshuman Upadhyay (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16212932)**	16212932	863	FirstCamel	L8	W15	L9	W1
15	**David Phillips (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30085095)**	30085095	unr.	David_Phillips	L4	L14	L12	B--
16	**Prashanth Ramachandran (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30081021)**	30081021	unr.	prashram	L5	L11	H---	W1
17	**Vaishali Madoori (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15281783)**	15281783	637	Vaishali2727	L3	L10	B---	L1

We want to thank everyone for their continued support of our events, and we look forward to 2021 being one of the best years ever for our historic club and of the Mechanics' Institute! To watch the broadcast for this tournament, visit our YouTube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos)

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.

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, 1/12.

GM Nick de Firmian Arena Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 1/14.

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/20210117213251/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - TBD by FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates:

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information:

Register at:

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

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/20210117213251/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

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:

1/12 Tuesday - January 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Jan2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Jan2021TNMOnline)

1/14 Thursday - January/February 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/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/20210117213251/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/20210117213251/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/20210117213251/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

2020 Fall Report

The last few months of this unique year flew by quickly! Scholastic chess has been transformed to a virtual program, and students were flexible and adapted very quickly. In November and December, we have been busy finishing up our weekly scholastic virtual classes, along with preparing and holding our virtual holiday camps. Our Sunday afternoon Weekend Club offers our intermediate and advanced players a chance to connect wiht each other and go over games and develop in their chess.

Weekend Clubs had a fun last club on December 27th, where a briliancy prize was awarded to Mr. Andrew Ballantyne. Andrew has been becoming a staple of the Mechanics' Institute chess scene, starting his passion for chess with our after school classes. From there he has been quite the regular at our Tuesday Night Marathon, raking up rating points against the adults. In this game, Andrew showed a mastery of maneuvering his pieces waiting for his opponent to push too early too fast before he could pounce for the material advantage! https://www.chesskid.com/fastchess/game/32259794

Mechanics' Institute holds daily free tournaments, in which players can practice at their leisure. We are also organizing weekend online USCF-rated tournaments with record number of players participating, earning medals or trophies. Special tournaments such as ones on Halloween, the Pacific Regional Grade Level Online, and the New Year's Eve Blitz tournaments are giving our scholastic players a chance to connect with each other via zoom beforehand, during and after the tournaments.
Congratulations to all the players and winners. Smiles, like Shrinivas', gives us all the encouragements and assurance that we are heading to the right direction.

We look forward to 2021 and starting new classes, weekend clubs, camps and tournaments.
We hope to see many returning and new students joining our programs!

Upcoming Classes

2021 Winter sessions start the second week of January, and goes for 10 weeks total.
More information and links to register for the following classes: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess)

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin - Mondays 4-5PM
- Beginner / Intermediate Level with Coach Andy - Tuesdays 3-4PM
- Absolute Beginners with Coach Colin - Tuesday 4-5PM
- Intermediate with Coach Andy - Thursdays 4-5PM
- Intermediate/Advance with Coach Andy - Thursdays 5-6PM

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20210117213251/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)
Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Sunday, Jan 3: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225106 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225106)
- Monday, Jan 4: 4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225551 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225551)
- Tuesday, January 5: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225552 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225552)
- Wednesday, Jan 6: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225553 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225553)
- Thursday, Jan 7: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225554 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225554)
- Friday, Jan 8: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225555 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=225555)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments - Registration needed via the links below, and players must have current US Chess membership.
Games will affect US Chess online ratings (not over-the-board!).
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.

- Saturday, Jan 2: 3SS G/20+10 - Starts at 10AM - USCF Online regular rated games https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan2SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan2SAT)
- Sunday, Jan 10: 8SS G/5+2 - Starts at 2PM - USCF Online blitz rated games https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan10SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan10SUN)
- Saturday, Jan 16: 5SS G/15+2 - Starts at 3PM - USCF Online rapid rated games
- Sunday, Jan 24: 6SS G/10+2 - Starts at 2PM - USCF Online rapid rated games
- Sunday, Jan 31 - SAVE THE DATE - US Amateur Team West Online - National Championship - Scholastic Side event

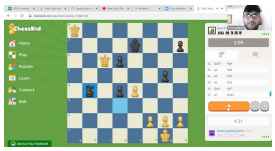
If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Holiday Camps

We have offered two virtual winter camps over the holidays, coaches by Coach Andrew, Coach Colin and International Master Coach Elliott Winslow. Both weeks were filled with intersting lectures, problems and fun tournaments. It was great to see both returning players and new students trying out our offerings and having fun and learning from our amazing coaches. Many thanks for all the parents for their support.

2021 Spring camp schedule has been posted:

- Jan 18, Monday - Martin Luther King's Day Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MLKDayChessCamp
- Feb 15, Monday - Presidents Day Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/PresidentsDayChessCamp
- Mar 29 - Apr 2 - Spring Break Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp



Scholastic Game of the Week, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(10) bmhong (1405) - DarkCapableCharm (1566) [C54]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 This Guioco Pianissimo allows the position to build up before the action. 5. d4 instead has been worked out to equality. **5...d6 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.Nf1! h6 8.Ng3 Be6 9.Bb3 Ng4?!**

Threatening to take on f2, but White has a good way to defend this. **10.0-0 a5 11.h3** Now it's a bad trade to take on f2 so the knight just has to go back. **11...Nf6 12.a4** [12.Bc2! preparing for central action with d2-d4 would gain White a nice opening edge. e.g. 12...d5 13.d4 exd4 14.e5 Ne4 15.cxd4 Bb6 16.Re1] **12...Qd7 13.Bc4** [13.Bc2] **13...Bxc4 14.dxc4 Qe6 15.b3 Nd7 16.Nf5 Ne7 17.N3h4 Nf6 18.Bd2?!** After many good moves bmhong just goes wrong here, and especially the next move. Sometimes you just forget about your pawns or pieces and that's fatal against a good opponent. [18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.Nf5 Qe6 20.Qf3 is roughly equal yet a bit more comfortable for White. The game move gives away the e-pawn for free.] **18...Nxe4**

19.Qc1?? [19.Qg4! threatens mate on g7 and so wins the pawn back. Black needs to play 19...Ng5 20.Bxg5 hxg5 21.Qxg5 Nxf5 22.Nxf5 g6 with perhaps a small edge] **19...Nxd2** White just loses a piece to go with the pawn down. The only hope now is a major blunder from DarkCapable charm. **20.Qxd2** [20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Qxd2 Qxh4] **20...Nxf5 21.Nxf5 Qxf5 22.b4 axb4 23.cxb4 Bd4** A great spot for the bishop. Black wraps it up by taking even more material. **24.Rad1 Rxa4 25.Rfe1 Rfa8! 26.Kh1 Ra2 27.Qd3 Qxd3 28.Rxd3 Bxf2 29.Rf1 Bd4 30.Rdd1 Rb2 31.Rc1 Rxb4 32.Kh2 Raa4 33.Rcd1 Rxc4 34.Kh1 b5 35.Rb1 b4 36.Kh2 Ra3 37.Kh1 b3 38.Kh2 b2 39.Kh1 Ra1 40.Kh2 Rxb1 41.Rxb1 Rc1 42.Rxb2 Bxb2** DarkCapableCharm won by resignation **0-1**

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Those New Year's Chess Parties in Palo Alto, so very long ago.

One of the highlights of the year for me, chess-wise, was the annual New Year's Eve party held at the house of C. Bill Jones in Palo Alto. I know they began sometime in the 1970's and continued on into the 1980's, but when they began, and when they stopped I cannot tell you...

All of my friends (and rivals) showed up, playing blitz, eating and drinking: it's all a bit of a blur, quite distant, and I was only a teenager. The players live on, in memory and in a few photographs found on chessdryad – a veritable Who's Who of San Francisco Bay Area Chess:

Nick Ballard, Alan LaVergne, Bob Hammie, Dennis Fritzinger, Ruth Haring, Jeremy Silman, Gene Lee, Jay Whitehead, Dennis Waterman, Craig Barnes, Robert Newbold, Ray Schutt, James Tarjan, Ed Rosenthal, Elliott Winslow, David Forthoffer, Alan Benson, Nick Maffeo, Alan Pollard, Karen Street, George Kane, Gil Ramirez, Mike Dyslin and Mike Goodall (who would start his own traditional Christmas Party many years later).

There are countless others I cannot recall - perhaps someone can add to my memories, add to my list. The kids and families, the hangers-on, and even that oddity: the non-chess player - off my radar but there nevertheless, under the warm tent of C. Bill Jones and his family.

As we move into another New Year I sincerely wish days like those to return: the laughter and friendship, the bashing of the chess clocks, the wonderful good will of these people - with the future spinning, spinning out far ahead where it cannot yet be seen.

GM Nick de Firmian

New Year's Chess

Out with the old, in with the new! We all hope 2021 will bring a big change from the lockdown of the coronavirus. We anticipate live chess tournaments will start sometime in 2021, and we hope the traditional tournaments around the world will restart to continue their historical annual events. Back home at the Mechanics' Institute we have of course continued our traditional Tuesday Night Marathon thanks to our inventive chess managers, and also brought in new events.

What will the New Year bring your chess? Will you make some resolutions? "I will not blunder my pieces... I will not get in time trouble... I will study my endgames!"

Maybe. It takes energy to improve your game and many players simply enjoy playing the old systems they are used to. At the very top level the players must always strive with new ideas or they get left behind.

The year's last big event of the top players is the Champions Chess Tour. Airthings Masters, which started with 12 top grandmasters including the World Champion. Some early results lead me to a couple of chess predictions for 2021: 1) Levon Aronian will regain his great form of a few years ago and re-enter the world's top five; 2) After a decade of dominance Magnus Carlsen will look human this year and other top players will win many of the elite events of the year. With that note I leave you with a couple of games from the event, which runs until January 3rd.

(1) Aronian,Levon - Nakamura,Hikaru [D02]

Champions Tour Knock out, 28.12.2020

Nakamura won the last event of the chess tour and is always one of the top favorites of online rapid chess. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4** The very trendy London System. **3...e6 4.e3 Bd6 5.Bb5+!?** It seems strange for such a strong player to give a check like this as it is easily blocked with a positive looking move. The point is that if Black blocks by advancing with 5...c6 then the c-pawn can no longer recapture on d6 to keep the central pawn control. **5...Nbd7 6.c3 0-0 7.Nbd2 Qe7 8.Ne5 Ne4?!** This gets doubled e-pawns. Sometimes that is good in this system but here White gets a slight edge in the pawn structure. **9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.Qc2 f5 11.Bxd7!** giving the bishop for knight to have greater control of e5 **11...Bxd7 12.h4 Bb5 13.a4 Bxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd3 15.Qb3 b6 16.f4**

White has a nagging edge in the bishops of opposite color position. The powerful bishop on e5 influences both sides of the board. **16...h5 17.Kf2 Kh7 18.Rh3 g6 19.Rg3 c5** [19...Qxh4? 20.Qxe6 would be crushing thanks to the bishop on e5. One will see later the great coordination of the white queen and bishop] **20.Rg5 Kh6 21.dxc5 bxc5 22.c4 Rf7 23.Qc3 Qb7 24.a5 Rc8 25.b3 Qc6 26.Rh1** Headed for the kingside, though White may well have taken over the queenside with 26. a6 **26...Rb7 27.Rh3 Rg8 28.Rhg3 Kh7 29.Qc1 Qe8** [29...Rxb3? 30.Qd1 Rb1 31.Qxh5+! is mate next] **30.Qd1 Rd7?**

Naka needed to play 30...Qf7 to stay in the game. He underestimated Aronian's following concept. **31.Rxg6! Qxg6 32.Rxg6 Kxg6**

The position looks even at first sight. Black has two rooks for a queen and pawn and one wonders who is better. Yet a deeper look shows that the white queen and bishop combine as a powerful force while the black pieces cannot work well together. **33.Kg1 a6 34.Kh2 Rb7 35.Qa1! Rxb3 36.Qa4 Rb1 37.Qd7** Black is toast. **37...Bxc4 38.Qe7 Rbb8** Nakamura resigned as 39. Qf6+ Kh7 40. Qf7+ Kh6 41. Bf6 and 42. Bg5+ is the end. A powerful game from Aronian, who will problably have a very good year in 2021. **1-0**

(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Dubov,Daniil [D40]

Champions Tour Knock out, 28.12.2020

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.e3 a6 5.d4 d5 Dubov plays one variant of the Semi-Tarrasch. Both sides use their c and d pawns to battle for the center squares. **6.cxd5 exd5 7.g3!?** Magnus fianchettoes the bishop as in a normal Tarrasch, but the pawn has advanced from e2 to e3. These small differences make for an original game which put the players on their own. **7...Nc6 8.Bg2 c4** This move, without Black's ...a6 and White's ...e3, would be the Swedish Variation of the Tarrasch Defense. Here the move makes even more sense as Black easily gains queenside space. **9.0-0 Bb4 10.Ne5 0-0 11.Bd2 Re8 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.b3 Bxc3! 14.Bxc3 Ne4** Black keeps equal chances by activily playing for the central squares. Of course Magnus will not want to trade his light-squared bishop for the knight since his king position would then become dangerous. **15.Rc1 a5 16.bxc4 Ba6 17.f3 Nxc3 18.Rxc3 Bxc4 19.Rf2**

We take stock of the opening here, and we can say that White has gotten less than nothing. The white pawn center is restained and Black has freedom of movement for his pieces. Still Magnus is Magnus and we wouldn't expect young Dubov to keep pace. **19...Qg5 20.Qc1 h5 21.Bf1 Bxf1 22.Kxf1 Rab8 23.Rxc6 h4 24.Kg2 Rxe3 25.Rc8+ Rxc8 26.Qxc8+ Kh7** The game is level with 5 pawns, queen and rook for each side. The position is wide open where long tricky queens moves can be expected. **27.Qd7 f6 28.Qb5 Qf5** Magnus plays for the win by aiming to grab a pawn and push a newly passed pawn. Yet has to be careful on the kingside where the black queen, rook and h-pawn are attacking. **29.g4 h3+! 30.Kg3 Qe4!**

A pretty move from Dubov. Black threatens the d-pawn and keeps pressure on the f-pawn. Everything seems defended on the kingside - can White snatch the a-pawn? **31.Qxa5?** This loses. White had to retreat for defense with [31.Qf1 Qxd4 32.Qxh3+ Kg8 33.Qh5] **31...f5!** adding yet another attacker. This breaks the white defense as the threat of 32...Qxg4 mate forces the opening of the kingside. **32.gxf5 Qxf5 33.Qb5** [33.Qd8 Re6 34.Qh4+ Rh6 will win the queen] **33...Re6 34.Re2 Rg6+ 35.Kf2 Qf4!** There is no way to survive. **36.Qb1 Kh6 37.Qd3 Qxh2+ 38.Ke3 Re6+** Magnus resigned

as Black will trade everything and queen the h-pawn. A nice game by young Dubov, but Magnus is starting to do something at the end of this year that he almost never does - lose. It this a sign of things to come next year? Magnus has turned the ripe old age of 30 and he has been #1 for 11 years already. How much longer can he keep it up? **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:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20210117213251/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #950

January 9, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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Webster University Wins 2020-2021 Pan-American Interollegiate Championship!

The Pan-American Intercollegiate Championship is college chess' premier event, bringing eligible college teams from North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean. The event has been held since 1946, and in 2020, the University of Toronto was set to host the event, in commemoration of the 125 year anniversary of the Hart House Chess Club at the University of Toronto. When the pandemic cancelled the live event, however, the Mechanics' Institute was awarded the bid to host the 2020-2021 event online. This year's online event had a faster time control, G/25+5 and, nine rounds - certainly a gauntlet for any team looking to win. The event was stacked with powerhouse teams, including grandmasters up and down the lineup, all looking for their shot at glory, and a chance to bring a championship to their school. After a marathon tournament and nine action-packed rounds, Webster University regained the championship with a dominant 8/9 performance, a full point ahead of 2nd place finisher St. Louis University. This marks eight championships in the last nine years for Wesbter University, and the victory came 30 years to the day when Head Coach Susan Polgar became the first female ever to become a Grandmaster. Susan and Paul Truong have built a chess dynasty at Webster, dominating collegiate chess for nearly a decade. Finishing in 3rd on tiebreaks at 6.5/9 was Webster University Team B, 4th place University of Texas @ Rio Grande Valley A ,and in 5th was Texas Tech University A Due to their top four finishes, these school will compete in the Presidents Cup, also known as the Final Four of College Chess to determine the U.S. team champion.

We would like to give a very special mention to UC Berkeley. They sent five teams to this event, and though not being a chess scholarship school, populated its teams with many of the local chess talent that have been a part of our Bay Area chess community as young children. Their A and B teams sat on the top two tables in the final round, both with a shot to place in the top four and get Cal into the final four. It was a tall order, however, as they were facing elite programs, and both teams were defeated, finishing 6/9. Their tournament performance was tough, gritty, and an absolute pleasure to follow. Also putting in a solid perfomance was Stanford University, finishing 5.5/9.

Webster University appeared to be cruising, going 6/6 after the first two days. But a round 7 loss at the hands of University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Team A opened the door for several teams, all within a half point of the leader going into round 8. But Webster finished the final two rounds strong, defeating University of Texas @ Dallas C with the help from wins from the bottom two boards, including an exciting quick win by GM Aram Hakobyan over GM Angel Arribas Lopez, as well as GM Aleksandr Lenderman over IM Cameron Wheeler. In the final round,

the Cinderella matchup was made as UC Berkeley Team A defeated University of Chicago in round 8 to take on Webster Team A. However, Webster did not let up on the gas pedal, as the GM strength on all boards was just too much, although IM Ladia Jirasek found quite a resourceful defense to hold a draw against GM Aleksandr Lenderman.

Congratulations to Webster University, and to all the teams that participated in this year's Pan Am. We hope this event created many fond memories for all the students who participated, and we are honored that we were able to continue this event which dates back nearly 75 years. This event would not have been possible without the hard work of so many in our chess community Special thanks to Chief Tournament Director Glenn Panner and Assistant Chief Brian Yang, who showed exceptional leadership and poise in managing a large TD staff keeping an eye on almost 500 cameras that needed monitoring and addressing the questions from captains and players. The TD staff represented some of the best in the country: Martha Underwood, David Hater, Al Losoff, Jiten Patel and many volunteers, for all of whom Mechanics' Institute is deeply grateful. Chief Organizer Judit Sztaray was sensational in her organizational skills and hours of work in making sure everything ran smoothly. Thank you also to GM Alex Onischuk and Andy Schley of the US Chess College Committee, and Carol Meyer and Mike Hoffpauir from US Chess This event would also not have been possible without the support from our leadership at Mechanics' CEO Kimberly Scrafano and GM Patrick Wolff, MI Trustee and Chair of the Mechanics' Chess Committee.

The Pan-Am brought schools and cultures together through chess, as we had teams from the U.S., Mexico and Canada, as well as players representing over 20 different countries. We would like to thank WIM Ivette Garcia Morales, who streamed the event in Spanish to the Latin American audience, thereby broadening our reach. We hope that by doing so, it helps provide momentum for more schools from Latin America to participate in future events. And finally, thanks to all our special guests who joined us on the broadcast in support of this event and the Mechanics' Institute, GM Sam Shankland, IM John Donaldson, WGM Carla Heredia, IM Kostya Kavutskiy, WIM Alexey Root, FM Kyron Griffith, GM Jorge Cori, and Al Lawrence, Director of the US Chess Trust.

Here are the full results:

TENTATIVE FAIR RESULTS - Pending Fair Review

Full tentative results pending fair play review can also be found here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-2021-pan-american-intercollegiate-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-2021-pan-american-intercollegiate-championship-online)

Team Standing (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-2021-pan-american-intercollegiate-championship-online#Team) (below) – Team standing with Roster (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-2021-pan-american-intercollegiate-championship-online#teamroster) — Individual Standing in board order (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-2021-pan-american-intercollegiate-championship-online#Individual)

SwissSys Standings. 2020-21 PanAm: Open

#	Name	Rating	Team	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Total	T-US Amat.)	T-Game pnts	T-1-on-1	T-Buch. cut 1	T-Buch	Prize
1	WEBSTER UNIVERSITY TEAM A	2708	WEBSTER_A	WEBSTER	W38 [4.0]	W16 [4.0]	W9 [3.5]	W6 [2.5]	W5 [2.5]	W2 [2.5]	L4 [1.5]	W13 [2.5]	W7 [3.0]	8.0	149.25	26	100	49	53	1st Pla
2	SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY A	2689	SLU_A	SLU	W17 [4.0]	W22 [4.0]	W14 [3.5]	D4 [2.0]	W3 [3.0]	L1 [1.5]	W9 [2.5]	D6 [2.0]	W11 [3.5]	7.0	153.75	26	100	50	55	2nd Pla
3	WEBSTER UNIVERSITY TEAM B	2660	WEBSTER_B	WEBSTER	W33 [4.0]	W21 [4.0]	W10 [3.0]	L5 [1.0]	L2 [1.0]	W38 [4.0]	W16 [4.0]	D4 [2.0]	W6 [2.5]	6.5	135.5	25.5	99	47	51	3rd Pla
4	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE V	2656	UTRGV_A	UTRGV	W35 [4.0]	W27 [2.5]	W11 [3.0]	D2 [2.0]	D6 [2.0]	D13 [2.0]	W1 [2.5]	D3 [2.0]	D8 [2.0]	6.5	129.25	22	100	49.5	54	4th Pla
5	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY A	2647	TTU_A	TTU	X--- [4.0]	W19 [3.0]	W12 [4.0]	W3 [3.0]	L1 [1.5]	D8 [2.0]	L13 [1.0]	W22 [2.5]	W15 [3.0]	6.5	117	24	100	47.5	52.5	5th Pla
6	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI A	2656	MIZZOU_A	MIZZOU	W31 [4.0]	W23 [4.0]	W7 [2.5]	L1 [1.5]	D4 [2.0]	W18 [3.0]	W8 [3.0]	D2 [2.0]	L3 [1.5]	6.0	134.75	23.5	100	50	54.5	
7	UC BERKELEY TEAM A	2480	CAL_A	UCB	W36 [4.0]	W39 [4.0]	L6 [1.5]	W13 [3.5]	L9 [1.5]	W19 [4.0]	W18 [2.5]	W12 [2.5]	L1 [1.0]	6.0	126.75	24.5	98	46	50	
	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT				L56	W45	W15	W27	W11	D5	L6	W16	D4							

8	DALLAS TE	2522	UTD_A	UTDT	[1.0]	[3.0]	[3.5]	[3.0]	[4.0]	[2.0]	[1.0]	[4.0]	[2.0]	6.0	125.25	23.5	99	44.5	47	
9	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE V	2507	UTRGV_B	UTRGV	W34 [4.0]	W25 [4.0]	L1 [0.5]	W23 [4.0]	W7 [2.5]	W14 [2.5]	L2 [1.5]	L11 [1.5]	W13 [2.5]	6.0	124	23	99	48	52.5	
10	PRINCETON UNIVERSITY A	2417	PRINCETON_A	PRINCETON	W49 [4.0]	W29 [3.5]	L3 [1.0]	W19 [3.0]	L14 [1.5]	W20 [2.5]	L11 [1.5]	W25 [4.0]	W18 [3.5]	6.0	118.5	24.5	99	42.5	46	
11	UC BERKELEY TEAM B	2366	CAL_B	UCB	W26 [4.0]	W28 [3.0]	L4 [1.0]	W25 [3.0]	L8 [0.0]	W37 [3.0]	W10 [2.5]	W9 [2.5]	L2 [0.5]	6.0	102	19.5	99	46	50.5	
12	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO A	2388	UCHICAGO_A	CHICAGO	X--- [4.0]	W37 [4.0]	L5 [0.0]	W32 [4.0]	L13 [1.0]	W25 [3.5]	W14 [3.0]	L7 [1.5]	W19 [3.0]	6.0	99.5	24	99	43	47.5	
13	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS TE	2534	UTD_C	UTDT	W30 [4.0]	W20 [3.0]	W18 [2.5]	L7 [0.5]	W12 [3.0]	D4 [2.0]	W5 [3.0]	L1 [1.5]	L9 [1.5]	5.5	120	21	100	49	53.5	
14	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS TE	2526	UTD_B	UTDT	W24 [2.5]	W32 [3.5]	L2 [0.5]	W21 [3.5]	W10 [2.5]	L9 [1.5]	L12 [1.0]	D27 [2.0]	W31 [3.5]	5.5	104	20.5	100	44	48.5	
15	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AUSTIN	2324	UTAUSTIN		W44 [4.0]	W56 [4.0]	L8 [0.5]	D28 [2.0]	L18 [1.5]	W31 [3.0]	W21 [3.0]	W23 [3.0]	L5 [1.0]	5.5	95.5	22	100	40.5	43	
16	STANFORD UNIVERSITY	2239	STANFORD		W40 [4.0]	L1 [0.0]	D31 [2.0]	W26 [3.0]	W42 [3.0]	W22 [3.0]	L3 [0.0]	L8 [0.0]	W27 [3.5]	5.5	82.75	18.5	100	43.5	47.5	
17	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TEAM A	1888	UW_A	WASHINGTON	L2 [0.0]	D46 [2.0]	W45 [4.0]	D20 [2.0]	L19 [1.5]	W48 [2.5]	W32 [2.5]	D21 [2.0]	W39 [2.5]	5.5	80.5	19	100	38	41.5	1st Pla Div III
18	SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY B	2345	SLU_B	SLU	W42 [4.0]	W41 [4.0]	L13 [1.5]	W37 [3.0]	W15 [2.5]	L6 [1.0]	L7 [1.5]	W24 [4.0]	L10 [0.5]	5.0	105.5	22	100	42.5	46.5	
19	YALE UNIVERSITY	2199	YALE		W43 [4.0]	L5 [1.0]	W35 [4.0]	L10 [1.0]	W17 [2.5]	L7 [0.0]	W37 [3.0]	W41 [2.5]	L12 [1.0]	5.0	89.75	19	100	43	47	1st Pla Div II
20	CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLO	2186	CALTECH_A	CALTECH	W46 [3.0]	L13 [1.0]	D24 [2.0]	D17 [2.0]	W36 [2.5]	L10 [1.5]	L41 [0.5]	W42 [4.0]	W38 [3.0]	5.0	87.25	19.5	100	38.5	42	Top Fo Year Sr College
21	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO A	2200	TORONTO_A	TORONTO	W53 [4.0]	L3 [0.0]	W30 [3.0]	L14 [0.5]	W41 [4.0]	W40 [3.5]	L15 [1.0]	D17 [2.0]	D22 [2.0]	5.0	84.75	20	100	40.5	43.5	1st Internat
22	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI WOMEN'S T	2308	MIZZOU_WOMEN	MIZZOU	W47 [3.5]	L2 [0.0]	W33 [2.5]	D38 [2.0]	W28 [2.5]	L16 [1.0]	W30 [3.0]	L5 [1.5]	D21 [2.0]	5.0	81.5	18	100	41.5	45	1st Women
23	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS TE	2215	UTD_D	UTDT	W55 [3.0]	L6 [0.0]	W41 [4.0]	L9 [0.0]	W33 [3.5]	D30 [2.0]	W29 [3.5]	L15 [1.0]	D24 [2.0]	5.0	81	19	100	40	43	
24	PRINCETON UNIVERSITY B	1898	PRINCETON_B	PRINCETON	L14 [1.5]	W53 [3.5]	D20 [2.0]	L29 [1.0]	W49 [3.0]	W28 [3.0]	W38 [2.5]	L18 [0.0]	D23 [2.0]	5.0	77.25	18.5	99	37	40	
25	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY B TEAM	2094	TTU_B	TTU	W51 [3.5]	L9 [0.0]	W36 [4.0]	L11 [1.0]	W26 [3.0]	L12 [0.5]	W42 [3.0]	L10 [0.0]	W41 [2.5]	5.0	76.25	17.5	100	41.5	45	
26	GEORGIA TECH TEAM B	1808	GATECH_B	GATECH	L11 [0.0]	W59 [4.0]	W39 [2.5]	L16 [1.0]	L25 [1.0]	L33 [0.5]	W54 [3.5]	W53 [2.5]	W49 [3.0]	5.0	55.25	18	99	34.5	35.5	
27	GEORGIA TECH TEAM A	2191	GATECH_A	GATECH	W52 [3.0]	L4 [1.5]	W49 [4.0]	L8 [1.0]	D35 [2.0]	D42 [2.0]	W33 [4.0]	D14 [2.0]	L16 [0.5]	4.5	87.5	20	100	40	43	
28	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIE	2073	UCSD		W54 [3.0]	L11 [1.0]	W43 [3.5]	D15 [2.0]	L22 [1.5]	L24 [1.0]	W40 [2.5]	D35 [2.0]	D30 [2.0]	4.5	80.5	18.5	100	38.5	41.5	
29	UC BERKELEY TEAM C	2093	CAL_C	UCB	W57 [4.0]	L10 [0.5]	D42 [2.0]	W24 [3.0]	L38 [1.5]	W35 [3.5]	L23 [0.5]	D34 [2.0]	D33 [2.0]	4.5	78.25	19	100	37.5	40	
30	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO B	1924	UCHICAGO_B	CHICAGO	L13 [0.0]	W55 [4.0]	L21 [1.0]	W43 [3.5]	W32 [2.5]	D23 [2.0]	L22 [1.0]	D38 [2.0]	D28 [2.0]	4.5	74.25	18	100	37.5	40.5	
31	UC BERKELEY TEAM D	1983	CAL_D	UCB	L6 [0.0]	W47 [3.0]	D16 [2.0]	L42 [1.5]	W34 [2.5]	L15 [1.0]	W36 [3.0]	W43 [3.0]	L14 [0.5]	4.5	72.5	16.5	100	39.5	43	
32	HARVARD UNIVERSITY	2124	HARVARD		W48 [4.0]	L14 [0.5]	W56 [3.0]	L12 [0.0]	L30 [1.5]	W46 [2.5]	L17 [1.5]	W40 [3.0]	D35 [2.0]	4.5	69	18	99	37	39.5	
33	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY	1994	RUTGERS		L3 [0.0]	W48 [3.0]	L22 [1.5]	W50 [3.0]	L23 [0.5]	W26 [3.5]	L27 [0.0]	W52 [3.5]	D29 [2.0]	4.5	68	17	99	37.5	40.5	
34	UNIVERSIDAD DE CHIHUAHUA	1893	CHIHUAHUA		L9 [0.0]	L43 [1.5]	D46 [2.0]	W58 [4.0]	L31 [1.5]	W55 [4.0]	W56 [3.0]	D29 [2.0]	D37 [2.0]	4.5	63.25	20	99	32.5	34	
35	ILLINOIS TECH TEAM	1942	ILTECH		L4 [0.0]	W52 [2.0]	L19 [0.0]	W48 [4.0]	D27 [2.0]	L29 [0.5]	W46 [3.0]	D28 [2.0]	D32 [2.0]	4.5	59.75	15.5	99	36.5	39.5	
	UNIVERSIDAD																			

36	DE GUANAJUATO	1849	GUANAJUATO		L7 [0.0]	W50 [2.5]	L25 [0.0]	W52 [3.0]	L20 [1.5]	D47 [2.0]	L31 [1.0]	W51 [3.5]	W46 [3.0]	4.5	59.5	16.5	99	34.5	37.5	
37	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE V	2076	UTRGV_WOMEN	UTRGV	W59 [4.0]	L12 [0.0]	W40 [3.0]	L18 [1.0]	W56 [3.0]	L11 [1.0]	L19 [1.0]	W47 [3.0]	D34 [2.0]	4.5	59	18	100	36.5	37.5	
38	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANG	2012	UCLA		L1 [0.0]	W44 [3.0]	W57 [4.0]	D22 [2.0]	W29 [2.5]	L3 [0.0]	L24 [1.5]	D30 [2.0]	L20 [1.0]	4.0	64.75	16	100	42.5	45	
39	UNIVERSITY OF IOWA TEAM A	2094	UIOWA_A	IOWA	W50 [4.0]	L7 [0.0]	L26 [1.5]	W44 [2.5]	L40 [1.0]	D56 [2.0]	D47 [2.0]	W48 [2.5]	L17 [1.5]	4.0	64.5	17	99	35	37.5	
40	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TWIN-CIT	1758	UMINN_TW		L16 [0.0]	W54 [4.0]	L37 [1.0]	W57 [4.0]	W39 [3.0]	L21 [0.5]	L28 [1.5]	L32 [1.0]	W53 [2.5]	4.0	59.75	17.5	100	34	36.5	1st Pla Div IV
41	UC BERKELEY TEAM E	1978	CAL_E	UCB	W58 [4.0]	L18 [0.0]	L23 [0.0]	W47 [2.5]	L21 [0.0]	W54 [4.0]	W20 [3.5]	L19 [1.5]	L25 [1.5]	4.0	59.25	17	100	36.5	38	
42	WEBSTER UNIVERSITY TEAM C	1777	WEBSTER_C	WEBSTER	L18 [0.0]	W58 [4.0]	D29 [2.0]	W31 [2.5]	L16 [1.0]	D27 [2.0]	L25 [1.0]	L20 [0.0]	W52 [3.0]	4.0	54.75	15.5	100	37	38.5	
43	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO B	1556	TORONTO_B	TORONTO	L19 [0.0]	W34 [2.5]	L28 [0.5]	L30 [0.5]	D50 [2.0]	W58 [4.0]	W49 [2.5]	L31 [1.0]	D44 [2.0]	4.0	50	15	100	34	35.5	1st Pla Div V
44	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	1750	UVIRGINIA		L15 [0.0]	L38 [1.0]	W51 [3.0]	L39 [1.5]	L46 [0.0]	D50 [2.0]	B--- [4.0]	W55 [3.0]	D43 [2.0]	4.0	44.5	16.5	98	31.5	34.5	
45	HOWARD UNIVERSITY CHESS CLUB	825	HOWARD		B--- [4.0]	L8 [1.0]	L17 [0.0]	L56 [0.0]	L52 [1.0]	W59 [3.0]	L48 [0.0]	W58 [3.0]	W57 [3.5]	4.0	25.25	15.5	100	29.5	30.5	1st Pla Div VI Bigget Team U
46	UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWA	1417	UWI_WW		L20 [1.0]	D17 [2.0]	D34 [2.0]	D49 [2.0]	W44 [4.0]	L32 [1.5]	L35 [1.0]	B--- [4.0]	L36 [1.0]	3.5	63.75	18.5	100	36.5	40	
47	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TEAM B	1746	UW_B	WASHINGTON	L22 [0.5]	L31 [1.0]	W53 [2.5]	L41 [1.5]	W51 [4.0]	D36 [2.0]	D39 [2.0]	L37 [1.0]	D50 [2.0]	3.5	63	16.5	100	33.5	36.5	
48	CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLO	1523	CALTECH_B	CALTECH	L32 [0.0]	L33 [1.0]	W59 [4.0]	L35 [0.0]	W57 [4.0]	L17 [1.5]	W45 [4.0]	L39 [1.5]	D51 [2.0]	3.5	55.75	18	100	33	34	
49	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNI	1876	USC		L10 [0.0]	W51 [3.0]	L27 [0.0]	D46 [2.0]	L24 [1.0]	W52 [2.5]	L43 [1.5]	W56 [3.0]	L26 [1.0]	3.5	48.5	14	100	34.5	37	
50	SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY C	1242	SLU_C	SLU	L39 [0.0]	L36 [1.5]	B--- [4.0]	L33 [1.0]	D43 [2.0]	D44 [2.0]	L52 [1.5]	W54 [2.5]	D47 [2.0]	3.5	46.25	16.5	100	31.5	34.5	1st Pla Mixed Double
51	REED COLLEGE	1370	REED		L25 [0.5]	L49 [1.0]	L44 [1.0]	B--- [4.0]	L47 [0.0]	W57 [4.0]	W59 [4.0]	L36 [0.5]	D48 [2.0]	3.5	33.25	17	98	30	31	
52	OBERLIN COLLEGE	1495	OBERLIN		L27 [1.0]	L35 [1.0]	W54 [4.0]	L36 [1.0]	W45 [3.0]	L49 [1.5]	W50 [2.5]	L33 [0.5]	L42 [1.0]	3.0	57.75	15.5	100	33	36	
53	UNIVERSITY OF UTAH	1455	UUTAH		L21 [0.0]	L24 [0.5]	L47 [1.5]	W55 [3.0]	L54 [1.0]	B--- [4.0]	W58 [2.5]	L26 [1.5]	L40 [1.5]	3.0	37	15.5	99	32	33.5	
54	CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLO	unr.	CALTECH_C	CALTECH	L28 [1.0]	L40 [0.0]	L52 [0.0]	W59 [4.0]	W53 [3.0]	L41 [0.0]	L26 [0.5]	L50 [1.5]	W58 [3.0]	3.0	29.75	13	99	28.5	29.5	
55	SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY	1581	SACREDHEART		L23 [1.0]	L30 [0.0]	D58 [2.0]	L53 [1.0]	B--- [4.0]	L34 [0.0]	D57 [2.0]	L44 [1.0]	W56 [3.0]	3.0	27.5	14	99	29.5	31	
56	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY C TEAM	1823	TTU_C	TTU	W8 [3.0]	L15 [0.0]	L32 [1.0]	W45 [4.0]	L37 [1.0]	D39 [2.0]	L34 [1.0]	L49 [1.0]	L55 [1.0]	2.5	62	14	100	36.5	39.5	
57	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY D TEAM	1208	TTU_D	TTU	L29 [0.0]	B--- [4.0]	L38 [0.0]	L40 [0.0]	L48 [0.0]	L51 [0.0]	D55 [2.0]	W59 [4.0]	L45 [0.5]	2.5	12	10.5	100	31	32	
58	UNIVERSITY OF IOWA TEAM B	unr.	UIOWA_B	IOWA	L41 [0.0]	L42 [0.0]	D55 [2.0]	L34 [0.0]	W59 [2.5]	L43 [0.0]	L53 [1.5]	L45 [1.0]	L54 [1.0]	1.5	20	8	100	29.5	30.5	
59	UNIVERSIDAD TECNOLOGICA DEL SURO	unr.	TECH_GUANAJ		L37 [0.0]	L26 [0.0]	L48 [0.0]	L54 [0.0]	L58 [1.5]	L45 [1.0]	L51 [0.0]	L57 [0.0]	B--- [4.0]	1.0	6.25	6.5	100	27.5	28.5	

Watch the broadcasts of all 9 rounds including the closing award ceremony on our YouTube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos)

Here are some games from the Pan-Am, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

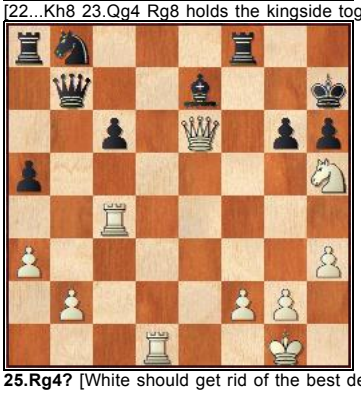
(1) James Soetedjo (jimjimmo) (1776) - IM Olga Badelka (Baronessa08) (2076) [E10]

2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com, 04.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 [5.e3 is a safe way to regain the pawn on c4 and avoid complications] **5...b5 6.Nxb5 Nxe4 7.Bxc4 Bb4+ 8.Bd2?!** White would do better to move the king (f1 or e2}. Blocking with the bishop lets Black get the bishop pair and win the d-pawn for insufficient compensation. **8...Nxd2 9.Nxd2 c6 10.Nc3 Qxd4 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qe2 a5** [develpment with 12...Nd7 should work well] **13.Nf3 Qg4** [13...Qa7 would help to get in ...Ba6 with more control on the queenside] **14.h3 Qh5 15.Ne4 Ba6 16.a3 Be7 17.Rac1 h6 18.Rfd1** Now White has enough compensation for the pawn with the development and queenside play. **18...Bb5?!** [18...Bxc4 19.Rxc4 Ra7] **19.Ng3! Bxc4 20.Rxc4 Qb5 21.Nd4?!** This looks threatening but blocks the path of the rook on c4. White could get a tremendous attack with [21.a4 Qa6 22.Nh5 g6 23.Ne5! and all the white pieces are headed toward the black king] **21...Qb7 22.Nh5 g6?**

[22...Kh8 23.Qg4 Rg8 holds the kingside together] **23.Nxe6! fxe6 24.Qxe6+ Kh7**



25.Rg4? [White should get rid of the best defender- the rook on f8. 25.Rf4! gxh5 26.Rf7+ Rxf7 27.Qxf7+ Kh8 28.Rd8+ Bxd8 29.Qxb7 would be an easy win] **25...Bg5!** now Black is surviving **26.h4** [26.Rxg5 hxg5 27.Nf6+ Rxf6 28.Qxf6 Qg7 29.Qd8 Qe5 30.Rd6 Qe1+ 31.Kh2 Qe5+ should be a draw, as 32.g3? Ra7! is very good for Black] **26...Qf7 27.Qxf7+ Rxf7 28.hxg5 gxh5 29.g6+?** This natural move makes the endgame worse for White. Keeping the rooks active with [29.Rh4 Kg6 *(29...hxg5 30.Rxh5+ Kg6 31.Rh8)* 30.gxh6 is about even] **29...Kg7 30.Rg3?!** [30.Re4!] **30...Rd7! 31.Re1 Raa7** Now the extra knight will decide the game. The white pawn on g6 may look impressive but it's going nowhere. **32.f4 Re7 33.Rf1 Nd7 34.f5 Nf6 35.Rc3 Ra6 36.Rc5 Re2 37.Rfc1 Ng4 38.g3 Rb6 39.Rxc6 Rbxb2**

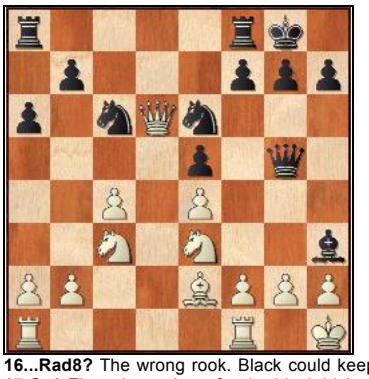
40.Rc7+ Kf6 41.R1c6+ Kg5 White can't defend his king. **42.g7 Rg2+ 43.Kf1 Rbf2+ 44.Ke1 Rg1#** A terrific battle! **0-1**

(2) WIM Ashritha Eswaran (goldenpuppy) (2270) - IM Felix Jose Ynojosa Aponte (FelixJoseYnojosa) (2441) [B32]

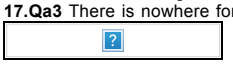
2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com, 06.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.c4 Be7 7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3 Nf6 9.Be2 Nd7 10.0-0 Nc5 11.Nc2 0-0 12.Be3 White has gotten an edge in this opening as the backward pawn on d6 leaves the d5 square weak, Black decides to sacrifice a pawn for activity. **12...Bg5 13.Bxg5 Qxg5 14.Qxd6 Bh3 15.Ne3 Ne6 16.Kh1!**



16...Rad8? The wrong rook. Black could keep chances with [16...Rfd8 17.Qa3 b5! which tactically saves the piece. White could still keep the advantage with 18.Ncd5 Nf4 19.gxh3 Nxe2 20.Nf5 **17.Qa3** There is nowhere for the black bishop on h3 to go. **17...Bxg2+ 18.Nxg2 Ncd4 19.Rad1 f5 20.f4 exf4 21.exf5 Qxf5 22.Nd5! Kh8 23.Bf3 b5**



24.Ngxf4! Nxf4 25.Rxd4 Qh3 26.Rdd1 Nh5 27.Bg2 White has successfully negotiated the complications and is a clear piece up. The rest needs no comment. **27...Qxa3 28.bxa3 bxc4 29.Rxf8+ Rxf8 30.Rc1 g6 31.Rxc4 Rb8 32.Bf3 Ng7 33.Ra4 Nf5 34.Be4 Nh4 35.Rxa6 Kg7 36.Rb6 Rc8 37.Kg1 h5 38.a4 Rc4 39.Rb4 Rc1+ 40.Kf2 Ra1 41.Rb2 Rc1 42.a5 Rc5 43.a6 Ra5 44.Rb7+ Kh6 45.a7 Rxa2+ 46.Ke3 Kg5 47.Nc7 1-0**

(3) Koosha Jaferian (Mrkooshaj) (2225) - Samuel Campbell (SamCamIAm) (1435) [A06]

2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com, 05.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Bg4 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.d4 e6 5.e3 Nf6 6.Be2 Bb4+ 7.c3 Bd6 8.c4 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.h3 Bh5 11.Nc3 Mrkooshaj has an slight edge in this Larsen's Opening with all the central pawns and pieces in play. **11...Ne4 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Nd2 Bg6** [13...Bxe2 14.Qxe2 f5 15.f3 exf3 16.Nxf3] **14.Bh5?!** It would be better to aim for queenside play with 14. a3 and 15. b4 **14...f5 15.Bxg6 hxg6 16.f4?!** This gets into trouble [16.Qe2 e5 17.c5 Bf8 18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Bxe5 Rxe5 20.b4 keeps even chances] **16...Nb4** [16...g5! uses the doubled pawn to leverage the pawn chain] **17.Bc3 Nd3 18.Nf3 c5 19.Ne1?**

[19.g3 would defend better. Now SamCamIAm makes a clever sequence to leave the white knight on the passive e1 square.] **19...cxd4! 20.Bxd4 e5! 21.fxe5 Nxe5 22.Qe2 Qc7?!** [22...Qh4 23.Qf2 Qh5 24.c5 Ng4! 25.Qe2 Bh2+ 26.Kh1 Qh4 would be a decisive attack using the kingside dark squares] **23.Rd1 Rad8 24.Qb2 Kf7?**

Allowing a tactic to win a piece. [24...Nc6 is still clearly better for Black.] **25.c5! Bxc5** [25...Bf8 26.Bxe5 is the same without getting the pawns] **26.Bxe5 Bxe3+ 27.Kh1 Rxe5 28.Rxd8 Bc1** [28...Qxd8 29.Qxe5] **29.Qd4** The extra piece and attack on the black king make it easy to convert the material advantage. **29...Be3 30.Rd7+** Black resigned. White has an easily won ending after 30...Ke6 31, Rxc7 Bxd4 32. Rxg7 **1-0**

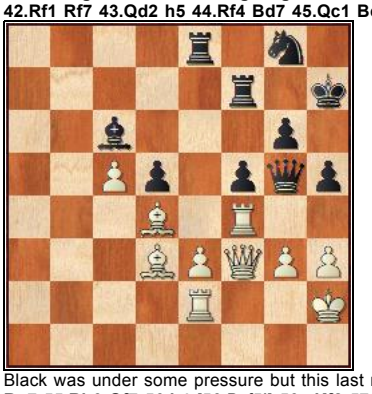
(4) Gaspar Garcia Morales (Kaspesky98) (2137) - NM Kireet Panuganti (kkpanu9) (2123) [E00]

2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com, 06.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.d4 Bb4 4.Qc2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Qxc3 0-0 8.e3 Qe7 9.b4 e5 10.d5 [White should consider 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Bb2 which keeps the game open for the bishops] **10...Nb8 11.Bb2 c6 12.dxc6 bxc6?!** The black center is somewhat soft here. Recapturing with the knight on c6 is more solid. **13.Be2** [13.c5! dxc5 14.Nxe5] **13...Ne4 14.Qb3 Nd7 15.0-0 Bb7 16.Rad1 Rad8 17.Nd2 f5?**

18.f3? [18.Nxe4 fxe4 19.Rxd6! Qxd6? 20.c5+] **18...Nxd2 19.Rxd2 Nf6 20.Rfd1** White still has an excellent setup. **20...Rd7 21.c5+** this looks a little rushed. Now the black d-pawn is stronger. **21...d5 22.Qc3 Re8 23.Bf1 Kh8 24.Qc2 Qe6 25.a4 a6 26.b5 axb5 27.axb5 cxb5 28.Bxb5 Bc6 29.Bf1 Rb7** Black is ok now even though white's dark-squared bishop pressures the long diagonal. **30.Kh1 Reb8 31.Ba1 h6 32.Qc3 Nd7** [32...d4! 33.exd4 Nd5 34.Qc1 e4 would leave Black terrific compensation for the pawn. All the black pieces would be extremely active and the white bishop on a1 is blocked from participating on the kingside.] **33.f4 Rb3 34.Qc1 Qe7 35.Rc2?! Ra8?!** [35...Rb1! 36.Qxb1 Rxb1 37.Rxb1 d4! leaves Black with great activity] **36.fxe5 Nxe5 37.Bd4 Ng4 38.Bd3 Qh4 39.g3 Qg5 40.Re2 Re8** [40...Raa3 is active. Black goes on the defensive the next moves and allows White to slowly take over with the powerful bishops] **41.Kg1 Rb7 42.Rf1 Rf7 43.Qd2 h5 44.Rf4 Bd7 45.Qc1 Bc6 46.Qf1 Nh6 47.Qf3 Kh7 48.h3 g6 49.Kh2 Ng8?**



Black was under some pressure but this last move allows White the decisive break to unleashed the power of his bishop pair. **50.g4! hxg4 51.Rxg4! Qe7 52.Rf4 Nf6 53.Rh4+ Kg8 54.Rg2 Rg7 55.Rh6 Qf7 56.h4** [56.Bxf5!] **56...Kf8 57.Rh8+ Ke7 58.Rxe8+ Kxe8 59.Qf4 Kf8 60.Rb2 Kg8 61.Qg5 Nh7** White is winning in any case. If [61...Ng4+ 62.Kg3] **62.Rb8+ Be8 63.Qd8** That's it. White wins a piece. **63...Qc7+ 64.Qxc7 Rxc7 65.Rxe8+ Kf7 66.Ra8 Nf6 67.Kg3 Ke6 68.Ra6+ Ke7 69.Rxf6 Rc8 70.Rxg6 Rf8 71.h5 Kd7 72.h6 Ra8 73.h7 1-0**

(5) GM Evgeny Shtembuliak (Shtembuliak) (1819) - GM Lazaro Bruzon Batista (GMLazaroBruzon) (2627) [A22]

2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com, 05.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e3 Bb4 5.Qc2 Bxc3 6.bxc3 Shtembuliak takes doubled pawns to discourage Black's 6...e4. **6...d6 7.d3 0-0 8.Be2 h6 9.0-0 Ne7!? 10.e4 Ng6** Black is fully equal, having proceeded with a very logical plan of development with knights on the kingside and the c-pawn now ready to join the battle for central squares. **11.Ne1 c6 12.f4?!** This allows Black to trade away the one plus White has in the position - the bishop pair. **12...exf4 13.Bxf4 Nxf4 14.Rxf4 Re8 15.Qd2 d5!** opening the game right away keeps White a little off-balance. **16.exd5 cxd5 17.Nc2 dxc4 18.Rxc4**

18...Ne4 19.Qe1 Qb6+ 20.Nd4 Nd6 21.Rb4 Qc5 22.Kh1 Bd7 23.Qd2 Rac8 24.Rc1 b6 Black has more solid and compact pawn structure. He has only a slight edge, but that's enough for White to suffer against such a strong grandmaster as Bruzon Batista. **25.Bf3 Qg5 26.Qxg5 hxg5** In the endgame the black kingside pawns are mobile and will restrict the white pieces. **27.c4 g4 28.Bd5 g6 29.Kg1 Kg7 30.Kf2 f5 31.a4 Re5 32.Ra1 f4 33.a5 b5 34.a6 Rce8 35.Rb2 bxc4 36.dxc4 Re3 37.c5** [37.Rb7 White could try the exchange sacrifice - 37...Nxb7 38.axb7 g3+ 39.hxg3 fxg3+ 40.Kf1 a5 this is sharp though Black is still better] **37...Ne4+?!** [37...Nf5 or; 37...g3+ 38.hxg3 fxg3+ 39.Kf1 R3e5 40.Bf3 Nc4 would keep a clear advantage for Black] **38.Bxe4 R8xe4 39.Rd1?** [White needed to try the tactical 39.Rb7! g3+ 40.hxg3 fxg3+ 41.Kf1 Rxd4 42.c6 which should hold the draw with best play] **39...g3+ 40.hxg3 fxg3+ 41.Kf1 Rh4** now the black pieces and the pawn on g3 create mating threats and White cannot defend **42.Nf3 Rh1+ 43.Ng1 Be6 44.Rc1**

44...Bc4+! 45.Rxc4 Rxg1+ 46.Kxg1 Re1# 0-1

(6) GM Aram Hakobyan (Njal28) (2496) - GM Benjamin Bok (GMBenjaminBok) (2532) [A07]

2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com, 05.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 e5 5.d3 Nc6 6.e4 dxe4 7.dxe4 Qxd1 8.Rxd1 Bg4 9.c3

White's play looks unabmbitious, allowing the queen trade into an even endging. It was around here that Benjamin Bok offered a draw, but Hakobyan refused as he likes to play the structure White has. **9...Nf6 10.Re1 0-0 11.Na3 h6 12.Nc4 Rfe8 13.a4 a6?!** [13...a5!] **14.Nfd2 Be6 15.b4 Red8 16.Bf1 b5?** This is a bad mistake, just losing a pawn. It's a little hard to figure out what Bok was thinking. **17.axb5 axb5 18.Rxa8 Rxa8 19.Na3 Na7 20.Nf3 c6?!** [20...Ne8 21.Nxb5 Nxb5 22.Bxb5 Nd6 23.Bd3 Ra2 would be some compensation for the pawn.] **21.Nxe5 Nd7 22.Nxd7 Bxd7** [22...Bxc3? 23.Re3] **23.e5 Re8 24.f4** Now White's extra pawn is strong, controlling important squares. Black needs to try a breakout though that isn't too great either. **24...f6 25.Rd1 Bf5?!** [25...Bg4 26.Rd6 fxe5 27.Be3! Nc8 28.Rxg6 Bf3 29.Bc5 keeps a clear edge for White but at least it's somewhat messy] **26.Be3 fxe5** [26...Nc8 27.Bc5 fxe5 28.Nxb5! cxb5 29.Bxb5 wins material back with an easy conversion] **27.Bxa7 Ra8 28.Nxb5 cxb5 29.Bc5 exf4 30.gxf4 Bxc3 31.Bxb5 Rb8 32.Bc4+ Kh7**

33.b5! This pawn runs down the board now. There is no good way to stop it. **33...Rc8 34.b6! Rxc5 35.b7 Rc8** [35...Rxc4 36.b8Q is a diffferent losing endging] **36.bxc8Q Bxc8 37.Rd6 Bf5 38.Bd3** The exchange ahead is a technical win. **38...Bb4 39.Rd5 Bxd3 40.Rxd3 Kg7 41.Kg2 Kf6 42.Kf3 Be7 43.Ke4 Ke6 44.Rg3 Kf7 45.Rb3 Bf6 46.Rb6 Ba1 47.h3 h5 48.Ra6 Bc3 49.Rc6 Bb2 50.f5!** Simplifying more, but to a clear win. **50...gxf5+ 51.Kxf5 h4 52.Rc7+ Kf8 53.Rh7 Bc1 54.Kg6 Kg8 55.Rxh4 1-0**

(7) Dexter Webster (chessweb101) (1805) - IM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2650) [C65]

2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com (6), 05.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 Josiah, a prominent product of the Bay Area, seems to have hung up the Sicilian for a more stable opening? No, not at all... **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 d6** The Steinitz makes more sense if White isn't playing d2-d4. [4...Bc5 is almost twice as common, but scores about the same. 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nbd2 is emerging as the most common] **5.c3 g6 6.Nbd2 Bg7 7.Nf1** The standard "coming around" maneuver in so many lines of the Ruy. **7...0-0 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4**

9...g5!?N Quite a cavalier approach here! White hasn't castled, yet Black throws his pawns forward. Stockfish 12 can't decide between this, [9...Ne7 some advantage (not much),; and 9...d5!? which could be objectively best.] **10.Bg3 Be6** [10...Ne7! makes at least as much sense now, as g6 beckons, and White's Spanish bishop is left searching for the New World.] **11.Ne3 Ne7** Better late than never.

12.h4? This just doesn't work. **12...g4 13.Nd2 c6! 14.Bc4?! d5 15.Bb3 Ng6**

16.d4? [Paradoxically 16.0-0 , thinking about a good moment for f2-f3 or f2-f4, still puts up the good fight.] **16...Nh5** [Even better is first 16...exd4! 17.cxd4 Nh5] **17.Bxe5 Bxe5! 18.dxe5 Nxe5** The knight has more to do (d3!). **19.Bc2 Qf6** [19...Nf4!] **20.g3? Rad8** [20...dxe4!] **21.exd5?! Bxd5-+ 22.Nxd5** [22.Nxg4 Qg7! *(22...Qe6 23.Ne3 Bf3)*] **22...Rxd5**

Standard King in the Center **23.Qc1** [23.0-0? Rxd2 24.Qxd2 Nf3+] **23...Rxd2! 24.Kxd2 Qxf2+** Mate with ...Rd8+. josiwales won on time (and had 23:33 on his clock; 5-second increment but still...) **0-1**

(8) GM Mateusz Bartel (Matibar) (2630) - GM Lazaro Bruzon Batista (GMLazaroBruzon) (2589) [C42]

2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com (7), 06.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 In the past Bruzon only played the Petroff for quick draws; if he hoped for a peaceful early game he will be disappointed. **3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3** For many decades what you played to avoid Theory and imbalance the game, until the 1990s and hundreds of games when it became New Theory. **5...Nf6** A Bruzon specialty; not as principled as the more common move (giving White doubled pawns and saving time), but still solid. [5...Nxc3 6.dxc3 First seen in Showalter,J-Halprin,A Vienna 1898 (1-0, 40)] **6.d4 Be7 7.h3** [7.Bd3 0-0 8.h3 Nbd7 9.0-0 Re8 10.Bg5 1/2-1/2 (10) Quesada Perez,Y (2541)-Bruzon Batista,L (2620) Havana 2007(10.Re1 a6 11.a4 b6 12.Bf4 Bb7 13.d5 Bf8 *(13...g6 14.Bc4 Bf8 15.Qd2 Rxe1+ 16.Rxe1 Bg7 17.Nd4 Kh8 18.Bh6 Qf8 19.Bxg7+ Kxg7* 1/2-1/2 (70) Supi,L (2572)-Bruzon Batista,L (2644) chess24.com INT 2020*)* 14.Rxe8 Qxe8 15.Qd2 Nc5 16.Re1 Qd7 17.Bg5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Bxh7+ Kxh7 20.Qxd5 Re8 21.Rxe8 Qxe8 and Black even went on to win: 0-1 (51) Supi,L (2572)-Bruzon Batista,L (2644) chess24.com INT 2020) ; 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bf4 a6 9.Qd2 Bf5 10.0-0-0 Nbd7 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Nb6 13.d5 Qd7 14.b3 0-0-0 1/2-1/2 (101) Sethuraman,S (2673)-Bruzon Batista,L (2653) Saint Louis 2018] **7...0-0 8.Be3 a6N**

And it's a new position. **9.g4!** Now it's definitely a new position! White commits his pawn but not much else. **9...d5 10.Qd3!?** Still nothing is for certain, except that White is in full aggression mode. But these moves cost White a lot on the clock. **10...Nc6** [Stockfish 12 prefers 10...c6 intending ...Nbd7, ...Re8, .. .Nf8, regrouping a la the Queen's Gambit.] **11.a3 Re8 12.Ne5**

White: 13:11 Black: 16:48 **12...Bd6** Bruzon took a huge chunk of his time on this move! It could well have been some external factor like a loss of connection. In any case, now he's got the clock to worry about as well. **13.f4**

Is it clear yet what White is up to? In the style of Botvinnik and later Korchnoi, he is pushing forward more for space than an actual attack. **13...Ne7 14.Bg2** And this cost White some significant time. [14.Be2; 14.Qd2!? for a "normal" development Bd3] **14...c6 15.0-0** White: 8:50 Black: 2:59. **15...Nd7?!** [Enough already. Black could make it a fight: 15...h5!? but 16.Bf3! *(16.g5 Nh7 17.f5 Bxe5 18.dxe5 d4!)* 16...hxg4 17.hxg4 Ng6!? *(17...Bxe5 18.fxe5 Nxg4 19.Bg5+/=* is still turning out uncomfortably.*)* 18.g5 Bxe5 19.fxe5 Ng4 20.Bd2 c5! saves the knight by taking out e5.] **16.Ne2** White brings around reinforcements (and frees the c-pawn to participate) . But two minutes! **16...Qc7?!** [16...a5 thinks about ...b6 and . ..Ba6 17.c4!?] **17.Rae1** Sometimes one gets caught up in the Grand Plan and forgets other possibilities. [Both 17.c4!?; and 17.Nxd7!? Bxd7 18.f5 could well be stronger.] **17...f6**

18.c4!? Ultimately a pawn sacrifice for just sufficient compensation as Black is still undeveloped. [But 18.Nxd7 Bxd7 19.f5 is again a simple advantage.] **18...fxe5** The calculations are costing Black a lot of time -- he's down under 40 seconds now. **19.fxe5 Nxe5 20.dxe5 Bxe5 21.Nf4**

21...d4?! Impatient, but Black is still under pressure even after White wins the pawn back. [21...Bd7 22.cxd5 Kh8 *(22...cxd5 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24.Qxd5+ Be6 25.Qxb7 Qxb7 26.Bxb7 Rab8 27.Bc6 Rec8 28.Bc5!?+/=)* ; 21...Kh8] **22.Bd2 Bd7** Finally! [22...c5? 23.Qe2 is horrible.] **23.c5** [23.Be4!] **23...Kh8**

24.Ba5!? Tossing some confusion Black's way in his time trouble. [24.Nh5?! Ng6! sees Black getting organized, when White's porous kingside starts to matter.] **24...Qxa5?**

[24...Qb8! was cool, "undeveloping" for a change but keeping the balance.] **25.Rxe5** Suddenly and finally, White's preponderance of forces on the kingside appear to matter. **25...Ng8?!** [25...Nd5!? 26.Rh5 Nf6 27.b4 Qb5 28.Qxd4 seems to win as well, but with more complication. 28...Be6 29.Nxe6 Nxh5 30.Nc7 Ng3 31.Qd6 catches Black out.] **26.Qxd4?** Over a minute to lose his way somewhat. [26.Rg5! (actually threatening 27.Rxg7!) 26...Re7 27.Rh5! Nh6 *(27...Nf6? 28.Ng6+ Kg8 29.Nxe7+)* 28.Qxd4 is mundane destruction.; 26.Rh5 Nf6 27.b4 is still good, too but not as.] **26...Rxe5 27.Qxe5 Re8** Black completes development! White has a solid advantage still, in space and the still slightly awkward minor pieces. **28.Qd4 Qc7** [28...Qd8 29.b4 Qe7] **29.Nh5 Bc8** [29...Re7? 30.Nxg7 Qe5 31.Qxe5 Rxe5 32.Rf7 Re7 33.Rxe7 Nxe7 34.Nh5 is a happy ending for White.] **30.b4** 37 seconds vs. 37 seconds. May the faster bullet win. **30...Qe7 31.Rf2** [31.Ng3!?] **31...Rf8 32.Rxf8 Qxf8 33.Qe5** with a domination that's hard to shake. **33...Nf6?! 34.Nxf6 gxf6 35.Qc7** 14 seconds to 36. .. **35...Qe8 36.Kf2 Qd7?!** This turns out to be a lost bishop ending into a lost pawn ending. **37.Qxd7 Bxd7 38.Ke3 Kg7 39.Kf4 h6 40.Be4 Kf7 41.Bd3 Be6 42.Bf5 Ke7 43.Bxe6 Kxe6 44.Ke4 Ke7 45.Kf5 Kf7 46.a4 Kg7 47.Ke6** [47.h4 is good, too.] **47...Kg6 48.Kd7 h5 49.Kc7 hxg4 50.hxg4 Kg5 51.Kxb7 Kxg4 52.b5** Bartel maintained remarkable control and sustain to take a point from Bruzon and the eventual winners, Webster A. [Perhaps he didn't notice that after 52.Kxc6 he queens with check -- but as played it's won as well.] **1-0**

(9) GM Angel Arribas Lopez (FatUpss) (2306) - GM Aram Hakobyan (Njal28) (2489) [B23]

2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com (6), 05.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Tiviakov's line, creating some unusual balance problems for both sides. Unlike the Rossolimo Variation, White has the option to play f2-f4 before developing the king knight still. [3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Ne2 a6 8.Bd3 d5 1-0 (38) McDonald,N (2395)-Gavriel,T (2190) London 1993] **3...Nd4!** The only serious challenge. **4.Nf3 a6** [4...Nxb5?! 5.Nxb5 leaves White with a development advantage.] **5.Bd3** A strange looking but popular retreat. It avoids losing time and keeps e2 open for a knight. [5.Bc4 b5 6.Bd5 Rb8 7.Nxd4 cxd4 8.Ne2 Nf6! is fine.] **5...g6 6.Nxd4** [6.Rb1!? was a confounding move in Firouzja-Cornette (draw) and then two Safarli games (1½-½) in 2019.] **6...cxd4 7.Ne2 d5!? 8.e5 Bg7** [8...f6!? 9.exf6?! *(9.f4 fxe5 10.fxe5 Bg7 11.Nxd4 Bxe5* is our game*)* 9...e5! is quite a nasty business.] **9.f4 f6 10.Nxd4?!** [10.exf6 is a better version (and the only move played so far), when White has done pretty well, admittedly in lesser games. 10...Bxf6 saving the knight for a better square 11.c3 was the game between the strongest players: 11...Bf5 12.Bxf5 gxf5 13.Nxd4 Qd7 14.Qh5+ Kd8 15.Nxf5 1-0 (38) McDonald,N (2395)-Gavriel,T (2190) London 1993] **10...fxe5 11.fxe5 Bxe5 12.Nf3 Bg4!?**

[Kotronias in his Anti-Sicilian book gives 12...Bg7 ; Hakobyan's move give White a chance to make an innocent mistake.] **13.0-0?** This really is the wrong step that eventually tumbles. [13.Be2 Qc7 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15.d4 Qe4 16.Rf1! Nf6 17.Rf4 Qe6!=/+ *(17...Qxe2+ 18.Qxe2 Bxe2 19.Kxe2 b5 20.c3* Black can grind, but should try to take advantage of White's king.*)*] **13...Qc7** [13...Qd6] **14.h3?!** Another natural move that just gets worse. [14.Qe1; 14.Be2] **14...Bxf3 15.Qxf3?!** It just gets progressively worse and worse. [15.Rxf3 Nf6 16.Be2 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 Ne4 18.c3 *(18.Qe1 Rf8)* 18...Nf2+] **15...Nf6**

White's inability to develop normally (that bishop on d3!) so frustrates White that he finally leaps off the cliff. **16.g4?!** That can't be right! [16.Qe3] **16...0-0** What did Black do that worked out so well!? White is quite busted. **17.Qe2**

17...Ne4! 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.c3

19...Bd4+ Black wins with a flourish, but in fact just [19...Qc5+ or; 19...Qb6+ 20.Qe3 Rxf1+ 21.Kxf1 Rf8+ 22.Ke2 *(22.Kg2 Qf6)* 22...Qb5+] **20.Kg2** [20.cxd4 Qg3+ 21.Qg2 Rxf1+ 22.Kxf1 Rf8+ 23.Kg1 Qe1+ 24.Kh2 Rf2] **20...Rxf1 21.Kxf1 Rf8+ 22.Ke1 Qg3+ 23.Kd1**

23...Qd3!! Without this White could struggle on. But with it, it's over. **24.Ke1** [The same is 24.Qxd3 exd3 25.Ke1 Be5] **24...Be5** A magical game. Black's dynamic play trumped any details like weak pawns. **0-1**

(10) IM Ladia Jirasek (lrjchess) (2487) - GM Aleksandr Lederman (AlexanderL) (2740) [B13]

2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com (9), 06.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 [Note this surprising transposition: 1...c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.c3 Bg7 5.cxd4 d5 6.exd5 Nf6 7.Nc3 Nxd5 8.Qb3 Nb6 9.Bb5+ 0-1 (36) Lenart,E (2170)-Feher,G (2427) Harkany 2002] **2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6** A sharp line against the Panov-Botvinnik Attack, but still considered slightly dodgy. [5...e6 is often a transposition into a Queen Pawn structure, even directly into the Nimzoindian, but there are wrinkles where White tries to get c4-c5 in.; 5...Nc6 is the "theoretical" line, with an ending after 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3 Bxf3 9.gxf3 e6 10.Qxb7 Nxd4 11.Bb5+ Nxb5 12.Qc6+! Ke7 13.Qxb5 Qd7! 14.Nxd5+ Qxd5 15.Qxd5 exd5 that has pretty much been put to rest as a winning try for White.] **6.cxd5** [6.Qb3 was the old main line.] **6...Nxd5 7.Qb3 Nb6 8.Bb5+ Bd7** It is looking like a Rubinstein's line against the Tarrasch Queen's Gambit but reversed. The extra tempo has White fine, but with no initiative. **9.Nf3 Bg7 10.Ne5** Postny gave this in notes to his own game as at least getting the two bishops, but not really an advantage. [10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Bxb5 12.Nxb5 Nc6 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bh4 g5 15.Bg3 Qd5 0-1 (36) Pruijssers,R (2543)-Postny,E (2581) Groningen 2017 CBM 182 [Postny,E]] **10...0-0 11.Nxd7 N8xd7 12.Be3 Nf6 13.0-0** [13.Rd1 (with that 1...c5 move order) 13...Nbd5 *(13...Nfd5 14.Bg5 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Qd5 16.Qxd5 Nxd5* was fine for Black until he blundered a piece: 1-0 (26) Shirazi,K (2326)-Boitel,L (2046) Sautron 2016*.)* 14.0-0 Rc8 15.Be2 Qd7 16.Bg5 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Ne4 18.Bd2 Qc7 19.Bf3 Nxc3 20.Bxc3 Qxc3 21.Qxb7 Rc7 0-1 (36) Lenart,E (2170)-Feher,G (2427) Harkany 2002] **13...Rc8 14.Rac1 Nfd5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Qxd5 Nxd5**

It so happens this is quite even, two bishop vs. an isolated pawn in a queenless position. **17.Bc4 e6 18.Rfd1 Rcd8! 19.Be2 Rd7 20.g3 Rfd8** Grandmaster grinds down IM. **21.Bf3 h6 22.b3 a6 23.Rc5 Ne7 24.Rdc1?! Nf5** Wait, what? Now White just loses a pawn. **25.Rc8 Bxd4 26.Bxd4 Nxd4 27.Kg2 Rxc8 28.Rxc8+ Kg7** No BOC here. **29.Rb8 Nxf3 30.Kxf3**

And no minor pieces at all, just a "simple" pawn up rook ending. In a thankless situation, with less time on the clock as well (9 minutes to 13), Bay Area regular Jirasek hangs on. **30...Rd2?!** Black doesn't have to hurry to trade pawns. **31.Rxb7 Rxa2 32.Ra7** [32.b4!?] **32...g5 33.b4 Ra4 34.Ke3 Kg6 35.Kf3 h5 36.h3 f6 37.Ra8 Kf5** Black can have 4 vs. 3 any time he wants, when it might be winning, it might be not. **38.g4+ hxg4+ 39.hxg4+ Ke5 40.Kg3 Kd6 41.f3 Kc7 42.Ra7+ Kc6 43.Ra8 Kb7?** The plan to create a passed a-pawn was faulty; White can draw now. **44.Rf8 Rxb4 45.Rxf6 a5 46.Rxe6 a4 47.Re5 Ka6 48.Rxg5 a3 49.Rg8 Ka7 50.Rg7+ Rb7 51.Rg5 Ka6 52.Rg6+ Rb6 53.Rg8 Ka7 54.Rg7+** The harrassment continues. **54...Rb7 55.Rg5 Ka6 56.Rg6+ Ka5 57.Rg8 Kb6** Here Lenderman used two of his last three minutes without finding a win (it's not there). **58.Ra8 Ra7 59.Rb8+** White finds a lot of only moves with two minutes left. **59...Kc7 60.Rb1 a2 61.Ra1** Finally he's been forced into this, but Black's king has a long way to go to b2. **61...Kd6 62.f4** No longer an only move, everything draws. **62...Ke6** [62...Ra3+ 63.Kf2 Kd5 64.g5 and the pawns keep Black's king busy, when White's king can run over and deal with the a-pawn.] **63.Kf3 Kf6 64.Ke4 Ra4+ 65.Ke3 Ra3+ 66.Ke4 Ra4+ 67.Ke3 Ra3+** With the 5-second incrment Black managed to bank up to 1:38 from 1:10 after that long think, but the position is a draw. A solid display of sober defense by Ladia! **1/2-1/2**

(11) GM Alexander Ipatov (TheGadfly1897) (2561) - FM Teemu Virtanen (nurmiTV) (2276) [E12]

2021 Pan Am Intercollegiate ch Chess.com (9), 06.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 No Nimzo! **3...b6** No Bogo! **4.a3** The Petrosian System, a lot sharper than it might look at first glance. **4...Bb7 5.Nc3 d5** The classic approach. **6.Bg5** Not so analyzed. [6.cxd5 Nxd5 has been worked into the ground already. *(*and *6...exd5)* ; 6.Qa4+!? right away as well] **6...Be7 7.Qa4+!?** A disruptive check before Black can castle. **7...c6** The point is [on 7...Bc6 to just retreat, when the bishop will have to lose a move going back where it was.; Similar is 7...Qd7 although White could just trade, 8.Qxd7+] **8.Bxf6!?** Similar to the Bondarevsky Queen's Gambit, we're swimming in Karpov's home waters. **8...Bxf6 9.cxd5 exd5 10.g3** The move of the best. White hopes to restrain Black's c-pawn via the pressure on d5. [10.e3 hasn't been as popular, but at lower levels it scores better; White secures the e-pawn right away (and keeps an eye on a6).] **10...0-0 11.Bg2**

11...Na6 Black's tried almost everything here. [Ipatov has experience with this line: 11...Re8 12.0-0 Na6 13.Rad1 g6 14.Rfe1 Bg7 15.e4 dxe4 16.Nxe4 Qc7 was interesting in that the c7 square was available (but where does the knight go?) 17.d5! b5 18.d6! with a clear advantage, but it slipped away: 1/2-1/2 (43) Ipatov,A (2592)-Khismatullin,D (2653) Jerusalem 2015] **12.0-0 Nc7** [12...c5!? 13.Rad1 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Nc5 is a classic strategy, played in a throwback edition of the "Friends & Opponents" matches between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union in the 50s and 60s: 15.Qc2 Rc8 16.Nf5 *(16.Ndb5!? a6 17.Bxd5!)* 16...Ne6 17.Qd2 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Rc5 19.Ne3 Ra5 *(19...Qc8!)* 20.Nxd5 *(20.c4!)* 20...Bxd5 21.Bxd5 Qe7 22.Bxe6?! Qxe6 ½-½ (32) Korchnoi,V (2611)-Gligoric,S (2447) 'USSR' vs. 'Yugoslavia' match, Moscow 2007] **13.Rad1 Re8 14.Rfe1 g6**

15.e4!? dxe4 16.Nxe4 [16.Ne5!?] **16...Bg7 17.Ne5 Ne6** [17...Nd5 certainly seems safer.] **18.Nxc6?!** [18.Bh3!?] **18...Bxc6 19.Qxc6 Rc8 20.Qa4**

20...Bxd4? This should lose, but not the way it goes! [20...Nxd4! 21.Qxa7 Re7 22.Qa6 (22.Qa4 b5 23.Qa6 *(23.Qb4?! Rd7=/+)* 23...Re6 24.Qa7 Re7) 22...Rc2 23.b4 h6= *(23...b5?? 24.Qxb5)*] **21.Qxa7?!**

White grabs the pawn but lives to be glad about it. [21.Bh3! b5 *(21...f5 22.Nc3!)* 22.Qb4! a5 23.Qxb5 is a much better pawn win. Black is close to lost.] **21...Rc2??** overlooking something!

[21...Nc5! 22.Nxc5 Rxe1+ 23.Rxe1 Rxc5= gets into a BOC (Bishops of Opposite Color) situation where neither player can make much of it, the extra pawn notwithstanding.] **22.Qa4! Rxb2** [22...Rc8 would at least continue, suffering a pawn down with tactical problems looming. But after the text they don't loom, they crash through.] **23.Rxd4! Nxd4 24.Qxe8+!** White wins a piece. **1-0**

Organizer/TD Corner

The Pan-Am TD Staff and all other the fun stuff!

Organizing an online event is, in some ways, very similar to organizing a live event, yet in many ways it's completely different. Organizers need to keep several points in mind when selecting their staff, as well as plan for multiple scenarios and variables. This little write-up gives you an insight into what went into our process when planning the event, and hopefully it gives you the confidence and eagerness to try this format out yourself in the 2021 US Amateur Team West National Championship at the end of this month!

Staffing of the event

First things first, even before bidding for the event, organizers need to decide who will be their core staff. National tournaments must have a National TD as its Chief Tournament Director, also they must be selected carefully, especially for the Pan Am, for which having an understanding of the event is paramount. Chief TD Glenn Panner was our obvious choice for this year's Pan Am since he is not only an NTD, but has worked on many Pan Am tournaments previously and has direct relationships with many of the players and coaches in the college chess community. He also has been integral part of several main online events, such as the USCF Scholastic Online even in August and the USCF Online Championship organized by SLCC. Glenn is not only knowlegable, he is calm and not afraid of a friendly confrontation with players/coaches when needed and has experience in both the OTB and Online events. Glenn played a crucial role in drafting and reviewing the new appendix for the Online Championship, and was always available pre-event to weight in and make decisions leading up to the event. The event benefitted Glenn's experience in so many ways and times one would never imagine. One of the times for example was at Round 5 pairings review session: Glenn always reviewed the tentative pairings prior to publishing, but Round 6 pairing review was a great learning experience for me to see how a professional does things. Glenn not only reviewed the pairings, but predicted possible scenarios and problems two rounds ahead, and decided accordingly, and at times actively informing the College Chess Committee about the possibilities.

The Chief TD always needs a strong and reliable Assistant Chief TD, and selecting one needs consideration regarding the event itself. The Pan Am championship is a special complicated one because it not only has to apply the standard set of US Chess rules, but also it has its own set of rules. National TD Brian Yang is an expert in chess rules, and has extensive experience applying them into TD decisions. Since he lives in the Midwest, it's not often we can have him "over" at the West Coast, so having him on staff on this online championship was the perfect opportunity to work with him.

Computer Chief TD spot went to our long time mentor, and chess software expertise National TD John McCumiskey. It has always been a pleasure working with him, and we also worked together at the 2020 US Junior Cadet Online championship, giving him valuable experience in the online tournament platform. Team events need a special set of skills, specially knowing that your software has many bugs when it comes to team settings, and John's fast and on the spot skills helped "save" the event from inaccuracies that woud have lead to disasters. Such a thing happened on more than one occasion, but the most visible one was at the start of the tournament, when pairings showed an inaccurate average rating of the teams. Thankfully, it was not the case, pairings stood, and the tournament software was forced to update the average rating to the correct one.

Zoom TD is a new phrase that is becoming the new trend in the online tournament world. These TDs are not only experienced TDs with years of OTB tournaments, but also developped a skillset of directing and monitoring players online through Zoom meeting. Mechanics' had some of the best TDs across the country who often had hundreds of hours of online TD experience: NTD David Hater, NTD Alan Losoff, NTD Martha Underwood, FA Hugo Arroyo, and SrTD Reka Sztaray were among the experienced tournament directors who directed many online tournaments before. They were helped by a set of amazing TD's and volunteers: Jiten Patel, Mike Walder, Elliott Winslow, Aaron Thompson, and Jerniel Diaz to help make sure that our Zoom TD's had backup and second set of eyes on the players. All the TD's were doing an important and amazing job directing the players setting up the correct webcamera angles, as well as monitor and take notes on the attendance, settings and addhearance to rules, and occasionally the trangseggions. They were in close communication with each other through a secure and private channel that included Chief TD Glenn, who made the final decisions on possible and applicable penalties. One of the instances was a cell phone violation: one of the player's cellphone rang and according to the rules, this has a standard penalty of 10 minutes or half the time. Zoom TDs communicated this to Chief TD, who made the ruling that the penalty should be applied, and the backroom TD applied it with a special command on the chesscom platform. This was a prime example of the smooth team work that was the norm throughout the whole event.

With more than half of the staff being an NTD, we always knew we are in good hands, but this event showed how professionals and how a perfect team works together.
If you want to be a part of this team, and would like to volunteer at our upcoming event, please email us to chessroom@milibrary.org.

Stay tuned for Part 2 next week, where we explain the webcamera settings, and Zoom TD training and get a peak into the Zoom TD life.

Tuesday Night Marathon/Thursady Night Marathons Begin Next Week!

Tuesday Night Marathon

The Mechanics' Institute's flagship chess event, the Tuesday Night Marathon, resumes on Tuesday January 12, with a 2-section 6-round event. Time control is G/35+2, is USCF rated, and games are manually paired on Chesscom. We have 2 games per evening, with round times at 6:30pm Pacific time and 8:00pm. Prize pool is $1000 b/50. For all the details, visit the event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/january-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/january-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Register now by following this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Jan2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Jan2021TNMOnline)

We will broadcast all the action of the TNM on our Twitch stream, follow us here: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

Thursday Night Marathon

We also now offer players our Thursday Night Marathon, which is one game per evening with a time control of G/60+5, 5-rounds, USCF rated in one open section with the round starting at 6:30pm Pacific. For more information, visit our event pager here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-jan-feb-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-jan-feb-2021)

Register now here: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021)

We look forward to seeing everyone to kick off 2021 at the Mechanics' Institute!

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 extraoridinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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, 1/12: https://www.chess.com/live#r=846526 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.chess.com/live#r=846526)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 1/14: https://www.chess.com/live#r=846639 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.chess.com/live#r=846639)

See you in the arena!

Historical Note from IM John Donaldson

The great Hungarian player Geza Maroczy was supposed to visit the MI in 1906 but the earthquake forced him to cancel his plans. He did make the trip 19 years later and visited from April 11-13, giving a lecture and played a few games against players at the club one day and the following day giving a 40-board simul.

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/20210121055823/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - Game Review Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates: Ongoing

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information:

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

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/20210121055823/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

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:

1/12 Tuesday - January 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Jan2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Jan2021TNMOnline)

1/14 Thursday - January/February 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/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/20210121055823/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/20210121055823/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/20210121055823/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Upcoming Classes

2021 Winter sessions start the second week of January, and goes for 10 weeks total. More information and links to register for the following classes: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess)

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin - Mondays 4-5PM
- Beginner / Intermediate Level with Coach Andy - Tuesdays 3-4PM
- Absolute Beginners with Coach Colin - Tuesday 4-5PM

- Intermediate with Coach Andy - Thursdays 4-5PM
- Intermediate/Advance with Coach Andy - Thursdays 5-6PM

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20210121055823/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom) Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Saturday, Jan 9: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=236173 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=236173)
- Monday, Jan 11: 4SS G/15+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247090 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247090)
- Tuesday, January 12: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247091 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247091)
- Wednesday, Jan 13: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247092 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247092)
- Thursday, Jan 14: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247093 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247093)
- Friday, Jan 15: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247094 (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247094)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments - Registration needed via the links below, and players must have current US Chess membership.
Games will affect US Chess online ratings (not over-the-board!).
Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.

- Sunday, Jan 10: 8SS G/5+2 - Starts at 2PM - USCF Online blitz rated games https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan10SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20210121055823/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan10SUN)
- Saturday, Jan 16: 5SS G/15+2 - Starts at 3PM - USCF Online rapid rated games
- Sunday, Jan 24: 6SS G/10+2 - Starts at 2PM - USCF Online rapid rated games
- Sunday, Jan 31 - SAVE THE DATE - US Amateur Team West Online - National Championship - Scholastic Side event

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.

Holiday Camps

We have offered two virtual winter camps over the holidays, coaches by Coach Andrew, Coach Colin, and International Master Coach Elliott Winslow. Both weeks were filled with intersting lectures, problems and fun tournaments. It was great to see both returning players and new students trying out our offerings and having fun and learning from our amazing coaches. Many thanks for all the parents for their support.

2021 Spring camp schedule has been posted:

- Jan 18, Monday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MLKDayChessCamp
- Feb 15, Monday - Presidents Day Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/PresidentsDayChessCamp
- Mar 29 - Apr 2 - Spring Break Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp

Scholastic Game of the Week, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Watching the U.S. Junior Championship, San Francisco 1973

Being a newly-minted member of the Mechanics' Institute, plus living in the San Francisco Bay Area as the Fischer-Boom was in full steam, was an amazing experience for me. My brother Jay and I were chess-crazy and ambitious, and when the U.S. Junior Championship came to San Francisco, it was as though all my dreams and hopes were narrowed to a fine point: this was the tournament I wanted to play in someday.

With stars in our eyes, we went with our friend Joe Tracy across Market Street to the Sheraton Hotel, where the players were to be found deep in thought on a roped-off stage in a quiet room. Their names were printed out on cards, there were demonstration boards and spectators.

The TD was Alan Benson. He, and some of these players - Christiansen, Barnes and Frankle - had become - or were becoming – part of my loosely-knit chess community here in the Bay Area. I would meet them in battle very soon, suffering defeat at times, and tasting victory also.

I was lucky to play in this tournament twice: in Denver 1977 (won by John Fedorowicz and Ken Regan) and in Memphis 1978, where I tied with Fedorowicz and Yasser Seirawan for 1st. My brother played 3 times: with me in Denver and Memphis, and then winning it outright in Tempe, 1979.

Elliott Winslow was Jay's 2nd that year. I talked to Elliott about Jay earlier today. This chess-world spins on and on, and on and on.

Jay and I were spectators in 1973, but our destinies were calling. I could feel the pull.

The legendary Larry Christiansen won in 1973, and I still remember his chess: he moved quickly, and played with verve and confidence. I remember particularly his game against Barnes, included below, along with another of his fine wins from the event.

Robert Burger (1931-2019), longtime MI trustee, reported on the 1973 U.S. Junior Championship for the California Chess Reporter in the May-June issue of that year. I'm attaching a screenshot of his article, which includes the cross-table. Courtesy of chessdryad.com

(1) Larry Mark Christiansen - Craig Norman Barnes [B27]

USA-ch jr USA-ch jr, 1973

[Whitehead,Paul]

White's confident play and brisk technique stand out in this encounter. **1.Nf3 g6 2.e4 c5 3.d4 Bg7 4.c4 d6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.d5 Nd4 7.h3 e5 8.dxe6 fxe6 9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.Nb5**

▯

10...Qb6 11.Qa4 Bd7 12.Bd2 a6 13.Qa3 Bxb5 14.cxb5 Nf6 15.Bd3 0-0 16.bxa6 bxa6 17.0-0 Nd7?! Black has no time for this. [17...d5= is more straight-forward.] **18.Ba5 Qb8 19.Rac1 Ra7 20.Bb4**

▯

White has the 2 bishops and considerable pressure. **20...Be5 21.Rc6 Rb7 22.Bxd6 Bxd6 23.Rxd6 Ne5 24.Rxe6 Rbf7 25.Rxe5 Qxe5 26.Bc4 Qxe4 27.Qxa6 Kg7 28.Bxf7 Rxf7 29.Qc4 Rd7** With the d-pawn neutralized white will win by setting the queenside pawns in motion. **30.Rd1**

▯

30...Qe5 31.Qd3 Qa5 32.a3 Qa4 33.b4 Rd5 34.Re1 Qd7 35.Re4 Qd6 36.g3 Qc6? 37.Rxd4

▯

1-0

(2) David A Berry - Larry Mark Christiansen [E62]

USA-ch jr USA-ch jr, 1973

[Whitehead,Paul]

White plays carelessly and is swiftly punished. **1.Nf3 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 0-0 5.g3 d6 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0 Bg4 8.d5 Na5 9.Qd3**

▯

9...c5 Helping the knight out there on a5. **10.Nd2 e5 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.e4 Nc6 13.Nf3 Ng4 14.Nd5 Nge5 15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.Be3 Nd4**

▯

As IM Elliott Winslow pointed out: the position is symmetrical, save the queen at d3. White also has the move. And the position is equal. **17.f4 exf4 18.Bxf4 Qd7 19.Bg5 f5 20.Ne7+ Kh8 21.Rae1 Rae8 22.exf5 Bxf5 23.Be4 Bh3 24.Rxf8+ Rxf8 25.Qd2?** [25.Nd5 and black is only a bit better.] **25...Qg4!**

▯

Boom. White loses in every continuation, as the reader can work out for themselves. **0-1**

GM Nick de Firmian

Armenia vs Azerbaijan

Most people who read the title will think of the conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh, which had the recent battles in the two decades long land feud between these two countries of the former Soviet Union. Yet chess players are peaceful people and battle only on the chess board. The battle referred to here is finals of the Champions Chess Tour last week between Armenia's #1 player Levon Aronian and Azerbaijan's #1 player Teimour Radjabov. They finished ahead of the other 14 elite grandmasters (including Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura) to reach the finals in this second leg of the grand tour.

This reminds me of the dinner I had in Brussels in 1994 during the Bosnia war when the former Yugoslavia was breaking up. My dinner companions were Lubomir Ljubojevic, Branco Damianovic, Kruno Hulak and a few other chess players who came from the Balkan countries of Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatian and Slovenia. One might thing that the terrible war would have the players upset with one another, but it was the opposite. The old colleagues/friends commiserated and were very glad to see each other. The only dispute was at the end when Ljubojevic wanted to pick up the tab for everyone, but we didn't let him do that with the difficult times in Serbia. I'll always remember that dinner when I think how chess makes friendships.

So Aronian and Radjabov battled on the chess board, but only the chess board. They are long time colleagues and would not let politics get between them. Aronian has been in great form recently, but was edged out in this match. That is a sweet victory for Radjabov as he had declined participating in the Candidates Tournament due to the coronavirus, and surely he enjoyed taking first ahead of all the other top players in the world.

(1) Radjabov,Teimour - Aronian,Levon [D80]

Champions Chess Tour Airthings, 04.01.2021

This was the final, decisive game of the match. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5** Radjabov chooses one of the safest lines against the Grunfeld, He likes control rather than wild positions. **4...Ne4 5.Bf4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 c5 7.e3 Nc6 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.Qf3** Looking for an endgame edge after the trade of queens. Aronian decides to stay in the middle game for now, but soon has to trade anyway. **9...Qd7 10.Bb5 a6 11.Bxc6 Qxc6 12.Qxc6+ bxc6** Black has at least got the bishop pair to compensate for his slightly inferior pawn structure. He has doubled pawns for now but can trade the c5 pawn if he wishes. **13.Nf3 Bg7 14.Ne5 Bf5 15.f3** [15.Nxc6 Be4 16.Ne5 Bxg2] **15...Bxe5** Aronian heads for a bishops of opposite color ending. This is alright though White is a bit more comfortable due to the pawn structure. **16.Bxe5 f6 17.Bg3 Bd3 18.Rd1 c4**

We have an interesting ending where the bishops make it difficult for the rooks to occupy the b-file (the only open file). **19.Rd2 Kf7 20.Rb2 Rhd8 21.e4 c5?** This leads to trouble. Black could have maintined near equality by [21...Rd7 22.Kf2 Raa7! and a rook comes to b7 next move to contest the b-file] **22.dxc5 Rac8 23.Bf2 f5 24.exf5 gxf5 25.Be3** Now White maintains the extra pawn. **25...f4 26.Bxf4 Rxc5 27.Kf2 Rb5 28.Rxb5 axb5 29.a3! Ra8 30.Ra1** White has good winning chances despite the bishops of opposite color. **30...Ra6 31.g4 Ke6 32.h4 Kd5 33.h5 e5 34.Be3 Ra8 35.Bg5 Ke6 36.Bh4 Kd5 37.Ke3 Ke6 38.Ra2 Kd5 39.Be7 Ke6 40.Bb4 h6?!** the pawn can be a target here **41.Rb2!** ready for action on the b-file at the proper time **41...Bh7 42.Kf2 Bd3 43.Bc5 Kd5 44.Be3! Kc6** [44...Rxa3 45.Rxb5+ Ke6 46.Bxh6 Rxc3 47.Rxe5+!] **45.Ra2 e4** [45...Rh8 46.a4 bxa4 47.Rxa4 is an easily winning ending] **46.Bxh6 exf3 47.Kxf3 b4** This is the best chance. Against the passed g and h pawns Black must try to get counterplay. **48.cxb4 c3 49.Ke3 Bb1 50.Ra1 c2 51.Kf3 Kb5 52.a4+ Kxb4 53.a5 Ra6** [53...Rxa5 54.Bd2+] **54.Bc1 Rf6+ 55.Kg2 Rd6 56.a6 Rd1 57.Be3 Rd3 58.Bc1 Rd1 59.Bh6 Rd6**

60.a7! Rxh6 61.a8Q c1Q 62.Rxb1+ Aronian resigned the game and match. 62...Qxb1 63 Qb8+. **1-0**

(2) Aronian,Levon - Radjabov,Teimour [C54]

Champions Chess Tour Airthings, 03.01.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 a5 10.Re1 Re8 11.Nbd2 Ba7 12.Nf1 Be6 13.Bb5 Bd7 14.Ne3

The players have followed principled play in the Guico Pianissimo. The complex position is roughly equal though Black needs to be careful with his weakened kingside pawn structure. **14...Ne7 15.a4 c6 16.Bc4 Ng6 17.Qc2 Nf4 18.Rad1 Qe7 19.d4!? exd4 20.Bxf4?! gxf4 21.e5?!**

Aronian has charged ahead with an incredibly aggressive advance. This plan started two moves ago has one flaw. **21...dxe3?** Which Radjabov couldn't find. Black needs to get rid of his f4 pawn as we will see later in the variation. With [21...d3! 22.Qxd3 fxe3 23.Qg6+ Kh8 24.Qxh6+ Nh7 25.Bd3 exf2+ 26.Kf1 fxe1Q+ 27.Rxe1 f5 28.exf6 Qf7 Black would be winning since 29. Ng5? Qxf6 would now be with check due to the removal of the black f4 pawn.] **22.Qg6+ Kh8 23.Qxh6+ Nh7 24.Bd3! exf2+ 25.Kf1 fxe1Q+ 26.Rxe1**

White has sacrifice a rook but is now winning **26...Bf5** [26...f5 27.exf6 Qf7 28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 29.Ng5!] **27.Bxf5 f6 28.exf6 Qf7 29.Re6?** [29.Rxe8+ Rxe8 30.b3! to stop the check on c4 30...Rg8 31.h4 Be3 32.h5
and White is winning with the plan of Nh4-g6+. Black can't get out of the bind of having to guard the mate on h7] **29...Rxe6 30.Ng5 Rxf6 31.Nxf7+ Rxf7 32.Bxh7 Rxh7** Now Black has all the winning chances **33.Qf6+ Kg8 34.Qg6+ Rg7 35.Qe6+ Rf7 36.Qg6+ Kf8 37.Qxd6+ Kg7 38.Qe5+ Kg6 39.Qe6+ Kg7 40.Qe5+ Kg6 41.Qe6+ Kg7?!** [Black should be objectively be winning if he runs with the king 41...Rf6! 42.Qg4+ Kh6 43.Qh4+ Kg7 44.Qg5+ Kf7 however Radjabov decides to play it safe after this tremendous battle] **42.Qe5+ 1/2-1/2**

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/20210121055823/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #951

January 16, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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All endeavour calls for the ability to tramp the last mile, shape the last plan, endure the last hours toil. The fight to the finish spirit is the one...characteristic we must possess if we are to face the future as finishers. Henry David Thoreau

January 2021 TNM Report

A Mechanics' tradition almost 50 years in the making, the Tuesday Night Marathon is Mechanics' Institute's flagship chess event. The pandemic of 2020 changed society in many ways and put a halt to much of our daily life. The TNM however has persevered, thanks to our very loyal and supportive chess community, and we are proud to continue in 2021 to bring you the TNM online, as we hope this is all a bridge to returning to live chess sometime this year. The action remains the same, and we bring you a great mix of our club players with top titled players while broadcasting our games, making for a fun and interactive Tuesday evening for our chess community.

An online record 65 players are registered for this six round G/35+2 battle divided into two sections. Here are the standings after the first two rounds:

SwissSys Standings. Jan 2021 TNM Online: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	R
1	**GM Aleksan Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)**	12787646	2704	AlexanderL	W31	W11		
2	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2700	gguseinov	W18	W15		
3	**FM Kyron Wa Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2504	KyronGriffith	W27	W12	H---	H
4	**FM Eric Yuhan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)**	15688436	2368	kingandqueen2017	W19	W17		
5	**Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)**	15462690	2242	jij2018	W20	W23		
6	**Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)**	15088362	2120	etvat	W32	W16		

7	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2106	FlightsOfFancy	W33	W25		
8	**William Sartorio (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14715380)**	14715380	2063	unusualkid	W34	W22		
9	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	D28	W30		
10	**Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2045	ninjaforce	D30	W28		
11	**Steven Gaffagan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12542809)**	12542809	2058	carbon64	W29	L1		
12	**Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)**	12906142	2034	artliou	W21	L3		
13	**David Benja Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)**	13776967	2023	David_Askin	L22	W32		
14	**Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)**	15176393	2009	SmilyFace4	L23	W33		
15	**Tejas Mahesh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15086558)**	15086558	1997	ChessTX9	W35	L2		
16	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	13001390	1981	nathanf314	W36	L6		
17	**Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)**	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W24	L4		
18	**Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)**	12469525	1934	kondsaga	L2	W34		
19	**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)**	15239016	1886	mwnckImann	L4	W35		
20	**Christian Jensen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12780890)**	12780890	1844	Christianjensen23	L5	W36		
21	**Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)**	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L12	W31		
22	**Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)**	12913356	1766	pgstar3	W13	L8		
23	**Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)**	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W14	L5		
24	**Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)**	13836822	1652	ibalek	L17	B---		
25	**Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)**	16761994	1644	LightningDragon8	W26	L7		
26	**Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)**	14006141	1940	mangonel	L25	D29		
27	**Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)**	10490936	1900	talenuf	L3	H---		
28	**Nicholas Ar Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)**	15088356	1883	nicarmt	D9	L10		
29	**Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)**	16380312	1795	3Ke31-0	L11	D26		
30	**Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)**	14436451	1784	chessp1234	D10	L9		
31	**Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)**	13178575	1940	ashikuzzaman	L1	L21		
32	**Patrick John Kut (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	15898438	1843	pkutchess	L6	L13		

	15898438)							
33	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	L7	L14		
34	Ranen A Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1820	dashrndrx	L8	L18		
35	Roger V V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1751	1-h4-1-0	L15	L19		
36	Kevin Babb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15480497)	15480497	1724	Babbaliath	L16	L20		

SwissSys Standings. Jan 2021 TNM Online: u1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	12797931	1789	KingSmasher35	X20	W19		
2	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1057	andrewballantyne	W22	W10		
3	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1040	sfdeals	W9	W11		
4	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	16551291	977	figsnoring	W12	W16		
5	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	30032729	861	dribbler23	W14	W18		
6	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	811	Sebbymeister	W17	W13		
7	Bill J Day (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30060498)	30060498	782	mrbillstunes1	W23	W15		
8	Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	12446259	1495	nmbrown2	H---	W22		
9	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1699	ahyanzaman	L3	W24		
10	Mateo Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14907254)	14907254	1687	mateosh	W24	L2		
11	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	12931024	1622	MechAnjin	X25	L3		
12	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1551	maxskiff	L4	W27		
13	Reka Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14656444)	14656444	1533	rekasztaray	W26	L6		
14	Leon Diaz Herrera (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355661)	17355661	1520	Aeqetes	L5	W28		
15	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1519	rimus11	W21	L7		
16	Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)	17168772	1490	Evariel	W27	L4		
17	Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	17350313	1475	draidus	L6	W26		
18	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	W28	L5		
19	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	W29	L1		
20	Elliott Regan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	15032065	1079	TTVchessmaster	F1	W29		

	15032065)							
21	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	851	Bruce_Hedman	L15	W23		
22	**Christophe Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)**	13742111	1700	ludimagisterjosephus	L2	L8		
23	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L7	L21		
24	**Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)**	30055583	1026	night_breeze	L10	L9		
25	**Chaitanya Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14126671)**	14126671	1017	catreya	F11	U---		
26	**Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)**	16816706	944	Charvii	L13	L17		
27	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30037403)**	30037403	812	Vincitore51745	L16	L12		
28	**Pablo Jose Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14971067)**	14971067	797	Dragonslayer470	L18	L14		
29	**Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)**	16380615	662	ComfyQueso	L19	L20		

Here are some games from the first two rounds, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

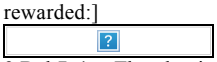
(5) GM Guseinov,Gadir (GGuseinov) (2700) - Busch ,Jonah (Kondsaga) (1934) [C11]

MI January TNMO Chess.com (1.2), 12.01.2021

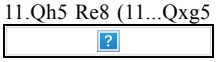
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 Round One. With the big ratings differences, many of the titled players duck theoretical battles -- or try to. 2...e6 A curious move order. [2...e5 would be a Vienna.; 2...d5 is most common, when 3.e5 (3.exd5 is more the sort of thing you'd see when it's a 1500 vs. a 2000.) 3...Nfd7 4.d4 e6 is back to the game.] 3.d4 [3.e5 Nd5 has done fine for Black (maybe on move two?).] 3...d5 Everything and then some has been played here, but it's best to head for normalcy -- and the French Defense. 4.e5 Nfd7 Who is happier with this turn of events? Black did try to play an Alekhine... 5.Nf3 [5.Nce2 (to support the center with c2-c3) is fairly often seen, even at the highest levels.; But 5.f4 still is the big move, by a factor of 10 to 1. 5...c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3] 5...c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 [6...Nc6 7.Bf4 Bxc5 (7...Nxc5!?) 8.Bd3] 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Bf4

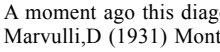
8...0-0? Black had a solid three-minute think on this! Were Busch really a French player through and through his "sentiment de danger" would have kicked in and stopped this move. [8...h6 toys with winning the e-pawn again, via ...g5-g4. 9.-- (White can stop it straight up with 9.h4; or anticipate it with 9.Bg3; 9.Qd2 was a blitz game by the ever-enterprising Indian superstar: 9...a6 10.h4 b5 11.Rh3 Nb6 12.Rg3 b4 13.Ne2 Kf8 14.b3 Bd7 15.Kf1 a5 16.Kg1 0-1 (38), Adhiban,B (2659)-Kalezic,B (2448) chess.com 2020.) ; Black can also proceed on the queenside with 8...a6; But most to the point is 8...f6 (probably why nobody really plays like this for White any more) 9.exf6 Qxf6 10.Bg5 Qf7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.0-0-0 h6 13.Bh4 a6 14.Bg3 Nb6 15.Kb1 Bd7 0-1 (70) Morozevich,A (2723)-Bareev,E (2679) Sarajevo 1999. It's possible Guseinov has some interesting novelties to this line, but just as possible he was just developing pieces while half awake. (Remember it's a twelve hour difference in Baku!) In any case, he is rewarded:]



9.Bxh7+!+- The classic bishop sacrifice! Sometimes it's unsound, sometimes it's unclear. In this case, it's a win. But as often, there are some subtleties. 9...Kxh7 [9...Kh8!? Interesting that more people have declined than accepted! And, Stockfish 12 makes the choice very close! White should just grab and run: 10.Bd3 And when the computer says Black's best is now 10...Kg8 you can pretty much not worry about it. (11.Bh7+ draw !?)] 10.Ng5+ Kg6 [10...Kg8?! loses to a continuation worth knowing cold: 11.Qh5 Re8 (11...Qxg5 is the "play on, sort of" line.) 12.Qxf7+ Kh8 13.Qh5+ Kg8 14.Qh7+ Kf8 15.Qh8+ Ke7 16.Qxg7#] 11.Qd3+ f5 12.Qg3 12...Qe7?!



It's hard to think clearly at this point, but if Black really wants a game he should try [12...Ndxe5 although 13.Nxe6+ Ng4 -- counterattack! -- 14.Nxd8 Bxf2+ 15.Qxf2 Nxf2 16.Nxc6 Nxh1 17.Ne5+ (17.Nd4) 17...Kh5 18.Be3! White is going to eventually win that knight for nothing, with a won game.] 13.0-0-0!?N A whole minute thought! (He did put almost three into move 11.) Now the game drags on, the result not in doubt, but there was a nice finish now that in fact happened in a game: [There is no mate after 13.Qh4?? Ndxe5!-/+; But look at this: 13.Nxe6+! Kh7 (13...Kf7 14.Ng5+ Ke8 15.Nxd5 Qd8 16.Ne6 Qa5+ 17.c3+-) 14.Ng5+ Kg8 (14...Kg6 15.Nxd5) 15.Nxd5 Qe8 16.Qb3! A moment ago this diagonal was filled with Black pawns -- now it's a brand new avenue for a crushing double check! 16...Rf7 17.Nc7 Qe7 18.Nxf7 1-0 Martorelli,A (2284)-Marvulli,D (1931) Montesilvano 2015 (18.Nxf7 Qxf7 19.Qxf7+ Kxf7 20.e6+!)] 13...Bxf2?! Stockfish is not amused. [13...Ndxe5 is the least worst, but 14.Nxe6+ Ng4 15.Nxf8+ Qxf8 16.h3 Bxf2 17.Qf3 nabs a piece for an exchange up.] 14.Qxf2 Ndxe5 15.Qh4 Bd7?! 16.Rxd5?! [16.Qh7+! Kf6 17.Rxd5!] 16...Rh8 (Black has some fight now) 17.Qg3



(but not enough) 17...Ng4?! [At least take the rook: 17...exd5 18.Nxd5 Qe8 19.Re1 Rh5 20.Nf3+ Kh7 21.Bxe5 Nxe5 22.Rxe5+- Black is doing all right materially, but White's pieces swarm the kingside. 22...Qg6 23.Qxg6+ Kxg6 24.Re7] 18.Rd6 and material is even. But Black's king is stuck in an absurb position. 18...Rh5 19.Nd5 Qf8 20.Nc7 Rxg5 21.Rxd7 Rh5 22.Nxa8 Qxa8 23.h3 e5 24.Bd2 Qc8 25.Rd6+ Kh7 26.Rd1 If you believe Stockfish, then White's advantage has dropped considerably. But it's still won. 26...Nd4?! with huge threats! Alas, [26...Nf6] 27.Rxd4! The only, but crushing, move. 27...exd4 28.hxg4 The rest of the moves could just as well have not happened. White: 22:07, Black: 9:29. Neither side's clock situation explains it. 28...fxg4 29.Qd3+ Rf5 30.Rf1 g6 31.Rxf5 gxf5 32.Qxd4 Qc6 33.Qf2 Kg6 34.c3 a6 35.g3 Qh1+ 36.Qe1 Qxe1+ 37.Bxe1 f4 38.gxf4 Kf5 39.Bg3 1-0

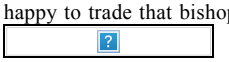
(6) GM Lenderman ,Aleksandr (AlexanderL) (2704) - Gaffagan, Steven (carbon64) (2058) [A45]

MI January TNMO Chess.com (2.1), 12.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

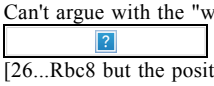
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3 This has become the orthodox line for both sides in an opening that used to be anything but. 4...Bf5 [4...c5 is another correct approach;; 4...e6 can't be bad, either.] 5.Nd2 [During the Tropowski's "Wild West" days White would sling pawns with 5.f3 and g2-g4. Black has yet to recover the points lost from those times.] 5...Nxd2 6.Qxd2 e6 7.Nf3 Bd6 8.Bg3 0-0 9.c4 White does show some aggression, with this sort of delayed Queen's Gambit. Lenderman had this in an important game just last month in the US Championship against Naroditsky.

9...c6 Steven accepts a structure appropriately orthodox, but this might have been the time to take a stand. [Daniel played more actively: 9...dxc4 10.Bxc4 Be4 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Qc3 Bxg3 (now that White has castled, else the h-file could be a problem) 13.hxg3 c5 14.Rfd1 Qf6 15.Be2 White has some advantage, but was unable to increase it. ½-½ (39), Lenderman,A (2624) -Naroditsky,D (2621) USA-ch qf, Chess.com 12.16/0] **10.Rc1N** [10.Be2 Re8 11.0-0 Bxg3 12.hxg3 Nd7 13.b4 dxc4 14.Bxc4 e5 15.Qb2 e4 16.Nd2= 1-0 (35) Schussler,H (2465)-Ost Hansen,J Gjovik 1985; A case could be made (and is, by Stockfish 12) for 10.c5 looking for a queenside spatial advantage.] **10...Qe7 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Be2 Nd7 13.0-0** Having the bishop outside of the chain has to be better than not, but even so Black is slightly uncomfortable. **13...Bg4** Black is happy to trade that bishop off, what with the light-square pawn structure. **14.Rfd1**



14...Rad8?! Is it really so bad? [The computer wants Black to expand a bit with 14...a5; or maybe with the trade first: 14...Bxf3 15.Bxf3 a5] **15.Qc3** Meanwhile one could get the impression that Lenderman is waiting for a mistake, without making any move on his own. **15...g6** [Some kingside aggression with 15...f5 perhaps?] **16.b4!? Nf6 17.c5** Finally! [He could still restrain himself, say with 17.a4] **17...Qe7 18.a4 Ne4 19.Qb2 Qf6 20.b5** Now White has a real initiative brewing on the queenside. **20...Rb8?! 21.Rb1 Bf5?**

White 27:04 Black 12:21 [21...Rbe8!?] **22.Bd3?!** [Perhaps with a bit more time expended (and he had plenty of time) Lenderman might have played 22.bxc6!+- Nxf2 *(22...bxc6 23.Qxb8)* 23.Kxf2 *(*or *23.cxb7)* 23...Bxb1 24.cxb7!] **22...cxb5?** [22...Qd8; 22...Bg4 23.Be2] **23.axb5** Now White's advantage is significant if not just winning. Can't argue with the "wait and see" approach when it's so successful! **23...Bg4 24.Be2 g5 25.Rf1 Rfd8 26.Rbc1 Bxf3?**



[26...Rbc8 but the positional advantage isn't going away.] **27.gxf3!** Black must have overlooked that his knight was trapped! (GM Lenderman didn't.) **27...Kh8 28.fxe4 Rg8 29.e5 Qf5 30.Qc2 Qh3 31.Kh1 Rg6 32.Rg1 Rh6 33.Rg2 f5 34.exf6 Rf8 35.Bg4 Qh4 36.c6 bxc6 37.bxc6 Rhxf6 38.c7 Rc8 39.Qc6 Rf7 40.Qxe6 Rcxc7 41.Rxc7 Rxc7 42.Qf6+ Kg8 43.Be6+ 1-0**

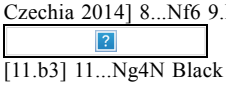
(7) Boldi, Nicholas (nicarmt) (1883) - IM Winslow, Elliott (ecwinslow) (2278) [A35]

MI January TNMO Chess.com (1.5), 12.01.2021

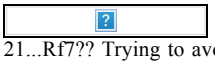
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c4 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Nxc6 On the one hand, hardly critical, but like so many "untrendy" lines in the Sicilian it's not intrinsically bad. Still, Black shouldn't mind seeing it. 7...bxc6

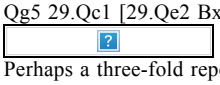
8.Bd3 [8.Be2 is the more sensible square: 8...Nf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3 Bb7 11.f4 Nd7 12.Qd2 f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.Bf3 Nf6 ½-½ (37), Velicka,P (2413)-Butkiewicz,L (2432) Czechia 2014] 8...Nf6 9.Bd2 0-0 10.0-0 Rb8 [10...Nd7 right away, would be the awake plan.] 11.Rb1



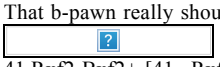
[11.b3] 11...Ng4N Black tries to upset the balance, maybe going a bit too far. [Predecessor: 11...Qc7 12.Qe2 Nd7 13.f4 Nc5 (13...e6!) 14.Bc2 Ne6 15.Qd3 f5 16.Be3 fxe4 17.Qxe4 Nc5 18.Qf3 e5 0-1 (31) Boucher,B-Garau,B (2036) ICCF email 2013] 12.Be2 f5 13.b4 Nf6?! [13...Ne5=/+] 14.Bd3?! e5?! [14...Nd7! 15.f4 e6] 15.a4 fxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 d5 18.cxd5 cxd5 19.Bc2 Kh8 [19...Be6] 20.b5 e4 21.Bb4



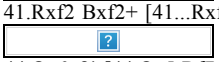
21...Rf7?? Trying to avoid a blockade on d4, Black blunders! [21...Re8 22.Bc5 d4! appears to keep a balance (but no advantage).] 22.Bxe4! Really too easy. Now not only did Black lose a pawn, but it sends his position into a tailspin. 22...Be6 23.Bd3 Qh4 24.Bd6 Rd8 25.Bg3 Qf6 26.a5+- White is pressing smoothly. 26...h5 27.h3 h4 28.Bh2 Qg5 29.Qc1 [29.Qe2 Bxh3? 30.f4 Qg4 31.Rf3] 29...Qh5 [29...Qxc1 30.Rfxc1 Bd4 is the computer acquiescing to disaster.] 30.Qd1 Qg5 31.Qc1 Qh5



Perhaps a three-fold repetition? 32.Bf4 No, but [32.b6! axb6 33.axb6 Bc8 34.Bc7 Rdd7 35.Re1 is all but resignable.] 32...Bd4 33.Qd2 Rdf8? 34.Be2 Well, that should do it. 34...Rxf4 35.Bxh5 gxh5 And Black has an extra piece! Seriously, White dodges any tactical problems nicely. 36.Qe2 [36.Rb4!] 36...Bf7 37.b6 axb6 38.axb6 Bg6 39.Rbc1?! That b-pawn really should be a queen. [39.Rb4; 39.Rb5; 39.Rb3] 39...Bxb6 40.Rc6 Rxf2



41.Rxf2 Bxf2+ [41...Rxf2 42.Qe5+] 42.Kh1 Kh7 43.Rc7+ Black is preparing to resign. 43...Kg8



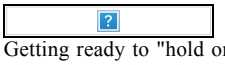
44.Qe6+?! [44.Qe5 Rf7 (44...Bf7 45.Qg5+ Kh7 46.Rc6) 45.Qe6] 44...Bf7 45.Qe5 Bg3?! [45...Re8 46.Qg5+ Kf8 47.Rxf7+ No blockade.] 46.Qg5+ Kh8 47.Qh6+ [47.Rc6 Be6 48.Qh6+ Kg8 49.Qxe6+] 47...Kg8 48.Qg5+ Kh8 49.Qf6+ Kg8 50.Qg5+? Falling into a repetition can't be explained by the clocks: White 4:32 Black 5:07. A gift. But still an upset, and credit to Nick, starting to rival his higher-rated brother Ethan. 1/2-1/2

(8) Hao, Max (Joseph_Truelsons_Fan) (1761) - Yan, Ruiyang (jij2018) (2242) [E04]

MI January TNMO Chess.com (2.5), 12.01.2021

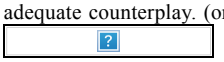
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 [1...d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 0-1 (27) Srebrnic,A (1910)-Sebenik,M (2150) Ljubljana 1998] 2.c4 e6 3.g3 [3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 1-0 (51) Panesso Rivera,H (2423)-Vera Siguenas,D (2503) Havana 2018] 3...d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 The Catalan Gambit Accepted. When Black is the significantly higher rated player, it follows to head for these very unbalanced positions. 5.Nf3 a6

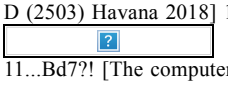


Getting ready to "hold on". [5...Nc6 6.0-0 Rb8 7.a4 1-0 (51) Panesso Rivera,H (2423)-Vera Siguenas,D (2503) Havana 2018] 6.a4 This didn't really catch on. [Usually White plays the gambit all the way with 6.0-0 Nc6 7.e3; Or, a quick pawn recovery while opening up the long diagonal pressure: 6.Ne5 when one of the two replies 6...c5 puts up

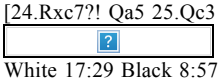
adequate counterplay. (or 6...Bb4+)] 6...Nc6 7.0-0 Rb8!



A sophisticated reply, vacating the danger on the long diagonal.. Black's not going to let go of that pawn so readily. 8.Na3?! This just hasn't turned out too well, regardless of Black's reply. [The first game to get here went 8.a5 Bb4 9.Qc2 Nxa5 10.Qa4+ Nc6 11.Ne5 Nd5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qxc6+ Bd7 14.Qxc4 0-0 15.Qc2 Be7 16.Nc3 Nb4 17.Qd1 Qc8! 18.e4 Rd8 19.Qe2 ½-½ (19) Alburt,L (2515)-Portisch, L (2655) Valetta ol 1980 19...c5! completely equalizes.; 8.Nc3 was a recent game involving two superstars: 8...Be7 9.a5 0-0 10.Qa4 Nb4 11.Bg5 Bd7 12.Qd1 Bc6 Black is doing well 13.Ne5 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Nc6 15.Nf3 Nd5 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.e4 Ndb4 18.b3 Rfd8! 0-1 (72), Maghsoodloo,P (2676)-Dominguez Perez,L (2758) chess.com INT 2020.] 8...Bxa3 Maybe not the best. [8...Na5!? and; 8...b5!? both have plus scores in practice.] 9.bxa3!? [9.Rxa3 b5!? and it's hard for White to focus anywhere. (9...0-0)] 9...0-0 10.e3N [10.Qc2 b6 (10...b5!? 11.axb5 axb5 12.Bb2 Na5) 11.Qxc4 Na5 12.Qc2 Bb7 13.Bf4 Rc8 Certainly Black is fine, but no longer up a pawn as well. 14.Rac1 Be4 15.Qb2 Qd7 and Black went on to win: 1-0 (51) Panesso Rivera,H (2423)-Vera Siguenas, D (2503) Havana 2018] 10...b5 consolidation 11.Rb1



11...Bd7?! [The computer flashes out with 11...e5! 12.axb5 (12.dxe5 Qxd1 13.Rxd1 Ne4!-/+) 12...exd4! and Black assumes some advantage.] 12.axb5 axb5 13.Qc2 Ne7 [13...Qe7! keeps moving forward] 14.e4 [14.Ne5 obviously; or 14.a4 firing the second a-pawn] 14...Bc6 15.Re1 h6?! [15...Ng6 16.Bb2 Re8 with ...Ra8 coming] 16.Bb2 Ba8 17.Rbd1 Qc8 18.d5! Now White's got an initiative. 18...Ne8 19.Bh3! creating a target 19...Qa6 20.dxe6 fxe6 21.Ne5!? [21.Nd4!? Rf6 (21...Rb6 22.a4! bxa4 (22...Qxa4 23.Qc3 Qa6 24.Ba3 Black is cracking under the pressure) 23.Ba3+- and here, the extra pawns can't help Black at all.)] 21...Nf6 22.Nd7 Nxd7 23.Rxd7 Rf7 24.Red1! [24.Rxc7?! Qa5 25.Qc3 Qxc7 26.Bxe6 Nf5! 27.exf5 Kh7 28.Bxf7 Qxf7 and miraculously Black comes out of it with drawing chances.] 24...Rbf8 25.Qc3 Bxe4 26.Qe5 Bf5



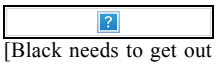
White 17:29 Black 8:57 27.Bxf5? [White just needs to toss that last log into the fire: 27.g4! Bd3 (27...Nc6 28.Qxg7+!! Rxg7 29.Rxg7+ Kh8 30.Rdd7! e5 31.gxf5 Rg8 32.f6!+- comes through.) 28.g5! Bf5 29.g6!] 27...Nxf5 28.g4? Too late! [28.Qxc7 looks like it holds a draw.] 28...Ne7-/+ 29.Qxc7?! [29.Rxc7 Qa4=/+] 29...Nd5 and Black is winning 30.Rxf7 Rxf7! (better than getting mated!) 31.Qe5 Qa7 32.Bd4 Qe7 33.Ba1 Qh4 34.f3 Qe7 [34...Nf4!] 35.Re1 Qxa3 36.Rf1 Qe3+ 37.Qxe3 Nxe3 38.Rf2 b4 39.Bd4 Nd5 40.Rc2 c3 41.Kf2 b3 42.Rxc3 Nxc3 43.Bxc3 Rc7 Max came close to realizes his opportunity when it arose, but was off by one move. Otherwise, a subtle win by Ruiyang. 0-1

(1) Ballantyne, Andrew (andrewaballantyne) (1057) - Hansen, Mateo (mateosh) (1687) [B01]

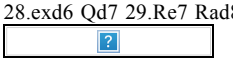
MI January TNMO Chess.com (2), 12.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 This is playable but a rather passive retreat for the queen. The more common choices of 3...Qa5 or 3...Qd6 keep the queen in play. 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bc4 Nc6 6.0-0 Bg4 7.b3?! White takes his focus off the center. [7.h3 Bh5 8.d4! gives White immediate play in the center while Black's development is behind. 8...e6 9.d5 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Ne5 11.Bb5+ c6 12.Qe2 cxb5 13.Qxe5 is an edge] 7...e6 8.h3 Bh5 9.Bb2 Nd4 10.Be2 Nxe2+ 11.Qxe2 Be7 12.d4 [12.Qb5+ c6 13.Qxb7 Bxf3 14.gxf3 0-0 is great compensation for the pawn] 12...0-0 13.Ne4 Qd5 14.Rfe1?! [14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.g4 avoids doubled pawns and would be even] 14...Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Bxf3 [15...Qxe4 16.Rxe4 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Rfd8 is a safe endgame advantage] 16.gxf3 Qg5+ 17.Qg4 Qf6?! This is on the same diagonal as the white bishop. Instead 17. ..Rad8 would keep the edge 18.Kh2 Bd6+ 19.Kh1 g6 20.Rab1 h5 21.Qg2 a5 22.d5 e5 23.Re4 b5?



[Black needs to get out of the pin. He would still have an edge after 23...Qf5] 24.f4! This really hurts. White gets rid of the doubled pawn and creates a powerful central pawn duo. 24...Rfe8 25.Rbe1 Bb4 26.fxe5 Qe7 27.d6 [27.Rg1 keeps options of many breakthroughs that would problably require little tactics] 27...cxd6?! [27...Qe6 28.R1e2 28.exd6 Qd7 29.Re7 Rad8?



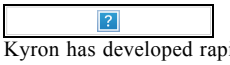
[29...Bxd6! gives some hope to Black 30.R1e6! (30.Rxd7? Rxe1+) 30...Qxe7 31.Rxe7 Bxe7 32.Qg3! b4 33.Qe5 f6 34.Qe6+ Kg7 35.c4 is still a good endgame advantage for White] 30.Rxd7! Rxe1+ 31.Kh2 Rxd7 32.Qa8+ Kh7 33.Qh8# 1-0

(2) FM Griffith, Kyron (KyronGriffith) (2504) - Liou, Arthur (artliou) (2034) [A80]

MI January TNMO Chess.com (2.3), 12.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 A direct way to deal with the Dutch Defense. 2...g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e3 c6 6.Bd3 d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1



Kyron has developed rapidly and is ready for the thematic break e3-e4. Black has one more move to get ready for it. 8...Qc7?!N This doesn't slow White down much. [Predecessor: 8...Na6 9.e4 fxe4 10.Nxe4 Nc7 11.Qd2 Bg4 12.Nh4 Rf7 13.Ng3 Qd7 14.h3 Be6 15.c4 Raf8 16.Be3 d5 17.Nf3 Nfe8 18.Ng5 dxc4 19.Nxf7 Rxf7 20.Bf1 Bd5 21.Bf4 Ne6 22.Be5 Nd6 23.b3 b5 24.Qc3 Qc7 25.Bxg7 Rxg7 26.bxc4 bxc4 27.Re5 Rf7 28.Rae1 Nf4 29.f3 Nb5 30.Qe3 Nxh3+ 31.gxh3 Rxf3 32.Qg5 Nxd4 33.Bg2 e6 34.Ne2 Nf5 35.Nf4 Rg3 36.Qf6 Bxg2 37.Qxe6+ Kg7 38.Nxg2 Douglas,S (2391)-Arnold,G (2306) ICCF email 2009 1-0; 8...b5!? is worth a look. Black could stop central play with 8...d5 but that lets White take have the e5 square.] 9.e4 fxe4 10.Nxe4 Bg4 11.h3 [11.Ned2! looks even stronger. White has clearly won the opening battle.] 11...Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nbd7 13.Nxf6+ exf6 14.Bf4 Rfe8 [14...Ne5! is the best chance. White will lose the f4 bishop if 15. dxe5 fxe5, White is better after 15.Qg3 Nxd3 16.Bxd6 Qd8 17.cxd3 Re8 but Black will haave pawn targets.] 15.Qg3 Bf8? This gets run over. Black needed to try [15...Qb6 16.Bxd6 Qxd4 with some chances, though the active white bishops make life hard] 16.Rxe8 Rxe8

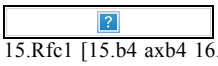
17.Bxg6! Rd8 nothing helps [17...hxg6 18.Qxg6+ Bg7 19.Qxe8+ Nf8 20.Re1 is over] 18.Bf5+ Kh8 19.Qh4 Nb6 20.Bxh7 Bg7 [20...Qxh7 21.Qxf6+ Kg8 22.Qxd8] 21.Bg6+ Kg8 22.Qh7+ Kf8 23.Bh6 23...Bxh6 24. Qh8+ Ke7 25. Re1+ is mate in two 1-0

(3) Li, Eric Yuhan (kingandqueen2017) (1966) - Zhou, Chelsea (mwncklmann) (1941) [D36]

MI January TNMO Chess.com, 12.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Qc2 Re8 10.h3 Nf8 11.0-0 Be6 12.Rab1 a5 13.a3 Classical play by both sides in this Queen's Gambit Exchange Variation. White prepares 14. b4 with the minority attack, Black seeks exchanges to be prepared. 13...N6d7 14.Bf4 Rc8



15.Rfc1 [15.b4 axb4 16.axb4 b5 17.Ne5 Nb6 and the knight heads to c4 to maintain equality] 15...c5?! This break gives White squares in the center. Better was to continue to be patient with [15...Nb6] 16.dxc5 Nxc5 17.Nd4 [17.Bb5! Nfd7 18.Qd1 keeps even more pressure on Black] 17...Nxd3 18.Qxd3 Qd7 19.Ncb5 Rxc1+ [19...Rc4 would hold more ground] 20.Rxc1 Rc8 21.Rc3 Bc5 22.Qc2 Bxd4 23.Nxd4

White has a classic advantage against the isolated black d-pawn. Capablanca reveled in such positions. 23...Rxc3 24.Qxc3 a4 25.Qb4 h6 26.Nb5 Qc6 27.Kh2 Bd7 28.Nd4 Qc8 29.Bd6 Nh7 30.Be7 f6 31.Qd6 Bc6 32.f4! This restricts the black knight. 32...Kf7 [32...Nf8? 33.Nxc6 bxc6 34.Bxf8 Qxf8 35.Qxc6 is a winning queen ending] 33.Bd8 Qd7 34.Qb8 Nf8 35.Ba5 Ne6 36.Nf5 b5? [36...Kg6 37.g4 Kh7 would keep Black's disadvantage to a minimum.] 37.Bb4 [37.Nd6+! Ke7 (37...Kg6 38.f5+) 38.Bb4 sets up a lethal discovered check] 37...Qd8 38.Qa7+ Qd7 39.Qa6 Kg8? The pressure of time and the position led to this blunder. Black is still only somewhat worse after [39...g6 40.Nd6+ Kg7] 40.Ne7+ Kf7 41.Qxc6 Qxc6 42.Nxc6 There's no hope for Black in this piece down endgame. 42...Nc7 43.Nd4 Ke8 44.Ba5 1-0

Thursday Night Marathon Report

The Thursday Night Marathon began on Thursday January 14th. This is a five round event that will stretch through January and February with one round per week with a time control of G/60+5 in one open section. Here are the standings after round 1.

SwissSys Standings. Jan-Feb 2021 Thursday Night Marathon: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	R 4
1	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2700	gguseinov	W22			
2	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W23			
3	**FM Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)**	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W24			
4	**NM Mike Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2106	FlightsOfFancy	W25			
5	**Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)**	12906142	2034	artliou	W26			
6	**Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)**	15176393	2009	SmilyFace4	W27			
7	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1997	kclemens	W28			
8	**Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)**	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W29			
9	**Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)**	12458563	1835	knvsback	W30			
10	**Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)**	16434922	1809	uzkuzk	W31			
11	**Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)**	16380312	1795	3Ke31-0	W32			
12	**Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)**	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W33			
13	**Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)**	12797931	1789	KingSmasher35	W34			
14	**Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)**	13742111	1700	LudiMagisterJosephus	W35			
15	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	16898540	1158	kevin_mx_sun	W20			
16	**Alexander Casassovici (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101063)**	30101063	unr.	zatmonkey	W21			
17	**Edward Pernicka (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30097683)**	30097683	unr.	copernickas	B---			
18	**Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)**	12913356	1766	pgstar3	H---			
19	**Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)**	17083655	1560	jacobchess857	H---			

20	**NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)**	10490936	1900	talenuf	L15			
21	**Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)**	13836822	1652	ibalek	L16			
22	**Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)**	11296106	1643	zenwabi	L1			
23	**Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)**	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L2			
24	**Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	16380642	1551	maxskiff	L3			
25	**Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1519	rimus11	L4			
26	**Yali Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)**	16280288	1428	noydan100	L5			
27	**Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)**	16154827	1416	NXBex	L6			
28	**Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)**	16497860	1406	loltheawesomedude	L7			
29	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L8			
30	**Andrew Fu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16403798)**	16403798	1152	geese	L9			
31	**Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)**	12693378	1018	rahimftd	L10			
32	**Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)**	16695036	954	adichi	L11			
33	**Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)**	17144246	946	TanFlatPupet	L12			
34	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	851	Bruce_Hedman	L13			
35	**Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)**	16939797	843	caodanny	L14			

History Found! Scoresheet From 1924 Simul by World Champion Alexander Alekhine at Mechanics'

Future world champion Alexander Alekhine giving a simul at the Mechanics' Institute in 1924

A gentleman by the name of Stephen Koehler reached out to me last week to let me know that he has a hand-written scoresheet from the simulatneous exhibition given by Alexander Alekhine at the Mechanics' Institute from 1924. It was a game played Mr. Fisher, and it was found inside an 1878 copy of Staunton's *The Chess Player's Handbook* at the Lafayette Library book sale in the early 1970's. Presumably, this book was previously owned by Mr. Fisher. This is a historic find because there was not previously known to be a game record of that simul.

I included John Donaldson in the correspondence, who offered this regarding Mr. Fisher:

This is a great discovery!

Alekhine made two official visits to the Mechanics' Institute in 1924 and 1929 - he may have also dropped by in early 1933 on his way to Honolulu. The events of 1929 are well documented but little is known about his earlier visit beyond the results of the exhibition (32 games - +23, -4, =5) and an exhibition game played (2/25/1924) between Lovegrove and Gruer in consultation against Alekhine that A.A. included in his book On the Road to the World Championship. That's it so the game with Fisher is indeed a find.

Who was Fisher? Good question. I checked the Mechanics' Chess Club's old guestbook which can be found online at https://archive.org/details/ChessRoomRegister1913 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://archive.org/details/ChessRoomRegister1913) (it may take awhile to download) you will find Alekhine's signature on page 6 but unfortunately none of his adversaries in the simul signed in. There is no Fisher in CalBase that is a good match. I think he was a local player, but certainly not a master. He played the first half of the game poorly but then came up with some ingenious moves.

Noting the starting and ending time is a nice touch. It could be Fisher agreed to a draw as he had to go to work the next day! - (2/27/24 was a Wednesday). It's also interesting to note Alekhine was playing two blindfold games on the side which might partly explain his poor result. The MI had a tradition of doing well against visiting masters and this exhibition was no exception.

John Donaldson

Mr. Koehler has very gratiously and generously donated this scoresheet to the Mechanics' Institute. Here is the copy:

Here is the game, annotated by IM John Donaldson.

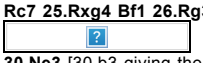
(9) Alekhine,Alexander - Fisher [C13]

San Francisco (simul), 27.02.1924

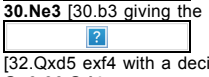
[Donaldson,John]

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Bxf6 [5.Nxe4] **5...Qxf6** [5...gxf6 6.Nxe4 f5] **6.Nxe4 Qd8 7.Nf3 h6?! 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.Qd2 Be7 10.0-0-0 Nb4 11.Bc4 b5? 12.Bxb5+ c6 13.Bc4 Qb6 14.c3 Nd5 15.Ne5 f5? 16.Bxd5 cxd5**

17.Nc5! Bxc5 18.dxc5 Qxc5 19.Rhe1? [19.Ng6 forces Black's king to live in the center.] **19...0-0 20.Qd4** [20.f4] **20...Qd6 21.f4 Ba6 22.Rd2 Rfc8 23.g4** [23.h3 and then g4.] **23...fxg4 24.Rg1 Rc7 25.Rxg4 Bf1 26.Rg3 Rf8 27.Rf2 Qa6 28.Kb1 Rf5 29.Ng4 Kh7**



30.Ne3 [30.b3 giving the king a place to hide on b2, kept some advantage. The text is text is a serious mistake.] **30...Bd3+! 31.Ka1** [31.Kc1 e5!] **31...e5! 32.Qb4**



[32.Qxd5 exf4 with a decisive material advantage.] **32...Rxf4** Not bad but [32...Rff7 33.Nxd5 Bc4 and; 32...Bc4 33.b3 Rxf4 34.Rfg2 Bd3 were both winning.] **33.Rxf4 exf4 34.Qxf4 Re7! 35.Rg1 Qe6 36.Qd4**

36...Be4? [36...Qe4! 37.Qxe4+ Rxe4 38.Nxd5 *(38.Rg3 Rh4 39.h3 Bg6 40.Nxd5 Bf5* and Black captures on h3 when the passed pawns and bishop versus knight on an open board should prove victorius.*)* 38...Rh4 39.Rg2 Be4 40.Rd2 Bxd5 41.Rxd5 Rxh2 and Black's h-pawn is much too fast.] **37.a3 Qe5 38.Qd2 a6 39.Ng4?!** [39.Rd1] **39...Qe6** [39...Qh5] **40.Qd4 Rc7?** [40...Bg6!] **41.h4? Rc4! 42.Qa7 Bg6! 43.Ne3 Rxh4** Black is easily winning but decides not to tempt fate against the future World Champion. **1/2-1/2**

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 extraoridinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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, 1/19: https://www.chess.com/live#r=859708 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://www.chess.com/live#r=859708)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 1/21: https://www.chess.com/live#r=859711 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://www.chess.com/live#r=859711)

See you in the arena!

Dr. Alexey Root

Alexey Root and Mike Walder wrote Grandmaster Chef: Kirill Alekseenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-kirill-alekseenko)for ChessBase. The Grandmaster Chef series will continue with Mike as sole author. Alexey is cutting down on freelance writing to draft a book proposal about the U.S. Women's Chess Champions. MIke and Alexey wrote 15 articles together, beginning in June of 2020 with Chemo Brain and Chess: One Master's Story (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://en.chessbase.com/post/chemo-brain-and-chess). That first article happened after Mike contacted Alexey via Facebook regarding her appearance on the Mechanics' Chess Social (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://m.facebook.com/mechanicschess/photos/a.153126558641429/582277779059636/?type=1&theater). Alexey emailed, "Thank you Mike Walder and the Mechanics' Institute!"

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/20220518062049/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - Game Review Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates: Ongoing

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information:

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

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/20220518062049/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

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:

1/19 Tuesday - January 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Jan2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Jan2021TNMOnline)

1/21 Thursday - January/February 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/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/20220518062049/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/20220518062049/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/20220518062049/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Upcoming Classes

2021 Winter sessions start the second week of January, and goes for 10 weeks total. More information and links to register for the following classes: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess)

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin - Mondays 4-5PM
- Beginner / Intermediate Level with Coach Andy - Tuesdays 3-4PM
- Absolute Beginners with Coach Colin - Tuesday 4-5PM
- Intermediate with Coach Andy - Thursdays 4-5PM
- Intermediate/Advance with Coach Andy - Thursdays 5-6PM

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220518062049/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom) Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Sunday, Jan 17: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247458 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=247458)
- Monday, Jan 18: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=248785 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=248785)
- Tuesday, January 19: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=248786

(https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=248786)
- Wednesday, Jan 20: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=248787 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=248787)
- Thursday, Jan 21: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=248789 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=248789)
- Friday, Jan 22: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=248790 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=248790)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments - Registration needed via the links below, and players must have current US Chess membership. Games will affect US Chess online ratings (not over-the-board ratings). Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.

- Saturday, Jan 16: 6SS G/15+2 - Starts at 3PM - USCF Online rapid rated games: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan16SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518062049/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan16SAT)
- Sunday, Jan 24: 6SS G/10+2 - Starts at 2PM - USCF Online rapid rated games
- Sunday, Jan 31 - SAVE THE DATE - US Amateur Team West Online - National Championship - Scholastic Side event

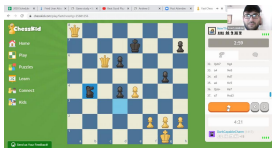
If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Holiday Camps

We have offered two virtual winter camps over the holidays with Coach Andrew, Coach Colin, and International Master Coach Elliott Winslow. Both weeks were filled with intersting lectures, problems and fun tournaments. It was great to see both returning players and new students trying out our offerings and having fun and learning from our amazing coaches. Many thanks for all the parents for their support.

2021 Spring camp schedule has been posted:

- Jan 18, Monday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MLKDayChessCamp
- Feb 15, Monday - Presidents Day Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/PresidentsDayChessCamp
- Mar 29 - Apr 2 - Spring Break Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp



Scholastic Game of the Week, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

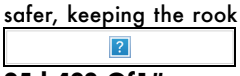
(4) topmadhat10 (1404) - zzng (1486) [A07]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.Nf3 Nc6 2.g3 e5 3.Bg2?! d5 [3...e4! 4.Ng1 d5 grabs the center] **4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 h6 6.Nfd2?! Be6 7.e4 d4** [Black has the advantage in the middle and may prefer to keep the game fluid with 7...Qd7] **8.Nc4 b5 9.Ncd2 g6 10.b3 Bg7 11.Ba3 b4?!** This brings the pawn up where White can initiate queenside play. The game is back to even. **12.Bb2 0-0 13.a3 bxa3** [13...a5 keeps the space advantage on the queenside] **14.Rxa3 Re8 15.c3? dxc3 16.Bxc3 Rb8?!** [Why not take a pawn with 16...Qxd3] **17.Nc4 Nd4 18.Bxd4** [18.Nxe5 Bxb3 19.Rxb3 Rxb3 20.Bxd4 Qxd4 21.Qxb3 Qxe5 is about equal] **18...exd4?!** [18...Qxd4] **19.e5 Nd7 20.f4**

20...Ra8!? This is objectively not best, but the exchange sacrifice gives a lot of practical chances. **21.Bxa8 Qxa8 22.Qc2 Bh3 23.Re1** [23.Rf2 is safer, keeping the rook on defense for the white king] **23...Nc5 24.Re2 Qf3**



25.b4?? Qf1# zzng won by checkmate **0-1**

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

The San Francisco Endgame

The “San Francisco Endgame” is this mind-boggling composition by J.J. Dolan from 1904:

White to move: is it a win?

Dolan was the Mechanics' Institute Club Champion in 1898, and elected "President" of the club in 1909.

He was an internationally recognized chess problem composer.

This problem was featured on the cover of the **California Chess Reporter** of January / February 1975:

As I was a very frequent (every day) visitor to the club at that time, I saw this problem on the board more than once, with everyone trying to figure the darn thing out. Mechanics' trustee Robert Burger had just published his terrific book, **The Chess of Bobby Fischer**, and it was reviewed in the Reporter by yet another MI trustee, Guthrie McClain!

McClain loves the book but takes issue with the printing, and goes on to say that: "A famous position, the San Francisco Endgame, has frustrated chess-players at the Mechanic's Institute for generations. Burger wanted to include it in his book. Alas, there was no solution available to him. So he solved it. The solution in the book takes up five pages."

I find it mildly hilarious that Mr. McClain misplaced the apostrophe in the name of the Institution that provides safe harbor for the Chess Room, and also amused that "The San Francisco Endgame" takes up five pages in a book about… Bobby Fischer.

Those were the days!

As I flipped through the rest of that copy of the Reporter (found as a .pdf on that excellent – priceless – website, chessdryad.com) I ran across this old picture taken by my Dad at one of the LERA tournaments in Sunnyvale of my brother Jay and I back in 1974:

Those were the days, indeed. McClain also notes that "The San Francisco Endgame" is in the 1975 edition of Tattersall's **1000 Chess Endings**. I have to admit it, right here and now: I don't have Burger or Tattersall's book. And, if I did, I just might not have the patience to try to work out the solution to a problem that confounded "generations" of chess-players.

I'm leaving that up to you.

GM Nick de Firmian

Live Chess begins – Tata Steel

The pandemic has lasted longer than most expected, and it seems it will continue for months despite the vaccines that have been developed around the world. Yet we have entered a new yea and most of us have great expectations that 2021 will bring back all the good things we miss. Thus it is a pleasure to chess fans that the tournament with the longest tradition will be played live, just like last year and every year since 1938 (except 1945). The tournament in Wijk aan Zee in the Netherlands starts Saturday and once again has the biggest stars of the chess world – Magnus Carlsen, Fabiano Caruana, Vachier-Lagrave, Anish Giri along with young stars Firoujza, Duda and eight other strong grandmasters.

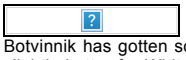
The tournament organizers decided on playing conditions like the Altibox Norway Chess event played in October last year (the last major event to be played live). There won't be plexiglass over the board and face masks won't be mandatory during play but tables will be wider apart and more distance between opponents. What is really good is that the games are played at classical time control (100 minutes for 40 moves, then 50 minutes for 20 moves then 15 minutes for rest of game plus 30 second increment from move 1). That will be a refreshing change from the standard rapid time control of all the online tournaments and should provide really excellent chess games.

Let us hope that we will be seeing more live tournaments soon. Personally I can't wait to see the Tuesday Night Marathon back live in it's rightful place at the Mechanics' club room. Now we take a look below at a couple of games from the great history of the Wijk aan Zee event.

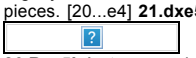
(1) Botvinnik,Mikhail - Ree,Hans [A29]

Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee (2), 15.01.1969

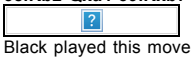
1.c4 Botvinniks favorite opening with White. He won many a brilliant game with the English. **1...e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bb4 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nf3 Re8 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nd5 Bc5** Probably the bishop would do better to retreat to e7 or f8. **8.d3 Nxd5 9.cxd5 Nd4 10.Nd2 d6 11.e3 Nf5 12.Nc4 Bd7 13.Bd2 a6 14.b4 Ba7 15.Na5!**



Botvinnik has gotten some queenside pressure out of the opening. **15...Bc8 16.Rc1 Nh6?!** This knight on the rim would be better in the center. [16...Ne7 17.Qc2 Bb6 18.Nc4 Ba7 19.a4 is only slightly better for White.] **17.Rc3 f5 18.Qc2 Re7 19.Rc1 Bb6 20.d4!? Ng4?!** This allows the game to open up. The pressure White has on the c-file gets combined with other active white pieces. [20...e4] **21.dxe5 Nxe5 22.Nc4 Nxc4 23.Rxc4 Bd7 24.a4!** Threatening to drive the bishop off the defense of the c7 pawn. **24...a5 25.bxa5 Bc5**



26.Rxc5! A strong exchance sacrifice. Botvinnik's dark-squared bishop soon becomes as strong as a rook. **26...dxc5 27.Qxc5 c6 28.Rb1 Be8 29.Bb4 Rf7 30.Rd1 Rc8 31.d6 Bd7 32.h3** White has control of the position and can slowly improve things (such as king safety) before making a decisive breakthough. **32...h6 33.Kh2 Qg5 34.Rd2 Re8 35.f4 Qf6 36.Bc3 Qe6 37.Be5 Qb3 38.Rb2 Qxa4 39.Rxb7 Ra8 40.Bc3 Qc2**



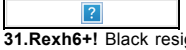
Black played this move and resigned as he reached time control and was able to see how hopeless his position is. After 41. Qc4 Raf8 42. a6 there is nothing Black can do. **1-0**

(2) Browne,Walter S (2540) - Sunye Neto,Jaime (2415) [E12]

Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee (11), 28.01.1980

Walter Browne won this prestigious tournament in 1980. Browne was the best American player in the late 1970's, and of course an icon of Bay Area chess. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.a3** Petrosian's line against the Queen's Indian is ironically the sharpest way to play. Tigran was know for his great defense and positional play, but here made his mark on opening theory. **4...Bb7 5.Nc3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.e3 Nd7 8.Bd3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Bd6 10.e4 e5 11.Bg5 f6 12.Bh4** Browne has the classic pawn center and a slight edge in the opening. **12...0-0 13.0-0 Kh8 14.a4!** It's little moves like this that add up to a big difference. The a-pawn moves from being a target on a3 to a potential attacking unit on the queenside. Even though White's main plan is a central/kingside attack it makes a difference to keep track of the queenside. **14...Qe8 15.Re1 exd4?** This lets the White center pawns become mobile. That's simply asking for trouble. **16.cxd4 Qh5 17.Bg3 Bxg3 18.hxg3 c5 19.d5 Ne5 20.Nxe5 Qxe5 21.Bc4 f5**

22.f4! Qc3 23.Rc1 Qxg3 24.e5! Browne sacrifices two pawns. He may not even be able to stay in the middle game, but his passed d and e pawns are a tremendous force together. **24...Qxf4 25.e6 Qd6** [25...Qd4+ 26.Qxd4 cxd4 27.e7 Rfe8 28.d6 Bc6 29.Bb5 wins a rook] **26.e7 Rfe8 27.Re6 Qd7 28.d6 Bc6 29.Rc3!** Getting the final piece into the attack. **29...Be4 30.Rh3 h6**



31.Rexh6+! Black resigned. It is mate in 4 - 31...gxh6 32. Rxh6+ Kg7 33. Qh5 f4 34. Qg5+ Bg6 35. Qxg6 mate. **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 #952

January 23, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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- Submit your piece or feedback

2021 US Amateur Team West Championship

The Mechanics' Institute is honored to organize for the 2nd year in a row, the US Amateur Team West National Championship on the weekend of January 30-31. The event will be held virtually on Chess.com, six rounds, with a time control of G/60+10. Games will be manually paired, and there will be two sections by average team rating; 1800+, and under 1800. This is a 4-player team event in which the average rating of the combined team must be under 2200. The winning team in the top section will go on to the national semi-final against the winners of the North, South, and East National Championships. Individual and team entries are welcome, and we can help individuals form teams.

Come participate in this online championship team event, brought to you by the Mechanics' Institute!

We will broadcast all rounds live on our Twitch channel starting at 9am Pacific time January 30, with live commentary by GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead, along with special guests. Watch the event here: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

For tournament information, as well as advance entries, please click here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/usatw (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/usatw). Register by Monday January 25 to receive the early bird discount here: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021USAmateurTeamWestOnlineChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021USAmateurTeamWestOnlineChampionship).

We look forward to a fantastic, fun weekend of chess. Next weekend is championship weekend at the Mechanics' Institute!

January 2021 TNM Report

Rounds 3 and 4 are in the books for the Tuesday Night Marathon, with the two GM's in the field remaining on top of the leaderboard after facing tough resistence from our Bay Area's talented kids in round 3 and agreeing to a friendly draw in round 4. Both players stand at 3.5/4. NM Mike Walder drew IM Elliott Winslow and then won an amazing game against FM Eric Yuhan Li in round 4 to be the only other player at 3.5/4. FM Kyron Griffith, fresh off earning his 2nd IM norm in Charlotte had taken two byes for the evening, was not in action, but remains in the hunt with 3/4. Also chasing with 3 points are Li, Winslow, Daniel Lin, Tejas Mahesh, and Nathan Fong.

In the u/1800 section, Aaron Nicoski and Sebby Suarez are the only perfect scores, a full point ahead of the field. Still chasing the leaders at 3/4 are some tough competitors, including Mateo Hansen, Reka Sztaray, Rama Chitta, Elliott Regan, Andrew Ballantyne, and Ethan Sun.

We got a very nice surprise during our broadcast, as GM Daniel Naroditsky sent over 3000 viewers to us when he signed off of his broadcast! Thank you to Daniel for that boost, which substantially increased our followers to our channel.

The final two rounds of the January TNM will be next week. Can anyone slow the GM's down in the top section? Can someone stay perfect in the u/1800? Or will a contender rise to win the final two rounds and catch the leaders? Tune in next week to find out!

To watch the broadcast, click on our YouTube channel here:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos)
.

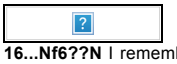
Here are some game from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian. The first game, however, is annotated by NM Mike Walder. It is his game against Christopher Yoo, in which the line he played against FM Eric Li was played against him. This goes to show the value of learning from ones own games, and how it can prove to be very useful later. We will see this first game, and then the game against Eric right after.

(1) IM Christopher Yoo - NM Michael Walder [B94]

2020 Mechanics' Rapid Online Championsh Chess.com (5), 31.05.2020

[mswal]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Qe2 h6 8.Bh4 g6 9.f4 e5 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.0-0-0 Qc7 12.Nb3 b5 13.Rxd7 I remembered reading about this move. **13...Nxd7 14.Nd5** There are two choices for the Queen, b8 and my choice in this game. They both lead to playable games, but Black must walk a tightrope. **14...Qd6 15.Na5 g5 16.Be1**



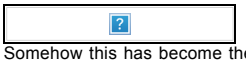
16...Nf6??N I remembered that I had to challange the d5 Knight, but chose the wrong square, hemming in my Queen. Christoper makes short work of me. [16...Nb6 17.Bb4 Qg6 18.Nc7+ Kd8 19.Qd2+? *(19.Bxf8 Kxc7 20.Bc5=; 19.Bc3 Kxc7 20.Bxe5+ Bd6 21.Bxh8 f6 22.e5 Bxe5 23.Qf3 Qe8 24.Bd3=)* 19...Kxc7 20.Qc3+ Kd7 21.Bxb5+ axb5 22.Rd1+ Ke8 23.Qxe5+ Be6 24.Qxb5+ Nd7 25.Nc6 Bxb4 26.Qb7 Kf8 0-1 (26) Haubro,M (2365)-Ziska,H (2544) Kollafjord 2017] **17.Bb4 Qxb4 18.Nxf6+** ChristopherYoo won by resignation. Getting crushed like this gave me incentive to dig deep into this line. The result is that later I get a flashy win against a strong opponent. **1-0**

(1) Walder (FlightsOfFancy) Michael NM (2071) - Li (kingandqueen2017),Eric Yuhan FM (2013) [B94]

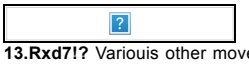
MI January TNMO Chess.com (4.2), 19.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

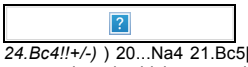
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 The modern response to 6.Bg5, although it also happens to be the ancient response -- in the mid 1950s it was all the rage. Then along came Fischer and the Poisoned Pawn variation, and things weren't the same for a long time. **7.Qe2** The modern response, turbo-charged by Negi's championing it in his Grandmaster Repertoire series book on the Najdorf. **7...h6 8.Bh4 g6**



Somehow this has become the main line. It almost doesn't feel like a Najdorf any more, but just wait. Black isn't playing for a Dragon conversion, it's just to control f5 before ...e5. **9.f4 e5 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.0-0-0! Qc7!** Taking the knight runs into 12.e5, so Black tries to put things in order. **12.Nb3 b5**



13.Rxd7!? Variouis other moves have been selected, but this sends in an early explosion. Objectivity aside, it's very hard to handle. And it's been lobbed in already at least 40 times since it first appeared in 2017! [13.Nd5 is/was the most common attempt, but it's fallen by the wayside.; 13.Qf3 is the more contrite move, leading to a difficult game. Less instances, but a better percentage.] **13...Nxd7 14.Nd5 Qb8!?** Preferred by Wei Yi and Wojtaszek, and Donchenko (who just drew and epic vs. Carlsen in the live Tata Steel event also going on). [14...Qd6!? has had some good results, but it's thanks to White losing the Way. 15.Na5 g5!? **a)** 15...f6 has been tried by 2500 players, a couple draws.; **b)** 15...Ra7!? was one of the stronrgest proponents of 14...Qd6: 16.Qf2 Rc7 (The knight must be worth more than that rook!) 17.Be2 Qc5 18.Bg4 g5 19.Rf1 Qxf2 20.Nxc7+ Kd8 21.Bxf2 Kxc7 1/2-1/2 (61) Fawzy,A (2431)-Cheparinov,I (2715) Batumi 2018; **c)** 15...Rb8 16.Qf3 Bb7 17.Nxb7 Rxb7 18.Be2 Qc6 *(18...h5* was the highest rating for White in this line: 1-0 (27) Kasimdzhanov,R (2698)-Zhu,Y (2328) Chengdu 2017*)* 19.Rd1 Bc5 20.b4 g5 21.Be1 Bd4 22.c3 Rg8 is hard to understand, but it led to a win (!), 0-1 (34) Niemi,K (2306)-Agopov,M (2447) Finland 2018; 16.Be1 Nb6! Fighting off the knight at d5. **a)** 16...Nc5?! 17.Bb4 Qd8? *(17...Be6 18.Nb7 Qc6 19.Nf6+ Ke7 20.Nd5+ Ke8 21.Na5 Qc8* isn't lost*)* 18.Qf3 1-0 (37) Garrido Outon,A (2287)-Represa Perez,M (2081) Caleta ENG 2020; **b)** 16...Nf6? 17.Bb4 Qxb4?! *(17...Qd8 18.Nc6 Nxd5 19.Nxd8 Nxb4 20.a3+-)* 18.Nxf6+ 1-0, Yoo,Chr. - Walder,M; MI Rapid Online ch, 1 June 2020. (Mike plays both sides of this line! But on this occasion he forgot that White can taker here first and then go back for the queen, winning.; 17.Bb4 Qg6 (Another advantage of ...g5!) 18.Nc7+= (Now Christopher played 18.Qd2?-/+ sf12) a couple times against another near-2700 player but came up short both times: 18...Nxd5 19.Qxd5 Qe6 *(*An improvement over the previous *19...Bxb4 20.Qxe5+ Qe6 21.Qxh8+ Ke7 22.Nb3* but Black went on to win here; *22...Bb7* 0-1 (58) Yoo,C (2455)-Fedoseev,V (2678) PNWCC Masters, chess.com 23.05/0 *)* 20.Qxa8 Bxb4 21.Nc6 Bc5 22.Nxe5 0-0 Again the bishops rake on and Black was successful: 0 1 (42) Yoo,C (2455)-Fedoseev,V (2678) PNWCC Online Blitz JP 12, lichess.org 6.06/0) 18...Kd8 19.Qd2+?? **a)** 19.Bxf8= Kxc7[] 20.Qe3 (20.Bc5 Bb7 21.Qe3 Na4 22.b3 Nxc5 23.Qxc5+ Bc6! *(23...Kb8?*



24.Bc4!!+/-)) 20...Na4 21.Bc5[] Bb7; **b)** 19.Bc3=; 19...Kxc7 20.Qc3+ Kd7 21.Bxb5+ (and White mops up the black king) 21...axb5 22.Rd1+ Ke8 23.Qxe5+ Be6 24.Qxb5+ Nd7 25.Nc6 Black is up a rook and a bishop -- and lost. 25...Bxb4 26.Qb7 Kf8 0-1 (26) Haubro,M (2365)-Ziska,H (2544) Kollafjord FAI 2017] **15.Na5**

[15.Bf6 is the other try, putting a permanent stop to any idea of Black getting castled.] **15...Bb7?!** [15...Bc5 saw Wojtaszek losing to Christiansen (not Larry, Johan-Sebastian),; but 15...Bg7!? so far has a slight plus score in the four few games it's been tried.] **16.Nf6+** Black will suffer a lot of crossfire mating threats now **16...Nxf6 17.Bxf6 Qc7! 18.Nxb7** [18.Bxh8? Qxa5-/+ 19.Kb1 Qb4 20.Bxe5 0-0-0!] **18...Rg8** [18...Rh7 (covers f7, but will it ever get out!) 19.a4 bxa4 20.Qc4 Qxb7 21.Qxa4+ Qd7 22.Qa5!? The first time this was seen White gambled for a win -- and got it *(*The computer just thinks White should go *22.Qxd7+ Kxd7 23.Bc4 Bd6* with equality and a draw, which eventually happened, ½-½ (59) Kardoeus,D (2202)-Wachinger,N (2311) Magdeburg GER 2019*)* 22...Be7 23.Qxe5 Kf8 24.Bc4 Bxf6 25.Qxf6 Qa4 26.b3 Qa3+ 27.Kb1 Qe7 28.e5 Re8 29.Rf1 Qxe5 30.Qxg6 Qe1+ 31.Kb2 1-0 (31) Harutyunyan,R (2344)-Wachinger,N (2338) Konya TUR 2018] **19.a4**

19...Qxb7?!N [19...bxa4 20.Qc4 Qxb7 21.Qxa4+ Qd7 22.Qb3 Be7 23.Bxe5 Bd6 24.Bxd6 Qxd6 25.Bc4 Rg7 26.Qf3 saw veteran Israeli GM Yehuda Gruenfeld grind out a win: 1-0 (49), Gruenfeld,Y (2421)-Steinberg,N (2532) Maalot Tarshiha 2018] **20.axb5 a5?!** [20...axb5 21.Qxb5+ Qd7 is cute but still favors White. After 22.b4 *(or 22.c3)*] **21.b6!** Now White has a monster pawn to go with his mate threats. Black is in trouble. **21...Be7** Best try **22.Qb5+ Kf8 23.Bxe5 Bg5+?!** [23...Rc8 24.Qd5 Qxb6 25.Bc4 Rxc4 (might as well) 26.Qxc4 Qe6 27.Qxe6 fxe6 28.Rf1+ is a won ending] **24.Kb1 Be3 25.Bc4** It all comes back to the attack on f7. **25...Qxb6** [25...Re8 26.Rf1] **26.Qd5 Ra7 27.Rf1 Rg7 28.Bxg7+ Kxg7 29.Rxf7+** Fine opening prep, excellent execution by Walder. **1-0**

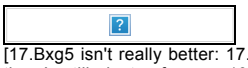
(2) Yan (jij2018),Ruiyang NM (2242) - Lenderman (AlexanderL),Aleksandr GM (2704) [B11]

MI January TNMO Chess.com (3.1), 19.01.2021

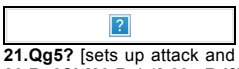
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Ne4 This sharp response to the Two Knight variation against the Caro Kann is the latest theoretical battleground. **5.Ne2** White hopes to harass the knight **5...Qb6** Far and away the main move -- 6.d3 is thwarted, so White has to leave the knight after all for now. [5...Bg4!? could well be better,] **6.d4 e6** [or 6...c5 right away, should transpose.] **7.Ng3** [7.Nfg1!? to trap the knight, but 7...f6 8.f3 Ng5 9.exf6 gxf6 0-1 (46) Vachier Lagrave,M (2819)-Anand,V (2770) Saint Louis 2016 and over a hundred other, still with a slight plus for White.] **7...c5 8.Bd3 Nxg3** [8...Nc6?! was Caruana's slip-up vs. Short, who showed no mercy: 9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.Bxe4 cxd4 11.0-0 1-0 (71) Short,N (2675)-Caruana,F (2827) Caleta 2017.] **9.fxg3** There are those who think this puts this line out of business -- but Lenderman doesn't lose his way readily, so he must have something in mind. [Way back in 2016: 9.hxg3 cxd4 10.g4 Nc6 11.a3 Bd7 12.Kf1 f6 13.Qe2 0-0-0 14.b4 1-0 (43) Carlsen,M (2855)-Grischuk,A (2747) ICC INT 2016] **9...Nc6** [9...cxd4 or right away] **10.0-0** White has -- had! -- a huge score here, with 12 wins

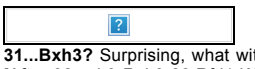
and one loss! But now it's two losses... **10...h6 11.Kh1 cxd4 12.a3 Bd7** staying compact. [12...a5 13.g4 Bd7 14.Qe2 Be7 15.Bd2 0-0-0? *(15...g5!?+/=)* 16.b4! opening lines -- and marking it all just a bad idea. 16...axb4?! now it's worse 17.axb4 Bxb4 18.Rfb1 Qc5 19.Bxb4 Nxb4 20.Qe1 Nxd3 21.cxd3 Kb8 22.Qf2 Rc8 23.Nxd4 f6 24.Qb2 1-0 (24) Jacobson,B (2418)-Ostrovskiy,A (2450) New York 2019] **13.Qe1** [or 13.Qe2] **13...Be7** Stockfish 12 isn't so excited about this, but he's keeping his options open. **14.g4** Computer can't decide which knight-pawn to push: [14.b4] **14...0-0-0** giving up on c-file play for now. **15.b4 a6 16.g5?** [Maybe the GM didn't know what he was up to! Here Ruiyang had a clear advantage after 16.Rb1!+/- with various pawn breaks on the queenside imminent.] **16...hxg5 17.Nxg5**



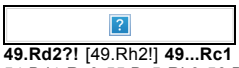
[17.Bxg5 isn't really better: 17...Bxg5 18.Nxg5 Nxe5! 19.Qxe5 f6 when it's Black who's opening lines.] **17...Bxg5?** Definitely a mistake. [17...Nxe5 18.Qxe5 f6 was winning, although of course there's still plenty of game. 19.Qg3 fxg5 20.Bxg5 Bxg5 21.Qxg5 Qd6 22.h3 e5] **18.Bxg5 Rdf8?!** [18...Rdg8=] **19.Qg3** [19.Bf4+/=] **19...Qc7 20.Bf4 Rfg8?!**



21.Qg5? [sets up attack and defense (g3 for the bishop) 21.Qe1 Rh5 22.a4 Rgh8 23.b5+/- and White is breaking in as well.] **21...Qd8!** Black heads for an edge in an ending **22.Qxd8+ Rxd8 23.Bg3?!** [23.Rab1] **23...Rdf8!=/+ 24.Rf2 Rh5 25.Re1 Ne7 26.Ref1?! Nf5! 27.Bxf5 exf5-/+** with ...g5 and ...f4 coming the difference of the bishops becomes glaring. **28.Kg1 g5 29.Rd2 f4 30.Bf2 Rfh8** [30...Bb5!] **31.h3**



31...Bxh3? Surprising, what with over 25 minutes for Black vs. 12 for White. [Best was 31...Bb5-/+ followed by ...g4, destroying White's kingside at no cost.] **32.Bxd4??** The bluff isn't called! [After 32.gxh3 Rxh3 33.Rfd1 White slips out of any danger to his king, when the d-pawns are fodder. Stockfish makes this only a nominal advantage for Black.] **32...Be6** [32...Bf5!?] **33.Rf3** It's all Black now. **33...Kb8** [33...Rh1+ 34.Kf2 Rc1 infiltrates with both rooks.] **34.Kf2 Rh1 35.a4 Rb1 36.Rb3 Rxb3?!** INACCURACY (-3.56) [Both rooks! 36...Rc1!] **37.cxb3 g4?!** Starting to really slip. [37...Rh1-/+ 38.b5 axb5 39.axb5 Bf5] **38.b5?** [When it's only rook the king can keep it out: 38.Kg1-/+] **38...Rh1** [38...axb5 39.axb5 Rh1] **39.bxa6 bxa6 40.b4 Rc1 41.b5** White: 3:44 Black: **41...axb5?** There seems to be some unspoken rule that the GMs are required to use as little of their time as possible. [Here 41...Kb7 was better.; or even 41...a5 42.Bb6 Ra1] **42.axb5 Rc4 43.g3 f3 44.b6 Kb7 45.Ke3 Bd7?!** [45...Ra4] **46.Ra2=/+ Ba4 47.Rd2 Bb5 48.Ra2 Ba6**



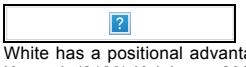
49.Rd2?! [49.Rh2!] **49...Rc1** [49...Ra4] **50.Kf4 Be2? 51.Ke3?** [51.Bf2 is a draw] **51...Rc4 52.Ra2??** Down to less than a minute, Ruiyang overlooks a basic tactic. [52.Kf2 Ra4 53.Be3 Ra1 54.Bd4 Ra3 55.Bc5 Rb3 56.Bd4 is hard to make progress still.] **52...Rxd4 53.Kxd4 f2** A bit bumpy, but there's no question that Lenderman created ongoing problems for Ruiyang, some real some maybe a bit psychological (the piece sacrifice) -- and they eentually worked. **0-1**

(3) Guseinov (GGuseinov),Gadir GM (2700) - Boldi (etvat),Ethan CM (2117) [C06]

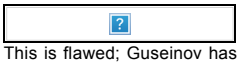
MI January TNMO Chess.com (3.2), 19.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

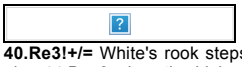
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ngf3 [7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Nf3 Qc7 is still popular. The text might gambit the d-pawn, but more often Black tries to keep it along similar lines to the above.] **7...cxd4 8.cxd4 f6** [8...Qb6 9.0-0 Nxd4 is the Gambit Accepted. Made famous by Korchnoi, although Shamkovich played it a few years earlier and Purdy seventeen years before that! 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 11.Nf3 Qb6 12.Qa4 Qb4 *(12...a6 13.a3 Qc6 14.Qf4 Nc5 15.Bc2 b5 16.Bd2 Bb7 17.Rac1* 1-0 (35) Shamkovich,L-Jakhin,R Moscow 1964*)* 13.Qc2 h6 14.Bd2 Qb6 15.Rac1 Be7 16.Qa4 Qd8 17.Rc2 Kf8 18.Rfc1 Nb6 19.Qg4 1-0 (31) Korchnoi, V-Udovcic,M Leningrad 1967] **9.exf6 Nxf6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Re1 0-0 12.h3** [Here's a quixotic game by Carlsen when he was barely over 2800 (!): Why was the game over? 12.Nf1 Qb6 13.Rb1 Nb4 14.a3 Nxd3 15.Qxd3 The light-squared bishop isn't so missed in this line, as long as Black still has his behind those pawns. 15...Bd7 16.Ng3 Bb5 17.Qd1 Rae8 18.Ne5 Bxe5 19.Rxe5 Nd7 20.Rg5 e5 21.Be3 h6 22.Rh5 Qg6 23.Rc1 Bc6 1-0 (23) Carlsen,M (2802) - Ponomariov,R (2744) Moscow 2010. Perhaps 24.Rh4 spooked him, but it's nothing special after 24...Rf7] **12...Nh5 13.Nb3 Nf4 14.Bxf4 Rxf4 15.Rc1**



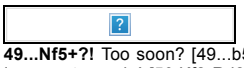
White has a positional advantage, which Black was unable to shake. **15...Qf6N** [15...Bd7 was played already and Black held on after inaccuracy by White. 1/2-1/2 (36) Bukowska,K (2026)-Kumor,L (2120) Kolobrzeg 2009] **16.Qe2?!** [16.Re3!] **16...Bd7** [16...a5 could well be even.] **17.Ne5** [17.Bb5 to control e5 before occupying it.] **17...Bxe5 18.dxe5 Qg5** Losing the e5 outpost is okay if White can get d4 for the knight -- and now the kingside majority could be dangerous if it ever gets rolling. **19.Qe3 Raf8 20.a3?!=** [20.g3!?+/=] **20...d4?**



This is flawed; Guseinov has no qualms about his next move. [20...h6 is even] **21.Qg3! Qxg3 22.fxg3 Rf2 23.Rc2?!** [23.Nc5! Bc8 24.b4 *(24.Bc2!?* might be even better*)*] **23...Rxc2 24.Bxc2 Rd8 25.Nc5 Bc8 26.Nd3** Not ideal, but White still has a tiny bit of an edge. **26...b6 27.Bb3 Kf7 28.Rc1 Bd7 29.Ba2?! a5** [29...Rc8! could start to go Black's way.] **30.Kf2 Ke7 31.Ke2 Rc8 32.Kd2 Na7 33.Rf1** [33.Rxc8=] **33...Bb5=/+** Black has gotten well into the game, with what advantage there is now. **34.Rf4?! Bxd3?** Letting White centralize his king, important in almost all endings. [34...Nc6! puts pressure on White just to hold on.] **35.Kxd3 Nc6 36.Ke4= d3!?** Ethan elects to trade pawns, expecting the e-pawn to be a healthier passer. [36...a4! when 37.Bc4 runs into 37...Nxe5 38.Kxe5 Rxc4 -- the pawn ending is lost.] **37.Kxd3** White decides not to live with that runaway passed pawn, but now it's that e-pawn for Black vs. that silly majority on the kingside for White. **37...Nxe5+ 38.Kd2 Ng6** [38...Rd8+ 39.Kc2 Nc6 40.Re4 e5 again, a good pawn after all. (A French Defense player's dream!)] **39.Re4 e5?!**

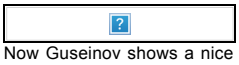


40.Re3!+/= White's rook steps back and gives itself access to the b- and f-files. **40...Rd8+ 41.Ke2 Rc8 42.Bb1 Kf6 43.Rf3+ Ke7 44.Be4** [It's hard to understand why the computer wants to play 44.Bxg6 when the bishop so clearly is the better piece.; 44.Rb3! Rc6 45.Ke3 with Be4 and further pressure.] **44...Rc4 45.Kd3 Rd4+ 46.Ke3 Ke6 47.h4** Maybe not best, but it looks a bit scary. Probably White should think about that rook's passivity. **47...Ne7!** A dramatic turn of events! **48.Bxh7 g6** White can always free the bishop with h4-h5, but with no plus at all. **49.Rf8** The best attempt.



49...Nf5+?! Too soon? [49...b5! gets things going on the queenside should the b2 pawn disappear, and if White's rook goes to b8 or a8, then 50...Nf5+ whips up a strong counterplay.] **50.Ke2?** Inaccurate again! [50.Kf2 Rd2+ 51.Kg1 is ready for everything. 51...Nxg3 **a)** 51...Rxb2? 52.Bxg6+- and the h-pawn marches; **b)** 51...Ne7 52.g4!+/- *(52.Rf2? Rd1+ 53.Rf1 Rd8! 54.h5 gxh5 55.Bc2 Rd4)* ; 52.Bxg6 Ne2+ 53.Kh2 Nf4 54.Be4 Rxb2 55.Rh8 is still annoying for Black.] **50...Nxg3+ 51.Kf2 Ne4+** [or just back: 51...Nf5 52.g3 Rd2+] **52.Kg1 Nf6** or many others are drawn **53.Bxg6 Rxh4** Ethan has done very well! On the board. But there is the very real prolem of the clocks: White: 16:24 Black: 1:31. **54.Rb8 Nd7** [54...Nd5=] **55.Rb7**

55...Nc5? That cost Black over two thirds of his time! The pawn is going, but Black has the best pawn on the board, the e-pawn. The knight does a better job of support (not to mention harassing the bishop) from e5: [55...e4! 56.Kf2 Ne5! 57.Rxb6+ Kd5 is a draw. Note also that ... e3+! can't be taken (fork!), and the fantastic knight's square all but dominates the bishop. 58.Be8 e3+! 59.Ke2 Rg4 Here's a reduction: 60.Bh5 Rxg2+ 61.Kxe3 Nc4+ 62.Kf3 Rxb2 and there's nothing to play for (except the clock of course).] **56.Rxb6+ Kd5**



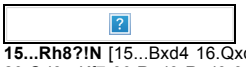
Now Guseinov shows a nice tactic -- always around in the ending! **57.b4!** Tempo on the knight! **57...axb4 58.Bf7+!** Driving the king to a fatal square! **58...Ne6** Any king move allowed 59.Rxb4+ and -- the rook hangs on h4. **59.Bxe6+ Kc5 60.Rxb4** No time to find the "Resign" button -- but the brothers are famous -- they play to mate. **60...Rh6 61.Bb3 Rd6 62.Re4 Rd3 63.Rxe5+ Kd6 64.Rd5+** Not just a joke -- In fact this is the fastest win. **64...Rxd5 65.Bxd5 Kxd5 66.Kf2 Kc5 67.g4 Kb5 68.g5 Kc6 69.g6 Kd6 70.g7 Ke7 71.g8Q Kd6 72.Qg5 Kc7 73.Qb5 Kd6 74.a4 Kc7 75.a5 Kc8 76.a6 Kc7 77.a7 Kd6 78.a8Q Ke7 79.Qaa6 Kd8 80.Qbb7 Ke8 81.Qaa8#** A very interesting game from start to finish. Grandmaster Guseinov might have let the rope slip here and there, but most it was climbing forward. But Boldi definitely took advantage of the slips, and was so close to what would have been quite an upset. Credit to them both! **1-0**

(4) Liou (artliou),Art (2034) - Zhou (mwncklmann),Chelsea (1886) [B76]

MI January TNMO Chess.com (3.6), 19.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 [9.Bc4 is of course the other main line.; 9.g4!? isn't completely out of the picture, either.] **9...Bd7?!** One of the hidden advantage of 9.0-0-0 -- a lot of players don't like the positions after 9...d5 and so just plow ahead with the standard plan against 9.Bc4, thus ending up one or even two moves behind with their attack. In the Dragon you shouldn't be willing or able to accept that. [9...Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6 also has that sort of problem, in that 11.Kb1! Qa5? (11...Qc7 12.g4 Rfc8 13.h4 Qa5 and there's the wasted move 14.a3 *(14.Qg5!?)*) 12.Nd5!; If you're going to play the Dragon, you might as well delve into 9...d5! It's not as full-blooded as the lines after 9.Bc4, but Black definitely finds play, if the intricacies are appreciated.] **10.g4 Rc8 11.h4** [GM John Shaw in his 1. e4 repertoire series suggests 11.Kb1 Ne5 12.Be2!? willing to make it "only" one tempo ahead of the 9.Bc4 lines, but that's enough to aggrieve Black plenty.] **11...h5 12.gxh5 Nxh5 13.Rg1 Kh7** White seems to have the opening advantage here in any case: [13...Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bxd4 15.Qxd4 Be6 16.Rg5 Qb6 17.Qd2 Rfd8 18.Rb5 Qg1 19.Rg5 Qb6 20.Na4 Qc7 21.Rxh5 d5 22.Bd3 dxe4 23.Qh6 gxh5 24.Rg1+ Bg4 25.Bxe4 f6 26.fxg4 Qh2 27.Re1 1-0 (27) Fedorchuk,S (2599)-Stocek,J (2572) Germany 2006] **14.Be2 Nxd4 15.Bxd4**



15...Rh8?!N [15...Bxd4 16.Qxd4 Rc5 17.Nd5 e5 18.Qe3 f5 19.f4 exf4 20.Nxf4 Nxf4 21.Qxf4 Qe7 22.Qg3 Rf6 23.h5 Be8 24.hxg6+ Bxg6 25.Bh5 Qf7 26.Bxg6+ Rxg6 27.Rh1+ Kg8 28.Qh4 Qg7 29.Qd8+ Kf7 30.Rxd6 Rxd6 31.Qxd6 Rxc2+ 32.Kxc2 Qg2+ 33.Kc3 Qf3+ 34.Qd3 Qxh1 35.Qd7+ Kg8 36.Qc8+ Kf7 37.Qxb7+ Kf6 1-0 (37) Nowicki,B (2138)-Winiarski,M (1857) Warsaw 2011] **16.Bxg7 Nxg7 17.e5?!** [17.f4 Kg8 18.f5! gives White a terrific attack] **17...Bf5 18.exd6 Qxd6 19.Qxd6 exd6 20.Rxd6** White has won a pawn but Black's king is now safe and pawn structure solid. **20...Kg8 21.Rh1 Kf8 22.Rd2 g5 23.h5 Rxh5 24.Rg1 Ne6 25.f4 Rh8** [25...Rh2 26.fxg5 Rc5 should gain the g-pawn back. Play might continue 27.Bf3 Rxd2 28.Kxd2 b6 29.Be4 Kg7 30.b4 Re5 31.Bxf5 Rxf5 32.Ne4 Kg6] **26.fxg5 Rg8 27.Nb5!** This knight causes a lot of trouble. **27...Nxg5?!** [27...Ke7 28.Nd6?! Rxc2+!] **28.Nd6 Rd8**

29.Nxf5! Rxd2 30.Kxd2 Ne4+ 31.Ke3 Rxg1 32.Kxe4 The bishop and knight should win against the rook with best play. **32...Rb1 33.b3 Rb2 34.Bd3 Rxa2 35.Kd5 Ra5+ 36.Kd6 a6 37.Kc7 b5 38.Kb6 Ra2 39.Nd4**

The white knight journeys around the board to take the queenside pawns. There is nothing Black can do. **39...Kg7 40.Nc6 Ra1 41.Nb8 Kh6 42.Nxa6 Kg5 43.Kxb5 f5 44.Nc5 f4 45.Ne4+ Kg4 46.Kc5 f3 47.b4 Kf4 48.b5 Re1 49.Nd2 f2 50.b6** A well played ending by Art. **1-0**

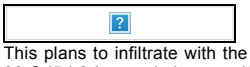
(5) Gaffagan (carbon64),Steven (2058) - Weng (ninjaforce),Nicholas Ruo (2045) [B50]

MI January TNMO Chess.com (3.5), 19.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Theoretically this is not so challenging yet it gets into less trodden ground. **4...dxe5 5.Nxe5 a6 6.a4 Qc7 7.Nc4 Nc6 8.d3**

8...b6!?N [Predecessor: 8...Nd4 9.Ne2 Nxe2?! *(9...e5)* 10.Bxe2 Bf5 11.Bf3 favored White in: 1-0 (22) Mamedov,R (2688)-Wojtaszek,R (2749) Tallinn 2016] **9.g3 Bb7** [9...Bg4! crosses White's plan up a bit. If 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.Qxg4 Nd4 is active] **10.Bg2 e6** [10...Ne5 11.0-0 Bxg2 12.Kxg2 Qc6+ 13.f3 Nxc4 14.dxc4 e6 15.a5 gives White slightly better pawn structure] **11.0-0 Bd6 12.Nxd6+ Qxd6 13.Bf4** [13.Bg5!] **13...Qd7 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.dxe4 Rd8 16.Qg4 0-0 17.Rad1 Qe7 18.c3 Nb8** Steven keeps some pressure with the two bishops.. **19.h4 Kh8 20.Rfe1 e5 21.Bg5 f6 22.Be3 Bc8 23.Qe2 Be6 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rd1 Rd7** Nicholas has kept pace and so far is holding the game nearly level. **26.b4!? cxb4 27.Rxd7 Bxd7 28.cxb4 Qxb4 29.Qd1!**



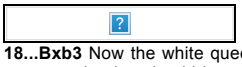
This plans to infiltrate with the queen. White doesn't worry about pawns but looks to back rank troubles to gain something big. Black must be very precise to hold the balance. **29...g6?** [29...a5 30.Qd5 h6 is equal chances. White's pressure will be enough to win the a and b pawns while losing his a4 pawn] **30.Qd5** [30.a5! bxa5?! 31.Ba7 wins a piece] **30...Qe7 31.Bxb6?!** [31.Qb7 Nc6 32.Bxb6 keeps a big edge with the white a-pawn still alive] **31...Nc6?** [31...Bxa4! 32.Qa8 Qf8 33.Bc7 Nd7 34.Qxa6 Qc5 35.Bxe5 Nxe5 36.Qxa4 Kg7 should hold the draw as the knight is good with all pawns on one side. White has an extra pawn but it is hard to advance.] **32.a5** Now the active white bishops and queen will win the a-pawn with decisive advantage. **32...Qe6 33.Qc5 Kg7 34.Qc3 Qd6 35.Kh2 Qb4 36.Qd3 Be6?!** [36...Nb8 37.Qd5 Bc6 38.Qd8 Nd7 39.Qc7 Qc4 40.Be3 Bb5 41.Qd6 Qf7 42.Bh3 is an improvement though still should be lost] **37.Qxa6** the passed a-pawn with the two active white bishops make this an easy win **37...Ne7 38.Qb7 Bc8 39.Qc7** Black resigned **1-0**

(6) Sztaray (rekasztaray),Reka (1533) - Li (figsnoring),Jerry (977) [C50]

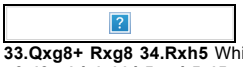
MI January TNMO u1800 Chess.com (4.6), 19.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.0-0 d6 6.Nd5 0-0 7.d3 h6 8.Nxf6+ [8.c3 a6 9.Re1 Ba7 10.h3 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 Ne7 12.Bb3 Ng6 13.d4 Qf6 14.Be3 Be6 15.Bc2 was just a slight edge for White in Vachier Lagrave - Nakamura, Chess.com Internet 2018.] **8...Qxf6 9.Qe2** [9.h3 would prevent pins and avoid any trouble] **9...Bg4 10.Be3 Bd4** [10...Nd4 11.Bxd4 Bxd4 gains the bishop pair] **11.c3 Bxe3 12.Qxe3** [12.fxe3! would open the useful f-file] **12...Ne7** [12...Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Qxf3 14.gxf3 Ne7 15.d4 Ng6 heads for the very nice f4 square] **13.Nd2 Ng6 14.f3 Bd7 15.Nb3? Nf4?!** [15...b5! 16.Bd5 c6 traps the bishop] **16.d4?!** [16.g3!] **16...Qg5 17.Qd2** stopping the threat of ...Nh3+ to win the white queen since it is now defended by the knight **17...Ba4** [17...b5!] **18.g3?**



18...Bxb3 Now the white queen is undefended and ...Nh3+ threatens to win it, so Black has just won a clean piece. **19.Kh1 Bxc4 20.gxf4 exf4 21.Rg1 Qh5 22.Qxf4 c6** [22...Rae8 getting everyone in play should be a straightforward way to convert the extra piece into a win.] **23.Rg3 Be6 24.Rag1 g6 25.Qf6!** White is still down a piece, but is beginning to get some play on the kingside. **25...Kh7 26.f4! Rg8 27.f5 Bxa2 28.d5 cxd5?!** [28...g5 keeps the kingside intact] **29.Qxf7+ Rg7 30.fxg6+ Kh8 31.Qe6 Rag8?** [31...Qe2! would still win as it's difficult for White to avoid the queen trade] **32.Rh3!** Suddenly White's attack has crashed through, just in time. **32...Rxg6**



33.Qxg8+ Rxg8 34.Rxh5 White has a winning ending with the exchange ahead. **34...Kh7 35.Rxg8 Kxg8 36.exd5 Kg7 37.Kg1 Kg6 38.Rh4 Bxd5 39.Rd4 Bc6 40.Rxd6+ Kg5 41.Kf2 h5 42.b4 a6 43.c4 h4 44.b5 axb5 45.cxb5 Be4 46.b6 Kg4 47.Rd4 Kf4 48.h3!** zugzwang **48...Ke5 49.Ke3 Bg2 50.Rxh4 Kd6 51.Rh6+ Kc5 52.h4 Bc6 53.h5 Kxb6 54.Rxc6+ Kxc6 55.h6 b5 56.h7 b4 57.h8Q b3 58.Qb2 Kc5 59.Qxb3 Kd6 60.Qb5 Ke6 61.Ke4 Kd6 62.Qd5+ Ke7 63.Ke5 Ke8 64.Kf6 Kf8 65.Qf7# 1-0**

(7) Brown (nmbrown2),Nicholas (1495) - Suarez (SebbyMeister),Sebastian (811) [D12]

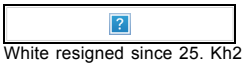
MI January TNMO u1800 Chess.com (4.2), 19.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Bf5 4.e3 e6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bd3 Bg6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Re1 Logical play, looking to get in the break e3-e4. Previously seen was [8.b3 Nbd7 9.Bb2 0-0 10.Bxg6 hxg6 11.Qc2 Re8 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4 with just a minor edge to White, Indjic,A (2607)-Jobava,B (2603) Titled Tuesday 12th Jan, Chess.com 21 Jan 2021] **8...0-0**

9.e4N [A predecessor was 9.c5 b6 10.b4 a5 11.Na4 b5 12.Nb6 Ra7 13.bxa5 Rxa5 14.a4 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 bxa4 16.Rxa4 Rb5 ½-½ (66), Vilaphen,P-Yousuf,A (1790) Online Olym Base A, chess.com 25 July 2020.] **9...dxe4 10.Nxe4 Bh5 11.Be3 Ng4?!** [11...Nxe4 12.Bxe4 Nd7 is a fully equal position] **12.h3?!** This justifies Black's knight move. [12.Bf4!+/- keeps the bishop and leaves the black knight misplaced on g4] **12...Nxe3 13.Rxe3?** [Losing a pawn. 13.fxe3 would keep d4 protected] **13...Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qxd4 15.Re2 Nd7 16.Qh5?** oops. This is tooo eager to try

to get checkmate on h7 **16...Qxd3** not much that White can do now.Black has the extra piece and a solid kingside, so no cheapos will be coming. **17.Re3 Qd4 18.Rae1 Nf6!** Trade when you are ahead. **19.Nxf6+ Qxf6 20.Rf3 Qg5! 21.Re5 Qxh5 22.Rxh5 Rad8 23.Ra5 a6 24.Re5?!** White was lost anyway but this makes it quick **24...Rd1+**



White resigned since 25. Kh2 Bd6 wins the rook on e5. **0-1**

SwissSys Standings. Jan 2021 TNM Online: 1800+ (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	**GM Aleksan Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)**	12787646	2704	AlexanderL	W29	W17	W1(
2	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2700	gguseinov	W13	W8	W15
3	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2106	FlightsOfFancy	W23	W14	D6
4	**FM Kyron Wa Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2504	KyronGriffith	W21	W18	H---
5	**FM Eric Yuhan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)**	15688436	2368	kingandqueen2017	W22	W19	W16
6	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	D30	W33	D3
7	**Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)**	15176393	2009	SmilyFace4	L25	W23	W31
8	**Tejas Mahesh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15086558)**	15086558	1997	ChessTX9	W26	L2	W34
9	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	13001390	1981	nathanf314	W37	L15	W25
10	**Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)**	15462690	2242	jij2018	W31	W25	L1
11	**Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2045	ninjaforce	D33	W30	L17
12	**David Benja Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)**	13776967	2023	David_Askin	L24	W35	W20
13	**Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)**	12469525	1934	kondsaga	L2	W36	D27
14	**Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)**	16761994	1644	LightningDragon8	W28	L3	D30
15	**Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)**	15088362	2120	etvat	W35	W9	L2
16	**William Sartorio (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14715380)**	14715380	2063	unusualkid	W36	W24	L5
17	**Steven Gaffagan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12542809)**	12542809	2058	carbon64	W32	L1	W11
18	**Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)**	12906142	2034	artliou	W34	L4	W22
19	**Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)**	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W27	L5	W24
20	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	12517167	1928	GuyArgo	H---	H---	L12
21	**Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)**	10490936	1900	talenuf	L4	H---	D32
22	**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)**	15239016	1886	mwncklmann	L5	W26	L18
	Adam Mercado						

23	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	L3	L7	W37
24	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1766	pgstar3	W12	L16	L19
25	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W7	L10	L9
26	Roger V V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1751	1-h4-1-0	L8	L22	W35
27	Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)	13836822	1652	ibalek	L19	B---	D13
28	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	mangonel	L14	D32	D33
29	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1940	ashikuzzaman	L1	L34	W36
30	Nicholas Ar Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	D6	L11	D14
31	Christian Jensen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12780890)	12780890	1844	Christianjensen23	L10	W37	L7
32	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1795	3Ke31-0	L17	D28	D21
33	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	14436451	1784	chessp1234	D11	L6	D28
34	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L18	W29	L8
35	Patrick John Kut (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15898438)	15898438	1843	pkutchess	L15	L12	L26
36	Ranen A Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1820	dashrndrx	L16	L13	L29
37	Kevin Babb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15480497)	15480497	1724	Babbaliath	L9	L31	L23

SwissSys Standings. Jan 2021 TNM Online: u1800 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	R 4
1	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	12797931	1789	KingSmasher35	X6	W13	W14	W
2	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	811	Sebbymeister	W5	W4	W7	W
3	Mateo Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14907254)	14907254	1687	mateosh	W25	L7	W23	W
4	Reka Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14656444)	14656444	1533	rekasztaray	W15	L2	W13	W
5	Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	17350313	1475	draidus	L2	W15	W19	W
6	Elliott Regan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15032065)	15032065	1079	TTVchessmaster	F1	W27	W22	W
7	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1057	andrewballantyne	W21	W3	L2	W
8	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1040	sfdeals	W10	W11	W16	L
9	Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	12446259	1495	nmbrown2	H---	W21	W18	L
	Ahyan Zaman							

10	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1699	ahyanzaman	L8	W25	W24	L
11	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	12931024	1622	MechAnjin	X28	L8	W12	L
12	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	W17	L16	L11	W
13	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1105	victor6688	W27	L1	L4	W
14	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	16551291	977	figsnoring	W19	W24	L1	L
15	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	16816706	944	Charvii	L4	L5	W27	W
16	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	30032729	861	dribbler23	W22	W12	L8	L
17	Pablo Jose Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14971067)	14971067	797	Dragonslayer470	L12	L22	W25	W
18	Bill J Day (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30060498)	30060498	782	mrbillstunes1	W20	W23	L9	L
19	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1551	maxskiff	L14	W29	L5	D
20	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L18	L26	W29	D
21	Christophe Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	13742111	1700	ludimagisterjosephus	L7	L9	W26	L
22	Leon Diaz Herrera (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355661)	17355661	1520	Aeqetes	L16	W17	L6	L
23	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1519	rimus11	W26	L18	L3	L
24	Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)	17168772	1490	Evariel	W29	L14	L10	L
25	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	30055583	1026	night_breeze	L3	L10	L17	W
26	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	851	Bruce_Hedman	L23	W20	L21	L
27	Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	16380615	662	ComfyQueso	L13	L6	L15	W
28	Chaitanya Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14126671)	14126671	1017	catreya	F11	U---	U---	U
29	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30037403)	30037403	812	Vincitore51745	L24	L19	L20	L

Thursday Night Marathon Report

Round 2 of 5 finished on Friday in our newest marathon installment, with the longer time control stretching out the tension and drama in some of the games. Top seed GM Gadir Guseinov put in a dominant performance against Vishva Nanugonda on board 1, showing that GM strength and experience can make even the most talented up and coming players look very mortal. There were no major upsets in the round, but the games will tighten next week, as the cream is rising to the top. Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Standings. Jan-Feb 2021 Thursday Night Marathon: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2700	gguseinov	W19	W14	
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W20	W13	

	10363365)						
3	FM Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W21	W16	
4	NM Mike Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2106	FlightsOfFancy	W22	W15	
5	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	12906142	2034	artliou	W23	W25	
6	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	2009	SmilyFace4	W24	W17	
7	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W31	W27	
8	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W32	W26	
9	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	knvsback	W33	H---	
10	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1560	jacobchess857	H---	W30	
11	Reka Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14656444)	14656444	1533	rekasztaray	H---	W29	
12	NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	L25	W31	
13	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	16434922	1809	uzkuzk	W34	L2	
14	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1795	3Ke31-0	W35	L1	
15	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W36	L4	
16	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	12797931	1789	KingSmasher35	W37	L3	
17	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	13742111	1700	LudiMagisterJosephus	W38	L6	
18	Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)	13836822	1652	ibalek	L26	W32	
19	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	11296106	1643	zenwabi	L1	W33	
20	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L2	W34	
21	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1551	maxskiff	L3	W35	
22	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1519	rimus11	L4	W36	
23	Yali Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1428	noydan100	L5	W37	
24	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	16154827	1416	NXBex	L6	W38	
25	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1158	kevin_mx_sun	W12	L5	
26	Alexander Casassovici (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101063)	30101063	unr.	zatmonkey	W18	L8	
	Edward Pernicka (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?						

27	**30097683)**	30097683	unr.	copernickas	B---	L7	
28	**Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)**	12913356	1766	pgstar3	H---	U---	
29	**Raphael Hofmann (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30103963)**	30103963	unr.	justkidding3	H---	L11	
30	**Jared Michael Ruiz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30106002)**	30106002	unr.	jpoka1	H---	L10	
31	**Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)**	16497860	1406	loltheawesomedude	L7	L12	
32	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L8	L18	
33	**Andrew Fu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16403798)**	16403798	1152	geese	L9	L19	
34	**Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)**	12693378	1018	rahimftd	L13	L20	
35	**Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)**	16695036	954	adichi	L14	L21	
36	**Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)**	17144246	946	TanFlatPupet	L15	L22	
37	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	851	Bruce_Hedman	L16	L23	
38	**Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)**	16939797	843	caodanny	L17	L24	

TD Corner

Judit Sztaray

PanAm Fair Play Measures

& What's Ahead for US Amateur Team West

During the preparation for the recently held Pan American Intercollegiate Championship, just as with any online tournament, one of the most important points was to ensure the fair play of the games and of the tournament. When designing the requirements for any tournament, the organizer first and foremost has to know their audience, who is playing and what they are used to and what will make them feel safe, secure, comfortable, yet feel that the conditions are fair and can ensure clean play.

The PanAm Championship traditionally has many titled and high rated players, players who are used to playing with cameras, even multiple cameras pointing at them. They also expect these conditions to feel that their opponent is also playing fairly, without any outside assistance. This is, we feel, the main point: do and require what makes your players confident that they have fair and clean playing conditions! Since this is the college community's premier championship event, we knew we had to do a two-camera monitoring setup. This meant that every player had two cameras pointing at them: one facing them directly from the computer they played their games (front facing camera) and one side-camera, which showed the computer they played on with their screen visible, the player and part of the surroundings of the players. Every team had to attend a mandatory QC checkin session on Sunday morning, during which we checked their cameras and setup and tasked the players to make sure that their teammates have the correct setup too.

Every five team matches were assigned to one zoom meeting. If one does the math, that means in every zoom meeting there were 20 games, 40 players, and a total of 80 cameras, along with the tournament directors (TDs). Experienced TDs have multiple screens up, usually all day long so that they are able to quickly scan through and watch the players, as well as monitor the games on the platform and have the google sheet open to see which games are finished. Excellent example is National TD Martha Underwood's setup with her gorgeous background in Arizona.

This past week we sent the tournament to US Chess Federation for rating, and we are happy to announce that there were no fair play violations during the entire tournament. This is mostly due to the integrity of the players, but the monitoring and clearly-announced consequences, which included the filing of a comlaint to the USCF Ethics Committee, help deter any temptations to use a little help.

The PanAm was a wonderful event, and we all gained valuable experience for future tournaments. We have coming a very similar event: 2021 US Amateur Team West National Online Championship. Fair play measures will be similar at this upoming tournament: we will be requiring one camera on all players to monitor them all times during active games. We decided to require this from both sections, even though originally we planned on only requiring for the 1800+ section. Why not two cameras you may ask? That is because we have to focus on the main goal: the players to feel secure, safe, conditions to be fair, and yet be comfortable. We are confident that catching cheaters is done by reviewing the games, seeing Dr. Ken Regan's statistics and numbers, and any games that are questionable, the recording of the player playing the game will then be useful and once camera will be efficient. But we also hope that updating the webcam monitoring requirement to the u1800 section, players will feel that they are provided a clean tournament and can compete in this fun and important national championship. Similar to PanAm, USATW will also provide QC checkin opportunities for anyone who wants to test their setup!

We look forward to seeing everyone in a week, as we hold the first in the series of regional Team National Online Championships!

Any questions on setup or details, please email us on chessroom@milibrary.org

Chess Beyond Borders

Chess in Slums Africa (CIS-A), which recently celebrated their two year anniversary, is a historic organization which works with youth in Nigerian living in poverty. Over the years, they've been able to do that successfully, both in part due to the extremely vibrant support from the CIS-A volunteer team and also the larger chess ecosystem that have helped to elevate CIS to new heights. With signficiant support from groups like FIDE and Chesskid, CIS-A has been able to expand its reach while being bolstered by a strong social media presence.

In early July, I discovered the story of Chess In Slums through that social media presence and, once I learned about their story in more depth, I was inspired to reach out as the UC Merced chess club president to orchestrate a friendly match between UCM and the kids from the CIS-A academy. Just after reaching out and connecting on twitter, we arranged many calls on Zoom and WhatsApp to plan the event more thoroughly and actualize that vision. In the weeks just prior to the match, I ended up arranging meets with the CIS-A admin team and some of the kids, which really put how monumental this was into perspective. We were able to harness technology to make tangible differences in peoples lives!

On September 26, 2020, we successfully played the Chess Beyond Borders match to a draw, highlighting the skill of the students. Despite heavy rain and internet issues, the games were still amazing, with one of the Nigerian children winning scholarship support from an international donor as a result! Even after the match itself, we felt the love from the community as they offered the team and I a red-carpet tour of the community via Zoom.

Just after the match, Tunde and I continued talking about the coverage of the match from chess/mainstream outlets and about working on other projects to continue fueling Chess Beyond Borders as an initiative. Over time, I ended up assimilating into CIS-A themselves and Tunde, in late October, invited me onto that administrative team as a Director of Outreach. Being able to continue using chess as a gateway to helping bring positive change has honestly been a huge dream, and one that helped get launched by Judit and Abel helping propel me into the USCF Tournament Director space.

Especially now, as we work on CIS-A's newest endeavor (our January fundraising campaign) or serving as a TD in the most recent Pan-American Intercollegiate, I am incredibly grateful.

Aaron Thompson – Chess In Slums Director of Outreach/President of UC Merced Chess

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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 extraoridinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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, 1/26: https://www.chess.com/live#r=893156 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.chess.com/live#r=893156)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 1/28: https://www.chess.com/live#r=893157 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.chess.com/live#r=893157)

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/20220518072017/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - Game Review Class with FM Paul Whitehead

Course Dates: Ongoing

Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member

More information:

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

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/20220518072017/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

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:

1/26 Tuesday - January 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Jan2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Jan2021TNMOnline)

1/28 Thursday - January/February 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/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/20220518072017/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/20220518072017/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/20220518072017/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Upcoming Classes

2021 Winter sessions started last week: it's wonderful to see many of our returning students as well as some of the new students!

The following classes are offered and some have a few spots available for prorated, late joins: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess)

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin - Mondays 4-5PM
- Beginner / Intermediate Level with Coach Andy - Tuesdays 3-4PM
- Intermediate with Coach Andy - Thursdays 4-5PM - FULL
- Intermediate/Advance with Coach Andy - Thursdays 5-6PM

New Special Class for Advanced Scholastic Players
Tactics, Tactics, Tactics!
Fridays 3-4PM with Coach Andy

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM)
Designed specially for players with ChessKid rating 1000+, and will cover the following topics: things to look for on the board to find tactics, how to set up tactics in your own games, middlegame tactics famous tactical players, endgame tactics, and more!

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220518072017/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)
Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Saturday, Jan 23: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260253 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260253)
- Monday, Jan 25: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260254 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260254)
- Tuesday, January 26: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260255 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260255)
- Wednesday, Jan 27: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260256 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260256)
- Thursday, Jan 28: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260257 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260257)

- Friday, Jan 29: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260258 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=260258)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments - Registration needed via the links below, and players must have current US Chess membership. Games will affect US Chess online ratings (not over-the-board ratings). Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.

- Sunday, Jan 24: 6SS G/10+2 - Starts at 3PM - USCF Online rapid rated games: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan24SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan24SUN)
- Saturday, Jan 30: 8SS G/5+2 - Starts at 3PM - USCF Online Blitz rated games: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan30SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentJan30SAT)
- NEW DATE - Saturday Feb 6 - US Amateur Team West Online - National Championship - Scholastic Side event (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-side-event-2021-us-amateur-team-west-online-national-championship)

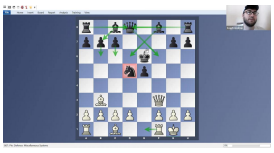
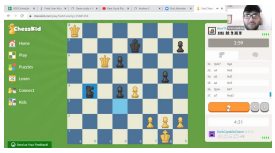
If you have any problems connecting with us on chesskid.com, please send us an email and we'll send you step-by-step instructions with pictures.

Report on our Martin Luther King Jr. Day Camp

What a great long weekend we had during this special MLK Day weekend! Players could join the special MLK Day Tournament on Saturday, and they could also join our 1-day special camp coached by great coach duo: Coach Andrew Schley and Coach Colin Shober. Students learnt from GM Maurice Ashley and IM Emory Tate's games, and had fun competing in the in-camp tournaments.

Remaining of the 2021 Spring camp schedule:

- Feb 15, Monday - Presidents Day Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/PresidentsDayChessCamp
- Mar 29 - Apr 2 - Spring Break Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp

Scholastic Game of the Week, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(8) DullDistinctCyclone (1544) - KindMagneticFist (1375) [C54]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 Bd6?!

[Young players should study the games of the old Italians 5...exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 d5! gives Black fully equal chances.] **6.dxe5 Nxe5?** Black needs to take on e5 with the bishop. This should lose a piece. **7.Nxe5 Bxe5 8.Bd3?** [8.f4! Bd6 *(8...Nxe4 9.Qh5!)* 9.e5 wins a piece] **8...0-0 9.0-0 h6 10.h3 d6? 11.Be3?** [11.f4 still wins a piece] **11...c5 12.Nd2 a6 13.f4!** Now White sees this. **13...b5 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.Bc2 c4 16.Nf3 Qxd1** Usually one tries to keep the queens on the board when down a piece to give better swindling chances. **17.Raxd1 Re8 18.Bb1 Bb7 19.Nd2 Re7 20.Rfe1 Rae8 21.Bf2 g5 22.Nf1!** This knight relocation makes everything work for White. **22...Kg7 23.Ng3 Re6 24.Nf5+ Kh7 25.Nd6 R8e7 26.Nxb7 Rxb7 27.Bg3 Rbe7**

28.Rd5! Nxd5?! It's better to refuse this "gift." Black would be a piece down anyway, but now things get worse. 29.exd5+ Kg8? [29...Rg6 gets a bishop for the rook] 30.dxe6 Rxe6 31.Rxe5 Rxe5 32.Bxe5 Two bishops ahead is easy enough. DullDinstinctCyclone wraps it up without trouble. 32...Kf8 33.Be4 Ke7 34.Bb7 Ke6

35.Bd4 a5 36.Ba6 b4 37.Bxc4+ Kd6 38.cxb4 axb4 39.Bxf7 Kc6 40.Bc4 Kd6 41.a3 bxa3 42.bxa3 Kc6 43.a4 Kb7 44.a5 Ka8 45.a6 Kb8 46.a7+ Ka8 47.Bd5# DullDistinctCyclone won by checkmate 1-0

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Chess Stories

I decided to prepare for the weekly "Chess Café" (https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#Chesscafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#Chesscafe)) by showing a couple of quick losses by chess masters, thus softening the blows for the rest o us mortals.

Anand loses in six moves! There's hope for us yet.

Paul Keres also won a game in six moves, and in finding that game I was then led to a comment on www.chessgames.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.chessgames.com/) that noted that right after the game Keres went and played tennis in the blazing Polish sunshine, got horribly sunburned - and lost his next game. Showing these games during chess café was fun, but when my co-host and MI Grandmaster in Residence Nick de Firmian asked me what the moral of the story was… I realized there was no moral. It was just a story.

But isn't the world of chess full of stories and odd connections?

For example: this column is about Soviet Grandmasters and sunburns, World Champions and simultaneous exhibitions, pre-arranged draws and the Petroff Defense. I'll be touching down in Canada, San Francisco and Lone Pine, while remembering some of those close to me who have passed: my brother Jay, Alan Benson and Jimmy Buff.

In 1976 Tigran Petrosian and Vassily Smyslov came to Lone Pine, California. Petrosian won the tournament with 5.5 from 7 games. There was a big tie for 2nd place with 5 points, among them Smyslov and the always impressive Larry Christiansen. More on him in a bit.

Kerry Lawless has just published 176 photos taken by Alan Benson from Lone Pine 1976, which you can find here: http://www.chessdryad.com/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518072017/http://www.chessdryad.com/)

My brother Jay is in this wonderful picture, looking over Smyslov's shoulder:

[**JAY and SMYSLOV**]

Jay had gone down there with some friends from the Bay Area: Jimmy Buff, Joe Tracy and Walter Dorne. He wasn't playing, but in 1980 he gained an IM Norm there. Even more remarkably, he trounced Smyslov a couple of weeks after this picture was taken: at a simul the ex-World Champion gave at the Mechanics' Institute.

While hunting down examples of horrible thrashings chess players have endured, I came across the Vishy Anand curiosity. I announced to the Chess Café that Anand was World Champion at the time, but was corrected by Nick and others: Anand was 2 years away from the title.

The back-story is this: at the 1987 Pan Pacific International Chess Tournament, organized by the Mechanics' Institute, the eccentric English GM Tony Miles had apparently made a pre-arranged draw with Christiansen. This was a practice that only hails from "those days", as Nick smilingly puts it.

When Christiansen thoughtlessly banged out 5…Bf5?? (see game below), Miles decided to have a bit of fun "adjusting", and "rubbing with his finger" the e2 square. As Larry's face reddened (apparently, from eye-witness accounts), the implication was clear: black was busted.

See Zapata–Anand 1988, below.

Anand just wasn't thinking, and followed the Miles-Christiansen game from some bulletin or magazine.

There IS hope for us, yet.

Finally, the "Chess Café" turned to a bit of theory in the Petroff Defense, led by IM Elliott Winslow, with 5…Qe7 replacing 5…Bf5. As usual when the Opening is being discussed my eyes started to glaze over a bit, and my mind drifted… back to that Estonian Grandmaster, the one with the terrible sunburn.

Back in 1975 I went up to Canada with another chess playing friend of mine, Marcus Perry (who went by the name of Marcus Aurelius) to play in the Vancouver Open. Paul Keres was playing in what would be his last tournament.

Keres won the tournament, later renamed the Keres Memorial, and defeated Walter Browne in the final round. Watching this incredible genius play chess - impassive as stone, hands in lap – has been seared into my brain.

In the first round Keres was paired with Denis Allan, a Canadian master who, many years later (1987) participated in an Interzonal Tournament in Szirak, Hungary.

Allan played the Petroff Defense, and Keres played 3.d3!?: a move that stunned me at the time. A move like this can tell you a lot. Keres was one of the foremost experts on double king-pawn openings. He obviously wasn't afraid of the Petroff – or Allan – so why the "passive" 3.d3?

Perhaps Keres wanted a slow game.

Perhaps Keres wanted to play Philidor's Defense that day – reversed.

Perhaps he'd never played 3.d3 before, and wanted to give it a shot - in his last tournament on Earth.

There is something about the game of chess that brings on stories and multiple interpretations. Histories and memories, connections and struggles.

If some can say "I have a life in chess", the game itself seems to say to us: "chess is life".

What a strange business!

(All games mentioned above are given below)

(1) Paul Keres - Edward Arlamowski [B10]

Przepiorka Memorial Szczawno-Zdroj POL (11), 02.07.1950

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Qe2 Nbd7 6.Nd6#

1-0

(2) Paul Keres - Andrzej Pytlakowski [C86]

Przepiorka Memorial Szczawno-Zdroj POL (12), 03.07.1950

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Qe2 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.d3 d4 10.cxd4 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Be3 Qd6 13.Nd2 Rd8 14.Nf3 Bg4 15.Rac1 a5 16.h3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 a4 18.Bc2 c5 19.Qe2 Nd7 20.Bb1 b4 21.f3 Rac8 22.Bc2 Qa6 23.Qf2 Bd6 24.f4 exf4 25.Bxf4 Bxf4 26.Qxf4 f6 27.g4 Nf8 28.e5 Ng6 29.Qf5 fxe5 30.d4 exd4 31.Bd3 Qd6 32.Qf2 Rf8 33.Bf5 Ne7 34.Rce1 Nxf5 35.gxf5 Rce8 36.f6 Qxf6 37.Qg2 Qg6 38.Qxg6 hxg6 39.Rc1 Rxf1+ 40.Kxf1 Re5 41.Kf2 Kf7 42.Kf3 g5 43.b3 axb3 44.axb3 Ke6 45.Kf2 Kd5 46.Ra1 Re3 47.Rg1 Rxb3 48.Rxg5+ Kc4 49.h4 Rh3 50.h5 b3 51.Kg2 Rxh5 52.Rxh5 b2

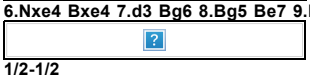
0-1

(3) Anthony Miles - Larry Mark Christiansen [C42]

Pan Pacific International San Francisco, CA USA, 09.1987

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Bf5

6.Nxe4 Bxe4 7.d3 Bg6 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Bxe7 Qxe7+ 10.Be2 Nc6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Rae8 13.Qd2 Ne5 14.d4 Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 Qd7 16.c3 b6 17.Rxe8 Rxe8 18.Re1 Rxe1+ 19.Qxe1 Kf8 20.g3



1/2-1/2

(4) Alonso Zapata - Viswanathan Anand [C42]

Biel-B Biel SUI (9), 07.1988

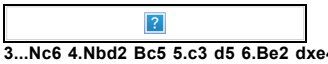
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Bf5 6.Qe2

1-0

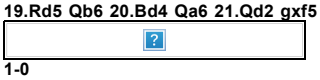
(5) Paul Keres - Denis Allan [C42]

Vancouver Vancouver CAN (1), 17.05.1975

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d3



3...Nc6 4.Nbd2 Bc5 5.c3 d5 6.Be2 dxe4 7.dxe4 a5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qc2 Re8 10.Nc4 Qe7 11.Bg5 Qf8 12.Ne3 Be7 13.Bb5 Bd7 14.Rfd1 Nb8 15.Bxf6 Bxb5 16.Bxe5 Bd8 17.Nf5 g6 18.Bg7 Qc5 19.Rd5 Qb6 20.Bd4 Qa6 21.Qd2 gxf5 22.Rxd8 fxe4 23.Re1 Qg6 24.Nh4 Qg4 25.Rxe4



1-0

(6) Vassily Smyslov - Jay Whitehead [E94]

(simul) San Francisco, 03.1976

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.d5 Nc5 9.Qc2 a5 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Nh5 12.g3 Bh3 13.Rfe1 f5 14.Nh4 f4 15.Bxc5 dxc5 16.Nxg6 fxg3 17.hxg3 Qg5 18.Bxh5 Qxh5 19.Nh4 Rf4 20.Re3 Qg5 21.Nf3 Qg6 22.Ne2 Raf8 23.Nxf4 exf4 24.Nh4 Qg4 25.Rf3 fxg3 26.Rxf8+ Kxf8 27.fxg3 Qxg3+ 28.Ng2 Bd4+ 29.Kh1 Bf2

0-1 White resigns. **0-1**

GM Nick de Firmian

Return to Normalcy

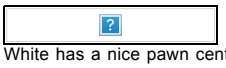
We use this word Normalcy just as President Warren Harding did one hundred years ago. The standard term had been “normality” but Harding used our term “normalcy” in his campaign for the presidential election of 1920 to refer to how life had been before WWI and the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918. Thus it feels very appropriate to use the term today with the implementation of the coronavirus vaccines and the change of leadership in the US on January 20.

All that is very important, but the true chess lover is most concerned with Caissa’s wonderful world of the chess board and what is happening there. That world has also returned to normalcy with the great traditional tournament of Wijk aan Zee being played live during its traditional January dates. The world’s best players are once again competing in classical time control games and producing fascinating battles. It becomes easy to forget about the world outside of chess and just immerse oneself in the complex struggles of the top chess players. World Champion Magnus is back to his normal ways, as is US #1 Fabiano Caruana. Below is a couple of their efforts to keep you entertained.

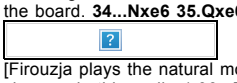
(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Firouzja,Alizera [D53]

Tata Steel, 18.01.2021

Here we get the battle between the champion and the greatest up and coming young player in the world. Magnus is 30 now, while Alireza is only 17 years old. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 Be7 7.cxd5 Nxd5** Firouzja opts for exchanges instead of the more solid and passive recapture with the pawn. **8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.e4 Nxc3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Bd3 c5 12.0-0 cxd4 13.cxd4 b6**



White has a nice pawn center but it doesn't disturb Black much as his remaining minor pieces have enough squares. **14.a4 Bb7 15.a5 bxa5 16.Rxa5 Nf6 17.Re1 Rfd8 18.Qa1 Qc7 19.h3 a6 20.Rc5 Qf4 21.Re5** guarding the e-pawn **21...Nd7 22.Ra5 Nf6 23.d5!?** Magnus refuses to repeat the position and sacrifices a pawn to go forward. **23...exd5 24.e5 Ne4 25.Qd4 Rdc8** White has good squares for the minor pieces and better control of the dark squares. That's compensation for the pawn, so chances are about even. **26.Raa1 a5 27.Rab1 Bc6 28.e6!?** This could be a bit too inspired. Magnus sacrifices a second pawn to open the lines. We must remind the reader that these games are classical time control, so this is not just a cheap attempt to confuse the opponent in time pressure. **28...fxe6 29.Ne5 Qf6 30.f3 Ng5 31.Rb6 Be8 32.Qe3 a4?!** [With 32...Qd8 the queen would be away from the coming knight attack and Black would have the advantage if he defends well.] **33.Ng4 Qd8 34.Rxe6** Magnus continues to play bold chess, though he has little choice now as he must do something before the black a-pawn runs further down the board. **34...Nxe6 35.Qxe6+ Bf7?**

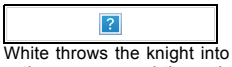


[Firouzja plays the natural move, which loses. He needed to play 35...Kh8 36.Nxh6 *(36.Qf5?! Qb6+ 37.Kh1 Bg6! 38.Qxg6 Qxg6 39.Bxg6 a3 40.Ne5 a2 41.Ra1* leaves Black with all the winning chances in this ending*)* 36...Bh5 when the game is complicated but at least equal for Black] **36.Nxh6+! gxh6 37.Qxh6** The black king has lost his defenders and cannot cope with the three remaining white pieces. **37...Qc7 38.Qh7+ Kf8 39.Qh8+ Bg8 40.Qh6+** Firouzja resigned. on 40...Kf7 41. Bg6+ Kf6 42. Bh5+, or 40...Qg7 41. Qd6+ A great active game by the champ. **1-0**

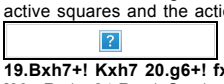
(2) Caruana,Fabiano - Duda,Jan-Krzysztof [C42]

tata Steel, 19.01.2021

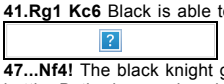
This is another fine matchup in this tournament. Fabiano is still the #2 player in the world, while Duda is the world's other great young talent (along with Firouzja). **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6** Duda decides on Petrov's Defense, which Caruana has himself used often. **3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3** This is nowadays the main line against Petrov's Defense. **6...Be7 7.Be3 Nd7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 Nf6 10.Bd3 c5 11.Rhg1** We have castling on opposite wings (which is typical for this line) so Fabiano goes directly for the kingside onslaught. **11...b5 12.g4! Bb7** Black doesn't want to take the g4 pawn and open lines against his king. **13.Qe2 c4 14.Bf5 Re8** [14...g6?! 15.g5!] **15.Nd4 Nd5 16.Ne6!**



White throws the knight into the fray. If Black takes he loses his knight on d5. **16...Qa5 17.Qf3 Bf6** The game has reached a crazy position with both sides attacking. All of the pieces are on active squares and the action cannot be stopped. White is to move though and presses the attack. **18.g5 Bxc3!**



19.Bxh7+! Kxh7 20.g6+! fxg6 21.Ng5+ Kh8 22.Bd4! Both attacking and defending. 23. Qh3+ Kg8 24. Qh7+ Kf8 would let the black king get away. **22...Bxd4 23.Rxd4 Nf6** the best defense [23...Re1+ 24.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 25.Rd1 Nf4 26.Qxf4 Qe2 27.Qxd6 Qxf2 28.Qd8+ Qf8 29.Qd4 Bf3 30.Rf1 would win the black bishop] **24.Qxb7 Rab8 25.Qf7 Re1+ 26.Rd1 Rxg1 27.Rxg1 Re8 28.Ne6 Rxe6 29.Qxe6 Qxa2 30.Qh3+** Duda has defended well by giving up the exchange for two pawns. Yet Caruana has all the winning chances with the active queen and rook. He could have done somewhat better with [30.Rg3! Qa1+ 31.Kd2 Kh7 32.Rh3+ Nh5 33.Qe4 Kh6 34.Ra3 when 34...Qxb2 35.Qe3+ g5 36.Qc3 Qxc3+ 37.Kxc3 leaves an ending where the white king and rook can mop up the queenside pawns] **30...Kg8 31.Qe6+ Kh7 32.Qh3+ Kg8 33.Qa3 Qxa3 34.bxa3 Kf7 35.Kd2 a6 36.Ke3 Nd5+ 37.Kd4 Ne7 38.Re1?!** [Caruana's last chance to win was 38.a4! Ke6 39.axb5 axb5 40.Rg5 Nf5+ 41.Kc3 when Black is streched too much to hold both the kingside and queenside against the white rook and king.] **38...Ke8! 39.a4 Kd7 40.axb5 axb5 41.Rg1 Kc6** Black is able to hold with the knight making a fortress **42.h4 Nf5+ 43.Kc3 Nxh4 44.Kb4 Nf3 45.Rxg6 Nd4 46.c3 Ne2 47.Rxg7**



47...Nf4! The black knight goes on the offensive and saves the game. 48...Nd5+ is threatened and if 48. Rg3 Nd3+ wins the f2 pawn **48.Ka5 Ne2 49.Kb4 Nf4 50.Ka5 Ne2 51.Kb4** a great battle. Both players played high level, inspired chess. **1/2-1/2**

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Newsletter #953

January 29, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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2021 US Amateur Team West Championship This Weekend!

The 2021 US Amateur Team West Championship starts tomorrow, and it is shaping up to be quite the battle. There will be 75 teams and 300 players seated in our virtual club competing in one of the greatest open-team battles in the country. The Mechanics' Institute is proud to host this event for the 2nd year in a row, with games being manually paired on Chess.com by our very experienced TD crew, led by Dr. Judit Sztaray and Chief TD John McCumiskey. This will be the first event of the 2021 amateur team events, which will go on through the end of February with championships from the North, South, and East. The winners of each region compete in the national semi-final to determine the US Amateur Team Champion.

We will provide full coverage of the event on our Twitch channel starting at 9:30am Pacific time here: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

You can get full information on the event page, including updated standings, results, and list of players and round times: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/usatw (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/usatw)

Here is the current team list as of Friday at 6am. As you can see, it will be quite a battle with a who's who of players and teams. We hope to see everyone join us on the broadcast this weekend, and good luck to all the players!

See the Teams who entered

Teams in the 1800+ Section

Teams in the u1800 Section

January 2021 TNM Report

The Tuesday Night Marathon concluded this past week, with the two GM's in the field holding on to share first place with 5.5/6, a full point ahead of 3rd place finisher NM Mike Walder. In the u/1800 section, Aaron Nicoski and Sebby Suarez shared first place with 5/6, and it appeared Sebby was on his way to taking clear first but appeared to misplay and endgame in his round 6 game, leading to a draw. Congratulations to all the players for an exciting month of chess in January!

If you would like to register for the February TNM, you may do see by following this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/february-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/february-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

To watch the live coverage of the final two rounds, you can watch the broadcast here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kez87qlbUvM (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kez87qlbUvM)

Here are some games from the final rounds, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2614) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2304) [B12]

MI January TNM Online Chess.com (5.2), 26.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 The "Modern" Variation. Perhaps Kyron used to play this -- but in any case, he moves on (or maybe this was a "serious" occasion) from what he's been playing lately. [Which is: 4...Nf6!? 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5!? which has been been fashion or fad, both by him and quite a few of the finest players.; 4...Bf5 , the Classical Variation, mostly goes 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 (enough dancing!) and Black must start thinking about on which side he wants his king to castle.; Those three moves have been seen tens of thousands of times. So it's quite a surprise to stumble upon 4...Qc7 , played a mere twenty-five times in the Mega database. 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Qe2 h6 8.N5f3 Bd6 9.Ne5 c5 10.Ngf3 cxd4 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.h4 Bd7 13.0-0 0-0-0 14.c3!? g5!? 1/2-1/2 (57) Guseinov,G (2645)-Carlsen,M (2832) chess.com INT 2017] **5.c3!?**

Not as rare as 4...Qc7 at two-hundred plus, but compared to the fifteen thousand games after 4...Nd7, it's still pretty rare! But it has some unique and sensible intentions. Mainly -- f3 is not jus for the knight! But the main moves: [The exchange of knights usually happens after the old 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ *(6.Ng3!?)* ; The old trappy line used to be 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6 *(7...h6?? 8.Nxf7 Kxf7 9.Qxe6+ Kg6 10.Bd3+ Kh5 11.Qh3#)* when after 8.Bd3 taking the d-pawn runs into a quick Ng1-f3-e5. *(or 8.Bb3* is similar*)* Another trap: 8...Qxd4? 9.N1f3 Bb4+ 10.c3! Bxc3+ 11.Kf1! takes the bishop next move.; 5.Ng5!? has been the "big thing" now for quite a few years, when coaches around the world must have a hard time explaining to their students why moving the knight a third time with no other pieces developed could even remotely be anything but a beginner's move!] **5...Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bc4** [7.Bd3 It's safe to say the highest rated game in this new world was 7...Qd5 8.f3 Bf5 9.Ne2 Bxd3 10.Nf4 Qg5 11.Qxd3 Nd5 12.g3 e6 13.Qe2 Nxf4 14.Bxf4 Qd5 15.Be5 f6 16.Bf4 0-0-0 1/2-1/2 (47) Carlsen,M (2864)-Morozevich,A (2760) Moscow 2013] **7...Qc7** The computers' favorite move now! [Guseinov has tested out 5. c3 a few times before, with the first (?) game being encouraging: 7...e6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Qf3 Nd7 *(11...c5!?)* 12.Qg3 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Re8 14.Bh6 Bf8 15.Rad1 b5 16.Bb3 Bb7 17.Rd4 Rad8

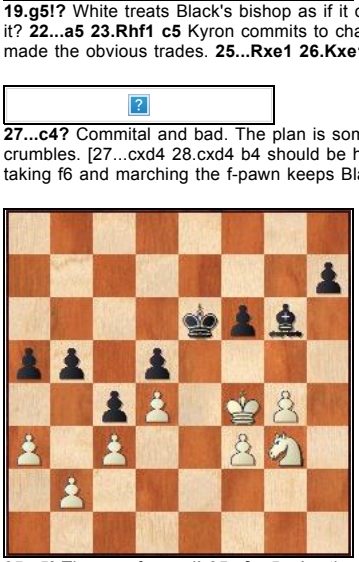
(17...c5!?) 18.Bxg7! This feels like a ten-move combination! 18...Bxg7 19.Rg4 Kh8 20.Rxg7 Rg8 21.Rxg8+ Rxg8 22.Qf4 c5 23.Qf6+ Rg7 24.Rd1 Bxg2 25.Rd8+ Qxd8 26.Qxd8+ Rg8 27.Qxg8+ 1-0 (27) Guseinov,G (2614)-Emiroglu,C (2338) Nakhchivan 2015] **8.Qf3** And here is the distinct development. No, it's similar to a topical line against the Taimanov Sicilian (!), where White plays Qf3-Qg3, challenging the Black queen, and happy with resulting pawn structure. **8...Bg4** [8...e6 9.Bf4 Bd6 10.Ne2 0-0 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Qf4 White is content to reduce everything to "Black has a bad bishop." Guseinov's optimistic queenside castling could have been problematic, but all was good after a few misdirected spurts by Fedoseev: 12...Qe7 13.0-0-0 *(13.0-0* with a quiet, even game*)* 13...b5! 14.Bd3 Bb7 Black's plan should be pushing the b- and c-pawns, with rooks behind. This bishop now is just in the way. *(14...c5!?)* 15.Qh4 with a threat 15...Rae8 16.Ng3 c5? *(16...b4!?=)* 17.Bxb5 White takes that one and disrupts Black's game, with a clear advantage: 1-0 (46) Guseinov,G (2647)-Fedoseev,V (2733) Antalya 2017] **9.Qg3!**

9...Qxg3 10.hxg3 e6 11.f3 Bf5 12.g4 Bg6 Outside the pawns but note particularly effective, a slight problem in Slav and Caro Kann lines. **13.Ne2+/= Kd7 14.Bf4** The computer likes other developments: [14.a4 Nd5 15.Ng3 Bd6?! 16.Ne4] **14...Nd5** [14...b5!?] **15.Bxd5!?=** Guseinov chooses to fix the pawns and pose to Black a difficult recapture question. But this has its own problems -- White will have a hard time getting his knight to a better square. **15...exd5** Griffith sets up action on the e-file. [15...cxd5 , equally sound, adds a possible Minority Attack (...b5-b4) and central expansion (...f6/...e5) to the equation. Black will have nothing to fear.] **16.Kd2 Re8 17.Ng3**

17...Bd6?! The computer goes out of its way to avoid this exchange -- it's not even in the top ten! But it's the sort of move that one might play on autopilot. Still, Kyron took almost a minute or it. Note that neither of them has broken a sweat so far, both with over thirty minutes left on the clock. **18.Bxd6 Kxd6**

19.g5!? White treats Black's bishop as if it doesn't matter. **19...Re7 20.Ne2** Improving the knight while he can. **20...Rhe8 21.Nf4 b6** Considering ...c5!? **22.Rad1** To discourage it? Or anticipate it? **22...a5 23.Rhf1 c5** Kyron commits to change (perhaps prematurely) -- **24.Rfe1!** --as does Gadir! **24...Rxe1 25.Rxe1** Griffith spent the longest thought of the game here, but in the end just made the obvious trades. **25...Rxe1 26.Kxe1** With the rooks off White's king and knight are free to move, with a small but endurign plus. **26...b5 27.Kd2**

27...c4? Commital and bad. The plan is some day to play ...b4 with king entry through b5, but it can't be engineered, the knight is too strong. ...Bf5 is always met with Nh5 and the kingside crumbles. [27...cxd4 28.cxd4 b4 should be holdable.] **28.a3 f6 29.gxf6 gxf6 30.Ke3 Bf7 31.Ne2 Bg6** [31...Kc6 is uncomfortably met by 32.Kf4 Bg6 33.Ng3 Nothing clear yet, but the threat of taking f6 and marching the f-pawn keeps Black busy and away from the long queenside king run.] **32.g4 Bd3 33.Ng3 Bg6 34.Kf4 Ke6**



35.g5! The way forward! **35...fxg5+** Another long think (and Black is down to 6:43), another inability to find anything else. **36.Kxg5** And White has 22 minutes left. **36...Bc2 37.Nf1!?** [The computer is hot on 37.Nh5 but after 37...Bd1 White seems to be backing up.] **37...Bd1** [37...h6+!? 38.Kxh6 Bd1 39.Nh2 Kf5 40.Kg7!? Kf4 41.Kf7! keeping f6 for the knight, on the d-pawn. Enough to win? It's not at all clear!] **38.f4 Bc2 39.Ne3 Be4 40.f5+ Ke7 41.Ng4 Kf7 42.Ne5+ Ke7 43.Nc6+** winning the a-pawn? **43...Kf7 44.Ne5+** or not -- it's irrelevant! **44...Ke7 45.Ng4 Kf7** The repeat of move 41. On the other hand, then Black had five minutes, while now he has 1:25. **46.Nh6+!** Stopping the h-pawn for now. **46...Ke7 47.Kf4 Kf6 48.Ng4+ Ke7 49.Ke5 h5** and down to thirty seconds **50.Nf6 h4 51.Nxe4 dxe4 52.Kxe4**

with a won pawn ending. Very impressive! **52...Kf6 53.Kf4 h3 54.Kg3 Kxf5 55.Kxh3** Here Black has 4.3 seconds (hite 13:04 minutes), plus the position is fairly hopeless. **55...Kf4 56.Kg2 Kg4 57.Kf2 Kf4 58.Ke1** [58.Ke2 is fine, but why not give Kyron a bit more to think about!] **58...Kf5 59.Kd2 Kf4 60.Kc1** White decides to just completely avoid any lines where Black plays ...Kd3 and lets White queen but gets into the pawns. **60...Ke4 61.Kc2 Kf5**

62.a4!? [62.Kb1 (when 63.a4 doesn't even allow the game continuation) 62...a4 63.Kc1] **62...bxa4 63.Kb1 a3**

64.Ka2! The last grandmaster flourish! [64.bxa3 also wins.] **64...axb2 65.Kxb2** Black is one move behind. **65...Ke4 66.Ka3 Kd5 67.Ka4 Kc6 68.Kxa5 Kd6 69.Kb4 Kd5 70.Kb5** GGuseinov won by resignation. A worth game by Guseinov, keeping up with Lenderman going into the final round. **1-0**

(2) GM Aleksandr Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2734) - NM Mike Walder (FlightsOfFancy) (2071) [E60]

MI January TNM Online Chess.com (5.1), 26.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Lenderman plays the King's Indian as well, so it's noteworthy that he goes with the fianchetto. But he is not one to always play any one line, so it could just have been the moment. **3...Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 a6** The Panno Variation, also the case of something Walder has played quite a bit as White, too. **8.d5** The most disruptive of many moves here. **8...Na5 9.b3** And this looks a bit dangerous but holds up tactically. [Still outnumbering the text is 9.Nd2 but the percentages are with 9.b3. 9...c5 10.Qc2 Rb8 11.b3 b5 gets play going, when it's hard for White to turn the knight on a5 into a weakness.] **9...Rb8** Calmly preparing the advance. [9...Ne4? is well known to be bad: 10.Nxe4 Bxa1 11.Bd2 picks up material; 9...Nxd5?! isn't much better -- 10.Nxd5 Bxa1 11.Bd2 c6 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.Qxa1 b6 14.Bh6; 9...c5 is the standard followup in the Panno, but White has to contend with 10.dxc6!? when 10...Nxc6 is looking like the slightly saner recapture.; But is preparation necessary? 9...b5!? has been played by such adventurers as Nunn and Vachier-Lagrave, with excellent results (and even better for Black in the lower-rated strata). The best response looks like 10.cxb5 axb5 11.b4! Nc4 **a)** 11...c5!? is a bewildering alternative that has held up so far in a couple games, but Stockfish has some advantage for White after 12.dxc6 *(or 12.bxa5)* ; **b)** So far unplayed is 11...Ng4!? when 12.Nd4! Bxd4! 13.Qxd4 Nb3! 14.axb3 Rxa1 15.Nxb5 starts to veer White's way.; 12.Nd4 Bd7 13.Ncxb5 Qb8 14.a4 is good for White, although 0-1 (42) Wang,Y (2720)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2758) Beijing 2014] **10.Bg5 h6 11.Bd2 c5 12.dxc6 Nxc6** [Might as well make use of having played ...Rb8: 12...bxc6] **13.Rc1 Bd7 14.Nd5 Kh7 15.Bc3 Nxd5 16.cxd5 Ne5+/- 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd2**

White has gained a clear edge from the opening and seeks to press via the c-file **19...Qb6 20.Rc4 f5 21.Rfc1 Rbc8** [21...Qd6 22.Qb4 Rfc8 23.Qxd6 exd6 24.Rc7 Kg8 may be a better defensive try] **22.Rxc8 Bxc8 23.Qc3 Qf6?!** [23...Qd6 24.Qc7 g5 tries to lock it up.] **24.f4 Qb6+ 25.Qc5?!** [25.Kf1 would make Black's life a bit harder] **25...Qxc5+ 26.Rxc5 e4?** this loses a critical pawn [26...exf4 puts up a bit more of a fight.] **27.Rc7 Re8**

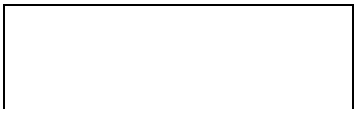
28.d6 winning the decisive pawn **28...Rd8 29.dxe7 Re8 30.e3 Kg7 31.Bf1 b5 32.a4 bxa4 33.bxa4 Kf6 34.Bc4 Be6 35.Rc6 Rxe7 36.Rxa6 Kf7 37.Rxe6 Rxe6 38.a5!** AlexanderL won by resignation. **1-0**

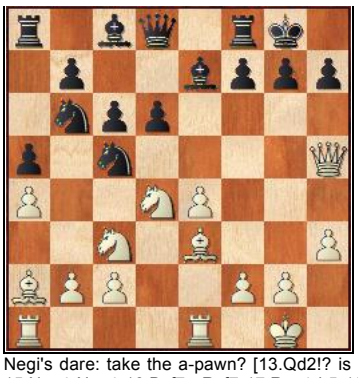
(3) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2240) - GM aleksandr Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2737) [B07]

MI January TNM Online Chess.com (6.1), 26.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

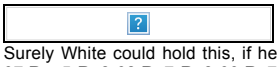
1.d4 d6 There's just no predicting what Lenderman is going to play! **2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5** The "modern" way of getting into a Philidor Defense. **4.Nf3** [4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Bc4 Ke8 keeps Black's king in the center, but without queens it's going to be hard to take advantage of that. *(6...Be6!?)*] **4...Nbd7 5.a4** [5.Bc4 is the usual move order, but it's there soon enough.] **5...Be7 6.Bc4 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.h3 a5 9.Re1 Nb6!?** This is the very last line in Negi's first volume of Grandmaster Repertoire series 1.e4. He considers this the fashion, and indeed there are a lo of games with it - well over 500 in the 21st Century! [9...exd4 10.Qxd4! Nc5 11.Bf4 gets right on the d-pawn.; 9...h6 10.Be3 Re8 11.Qe2 Qc7 12.Bb3!? Nf8 13.d5! Ng6 14.Nd2 Rf8 15.Nc4 1-0 (52) Ragger,M (2696)-Bortnyk,O (2565) Gjakova 2016] **10.Ba2** Negi likes to sacrifice pawns for the initiative or the outright attack, and this is his recommended line. [Winslow may or may not have seen the only game in the record where Lenderman played this opening, but it didn't seem to be a harbinger of anything: 10.Bf1 exd4 11.Qxd4 d5 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 dxe4 14.Nxe4 Qxd4 15.Nxd4 Nbd5 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.Bc4 Rd8 19.c3 Kf8 White doesn't have much of anything in this symmetrical queenless middlegame -- and yet he managed to turn it into a full point. 1-0 (99) So,W (2770)-Lenderman,A (2634) ch-USA (rapid) lichess. org 2020] **10...Nfd7** Black keeps up with the knight moves. **11.Be3 exd4** [11...Bf6!? 12.d5! doesn't let that bishop participate, 1-0 (44) Berescu,A (2452)-Baciu,S (2172) Calimanesti Caciulata 2016] **12.Nxd4 Nc5 13.Qh5**





Negi's dare: take the a-pawn? [13.Qd2!? is nowhere near as popular; in fact this could have been falling into preparation for another opponent, look at this game: 13...Bd7 14.Nde2 Nbxa4 15.Nxa4 Nxa4 16.Bxf7+ Rxf7 17.Rxa4 b5 18.Rd4 a4 19.c3 Be6 20.Nf4 Bc4 21.e5 d5 22.Nh5 g6 23.Rg4 Rf5 24.Nf6+! Bxf6 25.exf6 Qxf6 26.Bd4 Qf7 27.Qh6 Rf8

28.Re7! 1-0 (28) Guseinov,G (2647)-Gantner,M (2324) Antalya 2017] **13...Bf6!?** taking was all that was given, with pages of fun for White. **14.Bb3?!** Surprised by Lenderman's ignoring the pawn, Winslow has a solid think, and cops out! [The computers aren't impressed, though and think White should just keep pressing: 14.Nf3! g6 15.Qh6 Bg7 16.Qf4; And well-known Lithuanian grandmaster Aloyzas Kveinys kept it all in stride with 14.Rad1 g6 15.Qf3 Qe7 16.Bh6 Bg7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qg3 Nbxa4 19.Nxa4 Nxa4 20.Nf5+ Bxf5 21.exf5 Qf6 22.fxg6 Qxg6 23.Qf4 Nc5 24.Rxd6 with a won game; 1-0 (37) Kveinys,A (2510)-Weil,V (2065) Heusenstamm 2015] **14...g6 15.Qf3 Bg7 16.Rad1 Nxb3 17.cxb3 Nd7 18.Nc2?!** [18.Qg3 Qe7 19.Bg5 f6 20.Bh6! Now a computer sequence; 20...Rf7 21.Be3 Rf8 22.f4 Re8 23.Nf3! Is White really winning? It's close to that.] **18...Qe7 19.Bd4 Nc5 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Nd4 Qf6 22.Qg3 Re8?** [Better to defend d6 at once: 22...Rd8] **23.f4?** [23.Nf3 is critical for Black.] **23...Kh8?!** [23...Be6 24.Rf1!? Rad8 25.f5 Bc8 26.Rf4 Kh8 27.fxg6 Qxg6 28.Qf3 Ne6 29.Nxe6 Bxe6 30.Rd3 Rg8 31.Qf2 Qg5 32.Ne2 Qe5 33.Nd4 Rg6 still unclear!] **24.e5?! dxe5 25.fxe5 Qg7 26.Ne4?!** [26.Qf2 Qf8 27.Nb1 Be6 28.Nxe6 Rxe6 29.Na3+/= (c4 will be a great square, finally)] **26...Nxe4 27.Rxe4 Bf5** [27...Kg8] **28.Nxf5** [28.Ree1+/=] **28...gxf5 29.Qxg7+ Kxg7 30.Rf4** [30.Re3!+/= is ready to kick the king off g6 with Rg3+, and will require care from Black to not slip into a worse ending.] **30...Rxe5 31.Rd7 b5 32.g4 bxa4 33.bxa4 Rb8 34.Rxf5 Rxf5 35.gxf5 Rxb2**



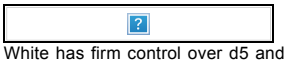
Surely White could hold this, if he weren't so completely out of time! The rest of the game is pretty sloppy, as White reaches a very drawn simplified rook ending but flounders. **36.Ra7 Kf6 37.Rxa5 Rc2 38.Ra7 Ra2 39.Rc7 Rxa4 40.Rxc6+ Kg5** [40...Kxf5 41.Rh6 would be pretty easy to hold] **41.Kg2** [41.Rc7! Kf6 42.Rc6+ was pretty obvious] **41...f6 42.Rc3 Kxf5 43.Kg3 Kg6** This is a clearly drawn rook and pawn ending in classical time control, but in faster chess there are always mistakes. **44.Rb3 h5 45.h4 Rg4+ 46.Kh3 Re4 47.Kg3 Kf5 48.Rb5+ Re5 49.Rb3 Rd5 50.Kf3 Rd4 51.Rb5+ Kg6 52.Kg3 Rd3+ 53.Kg2 Re3 54.Ra5 Re5 55.Ra8 Kf5 56.Kf3 Rb5 57.Ra3 Ke6 58.Ra6+ Kf7 59.Kf4 Rb3** Woops -- now White traps himself. **60.Ra4 Kg6 61.Ke4** [61.Ra1 Rh3 *(61...Rb4+ 62.Kg3 Re4 63.Ra5)* 62.Rg1+ Kf7 63.Kf5 Rxh4 64.Ra1 will be dead drawn after a check and capture. h-pawns don't cut it very often in rook endings!] **61...Rg3 62.Kd5?-/+** White loses his mind going off to nowhere with his king. [The R+f+h ending is "known" to be a draw with correct play, not happening with no time! 62.Ra8 Rg4+ 63.Kf3 Rxh4 64.Kg3] **62...Rg4 63.Ra1 Rxh4 64.Ke6 Re4+ 65.Kd5 Kf5 66.Rh1 h4 67.Rh2 Rf4 68.Rh1 Kg4 69.Rg1+ Kf3 70.Rg8 h3** AlexanderL won by resignation **0-1**

(4) Nathan Fong (nathanf314) (2291) - NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2145) [B90]

Live Chess Chess.com (5.5), 26.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 An unsual line against the Najdorf which aims to slowly take control of kingside squares. **6...e5 7.Nde2 h5!?** A direct way to stop g2-g4 White can play for the d5 square now. **8.Bg5 Be6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nd5 Qd8 11.Qd3 Nd7 12.0-0-0 g6 13.Kb1 Rc8**



White has firm control over d5 and has a small edge. Black though has played a logical strategy and makes it hard for White to advance, particulary as the black bishops could become strong if the position opens up. **14.Nec3 b5 15.a3 Nc5 16.Qf3 Bg7 17.Be2 0-0 18.g4 h4** It's important to keep the kingside closed to a White advance. **19.Qe3 g5?!** This keeps the kingside closed but is too rigid. With [19...Bxd5 20.Nxd5 Bf6! (trying to get the good g5 square) 21.Nxf6+ Qxf6 22.g5 Qe7 the game would be about equal] **20.Rd2 f6 21.Rhd1** White can't break through on the kingside but can advance on the queenside because of better placed pieces and the great knight on d5. With [21.b4 Nd7 22.Qa7! Black would have been in trouble right away.] **21...Rf7 22.f3 Bf8 23.Qf2?!** [23.b4! Nd7 24.Kb2 Rc6 25.a4 takes the initiative on the queenside and puts Black under real pressure.] **23...Kg7 24.Ne3 Rb7 25.Nf5+ Bxf5 26.gxf5 Qe8?** [26...b4! would get Black lines on the queenside] **27.Nd5 Qf7 28.b3 a5 29.Ka2 Kh8 30.Qf1 Rcb8 31.Rb1** [31.c3] **31...Be7 32.Qd1 Bd8 33.c4?! bxc4?!** This keeps the game open but to White's advantage. [33...b4! probably locks things up for a draw] **34.Bxc4 Qf8 35.Rc2 Qh6 36.Qd2 Qh5 37.Qe3 Qh6 38.Rc3 Bb6 39.Qe2 Nd7 40.Rc2 Bd4 41.Qd2?!** [41.Ba6 Ra7 42.Ne7! is a big advantage for White] **41...Nc5 42.Qxa5?** this opens lines for Black towards the white king **42...Qg7?!** [42...Qf8 is the right square for the queen so the rook gets supported at a8 rather than a7] **43.Qd2?!** [43.b4! Ra7?! 44.bxc5 Rba8 *(44...Rxa5 45.Rxb8+ Kh7 46.c6* wins*)* 45.Ba6! Rxa6 46.Rb8+ leaves White well ahead after both 46....Rxb8 47. Qxa6 or 46....Kh7 47. Rxa8 Rxa5 48. Rxa5] **43...Ra7 44.Nc3**

44...Rxa3+! 45.Kxa3 Qa7+ 46.Kb2 [46.Na4? Nxa4 47.bxa4 Rxb1] **46...Na4+** [46...Ra8 47.Kc1 Be3 48.Qxe3 Nxb3+ 49.Rxb3 Qxe3+ 50.Kb2 Qxf3 is about even chances] **47.Kc1 Be3 48.Nxa4** [48.bxa4!] **48...Bxd2+ 49.Rxd2 Qe3 50.Kc2 Qxf3** we have an unusual material balance of queen and pawns against rook, bishop and knight. Chances are even. **51.Nc3 Qxh3 52.Rxd6 Qg2+ 53.Rd2 Qg4 54.Rh1 Ra8 55.Kb2 Qf4 56.Rhh2 Kg7 57.Rd7+ Kh6 58.Rhd2?** too aggressive! Just retreating with [58.Rdd2 would stop the pawns advancing and keep the game level] **58...Rf8 59.R2d6 h3**

now the black pawns run **60.Nd5 Qd2+ 61.Kb1 h2** That's it. The second black queen makes it easy. **62.Ne3 h1Q+ 63.Nf1 Qe1+ 64.Rd1 Qf2 65.Ne3 Qxe4+ 66.Bd3 Qexe3 67.Rh1+ Qh4 68.Rxh4+ gxh4 69.Bc2 h3 70.Rd3 Qxd3 71.Bxd3 h2 72.Be4 Rg8 73.Kb2 Rg1 74.Kc3 h1Q 0-1**

(5) Sebby Suarez (SebbyMeister) (1740) - Aaron Nicoski (KingSmasher35) (1811) [B01]

MI January TNM Online u1800 Chess.com (5.1), 26.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.Ne5 Bf5 7.g4 Be4?!+/-

[This should lead to trouble, but even after 7...Be6 8.g5 Nd5 9.Ne4 Qd8 10.c4 Nb4 11.Be3 Bf5 12.Bg2 Is a big advantage for White] **8.f3?!** [8.Nxe4 Nxe4 9.Qf3! Qxd4 10.Qxf7+ Kd8 11.Qf4 is a huge advantage for White] **8...Bd5 9.Bf4**

[9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.Bf4 is more accurate, not allowing Black a trick] **9...Qd8?!** [9...Nxg4! works the pins and would gain Black equality - 10.Nxc6 Qxf4 11.Nxd5 Qd6 12.Ncb4 Nc6 13.fxg4 Nxb4 14.Nxb4 Qxb4+ 15.c3 Qxb2] **10.Nxd5 Nxd5 11.Bg3 Ne3?!+/-** trading off Black's only developed piece **12.Qd2 Nxf1 13.Rxf1 e6 14.Qf4+/- Qf6 15.Qxf6?!** trading into the endgame takes away all the attacking chances. White keeps a good edge with [15.Qe4 Nd7 16.0-0-0] **15...gxf6 16.Nc4 Nd7 17.Nd6+ Bxd6 18.Bxd6 0-0-0 19.Bg3 h5 20.c3** [20.Kf2!] **20...hxg4 21.fxg4 Rdg8 22.Rf4 Rh7 23.Kf2 e5** [23...Nb6! 24.Rxf6 Rxg4 keeps the better pawn structure] **24.Re4 Rg5?!** [24...exd4 25.cxd4 f5 26.gxf5 Nf6 27.Rh4 Ng4+ 28.Ke2 Rxh4 29.Bxh4 Nxh2 is equal] **25.Rae1** [25.Kg2 Rhg7 26.Rf1! Rxg4 27.Rxg4 Rxg4 28.dxe5 wins the pawn back with favorable play for White on the kingside] **25...f5 26.gxf5 Rxf5+ 27.Kg2 f6 28.dxe5 Nxe5 29.Bxe5 fxe5 30.Rxe5 Rff7 31.R5e3 Kc7 32.Rh3 Rhg7+ 33.Rg3 Rh7 34.Re2 Kb6 35.b3 a5!**

good defense. Black gets ready for queenside counterplay while White has a hard time advancing the h-pawn **36.b4 axb4 37.cxb4 Rf4 38.a3 c5 39.Rg6+ Kb5 40.Rg5 b6 41.Rc2 Rfh4! 42.Kg1 R7h5 43.Rxh5 Rxh5** Game drawn by agreement. **1/2-1/2**

(7) Cailen Melville (Mangonel) (1754) - Chelsea Zhou (mwncklmann) (1972) [D30]

MI January TNM Online Chess.com (6.11), 26.01.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Ne5 Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 This active defense to the Catalan trades pawn structure for easy developement and open lines. **9.Na3 Bxa3 10.bxa3** White choses the same - activity for pawn structure (and the bishop pair) **10...Ba6 11.Qd2 Rb8 12.Qa5 Rb6 13.a4 Qc8?!** [a better square for the black queen is 13...Qe7] **14.Ba3 Re8 15.Bc5**

[15.Rfd1 gains a slight edge] **15...Nd7?!** This sacrifices the exchange for insufficent compensation. [15...e5! 16.e4 exd4 17.Bxd4 Nxe4 is active and equal] **16.Bxb6 cxb6 17.Qc3 Rd8+/-** Black has some compesnsation for the exchange and practical chances, but objectively not enough **18.Rfd1 Nf6 19.e4 Qc7 20.Rd2 Rd7 21.Rad1 Qd8 22.f3 h6 23.Bf1 b5 24.axb5 cxb5 25.a4! bxa4 26.Rb1 Rc7 27.Rdb2** [27.Ra2] **27...Rc8?!** [27...Nd7 would get the knight to help out on the queenside and give more chances] **28.Rb4 Qd7** now some tactics come into play **29.Bxc4?**

[29.Rb8 would simplify and give White excellent chances to convert the extra exchange] **29...Qc6?** [29...Nd5! 30.exd5 exd5 31.Rb8 Bxc4 would be equal] **30.Rc1?** [White would be winning again after 30.Rb8! Rxb8 *(30...Bxc4 31.Rxc8+ Qxc8 32.Rb4)* 31.Rxb8+ Kh7 32.Rb4 Nd7 33.Qc2 Nb6 34.Bd3] **30...Nd7 31.Qd3?-/+** [31.Bxa6 giving back the exchange for an equal endgame is necessary 31...Qxc3 32.Rxc3 Rxc3 33.Rxa4 Rxf3 34.Bb5 Nf6 35.e5] **31...Ne5?** [31...Nb6 just wins as 32. Bxa6 Qxc1+ is finished] **32.dxe5?-/+** [White could still keep it even with 32.Qa3! Nxc4 33.Qxa4] **32...Qc5+ 33.Kg2 Qxb4** The white bishop is still pinned. No way out. **34.Bxa6 Rxc1** mwncklmann won on time , though White's position is completely hopeless here. **0-1**

SwissSys Standings. Jan 2021 TNM Online: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	**GM Aleksan Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)**	12787646	2704	AlexanderL	W35	W18	W10
2	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2700	gguseinov	W16	W14	W11
3	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2106	FlightsOfFancy	W20	W9	D6
4	**FM Kyron Wa Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2504	KyronGriffith	W29	W12	H---
5	**FM Eric Yuhan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)**	15688436	2368	kingandqueen2017	W17	W15	W23
6	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	D33	W31	D3
7	**Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2045	ninjaforce	D31	W33	L18
8	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	13001390	1981	nathanf314	W37	L11	W27
9	**Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)**	16761994	1644	LightningDragon8	W28	L3	D33
10	**Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)**	15462690	2242	jij2018	W36	W27	L1
11	**Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)**	15088362	2120	etvat	W30	W8	L2
12	**Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)**	12906142	2034	artliou	W32	L4	W17
13	**David Benja Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)**	13776967	2023	David_Askin	L21	W30	W24
14	**Tejas Mahesh (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15086558)**	15086558	1997	ChessTX9	W22	L2	W32
15	**Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)**	15494283	1941	BreatheChessAlways	W34	L5	W21
16	**Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)**	12469525	1934	kondsaga	L2	W25	D34
17	**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)**	15239016	1886	mwncklmann	L5	W22	L12
18	**Steven Gaffagan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12542809)**	12542809	2058	carbon64	W26	L1	W7
	Daniel Lin						

19	(https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	2009	SmilyFace4	L27	W20	W36
20	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	A-boy415	L3	L19	W37
21	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1766	pgstar3	W13	L23	L15
22	Roger V V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	16191192	1751	1-h4-1-0	L14	L17	W30
23	William Sartorio (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14715380)	14715380	2063	unusualkid	W25	W21	L5
24	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	12517167	1928	GuyArgo	H---	H---	L13
25	Ranen A Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1820	dashrndrx	L23	L16	L35
26	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1795	3Ke31-0	L18	D28	D29
27	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	W19	L10	L8
28	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	mangonel	L9	D26	D31
29	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	L4	H---	D26
30	Patrick John Kut (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15898438)	15898438	1843	pkutchess	L11	L13	L22
31	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	14436451	1784	chessp1234	D7	L6	D28
32	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L12	W35	L14
33	Nicholas Ar Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	15088356	1883	nicarmt	D6	L7	D9
34	Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)	13836822	1652	ibalek	L15	B---	D16
35	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	13178575	1940	ashikuzzaman	L1	L32	W25
36	Christian Jensen (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12780890)	12780890	1844	Christianjensen23	L10	W37	L19
37	Kevin Babb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15480497)	15480497	1724	Babbaliath	L8	L36	L20

SwissSys Standings. Jan 2021 TNM Online: u1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	R 4
1	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	12797931	1789	KingSmasher35	X3	W14	W23	W
2	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	811	Sebbymeister	W11	W7	W8	W
3	Elliott Regan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15032065)	15032065	1079	TTVchessmaster	F1	W25	W26	W
4	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1040	sfdeals	W5	W10	W16	L
5	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	15035222	1699	ahyanzaman	L4	W27	W22	L

6	**Mateo Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14907254)**	14907254	1687	mateosh	W27	L8	W21	W
7	**Reka Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14656444)**	14656444	1533	rekasztaray	W15	L2	W14	W
8	**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	17079795	1057	andrewballantyne	W20	W6	L2	W
9	**Pablo Jose Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14971067)**	14971067	797	Dragonslayer470	L13	L26	W27	W
10	**David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)**	12931024	1622	MechAnjin	X29	L4	W13	L
11	**Rama Krish Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)**	17350313	1475	draidus	L2	W15	W18	W
12	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L17	L24	W28	D
13	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1446	Echecsmike	W9	L16	L10	W
14	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	16738735	1105	victor6688	W25	L1	L7	W
15	**Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)**	16816706	944	Charvii	L7	L11	W25	W
16	**Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)**	30032729	861	dribbler23	W26	W13	L4	L
17	**Bill J Day (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30060498)**	30060498	782	mrbillstunes1	W12	W21	L19	L
18	**Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	16380642	1551	maxskiff	L23	W28	L11	D
19	**Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)**	12446259	1495	nmbrown2	H---	W20	W17	L
20	**Christophe Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)**	13742111	1700	ludimagisterjosephus	L8	L19	W24	L
21	**Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1519	rimus11	W24	L17	L6	L
22	**Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)**	17168772	1490	Evariel	W28	L23	L5	L
23	**Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)**	16551291	977	figsnoring	W18	W22	L1	L
24	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	851	Bruce_Hedman	L21	W12	L20	L
25	**Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)**	16380615	662	ComfyQueso	L14	L3	L15	W
26	**Leon Diaz Herrera (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355661)**	17355661	1520	Aeqetes	L16	W9	L3	L
27	**Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)**	30055583	1026	night_breeze	L6	L5	L9	W
28	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30037403)**	30037403	812	Vincitore51745	L22	L18	L12	L
29	**Chaitanya Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14126671)**	14126671	1017	catreya	F10	U---	U---	U

Thursday Night Marathon Report

Our Thursday Night Marathon is three rounds in, and the top two seeds remain the only perfect scores at 3/3. This should set up a great round 4 matchup between GM Gadir Guseinov and IM Elliott Winslow next week. Many strong players are at 2.5, including FM Allan Savage, NM Mike Walder, Kristian Clemens, Jonah Busch, and Jacob Wang. Here are the current standings.

SwissSys Standings. Jan-Feb 2021 Thursday Night Marathon: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2700	gguseinov	W24	W13	W9
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W25	W12	W8
3	FM Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W26	W22	D6
4	NM Mike Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	10345120	2106	FlightsOfFancy	W15	W21	D5
5	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	kclemens	W28	W32	D4
6	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W29	W18	D3
7	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1560	jacobchess857	H---	W34	W1
8	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	12906142	2034	artliou	W27	W17	L2
9	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	2009	SmilyFace4	W16	W14	L1
10	NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	L17	W28	W2
11	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	knvsback	W35	H---	H--
12	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	16434922	1809	uzkuzk	W30	L2	W2
13	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1795	3Ke31-0	W36	L1	W2
14	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	13742111	1700	LudiMagisterJosephus	W31	L9	W3
15	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1519	rimus11	L4	W37	W2
16	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	16154827	1416	NXBex	L9	W31	W2
17	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1158	kevin_mx_sun	W10	L8	W2
18	Alexander Casassovici (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101063)	30101063	unr.	zatmonkey	W23	L6	W2
19	Reka Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14656444)	14656444	1533	rekasztaray	H---	W20	L7
20	Raphael Hofmann (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30103963)	30103963	unr.	justkidding3	H---	L19	W3
21	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W37	L4	L17
22	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	12797931	1789	KingSmasher35	W38	L3	L15
23	Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	13836822	1652	ibalek	L18	W29	L16

	13836822)						
24	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	11296106	1643	zenwabi	L1	W35	L18
25	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L2	W30	L13
26	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1551	maxskiff	L3	W36	L10
27	Yali Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1428	noydan100	L8	W38	L12
28	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	16497860	1406	loltheawesomedude	L5	L10	W3
29	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L6	L23	W3
30	Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)	12693378	1018	rahimftd	L12	L25	W3
31	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	843	caodanny	L14	L16	W3
32	Edward Pernicka (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30097683)	30097683	unr.	copernickas	B---	L5	L14
33	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1766	pgstar3	H---	U---	U--
34	Jared Michael Ruiz (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30106002)	30106002	unr.	jpoka1	H---	L7	L20
35	Andrew Fu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16403798)	16403798	1152	geese	L11	L24	L31
36	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	954	adichi	L13	L26	L28
37	Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)	17144246	946	TanFlatPupet	L21	L15	L29
38	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	851	Bruce_Hedman	L22	L27	L30

For more tournament information on our ThNM, please follow this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-jan-feb-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-jan-feb-2021)

FM Kyron Griffith Wins New in Chess 2020 Swindle Award

Everyone loves a great escape, be it Harry Houdini or Clint Eastwood in *Escape From Alcatraz*. We witnessed an amazing escape recently - FM Kyron Griffith in a match played for Mechanics Institute in the Chess.com Club's League against Pan-Am finalist University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. It netted him 250 Euro and the title of Swindle of the Year from New in Chess magazine! Kyron was gratious enough to visit the Mechanics' Chess Cafe to discuss the game, and we have it below, with annnotations by GM Nick de Firmian. I remember watching the game live as it happened and my jaw dropping at the finish, I hope you enjoy it also. Congratulations to Kyron!

(6) Indirect (2138) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2201) [B12]

Live Chess Chess.com, 07.11.2020

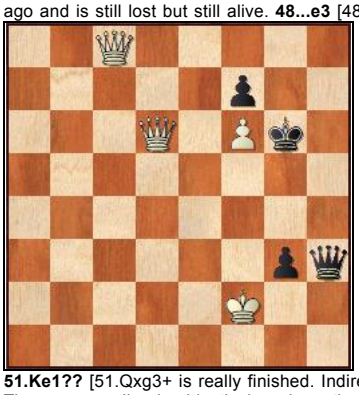
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 The modern way is 4. Nf3. The game move is very sharp and tactical but Black is in good shape if he navigates the complications. **4...e6 5.g4 Bg6 6.Nge2 c5 7.h4 h5! 8.Nf4 Bh7** This keeps Black's pawn structure intact at the cost of a pawn. Black also gains in the cente while White grabs a pawn on the rim. **9.Nxh5 cxd4** [9...Nc6] **10.Nb5 Bc5 11.Nxd4 Nc6?** This gives a second pawn for little reason. Black would be ok after [11...Kf8] **12.Nxg7+ Kd7 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Nh5 Be4 15.Rh3**

Black looks active but White can parry the threats. Meanwhile White is slowly unravelling with the extra pawns. **15...Qb6 16.Qe2! a5 17.c3 Rb8 18.b3 Kc7 19.Ng3 Bh7 20.Nh5** [20.Bg5] **20...Rd8 21.Bg5 Rb8 22.Bg2 Ne7 23.Rd1 Nc8 24.f4 Be7 25.Nf6** White is objectively winning with the two pawn advantage, but there are many pieces left and still a long way until the end of the game. **25...Bxf6 26.exf6?!** [26.Bxf6 Rg8 27.Kf1 gives less chance of counterplay] **26...Nd6 27.c4** [27.f5 is also good here] **27...Be4 28.Kf1 a4 29.f5! exf5 30.Be3 Qa6 31.Bf4**

31...axb3?! The position is difficult anyway but this loses at least a piece. **32.Bxd6+ Kxd6 33.c5+** oops. There goes the black queen on a6. Most people would resign here, but Kyron finds courage and sees he still has some positional compensation for his lost material. (Not nearly enough, but there can still be tricks.) **33...Ke5! 34.Qxa6 b2 35.Bxe4 dxe4 36.Rb3!** The only danger is the black b-pawn and this keeps it under control for now. **36...fxg4 37.Qxc6 Rxb3 38.axb3**

38...Rxh4 There is some hope. Kyron threatens to check on h1, trade rooks and queen the pawn. No reason to give up yet. **39.Qd6+ Kf5 40.Rd5+?!** Indirect has played excellent moves for a long time. Here is the first slip, taking the white rook from the defense the b-pawn queening. [40.Kg2] **40...Kg6 41.Rd1 Kf5!** [41...b1Q 42.Rxb1 Rh1+ 43.Kg2 Rxb1 44.c6 is winning without complications, so Kyron makes a practical decision to repeat and see if Indirect gets confused.] **42.Kg2 Rh3 43.c6 Rd3 44.Rxd3?!** [44.c7 Rxd6 45.c8Q+ is mate in 7; or 44.Qxd3 exd3 45.c7 would work. Still these are both a little unnatural with little time on your clock.] **44...b1Q 45.Rd2 Kg6 46.c7 Qxb3 47.Rf2** [47.c8Q!] **47...Qh3+ 48.Kg1** Kyron was a whole queen down 16 moves ago and is still lost but still alive. **48...e3** [48...g3 49.Rg2!] **49.c8Q exf2+ 50.Kxf2** OK, now it is really at the end. Kyron siezes his last chance to swindle. **50...g3+**



51.Ke1?? [51.Qxg3+ is really finished. Indirect didn't see the long queen attack in time pressure.] **51...Qxc8 52.Qxg3+ Kxf6** Amazingly Black is now up material, even if it is just a little pawn. The queen ending is objectively a draw, though after what has happened Kyron was confident he would win. **53.Qf4+ Qf5 54.Qh4+ Ke5 55.Qh8+ Ke4 56.Qb8 Qe5 57.Qb3 Kf4+ 58.Kf1 f6 59.Qd3 Qa1+ 60.Kg2 Qb2+ 61.Kf1 Qc1+ 62.Kg2 Qc6+ 63.Kf1?** [63.Kf2 would draw with proper play] **63...Qf3+ 64.Qxf3+ Kxf3** with a winning king ending **65.Ke1 Kg2 66.Ke2 f5 67.Ke3 Kg3 68.Ke2 f4 69.Ke1 Kg2 70.Ke2 f3+ 71.Ke1 f2+** Indirect resigned and Kyron pocketed 250 euros for the best swindle prize. A most amazing comeback from a whole queen down! **0-1**

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 extraoridinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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, 2/2: https://www.chess.com/live#r=896658 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.chess.com/live#r=896658)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 2/4: https://www.chess.com/live#r=896660 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.chess.com/live#r=896660)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   OngoingCasual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20211128110814/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - Game Review Class with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: Starting Feb 1 - Monday
   Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-

paul-whitehead)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**
   New session started 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/20211128110814/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Endgame Lab with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Wednesdays 6:30-8PM - Endgame Lab with FM Paul Whitehead
   Course Dates: January 11 through February 17 (6 classes)
   For tournament players looking to solve some of toughest situations they face, here is the class to help you learn the essentials to work out and win or save games.
   FM Paul Whitehead's Endgame Lab Class will focus solely on endgame techniques and will teach you the essentials in a 6-week course meant to build endgame skills you need to get your chess to the next level. Here is the syllabus for the course:
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhitehead

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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:

2/9 Tuesday - **February 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon**
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/february-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/february-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Not too late to join! **January/February 2021 Thursday Night Marathon**
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605JanFeb2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/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/20211128110814/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/20211128110814/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/20211128110814/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Chess is fun and exciting! Chess is giving us so much these days when we have to stay home!

Many of our scholastic players are online playing every day, and practicing hard, as well as taking advantage of our daily free daily tournaments. Their hard work is inspiring and encourages Mechanics' Institute to continue offering fun events. Players who are participating in our weekend US Chess online rated events have a chance to play for trophies or medals, and for some rating points as well.

We are always happy to get news of players when they are encouraged by the trophies and or their enthusiasm fueld by the shiny medals. This week we are happy to report on Ansh, who after recently starting to participate in our events, won his first medal. While wearing the medal during his play in the recent tournament, he went on to get 1st Place in the next tournament! Congratulations and keep up the hard work!

And, of course, many thanks for your parents for your continued support towards Mechanics' and your chess education.

Not too late to join - We have 2 more spots!
Tactics, Tactics, Tactics!
Fridays 3-4PM with Coach Andy

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM)
Designed specially for players with ChessKid rating 1000+, and will cover the following topics: things to look for on the board to find tactics, how to set up tactics in your own games, middlegame tactics famous tactical players, endgame tactics, and more. Recording is available for the first class

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20211128110814/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)
Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Sunday, Jan 31: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=271048 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=271048)
- Monday, Feb 1: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=292513 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=292513)
- Tuesday, Feb 2: 5SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=292514 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=292514)
- Wednesday, Feb 3: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=292515 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=292515)
- Thursday, Feb 4: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=292517 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=292517)
- Friday, Feb 5: Special Practice tournament for all the participants of the US Amateur Team West Online Championship Scholastic Event

2) This coming weekend we have a very special tournament coming up on Saturday, February 6 - ALL DAY EVENT!

The Scholastic side event of the 2021 US Amateur Team West Online National Championship

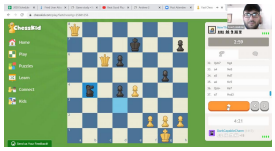
More information: www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-side-event-2021-us-amateur-team-west-online-national-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-side-event-2021-us-amateur-team-west-online-national-championship)
Register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-side-event-2021-us-amateur-team-west-online-national-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-side-event-2021-us-amateur-team-west-online-national-championship)

Special Trophies – Unique & Fun Team event – Live Zoom meeting througout the day
All day live broadcast via twitch.tv/mechanicschess with GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead & Mr. Abel Talamantez

USCF Online Rated Tournaments - Registration needed via the links below, and players must have current US Chess membership. Games will affect US Chess online ratings (not over-the-board ratings). Trophies or Medals for Top Finishers - Curbside pickup is available per arrangement.
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.

Plan Ahead: 2021 Spring camp schedule - Register NOW to save your spot!
Camps are becoming very popular, and fill up fast!

- Feb 15, Monday - Presidents Day Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/PresidentsDayChessCamp
- Mar 29 - Apr 2 - Spring Break Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp



Scholastic Game of the Week, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(8) SummerKnight20 (1454) - BestMiddleSun (1541) [D02]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Once again we see the trendy London System. **2...Nc6 3.Nf3 Bf5 4.e3 Nf6 5.c3** [5.Bb5 Should seriously be considered here. It is not a normal move in the London System, but in this particular position the pin causes Black some trouble.] **5...e6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.Bg3 Qd7 8.Nb3** [Development with 8.Be2 would be very logical here] **8...0-0 9.Qd2?!** This invites Black to jump in. Again, it was better to develop the light-squared bishop. **9...Ne4 10.Qe2 Rad8 11.Bxd6 Nxd6 12.0-0-0?!** I must give SummerKnight credit for originality as I have not seen White castle queenside before in the London System. That said, the white king is not as safe on this side. **12...Nc4?!** [12...Qe7 13.Rg1 a5! gets play rolling on the kingside] **13.Nc5 Qe7 14.Nxb7?** This pawn is poisoned. Black gets to invade on the b-file now. **14...Rb8 15.Nc5 Rxb2** Ouch. White is in big trouble. **16.Rd2** better for White to give up the queen, but it's hard to offer good advice here **16...Rxd2?** [16...Rb1#! was the end!] **17.Nxd2 Nxd2 18.Qxd2 Rb8 19.Nb3 Na5!**

Black still has a terrific attack with all the pieces working on the queenside and White's bishop and rook still on their original squares. **20.Qb2** [20.Nxa5 Rb1#] **20...Nc4 21.Qe2** [Losing a piece with 21.Bxc4 dxc4 may be best, though that's hard to recommend.] **21...a5 22.g4 Qa3+ 23.Kd1 Nb2+ 24.Ke1 Nd3+ 25.Kd1**

25...Rxb3! 26.gxf5 Qc1# BestMiddleSun won by checkmate 0-1

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Test your chess at the Tata Steel Masters Tournament, Wijk ann Zee 2021

This fantastic tournament isn't over as I write these words, and the play has been crisp, sharp -and non-virtual.

See if you can bring home the point like the GM's do it.

And no moving the pieces!

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1. **Alireza Firouzja** vs **David Anton Guijarro**

White moves.

This one's kind of easy: how did the 16-year-old genius from Iran polish off the veteran Spanish GM?

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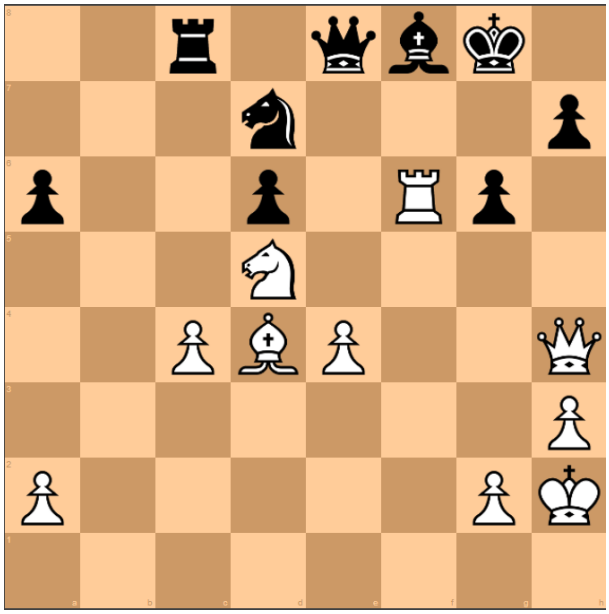
2. **Nils Grandelius** vs **Maxim Vachier-Lagrave**

White Moves.

The Frenchman – and his favorite Najdorf Sicilian – are taking a bit of a shellacking in this tournament. How did the Swedish GM crash through? You'll need to work out the lines, but it's quite straight forward.



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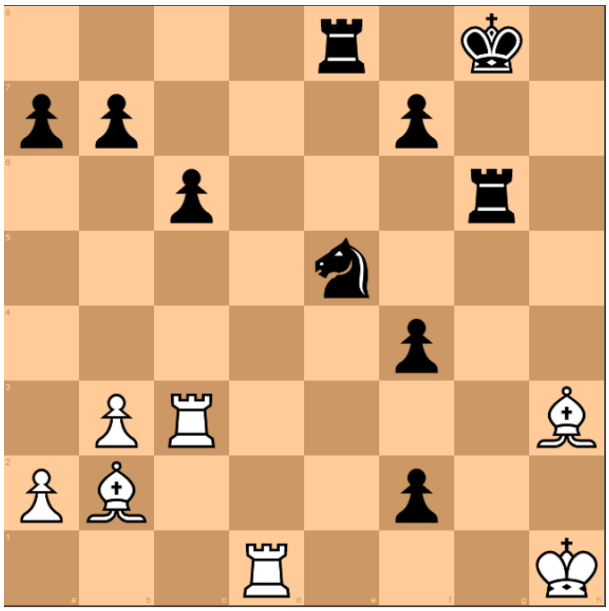
3. **Radoslaw Wojtaszek** vs **Fabiano Caruana**

Black moves.

The World #2 has been playing some fascinating and daring chess in Holland. Here he knocks out the flailing Polish GM. Can you find black's killing move?



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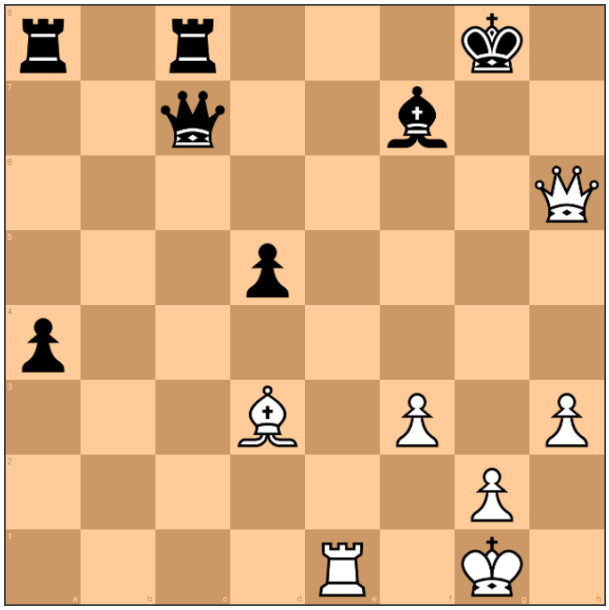
4. **Magnus Carlsen** vs **Alireza Firouzja**

White moves.

The World Champion may not be in top form, but he takes down his dangerous rival with a precise finish.



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5. **Alireza Firouzja** vs **Jan-Krzysztof Duda**

White moves.

The other Polish player, Duda, is also not doing so well in this tournament. What quiet move sends him packing?

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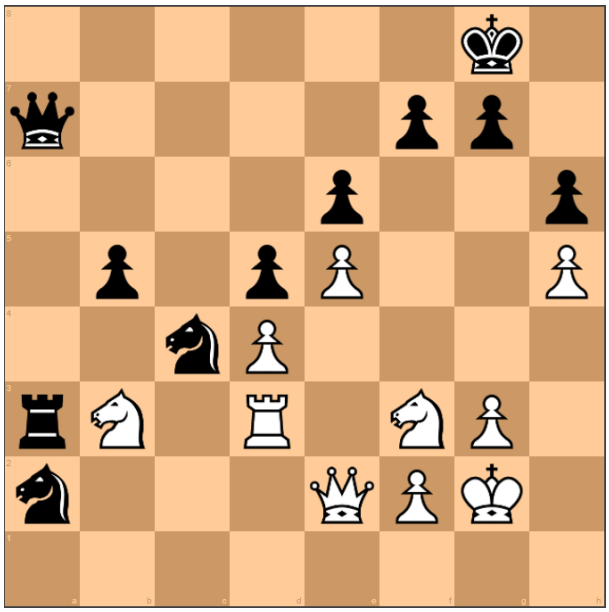
6. **Nils Grandelius** vs **Pentala Harikrishna**

Black moves.

These two GM's are holding their own in this field, but here the Indian brings home the point. How? Hint: simplify things.



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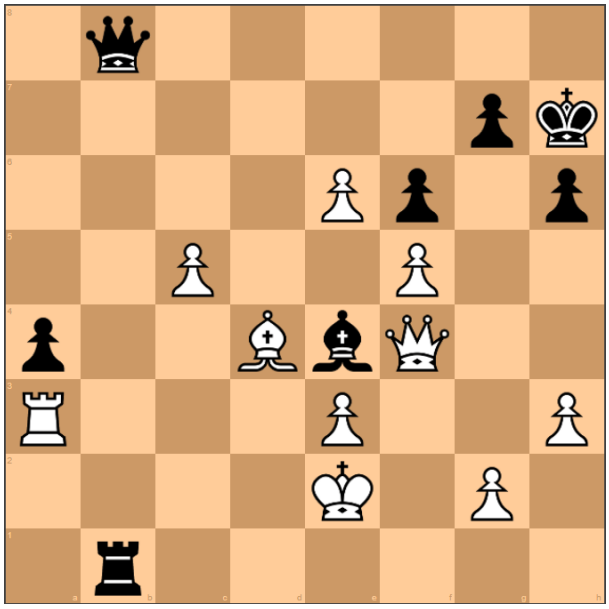
7. **Alexander Donchenko** vs **Alireza Firouzja**

Black moves.

Firouzja again! Here he gives the Russian GM no chance with a precise series of moves… oh, you work it out.



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8. Anish Giri vs **Radoslaw Wojtaszek**

White moves.

The Dutch must be over-joyed, as their home-town guy is winning the tournament! Giri is really in excellent form, and here he spots his chance. White blows black away with…

GM Nick de Firmian

Three-time US Champion Lubomir Kavalek died January 18, 2021, at the age of 77 years. Most serious chess players know this already and have read about the fateful life he lived. I feel compelled personally to write some comments about him as I had played along with Lubosh many times in the US Championships and Olympiads and had the greatest respect for his tremendous character. (Also for his imaginative creations over the board.) This gentleman grandmaster was always honorable, trustworthy, and principled. He had to deal with the invasion of his native Czechoslovakia in 1968 while he was breaking through in his chess career in his 20s. He escaped the Eastern bloc in 1968 by bribing the border guards with cases of vodka bought from his chess tournament winnings. He adapted easily to living in the United States and worked over the years against the communist regime, but not in a bitter way as Korchnoi did. The fall of the Soviet Union and liberation of Czechoslovakia was, of course, reportedly immensely satisfying to him.

With the death of Kavalek, the oldest living former US Champion is now former MI grandmaster in residence Roman Dzindzihashvilli. Dzindzi also played many US team and invdiviual events with Kavalek and emigrated from the Soviet bloc, but they were made from different molds. The highly entertaining Dzindzi often had you wondering what is happening next, while Kavalek was always a calm source of inspiration.

We give below three of Kavalek's best games. This is part of his legacy along with his writings and works as a citizen. The reader has likely seen the 3rd game – his marvelous signature game against Gufeld - but we include it with brief notes in case you haven't.

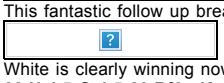
(1) Lubomir Kavalek - Milan Matulovic [E76]

Bucharest Bucharest ROU (7), 01.05.1966

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.f4 The Four Pawns Attack! Kavalek in his youth would always play the most aggressive attacking variations. **6...0-0 7.Bd3 e6 8.dxe6** White trades off the advanced d-pawn to get a more fluid pawn structure. **8...fxe6 9.Nge2 Nc6 10.0-0 Nd4 11.Ng3** [Black would have very good play if this knight gets exchanged and the black c-pawn comes to the advanced post 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Ne2 e5 with a firm center] **11...Ne8!? 12.Be3 Qh4 13.f5!?** This is sharp and risky - the distinct style of Kavalek in the 60s. **13...exf5?!** [13...Nf6! would serve Matulovic better even though it is complicated 14.Rf4 Qh6 15.Qd2 g5 16.e5! *(16.Rff1? Ng4 17.h3 Nxe3 18.Qxe3 Nxf5 19.exf5 Bd4)* 16...gxf4 *(16...dxe5? 17.Rxd4 exd4 18.Bxg5)* 17.Bxf4 Qh4 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Bxd6 Rd8 20.Nce4 with at least equal chances for Black in this confusing position.] **14.Qd2 f4 15.Bxf4 Ne6 16.Be3 Rxf1+ 17.Rxf1 Bd7 18.Nd5** The centralized white knight gives White the edge. Matulovic feels compelled to challenge it and runs into a brilliant refutation. **18...Nf6?**

19.Rxf6! Bxf6 20.Nf5!

This fantastic follow up breaks the coordination of the black forces. **20...gxf5 21.g3** Now the black queen cannot defend the bishop on f6. **21...Bc3 22.bxc3 Qd8 23.exf5 Ng7 24.Bg5**

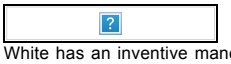


White is clearly winning now. The black queen cannot guard the second black bishop against the knight fork without running into a fork herself. **24...Qf8 25.Nf6+ Kh8 26.Nxd7 Qf7 27.Nf6 Nh5 28.Nxh5 Qxh5 29.Bf6+ Kg8 30.Be4** The powerful white bishops are far too much for the black rook. **30...h6 31.Qxd6 Re8 32.Bd5+ 1-0**

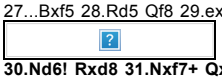
(2) Lubomir Kavalek - Anatoly Karpov [C98]

Caracas Caracas VEN (10), 01.07.1970

Kavalek was one of the top 10 players in the world at this time. Here he battles the great Karpov (though before Karpov was World Champion). **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 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Nc6** This is a classic Ruy Lopez position that his been seen hundreds of times in tournament play. **13.dxc5** Kavalek plays Fischer's choice. Nowadays more players choose to take space with [13.d5] **13...dxc5 14.Nf1 Be6 15.Ne3 Rad8 16.Qe2 c4 17.Nf5 Rfe8** [17...Bxf5 18.exf5 h6 19.Nd2 and coming to the e4 square with the knight would give White an edge.] **18.N3h4 Kh8 19.Nxe7 Qxe7 20.Qf3 Nd7?!** White begins to take a grip on the central squares now. Karpov would do better with [20...h6] **21.Nf5 Qf8 22.Be3 Nc5 23.Red1** [Decades later the computer shows us the missed opportunity of 23.Nxg7! Kxg7 24.Bh6+ Kxh6 25.Qf6+ Kh5 26.g4+ Bxg4 27.hxg4+ Kxg4 28.Kg2] **23...f6**



White has an inventive maneuver to advance into the black camp. **24.Rd6! Rxd6 25.Bxc5 Rd1+ 26.Rxd1 Qxc5 27.Rd6!** Once again Kavalek uses tactics to invade on the d-file. **27...Bf7** [If 27...Bxf5 28.Rd5 Qf8 29.exf5 Rd8 30.Rxd8 Nxd8 31.Qd5 leaves White a winning endgame] **28.Qd1 Nb8 29.Rd8 Qc7**



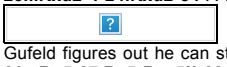
30.Nd6! Rxd8 31.Nxf7+ Qxf7 32.Qxd8+ Qg8 33.Qd6 The white queen dominates the board from this square while the black knight on b8 is stuck out of play. **33...Qe8 34.Bd1 h5 35.Be2 Kh7 36.b3 cxb3 37.axb3 Nc6 38.b4 Kh6 39.h4 Qc8 40.g3** Black can't untangle against the force of the coordinated white queen and bishop. **40...Kg6 41.Qd1 Kf7 42.Bxh5+ Ke7 43.Bg4 Qc7 44.Qd5 Nd8 45.Bf5 Nf7 46.Qe6+ Kf8 47.Qxa6 Nd6 48.Qa8+ Ke7 49.Qg8** White takes many pawns and coasts to the win. **49...Nxf5 50.exf5 Qxc3 51.Qxg7+ Kd6 52.Qxf6+ Kd5 53.Qf7+ Ke4 54.Qb7+ Kxf5 55.Qxb5 Qe1+ 56.Kg2 Qe4+ 57.Kh2 Kg4 58.Qd7+ Kf3 59.Qd2 1-0**

(3) Eduard Gufeld - Lubomir Kavalek [C64]

Student Olympiad Marianske Lazne CSR (7), 20.07.1962

This is Kavalek's signature game, where he wins with mind over material. We show it third as the reader has likely seen it, but it is not a game to be missed. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 f5 5.d4 fxe4 6.Ng5** [Other complications arise after 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.Nxe5 Bd6 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Nxg6 Nf6 10.Qh4 Rg8] **6...Bb6 7.d5?!** Gufeld thinks the black knight will move from the attack. Aggressive young Lubosh (19 at the time) doesn't think of backing down. **7...e3! 8.Ne4 Qh4 9.Qf3 Nf6 10.Nxf6+ gxf6 11.dxc6?** This greed leads to big trouble. White had to get rid of the trouble maker with [11.Bxe3] **11...exf2+ 12.Kd1 dxc6 13.Be2 Be6!** Not fearing the piece down endgame while he has the powerful black pawns **14.Qh5+ Qxh5 15.Bxh5+ Ke7 16.b3 Bd5 17.Ba3+ Ke6 18.Bg4+ f5 19.Bh3 Rhg8 20.Nd2 Bxg2 21.Bxg2 Rxg2 22.Rf1 Rd8 23.Ke2**

23...Rxd2+! 24.Kxd2 e4 A whole rook down Kavalek calmly advances the e and f pawns. **25.Bf8 f4 26.b4**



Gufeld figures out he can stop the advance of the pawns by blocking the black bishop from supporting them. Then the white king has a square to stop them. This meets an inventive response. **26...Rg5 27.Bc5 Rxc5!! 28.bxc5 Bxc5**

An amazing position! Black is down a rook and the exchange, having only only pawns, a bishop and the king. **29.Rab1 f3 30.Rb4 Kf5 31.Rd4 Bxd4 32.cxd4 Kf4** The black king arrives in time help the pawns run to the finish. e4-e3 is coming and there is nothing White can do. Gufeld resigned. **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:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20211128110814/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #954

February 6, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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2021 US Amateur Team West Championship

The 2021 US Amateur Team West Championship brought 75 teams and 300 players together for the ultimate team competition. The 4-player teams needed to have an average rating of under 2200, but the combination of players can vary greatly, and can include grandmasters as well as novices on the same team. The stronger teams would field a balanced lineup, with competitive players on each board, mathematically calculated to give the best opportunity for success. And strong they came! Eleven teams in the field had average team ratings over 2100. Strong players came from near and far, but in the end, it was the local teams that dominated the West. The University of California at Berkeley fielded six teams, and in a talent-rich field, their A and B teams faced each other in the penultimate round as the only two remaining undefeated teams. Rather than opt for a friendly draw between teammates, the 5th round match between them was one of the most fiercely contested team matches we have seen, with FM Paul Whitehead covering two of the game in his columnn below. The UC Berkeley B team came out on top, and then won their final round match where an unfortunate mouse slip put their opponents in the hole early, and the gritty UC Berkeley B team went on to a perfect 6/6, taking the title of US Amateur Team West Champions. The winning team consisted of FM Rayan Taghizadeh, NM Arjun Bharat, NM Christopher Pan, and Nathan Fong. Congratulations to the champions, who will await the winners of the East, North, and South to play for the title of national champions.

The championship winning Cal B Team

Finishing in 2nd place were the Berkeley A team made up of IM Kesav Viswanadah, FM Teemu Virtanen, WIM Ashritha Eswaran, and Junior Mejia. Taking 3rd place was Stanford University's A team, with IM Bryce Tiglon, WIM Emily Nguyen, NM Seth Talyansky, and Robbie Selwyn.

Lauren Goodkind, along with sister Barbara from 100% Lady Chess Moves Won the u/1800 Section

We also had an u/1800 team section, where there was a tie for 1st. Coming out on top on tiebreaks was the all female team 100% Lady Chess Moves, with Lauren Goodkind, Barbara Goodkind, Daniela Keller, and Cheryl Lins. Taking 2nd on tiebreaks was the team We Ran Out of Tranquilizer Pills, Where Can We Buy More? with Vijay Surla, Adam Muhs, Rama Chitta, and Ed Pernicka. Taking 3rd place was high school team The Cheerios, with Derek Clasby, Hemtej Gundra, Siddhanth Balaji, and Aditya Joshi.

Special shout out to our Mechanics' teams and players that played valiently throughout the weekend. Our team of top juniors, Junior Mechanics' 2021 led by FM Jason Liang, NM Ruiyang Yan Nicholas Weng, and Kevin Su finished 4th overall. The Mechanics' Institute with FM Kyron Griffith, GM Jim Tarjan, Jonah Busch, and Chelsea Zhou finished 10th. GM Patrick Wolff participated with a group of friends, with Patrick having impressive wins over WGM Jennifer Yu and FM Andy Lee. IM John Donaldson played on a team with Mechanics' Trustee FM Mark Pinto. Many of our TNM regulars participated in the event, and we happy to see so many familiar faces in Zoom and playing the event.

Special thanks goes to all of the hard work by the organizing and tournament directing staff to ensure such a smooth-running event. Judit Sztaray was Chief Organizer and kept the whole event on track and lively, with NTD John McCumiskey working the computer. Thank you also to Brian Yang, Jiten Patel, Juan Cendejas, Aaron Thompson, Arthur Liou, Sam Shoykhet, and Tom Brownscombe who also assisted. Thanks also to the commentary team of GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead, who helped me try to bring the event to life for viewers, and helped capture many key moments throughout the tournament.

Chess Club at UC Berkeley. Photo: Devanshi Rathi

It was great to see the success of the Cal teams, helped no doubt by the vibrant chess club they have on campus with a deep lineup of talented masters and strong club players. They certainly show how an engaged and active chess community can do great things!

To watch the broadcasts of each round, you can view the videos on our YouTube page here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos)

Full results, including special prize awards are found below after the game annotations by GM Nick de Firmian. The games from this tournament were especially exciting and were a pleasure to watch. Here are some of the games, though there are far more games that deserved mention. Enjoy!

(14) NM Arjun Bharat (RapidDefeat) (2198) - FM Teemu Virtanen (nurmiTV) (2293) [B06]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com (5.2), 31.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.g3 Benko's "other" opening (the most famous being the Benko Gambit of course!), with which he stunningly beat Fischer in Round 1, and then Tal in Round 17 (!) of the 1962 Candidates tournament. **1...g6 2.Bg2 Bg7 3.d4 c5** [3...Nf6 4.e4 d6 5.Ne2 0-0 6.Nbc3 is a Pirc Defense, where Black systems have been comfortably worked out (although the "comfort" is somewhat nervous!).] **4.d5 d6 5.e4 Nf6 6.Ne2** White keeps open the c-pawn options, and sure enough, it's a sort of King's Indian in a few moments (that is, the pawn goes to c4 before Nc3). **6...0-0 7.0-0 Na6 8.c4 Nc7 9.Nbc3 a6 10.a4 b6+/= 11.f4?!** This doesn't really fit in with the fianchetto and the knight on e2. [11.Rb1 looking for a well-prepared b2-b4 is a more harmonious plan.] **11...Rb8 12.h3 b5** Black has set up the basic queenside break, while White's expansions on the kingside are ineffective (for now!) **13.Kh1 e6?!** There was further to go on the b-file, either: [13...b4 14.Nb1 e6; or 13...bxc4] **14.axb5 axb5 15.dxe6?!** [15.e5!? is the best continuation, although it doesn't quite lead to any advantage.] **15...Bxe6 16.cxb5** [Now Black can tuck his knight nicely after 16.e5 dxe5 17.fxe5 Nd7] **16...Nxb5 17.Nxb5 Rxb5 18.Nc3 Rb4-/+**

19.g4?! White might have been worried about ...Nh5 but overlooks (or not!?) worse: **19...Nxg4! 20.f5! gxf5** (forced) [20...Bc4 21.Qxg4 Bxf1 22.Bxf1 gxf5 Here White can take with the queen, keeping control of d5.] **21.exf5** Now the rook stops Qxg4 **21...Bb3** [Complicated but best was 21...Bc4! 22.Rf4 Nf6!-/+ with a pretty solid extra pawn.] **22.Qe1 Nf6 23.Bf3!?** with some attacking intentions! [Still, 23.Ra8=/+ keeps it (Black's advantage) to a minimum] **23...Qd7?=** [Black needed to anticipate the danger with 23...Kh8-/+ 24.Qg3 Rg8 25.Rg1 when various further defensive moves turn out well.] **24.Rg1 Kh8?** Black still had two ways to scrape up a defence: [24...Ne8; or 24...Qxf5] **25.Qg3** This in fact is good enough. [But White missed 25.Rxg7! Qxf5 *(25...Kxg7 26.Bh6+!* leads to mate if taken, else White mops up material*.)* 26.Rg3 White steals the bishop and back, winning.] **25...Ne8 26.Ra8** Looking to remove the defender (Rxe8) **26...Be5** [Chess.com's "analysis" computer thought this was a mistake, but White is still in the win zone: 26...f6 but White is still winning, with most moves. 27.Kh2 is a nice preparatory move, *(*or even *27.Qg2)*] **27.Qg2! Qxf5 28.Bh6 Rh4** Black might have been counting on this move, with its own threats, to save him, but White's next beats him to the punch, with checks:

29.Qg8+! RapidDefeat won by resignation. Edge of the seat chess is Arjun's game! **1-0**

(7) Alan Finkelstein (stratus_junior) (1970) - Nathan Fong (nathanf314) (2304) [E05]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com (6), 01.02.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 The Open Catalan makes for fluid, dynamic play early in the opening. **7.Ne5 Nc6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Nxc6 Qe8 10.Nxe7+ Qxe7 11.Qa4 e5 12.dxe5 Qxe5 13.Qxc4**

So White has won a pawn at the cost of giving up the fianchettoed bishop and a slight lag in development. **13...Be6 14.Qc2 Bf5 15.Qc4 Be6 16.Qa6?!** This way of avoiding the repetition is dangerous as the white queen is far from the kingside. [(+0.26) The best move was 16.Qd3 Nd5 17.Qf3 h6 18.a3 Rae8 19.Rd1 c5 20.Re1 Qd4 21.Nc3 Qc4 22.Bf4 Nxc3 23.Qxc3 Qxc3 24.bxc3] **16...Bh3 17.Re1 Qd5 18.f3** Critical move. **18...Qc5+** [18...Ng4 19.Nc3 Qc5+ 20.e3 Ne5 21.Qe2 Rad8 would be excellent compensation for the pawn] **19.e3 Nd5?!** [19...Nd7 20.Qe2 Ne5 21.Rd1 Be6 22.Nc3 Rad8 would transpose to the previous note] **20.a3 Rad8 21.Qe2 Rd6 22.b4 Qb6 23.Bb2?**

[White would hold the edge after the precise 23.Nd2! He didn't see Black's continuation.] **23...Nxe3! 24.Qxe3 Rd1!**

There is no way out. Black threatens 25. Qe3+ as the rook is pinned. On 25. Kf2 Rxe1 26. Qxf6 Rf1+ is the same as the game. **25.Qxb6 Rxe1+ 26.Kf2 □ 26...Rf1+ 27.Ke2 cxb6** With the exchange ahead and active pieces Black has an easy time converting the advantage. **28.Nd2 Re8+ 29.Kd3 Rxa1 30.Bxa1 Bf5+ 31.Ne4 Rd8+ 32.Bd4 b5 33.Kc3 Bxe4 34.fxe4 a6 35.Kd3 f6 36.h4 Kf7 37.g4 Ke6 38.Ke3 Rc8 39.Bc5 a5 40.Kd4 axb4 41.Bxb4 Rc4+ 42.Kd3 Ke5 43.Bc3+ Kf4 44.g5 fxg5 45.hxg5 Kxg5 46.Bxg7 h5 47.Be5 h4 48.Ke3 Kg4 49.Bd6 h3 50.Kd3 Kf3** nathanf314 won by resignation **0-1**

(8) NM Christopher Pan (hoodc) (2243) - IM Alex Costello (Larax) (2388) [A01]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com, 31.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.Nf3 e4 4.Nd4 Qf6 5.e3 d5 6.Be2?! [6.c4 trying to undermine the black center would be better. e.g. 6...Bc5 7.Nc3 Bxd4 8.exd4 with central play for both sides] **6...Bc5 7.c3** [7.Nb5 Qxb2 8.Nxc7+ Kd8 works out well for Black] **7...Qg6 8.g3 Nxd4** [8...Nge7] **9.cxd4 Bd6 10.Nc3 c6 11.d3 Nf6 12.dxe4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Qxe4 14.0-0 Bh3 15.Bf3 Qe6 16.Re1 Bb4 17.Re2** So far Black has done well and would have the advantage after 17...f5, clamping down on the center. Instead Larax plays a natural move that meetw with a fanstastic rejoiner. **17...Qf5?**

18.e4!! Amazing! The best move of the tournament. White invites Black to take the bishop on f3 with mate threatened on g2. Yet White would win the queen - **18...Qg6** Black declines the bishop which ends up losing two pawns. Worse was to take the bishop - [18...Qxf3 19.exd5+ Kd7 20.Re7+ Kxe7 21.Qxf3 when White's queen and pawn for bishop and rook is an easy win.] **19.exd5+ Kf8 20.dxc6 bxc6 21.Qc2 Rc8 22.Qxg6** The middle game may be even better, but it makes sense just to head for the ending two pawns up. **22...hxg6 23.Rc1 Bd7 24.Rec2 Ke7 25.Bxc6 Rxc6** [25...Bf5 26.Re2+ Kf8 27.d5 is equally miserable but more complex and so could offer some slim practical chances] **26.Rxc6 Bxc6 27.Rxc6 Ba5 28.d5 Bb6 29.Ba3+ Kd7 30.Bc5!** Christopher simplifies even more. He gets a rook ending that is hard to go wrong with. **30...Rb8 31.Bxb6 axb6 32.a4**

Black is tied to the defense of the b-pawn as he can't allow White two connected passes pawns. If ...b5 at any point then a5 marches forward. Even Carlsen or Kyron couldn't hold this ending. **32...f6 33.Kf1 g5 34.Ke2 b5 35.a5 Re8+ 36.Kf3 Re5 37.Rc5 b4 38.Rb5 Kd6 39.a6 Re8 40.a7 Ra8 41.Ra5 Kc7 42.Ke4 Kb6 43.Ra4 Kc5** [43...Rxa7 44.Rxa7 Kxa7 45.d6 Kb6 46.Kd5 is trivial] **44.f4 gxf4 45.gxf4 g6 46.f5 g5 47.h3 Re8+ 48.Kf3 Ra8 49.Kg4** The final touch. The white king invades on the kingside. **49...Kxd5 50.Kh5 Ke5 51.Kg6 Rg8+ 52.Kf7 Ra8 53.Ra5+ Kd4 54.Kxf6 Kc3 55.Ke7 Kxb3 56.f6 Kc2 57.f7 b3 58.f8Q Re8+ 59.Qxe8 g4 60.hxg4 b2 61.Rb5 b1Q 62.Rxb1 Kd3 63.Qd7+ Ke3 64.Re1+ Kf4 65.Qf5+ Kg3 66.Re3+ Kh2 67.Qf2+ Kh1 68.Re1# 1-0**

(9) NM Seth Talyansky (stalyansky) (2304) - WIM Ashritha Eswaran (goldenpuppy) (2374) [D27]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com, 31.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 The O'Kelly Variation. **3.c3** A good move, getting a nice variation of the 2. c3 Sicilian. Black does well after the natural [3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5!] **3...d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nc6 6.Be2** This is a little passive. [6.dxc5! Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Nf6 8.Nbd2 is a good ending for White. Black is in a normal line with the waste of time from ...a6] **6...cxd4 7.cxd4 e6 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Nc3 Qd8 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Rc1 0-0** Now White has only a minor edge as Black is pretty solid. **12.Bd3 Bd7!?** [12...b5] **13.Bb1 Nd5 14.Bxe7** [14.h4!] **14...Ncxe7 15.Ne5 Bc6 16.Ne4 Rc8 17.Qf3 Nf5 18.Rfd1 Nde7 19.Qh3 Bxe4 20.Rxc8 Qxc8 21.Bxe4 f6!?** leading to some complications [21...h6 is more solid] **22.Nf3** [22.Nd3 Rd8 23.Rc1 Qd7 24.Nc5 Qxd4 25.Qb3!] **22...Qc4! 23.b3 Qe2 24.Re1 Qxa2 25.d5?!** [25.g4 Nh6 26.Bxb7 Qxb3 27.Bxa6 Nc6 28.Bf1 is equal] **25...Qxb3?!** [25...g6!] **26.g4 Nh6**

27.Bxh7+! Kh8! [27...Kxh7 28.Ng5+ fxg5 29.Qxb3] **28.dxe6 a5** Black calmly advances the queenside pawns with the kingside under assualt. **29.Bf5 a4 30.Re3 Qb4 31.Nh4 Rd8?!** [31...Kg8 32.Ng6?! Nexf5 33.gxf5 Ra8! gets the a-pawn running] **32.Ng6+ Nxg6 33.Bxg6 Qe7**

34.f4? [34.Qh5! a3 35.g5 is hard to see with little time but it would give White a terrific attack - 35...a2 *(35...fxg5 36.Bb1!)* 36.gxh6! a1Q+ 37.Kg2 would be a winning attack for White despite Black's two queens.] **34...b5 35.Bf7?** this is too slow **35...Rd2?!** [35...b4!] **36.Rc3?!** [36.Qf3!] **36...b4?!** [36...Rd8!] **37.Rc8+ Rd8 38.Rxd8+ Qxd8 39.Qe3?** [39.g5! Qd4+ 40.Kh1 Qd1+ 41.Kg2 Qd2+ 42.Kh1 fxg5 43.e7 Qe1+ 44.Kg2 Qxe7 45.Qc8+ Kh7 46.Qc2+ is a draw] **39...Nxg4?** [39...Qd1+ 40.Kg2 Nxf7 41.exf7 Qd5+ 42.Kg3 Qxf7] **40.Qh3+?** [40.Qe2 keeps the threat of e6-e7 and would hold the draw after 40...Qd4+ 41.Kg2 Ne3+ 42.Kh3 Nf5 43.e7 Qc3+ 44.Kg4 Nh6+ 45.Kh4 Nf5+] **40...Nh6 41.Qe3 Qe7** now Black stops all the threats and the passed pawns win for him **42.Bg6 b3 43.Qb6 Ng8 44.Bf7 Qf8 45.Qb7 Ne7 46.Qb4 Qd8 47.Qxa4 b2 48.Qc2 Qb6+ 0-1**

(10) FM Rayan Taghizadeh (Fibrinogen) (2384) - WGM Jennifer Yu (ahappypawn) (2106) [A01]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com, 30.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb5 This Larsen/Nimzovich opening puts pressure on the center with the bishops. It does let Black occupy the center space. **4...d6 5.d4 Bd7 6.Nf3?!** [6.Ne2 would avoid having to move this knight next move] **6...e4 7.Nfd2 d5 8.Bxc6 bxc6** This is like a French Defense reversed, and here Black has an edge. **9.c4 a5 10.Ba3 Bb4! 11.Bxb4 axb4 12.a4 0-0** [12...h5 taking the strategy from White's side of the French, would get excellent play.] **13.Qc2 ∓ 13...Ra7** [13...c5! breaks up the center while White is not well placed for it, e.g. 14.Qb2 Be6 15.0-0 cxd4 16.Qxd4 dxc4 17.Nxc4 Qxd4 18.exd4 Bxc4 19.bxc4 Ra5 20.Re1 Rfa8 wins a pawn] **14.Nf1 Qe7 15.Nbd2 c5 16.Rc1?!** [16.dxc5 Ra5 17.Ng3 Rxc5 18.0-0 is only slightly better for Black] **16...cxd4 17.exd4 c5!** Black is winning the battle in the center **18.Qb2 Ng4 19.Ne3**

19...Qh4?! [Black would have a decisive advantage after 19...Nxe3! 20.fxe3 Qh4+ 21.g3 Qh6 22.Nf1 Bh3 and the white king is caught in the center] **20.Ndf1?!** [20.Nxg4 Bxg4 21.cxd5 e3 22.Nc4! is equal] **20...dxc4 ∓ 21.Rxc4 cxd4 22.Nxg4 Bxg4 23.Rxd4?!** [23.Ng3] **23...Qf6 24.Qd2**

[24.Ne3 Rd7 25.Rd2 Rxd2 26.Qxd2 Rd8 27.Qc1 Rc8 is also winning for Black] **24...Rd7! 25.Rxd7 Qa1+** Jennifer wins the queen and has a winning ending **26.Qd1 Bxd1 27.Rxd1 Qc3+ 28.Rd2 Rd8 29.Ke2 Rd3 30.h4 Qxb3 31.Rh3 Qxa4 32.Rhxd3 exd3+ 33.Rxd3 h6 34.Nd2 Qb5 35.g3 g5** Black is winning but this makes things little easier for White. [35...Kh7 36.Nb3 f5 37.h5 Qa6 38.Nd2 Kh8 39.Nb3 f4 40.Nc1 fxg3 41.fxg3 Qf6 42.Kd1 Qf1+ 43.Kc2 Qf5 would be a better plan] **36.hxg5 hxg5 37.Nb3 Kg7 38.Nd4 Qe5+ 39.Kd2 g4?!** again, a little imprecise [39...Kg6 40.Nb3 f5 keeps more options for Black] **40.Nb3 Qb2+ 41.Ke1 Qc2 42.Re3 Kg6 43.Nd2 f5 44.Nb3 Kg5 45.Kf1?**

[45.Nd2 Qc1+ 46.Ke2 keeps the blockade] **45...f4?** [45...Qd1+ 46.Kg2 Kh5! is zugzwang. White must move something (such as 47. f3) and Black can break through] **46.gxf4+** Critical move. **46...Kxf4 47.Kg1?** [(-0.24) The best move was 47.Ke1 Qb1+ 48.Ke2 holds the blockade] **47...Qd1+?** [47...Qb1+ 48.Kg2 Qd1 49.Rg3 Ke4 50.Re3+ Kd5 gets the black king over to help on the queenside 51.Na5 Kc5 52.Nb3+ Kb5 53.f3 gxf3+ 54.Rxf3 Qd5 55.Kf2 Ka4 56.Nc5+ Qxc5+ 57.Ke1 Qg1+ 58.Rf1 Qe3+ 59.Kd1 b3] **48.Kg2 Qd5+?** MISTAKE (-2.75) [48...Kf5 49.Rg3 Ke5 50.Re3+ Kd5 51.Na5 Kc5 52.Re5+ Kd6 53.Nc4+ Kc6 54.Na5+ Kc7 55.Re3 Qd5+ 56.Kf1 Qxa5 57.Re7+ Kd6 58.Rh7 Qd5 59.Rh6+ Kc5 60.Rh8 b3] **49.Kg1 Qd1+ 50.Kg2 Qd8 51.Kg1?!** [51.Kf1] **51...Qd1+?** Drawn by repetition! [after 51...Kg5 52.Kf1 Qd1+ Jennifer could still win with best play] **1/2-1/2**

(12) Barbara Goodkind (eatdinner) (1673) - Tayseer Khalil (tayseer4ch) (2061) [A80]

US Amateur Team West u1800 Chess.com, 31.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 f5 2.Bf4 The London System against the Dutch Defense! That's a bit unusual. **2...d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 g6 5.h3 Bg7 6.c3 Nbd7!?** This is certainly provocative - asking White to attack the e6 square. **7.Ng5 Nf8 8.Qb3 e6 9.Bc4 Qe7 10.Nd2 h6** So Black has parried the attack without harm. **11.Ngf3 g5 12.Bh2 Ng6 13.Qc2 Bd7 14.0-0-0** Castling queenside is very unusual for the London System but the move makes sense here as Black has grabbed a lot of kingside territory. **14...b5 15.Bd3 Nf8?!** retreating is passive **16.e4 fxe4 17.Nxe4 Nd5 18.Ng3** [18.Rhe1! puts Black under pressure] **18...Nf4 19.Rhg1 Kf7** [19...Nxd3+ 20.Qxd3 Qf7] **20.Ne4 a5?** Black's attack is slower. It was time to take the bishop on d3 with the knight. **21.Bxf4 gxf4 22.g3! b4 23.Nh4?!** [White has an extra pawn and clearly the better attack after the straightforward 23.gxf4 Rg8 24.Kb1 bxc3 25.Qxc3] **23...Bf6?!** [Black is only slightly worse after 23...fxg3 24.fxg3 Ke8] **24.Nxf6 Qxf6 25.c4?!** [25.Kb1 Rc8 26.Rge1 Ke7 27.Re4 Brings the white forces to the center and near the black king, who will sooon be in trouble.] **25...a4 26.Qe2 h5?!** [26...a3 loosens up the white queenside] **27.Qf3 Ra7 28.Qxf4 Qxf4+ 29.gxf4 Rh6 30.Rg5 Nh7 31.Rg3 Nf6 32.Rdg1** White's extra pawn and active pieces make for a decisive advantage. **32...Ke7 33.Rg7+ Kd8 34.R1g6 Rxg6 35.Rxg6** [35.Nxg6!] **35...Ke7 36.Rg5 Be8 37.f3?!** [Active play would be good - 37.f5 e5 38.Ng6+ Bxg6 39.fxg6 exd4 40.g7 Kf7 41.Bh7 Ra8 42.g8Q+ Nxg8 43.Be4 Re8 44.Bd5+] **37...d5?!** It's not good to place pawns on white squares with a white-squared bishop **38.c5 Ra8 39.Ng6+?!** [39.Rg7+ is much stronger] **39...Bxg6 40.Bxg6 Rg8** [40...h4!] **41.h4 c6 42.Bc2 Kf7 43.Rxg8 Nxg8 44.Bxa4 Nh6**

45.Bxc6? [45.Bc2! to keep the black knight out would be a trivial win. Now Black gets some counterplay. 45...Kf8 46.Kd2 Nf7 47.a4 bxa3 48.bxa3 Nd8 49.f5 e5 50.a4 Nb7 51.dxe5 Na5 52.Ke3 Nc4+ 53.Kd4 Ke8 54.Bd3] **45...Nf5 46.Kd2 Nxd4 47.Ba4 Nxf3+?** [47...Ke7! getting the black king towards the queenside would have good drawing chances] **48.Ke3?** [48.Ke2! Nxh4 49.c6 Nf5 50.c7 Nd6 51.Bd7 would win] **48...Nxh4 49.Bc2 Nf5+** now this is with check, and White cannot take the knight **50.Kf2 Ke7 51.a3 bxa3 52.bxa3 Kd7 53.Ba4+ Kc7 54.Be8 h4 55.a4 Nd4 56.a5 Nb3 57.a6 Nxc5 58.Bb5 Kb6 59.a7?** [59.Kf3 Nxa6 60.Be2 Nc5 61.Kg4 d4 62.Kxh4 d3 63.Bf3 would be a draw] **59...Kxa7 60.Kg2 Kb6 61.Be2 Nb3?** [61...d4 should win] **62.Bg4?** [62.Kh3] **62...Nd4 63.Kh3 Kc5?** [63...Nf5 simply wins] **64.Kxh4 Nf5+ 65.Kg5 d4 66.Kf6 Kd6 67.Be2 Ng3 68.Bd3 Kd5 69.Bb1 Ne2 70.f5 e5** playing for the win **71.Ke7 e4 72.f6 Nf4 73.f7 d3?**

[73...Ng6+ is a draw] **74.Kf6!** now the white pawn queens and it's all over **74...Kd4 75.f8Q d2 76.Qb4+ Ke3 77.Qxe4+ Kf2 □ 78.Qxf4+ Ke1 79.Bc2 Ke2 80.Qe4+ Kf2 81.Qd3 Ke1 82.Qe3+ Kf1 □ 83.Qxd2** eatdinner won by resignation **1-0**

(13) NM Sriram Krishnakumar (2008king) (2225) - GM Patrick Wolff (AmateurT2021) (2343) [B53]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com (1), 30.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

Another game where the "retired" lion shows it best left asleep! **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4** White dodges the Najdorf -- or would it be a Dragon? **4...Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Qd3** This line, championed by Carlsen a few years ago, seems momentarily antithetical but expects Black will want to kick the bishop anyway, when the tempo is back. But Wolff doesn't participate. **6...g6 7.c4 Bg7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.h3 Rc8** [Here is a game where Black acquiesced: 10...a6 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Nd4 Bd7 13.a4 Rc8 14.b3 Qc7 15.Be3 e6 16.Rfc1 h6 17.a5 Qb8 18.Nde2 Bc6 19.Bd4 Rfe8 20.Re1 Rcd8 21.Bb6 Rc8 22.Rad1 Nd7 ½-½ (72), Anton Guijarro,D (2688) -Donchenko,A (2654) Karlsruhe 2020] **11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Rd1**

12...Nd7N [The predecessor here is a bit silly but short and fun: 12...Qc7 13.Be3 b6 14.Rac1 Qb7 15.Nd5 e6 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Qxd6 Bxe4 18.Nd4 Bxg2 19.Qg3 Be4 20.b3 Qe7 21.Nb5 Bb2 22.Nd6 Bxc1 23.Nxc8 Rxc8 24.Rxc1 Rd8 25.Qe5 Ba8 26.Bd4 Rxd4 27.Qxd4 Qg5+ 0-1 (27) Vorenkamp,J-Bontjer,B Groningen 2004] **13.Nd4 Nc5 14.Qe3 Bd7** Black intends to put his hedgehouse in order, seeing as how White hasn't stopped him. **15.b3 a6 16.Rb1 e6 17.Bb2 Qe7 18.Ba1**

18...f5!? White might have thought he'd stopped this! **19.exf5 gxf5 20.b4**

20...Ne4!? Wolff plays for activity (at a small price of a pawn). [20...Na4 runs into the wrong kind of excitement: 21.Nd5!] **21.Nxe4 fxe4 22.Qxe4 e5 23.Qd5+ Kh8**

24.Ne2? White falters. [24.Nf3! comes out ahead after a flurry of exchanges: 24...Bc6 25.Qxd6 Qxd6 26.Rxd6 Bxf3 27.gxf3 Rxc4+/- when White has a number of promising continuations.] **24...Bc6** [24...Qf6 is an interesting alternative] **25.Qxd6 Qf7 26.f3!**

26...Bxf3! Suddenly White's king is in trouble! **27.Rf1?** Computer defence makes this the losing move! [It's hard to believe, but White holds after just 27.gxf3! Qxf3 28.Qd3 (28.Qd2 is even good enough -- 28...Rg8 29.Kh2 Qf2+ is just a perpetual. *(29...Bf6?? 30.Ng1!+-)*) 28...Qf2+ 29.Kh1 Rf3 30.Qd7 Rg8 31.Ng1 Bf6 *(31...Rg3 32.Qd5!+-)* 32.Rb2 Qe3 33.Rb3 Qf2 34.Rb2= is another inhuman repetition.] **27...Rc6! 28.Qd2** [28.Qxf8+ Qxf8 29.Rxf3 Qd8-+ is okay materially for the moment, but Black has targets (and ...Kg8 will effortlessly sidestep any danger).] **28...Rg6** [28...Qg6!? is an alternative, with c4 also hanging.] **29.Rf2**

[29.g3 is that damn computer trying to defend again, but not this time: 29...Qxc4 works now.] **29...Qxc4??** But here it's a blunder! [Patrick missed 29...Rxg2+! 30.Rxg2 Bxg2 since 31.Kxg2 Qg6+! just picks off the rook at b1 for a boring win.] **30.Rbf1+/- e4** [30...Bh6 31.Rxf3! *(31.Qe1 Be3 32.Kh2 Bxf2 33.Rxf2+-)* 31...Bxd2 32.Rxf8+ Kg7 33.Bxe5+ Kh6 34.Ng3 Qxb4 35.Kh2+- when it turns out it's Black's king that ultimately is in trouble.] **31.Bxg7+?!** [31.Nf4!+- gains a very useful tempo for the attack.] **31...Rxg7**

32.Qc3?? [32.Qb2! is still an advantage -- here the pin remains annoying.] **32...Qxc3! 33.Nxc3 Rfg8** too easy -- and out of nowhere Black has a smooth win. **34.g4 h5 35.Re1** [On 35.Rh2 Black just moves a rook over, h7/d7/d8, and it's over.] **35...hxg4 36.Nxe4 Re7** A flash finish that showed Wolff in fine attacking form, if a bit flawed. Still, Krishnakumar's defences were difficult, and the practical result was Black's. **0-1**

(1) IM Bryce Tiglon (ThunderrPanda) (2314) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2326) [B12]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com (6), 31.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 The Modern Advanced Caro Kann. It starts out looking like it's going to be a quiet game, but preparatory moves lead to extremely tense positions when the grappling stage is over. Caruana has been the great protagonist, but of course everybody at the top has a computer. **5...Ne7** The move mostly likely to be the right square with the right piece. And, the current top scorer of the main moves [(if you don't count 5...Bg6); 5...c5 certainly makes sense, but Black also might want to prepare a bit before opening things up, what with White so close to castling while Black isn't.] **6.c3** [6.0-0 most played by far, but at 61% vs. 54%, one must wonder. Still, White loses a lot of pawn options, like b3/c4, or just c4 by itself. In any case, it all probably transposes.] **6...Nd7 7.0-0 h6** Now that White has definitely commited his king? **8.a4 g5** But Black might still castle long... **9.a5** Go ahead! **9...Bg7 10.Ne1** [Looks like the only game to make it this far previously went 10.b4 Qc7 11.Nbd2 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Nb3 0-0 14.Re1 Rae8 15.Nc5 Nxc5 16.bxc5 Ng6 17.h3 e5 18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Nd4 Be4 20.a6! 1-0 (35) Huschenbeth,N (2585)-Ducarmon,Q (2479) chess. com 27.02/0] **10...c5 11.a6?!** [11.f4 is the computer (Stockfish 12), with the advantage growing over time.] **11...bxa6 12.Bxa6 cxd4 13.cxd4 0-0** Still the safest place to go. **14.Nc3 Qb6** [14...f6] **15.Be3** [15.Bb5!? when Black has a bit of trouble dislodging this bishop.] **15...Rfd8** [15...f6!] **16.Be2!?**

[16.Qe2] **16...Qxb2!?** With the bishop on f5 it's safer than usual to go for the poison. **17.Na4 Qb8 18.Nd3** White certainly has compensation, what with Black's queen looking a bit ridiculous on the open files, but it's nothing special. **18...Nb6 19.Nxb6 axb6 20.Qb3** [20.g4 and busting up the kingside keeps a balance, maybe.] **20...Rxa1 21.Rxa1 Qc7** [21...Nc6! sending the knight to the natural outpost on c4 with tempo generates some initiative.] **22.Rc1?! Qa7** Black claims a file. **23.Qb2 Ra8-/+ 24.Nb4 Qa3 25.Qd2 Bg6 26.g4 Be4** [Chess.com's own analysis computer likes 26...Ra4 27.Nd3 Rc4] **27.f3 Bh7 28.Rc3 Qa5 29.Kf2 Bf8 30.Rb3 Rc8 31.h4?**

White should just sit tight. [31.Rb2 for instance. But patient defense is tough.] **31...gxh4** Free pawn! **32.Qb2** [32.Bxh6? Bxh6 33.Qxh6 Qa1 picks on d4 and h1 for a crushing invasion.] **32...Ra8 33.Nd3 Bxd3** [33...h5!] **34.Bxd3 Qa1 35.Qxa1 Rxa1 36.Rxb6** [36.f4] **36...h3** [36...Ra2+!] **37.Bb1 h2 38.Kg2 Ra3 39.Bc1 Rxf3** [39...Rc3! is disruption.] **40.Kxh2 Rf1 41.Be3 Re1 42.Bf4 Nc6 43.g5?!** [Unsavory was 43.Rxc6 Rxb1 44.Rc8 Kg7 45.Bg3 but maybe White is holding. Stockfish isn't finding any progress.] **43...hxg5 44.Bxg5 Nxd4** [44...Nb4 traps the bishop! And it's a lot less of a headache than the game continuation.] **45.Kg2 Re2+?!** [45...Rxe5!? Third pawn!?] **46.Kf1 Rh2 47.Bf6 Nf3 48.Rb8 Nd2+ 49.Kg1 Nf3+ 50.Kf1 Nd2+?** [Black is doing okay after 50...Nd4 but it's tricky. 51.Bd3 Rh3 52.Ba6 Ra3 53.Bb7 Nf5] **51.Kg1 Rh5?** The clocks read White: 1:16, Black: 0:21. [51...Rh3! sets up a safe knight retreat on c3.] **52.Bc2?** [(-0.23) The best move was 52.Be7 Nxb1 53.Bxf8 Kh7 54.Rxb1 Rxe5 could actually in practice go either way (!).] **52...Nf3+**

53.Kg2?? ** [(-1.11) The best move was 53.Kf1 still gets the bishop harassed, but isn't lost. 53...Nd4 54.Ba4 Rh1+ 55.Kg2 Ra1 56.Bd7 Nf5 when it looks like that pin is permanent.] **53...Nxe5?? [53...Ne1+] **54.Be7** Critical move. **54...Nd7 55.Rd8** Critical move. **55...Kg7 56.Rxd7 Bxe7 57.Rxe7 Kf6**

So here we are after all. If White could pick off a couple of those pawns it could turn into a R+B v R ending, a difficult one in practice (but drawn in theory). **58.Rb7 Re5 59.Kf3 Re1 60.Ba4 Ke5 61.Bd7 d4 62.Kf2 Ra1 63.Rb6 Ra7 64.Bc6 Rc7 65.Ke2 Kd6 66.Bf3+ Kc5 67.Rb2 Ra7 68.Rc2+ Kd6 69.Rb2 Ra3 70.Rb6+ Ke5 71.Bh5 Ra7 72.Kd3 Ra3+ 73.Kd2 Ra7 74.Kd3 Rd7 75.Rb5+ Kf4 76.Rb1 f5 77.Rf1+ Ke5 78.Bf3 Kf6 79.Rf2 Ke5 80.Rf1 Ra7 81.Re1+ Kf4 82.Bc6 e5 83.Rf1+ Kg5 84.Bd5?** [It was a good moment to bring his king in with 84.Kc4 Ra3 85.Kd5] **84...Ra3+ 85.Kd2** [85.Kc4 Rc3+ 86.Kb4 f4 The pawns are getting out of hand!] **85...e4 86.Be6 f4 87.Re1** Black has almost two minutes (increment collection!) vs. 16.4 seconds for White. **87...Rd3+** [Right away: 87...e3+! 88.Ke2 d3+! 89.Kf3 e2 and the rook goes.] **88.Kc2 Rc3+ 89.Kd2 e3+ 90.Ke2 Kf6** [90...d3+!] **91.Bg8**

91...Ke5?? [Last chance to get in 91...d3+! which wins. 92.Kf3 e2 93.Ra1 e1Q 94.Rxe1 d2+ 95.Ke2 dxe1Q+ 96.Kxe1 Ke5! White can't even get his bishop to the long diagonal] **92.Bh7!** The only move, and good enough! **92...Rb3 93.Rc1 Rb2+ 94.Rc2 Rb7 95.Bg6 Rg7 96.Rc6 Rg8 97.Kf3 Rh8 98.Rc5+ Kd6 99.Rc1 Rh4 100.Bd3 Kd5 101.Be4+ Kd6 102.Bd3 Ke5 103.Rc5+ Ke6 104.Rc1 Ke5 105.Rc5+ Ke6 106.Rc1 Ke5** Game drawn by repetition. What an intense struggle, from start to finish! **1/2-1/2**

(2) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2315) - IM John Donaldson (imjohndonaldson)(2435) [B34]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com (2), 30.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 Black doesn't fear the Rossolimo, 3.Bb5, or at least he fears it less [than the other main line evasion: 2...g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 *(4.Nxd4)*] **3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6** John has written about and played the Accelerated Dragon for a long time, and counts on it for stability. **5.Nc3** [5.c4 (The Maroczy Bind) is no longer the popular move when you look at all levels, but scores solidly better. That could have something to do with its preferred status by Carlsen, Caruana, So, etc.] **5...Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nxc6** Kyron has headed for this old line recently, even against GM Guseinov in a Mechanics' online tournament. [It would have been interesting to see what John prefers in the main line: 7.Bc4 Black has had all sorts of new ideas since the last Silman/Donaldson book.] **7...bxc6 8.e5 Ng8** The quieter and sounder move, although in practice it doesn't score any better (or worse). [Guseinov often (but not always!) plays the old, possibly doubtful gambit 8...Nd5 9.Nxd5 cxd5 10.Qxd5 Rb8 with excellent results. 11.0-0-0 (11.Bxa7 Rxb2 12.Bd4 Rb8 13.Bc4 *(13.Ba7 Rb2 14.Bd4 Rb8 15.Ba7 Rb2* ½-½, Kotsur,P (2558) - Guseinov,G (2625), Khanty-Mansiysk Governor Cup 7th 2011*.)* 13...0-0 14.0-0 d6 *(14...Bb7 15.Qc5 d6 16.exd6 exd6 17.Qa7 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Ra8 19.Qb6 Qd7 20.Bxg7 Qg4+ 21.Kh1 Qf3+ 22.Kg1 Qg4+ 23.Kh1 Qf3+ 24.Kg1* 1/2-1/2 (24) Kovchan,A (2483)-Guseinov,G (2456) Alushta 2001*)* 15.Bb3 Bb7 16.Qc4 dxe5 17.Be3 Qa5 18.Rfd1 e6 19.Qc5 Qa8 20.f3 e4 21.f4 Bxa1 22.Rxa1 Bd5 23.Qd4 Bxb3 24.axb3 Qd5 25.Qf6 Qf5 26.Qxf5 gxf5 27.Kf2 Rfc8 28.Ra2 Ra8 29.Rb2 Ra1 30.b4 Rca8 31.Ke2 R1a2 32.Rxa2 Rxa2 33.Kd2 Kf8 34.Kc3 Ke7 35.Kb3 Ra1 36.c4 Kd7 37.c5 Re1 38.Bd4 e3 39.b5 e2 40.c6+ Kc8 41.b6 Rb1+ 42.Bb2 Rxb2+ 43.Kxb2 e1Q 0-1 (43) Radulski,J (2475)-Guseinov,G (2571) Dos Hermanas 2004) 11...Bb7 (Less than a month earlier an online game of Kyron's went *11...Qc7 12.f4 0-0 13.Qc5 Qb7 14.b3 d6 15.Qxa7 Qxa7 16.Bxa7 Ra8 17.Bd4 Bg4 18.Re1 Rxa2 19.Bd3 dxe5 20.Bxe5 Bxe5 21.fxe5* and White took it down: 1-0 (64) Griffith,K (2226)-Limelight2727 (2028) Chess.com 18.11/0 *; 11...0-0 12.Bxa7 Rb7 13.Bd4 Rc7 14.Qb3 Bb7 15.f4 Qa8 16.Bb6 Rcc8 17.Rxd7 e6 18.Qa3 Be4 19.Qxa8 Rxc2+ 20.Kb1 Rxa8 21.Bd3 Bxd3 22.Rxd3 Rxg2 23.Rhd1 h5 24.R3d2 Rxd2 25.Rxd2 g5 26.Be3 gxf4 27.Bxf4 Ra4 28.Rf2 h4 29.b3 Ra5 30.Re2 Kh7 31.Kb2 Kg6 32.Rg2+ Kf5 33.Rxg7 Kxf4 34.Rxf7+ Kxe5 35.Rh7 Kd4 36.Rxh4+ Kd3 37.b4 Rf5 38.Rh7 e5 39.Kb3 e4 40.Rd7+ Ke2 41.a4 e3 42.b5 Rf1 43.Kb2 Rf4 44.Ka3 Kf3 45.Rd1 Rd4 46.Rxd4 e2 47.Rd3+ Kf4 48.Rd4+ Kf5 49.Rd5+ Kf6 50.b6* 0-1 (50) Mu,J (2203)-Guseinov,G (2643) chess.com INT 2017*)* 12.Qd2 *(12.Qd4 0-0 13.f4 d6 14.Qxa7 Qc8 15.Qd4 dxe5 16.fxe5 Qc7 17.Bf4 Rfd8 18.Qc4 Rxd1+ 19.Kxd1 Qb6 20.b3 Rc8 21.Qb5 Qd4+ 22.Bd2 Be4 23.c3 Rxc3 24.Qe8+ Bf8 25.Bc4 Bc2+ 26.Ke2 Bd3+ 27.Bxd3 Qxd3+ 28.Ke1 Rc2 29.Ba5 Qe2#* 0-1 (29) Pruess,D (2383)-Guseinov,G (2571) Dos Hermanas 2004*)* 12...Bxe5 13.Bxa7 Ra8 14.Qe3 0-0 15.Qxe5 Rxa7 16.Kb1 d6 17.Qe3 Qa8 18.Bc4 Bxg2 19.Rhg1 Be4 20.Bb3 Rb8 0-1 (53) Griffith,K (2286)-GGuseinov (2650) Chess.com 16.12/0] **9.Bd4 Qa5** [9...Nh6 10.e6 0-0 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.Qd4+ f6 13.exd7 Qxd7 14.Qxd7 Bxd7 15.0-0-0 Rfd8 16.Be2 Bg4 17.f3 Be6 0-1 (44) Njili,K (2413)-Guseinov,G (2623) Sharjah 2016] **10.Bc4 Bxe5 11.0-0 Nf6** [11...f6 12.Re1 Nh6 13.Ne4 d5 14.Nxf6+ exf6 15.Bxe5 fxe5 16.Rxe5+ Kf8 17.Qd4 Nf7 18.Rae1 Bf5 19.Re7 dxc4 20.Qf6 Qd5 21.h4 Rg8 22.R1e5 Qd1+ 23.Kh2 Rg7 24.Rxf7+ 1-0 (24) Sindarov,J (2443)-Guseinov,G (2632) Dubai 2019] **12.Re1 d6 13.Bxe5 dxe5 14.Qf3 0-0 15.Qg3**

15...Qb4 16.Bb3 e4 17.a3 Qd6 18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Rxe4 Bf5 20.Re5 Rad8?! [20...a5! generates play on the queeenside and would give equal chances.] **21.Rae1 e6** Now pawn structure is set and White has the better of it. Instead [21...Qd2 could try to confuse things but White would remain better with the calm 22.h3] **22.Qe3 Qd4 23.Qxd4 Rxd4 24.Rc5** White has the better pawns structure and all the winning chances in this endgame.It's not so easy to convert against such an experienced player as John Donaldson though. **24...Rc8 25.f3 h5 26.Kf2 Kf8 27.Ke3 Rd6 28.Rg1 h4 29.g4 hxg3 30.hxg3 g5 31.g4 Bg6**

32.Rxg5?! At long last some dividend -- but there is a price to pay. Black's c-pawn advances,. [32.Rg2 f6 33.Rd2 Ke7 34.Ba4 Rxd2 35.Kxd2 Kd6 36.b4 would keep the positional advantage and more winning chances] **32...c5! 33.Bc4** [33.f4 Ke7 34.Rh1 Kf6 35.Re5 Rb6 should hold easily] **33...Bxc2 34.Rc1 Bg6 35.f4 Ke7! 36.Be2** [36.f5? Kf6] **36...Rb8 37.Rgxc5 Rxb2** Now the game simplifies to a clear draw **38.f5 exf5 39.gxf5 Bxf5 40.Rxf5 Re6+ 41.Kd3 Rbxe2 42.Rc7+ Kd6 43.Rxa7 f6 44.Ra6+ Kc7 45.Rxf6 Rxf6 46.Rxf6 Ra2 47.Ra6 Kb7 48.Ra4 Rh2 49.Rb4+ Ka7 50.Kc3 Rh3+ 51.Kb2 Rg3 52.Rc4 Rh3 53.a4 Rg3 54.Rc3 Rxc3 55.Kxc3 Ka8 56.a5 Ka7 57.Kb4 Ka8 58.Kb5 Ka7 59.a6 Ka8 60.Kb6 Kb8 61.a7+ Ka8 62.Ka6 1/2-1/2**

(3) FM Mark Pinto (bondtrader) (2253) - GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes) (2409) [A80]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com (2), 30.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 No longer a surprise. **2...Nf6 3.Bg5 d5** Not surprisingly Tarjan responds classically. **4.e3 Be6** Sort of. **5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Be2** [Svidler prefered 6.h3 h6 7.Bf4 g5 8.Bh2 c6 9.Bd3 Bg7 and only now 10.h4 g4 11.Ne5 0-0 12.Ng6 1-0 (35), Svidler,P (2723)-Lagarde,M (2657) chess24.com INT 2020] **6...g6 7.h4 Bg7 8.Bf4 c6**

9.a3N White is imagining opening the b-file on the queenside when his bishop on f4 permits him to dominate it? Otherwise not much of a plan. [9.Ne5 Ne4 10.Nxe4 fxe4 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.Qd2 h6 13.0-0-0 0-0 14.Kb1 c5?! 15.f3 led to a quick win: 1-0 (23) Hoellmann,L (2161)-Koch,F (1941) Goch 2015] **9...h6 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 0-0 12.f4 h5**

Tarjan is willing to risk a total blocked position, confident that there will be a way to pry things open on the other side. **13.Qd2 b5 14.0-0 a5 15.b4 Ra7 16.Rfb1 Qd7 17.Qc1 Rfa8 18.Qb2 Bf8 19.Bf3 Ra6 20.Ra2 Qa7 21.Rba1** Massive buildup! But it still needs a bit more. **21...Nd7**

22.Be2? [There was a flaw lurking in White's position that needed addressing. 22.g3] **22...Nxe5 23.fxe5 Bh6 24.Nd1?!** [The computer wants White to completely scramble the position with 24.Qc1 f4 25.a4!? but it probably doesn't work.] **24...axb4 25.Qxb4 Ra4** Such a nice move, still... [Seems like a perfect moment for 25...f4!] **26.Qc3 Bd7** Black has to stop for something to guard c6, so White gets to patch up the f4 square. But on the other side... **27.g3 b4 28.Qb3 e6** INACCURACY (-2.08) [(-2.93) The best move was 28...Kh7 29.Kf2 bxa3 30.Bf3 Be6 31.Kg2 Ra5 32.Qd3 Qa6 33.Qxa6 R5xa6 34.Be2 Ra5 35.Kf3 c5 36.Nc3 cxd4 37.exd4 R5a7] **29.c4 Rxa3 30.Rxa3 bxa3 31.c5** Black has this nice optic, a passed pawn on the 6th. **31...a2?**

[Too far too soon. 31...Be8! Second front! 32.Kg2 g5 33.hxg5 Bxg5 34.Nf2 Qa4 Black is likely to break through (and let's not forget the two bishops).] **32.Kf2! Qa3 33.Qb7?** [The computers are thrilled with 33.Qc2 Qa4 34.Qb2 Qa3=] **33...Ra7 34.Qb8+ Kf7 35.Qd8 Bg7 36.Qb8 Bf8** [36...Be8!] **37.Qd8 Bg7 38.Qb8 Ra8!** This should be good, too. **39.Qb7 Qa7?** Now White has the moment he needs to deal with that a-pawn. [39...Ke7 40.Bd3 Ra4 is still good winning chances.] **40.Qb2** Trading was even as well. **40...Bf8?** [Maybe it's time for Black to make the draw happen: 40...Qa3 41.Qc2 Qa4] **41.Nc3** Game drawn by agreement White: 3:35 Black: [Just as White was getting going! (and a touch of time pressure on Black) 41.Nc3 Qa3 42.Rxa2 Qxb2 43.Rxb2 Ke7 44.Na2 Kd8 45.Nb4 Kc8 46.Na6 and White can get back to thinking "win".] **1/2-1/2**

(4) GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes) (2451) - WIM Emily Nguyen (enguyen2002) (2274) [D41]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com (6), 01.02.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.d4 Nc6 9.Nxd5 Qxd5?! The queen is more target than beacon. [An easy version of the Tarrasch Defense comes about after 9...exd5 ; the absence of a pair of knight means a lot less pressure on d5, both directly from a knight on c3, and indirectly via a bishop to g5.] **10.Be3 c4?!** [10...cxd4 11.Nxd4 and the kicking commences, with a weak pawn appearing on c6 as well.; 10...Qh5!? 11.dxc5! has a fantastic plus score. 11...e5 *(11...Bxc5?? 12.g4)* 12.Nd2?! *(12.Qb3!)* 12...f5?! *(12...Bg4)* 13.f4?! *(13.Nc4!+/-)* 13...e4?! *(13...Be6!=/+)* 14.Qb3+ Kh8 15.Rfe1 when the world champion narrowly avoided upgrading his membership in the Vera Menchik Fan Club: 1-0 (64) Capablanca,J-Menchik,V Hastings 1929; 10...Qc4!? 11.dxc5 e5 12.Nd2+/-] **11.Nd2** [11.Qc2! is like some wonderful variation of the Catalan -- White gets his pawn back eventually, meanwhile Black remains in disarray.] **11...Qb5 12.Qc2 Rd8 13.Qxc4** [13.a4 is "for free" and turns out more useful than not.] **13...Qxc4** [13...Nxd4 White can just ignore: 14.Rfd1; 13...Qxb2 14.Rab1 Qa3 15.Ne4 again: good Catalan, Black isn't getting into the game.] **14.Nxc4 Nxd4 15.Rfd1 Nf5?** [It was worth keeping the knight on that nice square, although White still gets typical play: 15...Bf6 16.Bxd4 Rxd4 17.Rxd4 Bxd4 18.Rc1 Kf8 19.b4 Bb6 20.Nxb6 axb6 21.Rc7 Ke8 22.Bxb7 leads to some thankless pawn-down rook ending, hoping to not lose.] **16.Rxd8+ Bxd8 17.Rd1** [17.Bc5!] **17...Bf6** [17...Be7 was a touch better.] **18.Bf4**

The quintessential Catalan won position. symmetrical pawns, even material, crippling advantage. A good advertisement for the King's Indian. **18...Kf8** [On 18...g5 White achieves his winning takedown with the usual mini-tactics: 19.Be5 Bxe5 20.Rd8+ Kg7 21.Nxe5] **19.e4 Nh6 20.Bd6+?!** [20.Bc7!] **20...Be7 21.e5 f6** [21...Bxd6 22.Nxd6 Rb8 23.b3 with Rc1-c7 coming] **22.f4?!** [22.Bc7! followed by sending the a-pawn down the board.] **22...Ke8?!** [22...Bxd6 23.Nxd6 fxe5 24.fxe5 Ke7 struggles on] **23.Bc7+- Nf7 24.Be4 f5 25.Bf3 Bd8?!**

[25...Nd8 26.Na5 a6 27.Rc1] **26.Bxd8 Nxd8 27.Nd6+ Ke7 28.Rc1! Kd7 29.b4!** Even with the exchanges, the bare essentials remain: broken development, one-sided long diagonal control, almost Zugzwang. **29...Rb8 30.b5 b6 31.Bc6+ Ke7 32.Rd1 Nxc6 33.bxc6 Ba6 34.Rc1 Ra8 35.Rc3 Kd8 36.Ra3 Bc8 37.Nb5 a6 38.Rd3+ Ke7 39.Nd6 a5 40.Nb5 a4** A false entrance. **41.Rc3 Ra5 42.Nd6 Ra8 43.Kf2 Kd8 44.Nb5?!** [Just 44.Ke3 was moving in the right direction. 44...Ba6 45.c7+ Kd7 46.h3 and the standard opening a second front on the kingside.] **44...Ke7 45.Ke3 Ra5?! 46.Nd6 Kd8 47.Nb7+** Tirantes won by resignation. Confidence, knowledge and hard work in all phases of the game, Tarjan's imprint. **1-0**

(5) GM Patrick Wolff (AmateurT2021), (2298) - WGM Jennifer Yu (ahappypawn) (2045) [C01]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com (4), 31.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d3 Former U.S. Champion Patrick Wolff had the Petroff Defense in his own repertoire, where he knew it could be capable of some sharp lines. That he chooses one of the most congenial systems is probably to avoid anything dangerous and current. [In the classical main line, 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 , you could think Black had a free move ...Ne4, but it really means White can use that premature situation to undermine the center a bit with 8.c4] **5...Nf6 6.d4 d5 7.Bd3 Bd6 8.Qe2+** Maybe there's more to this than anyone wants to admit. **8...Qe7** [8...Be6! 9.Ng5 at the very least grabs the two bishops and a better pawn structure; 9...Qe7 but it's nothing significant for White.; 8...Be7 costs time.] **9.Qxe7+ Kxe7**

White comes out of this with some advantage. **10.0-0 Re8 11.Re1+ Kf8 12.Rxe8+ Kxe8 13.Nc3 c6 14.Bg5**

14...Be7?! [14...Nbd7 15.Re1+ Kf8 and ...h6, when Black will put things in order shortly.] **15.Re1 Be6 16.Bxf6 gxf6?!** The cure is worse than the illness. [16...Bxf6 17.Bxh7 Kf8 *(17...g6? 18.Bxg6)* 18.Bd3 Nd7 White is squarely better, but there's still a lot of work to do to claim a win.] **17.Nh4!** [or 17.Bxh7 f5 18.Ne2!] **17...h6 18.Nf5 Bxf5** [18...Bf8 19.Ne2] **19.Bxf5** Bishops of opposite colors are no salvation when there are rooks and knights around as well; meanwhile Black's weak pawns only go away one way (when they're taken). **19...Na6 20.Ne2** [Similar is 20.Nd1 Kf8 21.Ne3 Nc7 22.Bg4 when f5 might well like a knight on it.] **20...Nc7 21.Ng3 Nb5 22.c3 Kf8 23.Bd3 Nd6 24.Re3 Re8 25.Kf1**

25...f5 To Jennifer's credit she is willing to sacrifice a pawn for some freedom; but it won't come close to equalizing, and Wolff's technique is quite up to the task. **26.Bxf5 Bh4 27.Rxe8+ Kxe8 28.Bd3 Bxg3?!** Now even the hope of some BOC salvation is gone. **29.hxg3 Ke7 30.g4** Stockfish is wary of putting pawns on the same color as the bishop, brings the king up first [or 30.b4 b5 31.Ke2] **30...Kf6 31.f4 Ne8 32.Kf2 a5 33.a4 Nd6 34.Ke3** [34.b4!?] **34...b6** [34...b5!?] **35.b3 Ke6 36.g5 hxg5 37.fxg5 Nf5+ 38.Kf4 Ne7** [38...Nh4 sends the knight on a suicide mission: 39.Kg3 Nf5+ 40.Kg4 Ne3+ 41.Kf3 Nd1 42.c4] **39.g3** White's extra pawn might not seem like much but it's enough. The plan is the end-run with the king on the h-file. First he shuts off f4 for the knight. **39...Ng6+ 40.Kg4 Ne7** White has over 20 minutes -- Black, under a minute. **41.b4! Kd6**

Yu steps to the d-file, preparing a surprise counter -- which Wolff overlooks or underestimates: **42.Kh5?!**

Trading, pausing, returning all were easier on the nerves. [42.bxa5; 42.Bc2; 42.Kf4] **42...b5! 43.bxa5!** [43.axb5 a4 44.b6 a3 45.Bb1 Nf5 isn't so clear] **43...bxa4 44.Kg4?** Here returning is just too far to go for the win. [44.g4 a3 45.Bb1 Kc7 46.a6! Somehow this has to be tossed in 46...Kb6 47.Kh6 Nc8 48.g6 fxg6 49.Kxg6 Kxa6 50.g5 and here, White is winning. Best to fire up your own computer and see if you can verify that.] **44...a3?** Too soon! She used forty seconds here leaving herself under twenty. White wants to get his bishop to a2 and play c4, so this just encourages him. [44...Kc7 45.Bc2 a3 46.Bb3 Nc8 47.c4 c5! An echo of the earlier break on move 42! This works out to 0.00 in all lines.; 44...Nc8 45.Bc2 a3 46.Bb3 Kc7 (so that dxc5 won't be check!) 47.c4 c5!=] **45.Bb1 Nc8**

46.Kf5? [46.Ba2! sets up c4, winning.] **46...Na7?** [46...Kc7! 47.Ba2 Nd6+ 48.Ke5 Nc4+ 49.Kf6 Nd6 50.Ke7 Ne4 51.Kxf7 Nxg5+!= Not the sort of precarious ending to play on increment!] **47.Kf6**

Now Black wins the bishop *and* also queens while White takes f7 and runs one of those g-pawns -- and at the end of it all, White is winning. **47...Nb5 48.a6?=** or not! This is no time to smel the flowers! Get that g-pawn going! [48.Kxf7! c5 49.g6 *(*Okay, here *49.a6* is good, Stockfish does the computer thing and makes it 3 or 4 "better" (in the +14 vs. +10 range)*)*] **48...Kc7! 49.Kxf7 Nxc3 50.g6 Nxb1 51.g7 a2 52.g8Q a1Q** Now there's no CHECK at b8! **53.Qa8**

53...Qxd4?? How easy it is to spot the blunders with time and a computer! [53...Qb2! just doesn't let White queen the a-pawn, while the knight is still able to stop the g-pawn if White trades queens on b7.] **54.Qb7+ Kd8 55.Qb8+** [55.Qe7+ Kc8 56.a7 is the fastest and smoothest mate (queening with check helps).] **55...Kd7 56.a7 Qf2+** [56...Qe4 57.Qb7+ Kd6 58.a8Q and there is no perpetual.] **57.Kg8 Qf5 58.Qb7+ Kd6 59.a8Q Qg6+ 60.Qg7 Qe6+ 61.Kh7** [61.Qf7 gets the White king a couple steps closer but all is good enough.] **61...Qh3+ 62.Qh6+** What a difficult, wonderful ending! Jennifer Yu really tested Wolff, and came back over and over, but in the end it was the not quite retired grandmaster who prevailed. **1-0**

(6) IM Keaton Kiewra (Keaton87) (2509) - NM Arjun Bharat (RapidDefeat) (2135) [C41]

US Amateur Team West Chess.com (4), 31.01.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.a4 c6 8.Ba2 Qc7 9.h3 b6 10.Be3 Bb7 11.Re1 a6 12.d5?! This advance gives up the advantage [12.Nh4 was a better way to move forward] **12...c5?!** [12...cxd5 13.exd5 Rac8 is very comforatble for Black] **13.Nd2 Ne8 14.Bc4 g6 15.Bf1 Ng7 16.g3 Rae8 17.Bg2 Bc8 18.Bh6 f5**

19.exf5 exchanging pawns lets Black get mobile on the kingside. A good idea would be to play like Petrosian used to in these positions with [19.Ra3! so that this rook might also help on the kingside] **19...gxf5 20.f4?! Rf6! 21.Bg5 Rg6 22.Bxe7 Rxe7 23.Kh2 Qd8** Black is getting a better grip on the kingside squares **24.Nc4 exf4 25.gxf4 Bb7?** this is a poor place for the bishop here [25...Rf7! with ideas of ...Qh4 and ...Nf6 gives Black the attack, e.g. 26.Re6 Nxe6 27.dxe6 Rxg2+ 28.Kxg2 Rg7+ 29.Kf1 Qh4 and Black should win] **26.Bf3 Kf8 27.Qd2 Rxe1 28.Qxe1 Nf6 29.Qf2 Ng4+ 30.Bxg4 fxg4 31.Rg1 gxh3 32.Rg5 Kg8** [32...Bc8!] **33.Qg3 Qf6?! 34.Ne4 Qd4?** [34...Qe7 35.Rxg6 hxg6 36.Qxg6 Bxd5 37.Nf6+ Kf8 38.Nxd5 Qe2+ gets a knight back with good drawing chances] **35.Ncxd6 Bxd5**

36.Rxd5! This cashes in and wins material **36...Qxb2** [36...Rxg3 37.Rxd4 Rg2+ 38.Kxh3 is a clear knight ahead] **37.Qb3 Rg2+ 38.Kxh3 Qxc2 39.Rd3+ Qxb3 40.Rxb3** Black has no chance to survive this endgame. **40...Ra2 41.Rxb6 Ne6 42.Kg4 Rxa4 43.Kf5 Nxf4 44.Nf6+ Kf8 45.Rb7** 46. Rf7 is mate next move no matter what. **1-0**

Team Standings

SwissSys Standings. 2021 US Amateur Team West Championship: Championship (1800+)

#	Name	Rating	Team	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	T-US Amat.)	T-Game pnts	Prize
1	UC BERKELEY TEAM B	2196	CALB	UCB	W26 [4.0]	W11 [3.0]	W16 [2.5]	W8 [2.5]	W2 [2.5]	W5 [3.0]	6.0	62.75	17.5	1st Place Top College Team
2	UC BERKELEY TEAM A	2198	CALA	UCB	W25 [4.0]	W17 [3.0]	W13 [3.5]	W3 [3.5]	L1 [1.5]	W8 [3.0]	5.0	66.5	18.5	2nd Place
3	STANFORD UNIVERSITY TEAM A	2192	STAN1	STAN	W19 [4.0]	W14 [3.5]	W6 [3.0]	L2 [0.5]	D8 [2.0]	W10 [2.5]	4.5	54.5	15.5	3rd Place
4	JUNIOR MECHANICS' 2021	2172	JMECH	MECH	L12 [1.5]	W15 [4.0]	D18 [2.0]	W35 [3.5]	W23 [3.5]	W9 [3.5]	4.5	51.5	18	Top Club Team
5	SAN JOSE CHESS CLUB WARRIORS	2195	SJCW	SJCC	W24 [3.0]	H--- [2.0]	W9 [2.5]	W6 [2.5]	W16 [2.5]	L1 [1.0]	4.5	39.75	13.5	
6	UC BERKELEY TEAM C	2190	CALC	UCB	W27 [3.0]	W23 [3.0]	L3 [1.0]	L5 [1.5]	W12 [4.0]	W15 [3.5]	4.0	52.5	16	
7	THE FLOHR BOARDS	1878	FLOHR		L8 [1.5]	W25 [2.5]	W17 [2.5]	L9 [1.0]	W20 [3.0]	W16 [3.0]	4.0	40.5	13.5	
8	ALPHA ZERO TECH SUPPORT	2173	AZTS		W7 [2.5]	W35 [2.5]	W10 [3.0]	L1 [1.5]	D3 [2.0]	L2 [1.0]	3.5	47.25	12.5	
9	THE FACTORY	2133	FACT		W29 [3.5]	D10 [2.0]	L5 [1.5]	W7 [3.0]	W11 [2.5]	L4 [0.5]	3.5	43.75	13	
10	MECHANICS' INSTITUTE	2199	MECH	MECH	W18 [2.5]	D9 [2.0]	L8 [1.0]	W24 [3.0]	W14 [3.0]	L3 [1.5]	3.5	42.75	13	
11	A HAPPY PAWN	2083	HAPY		W32 [3.0]	L1 [1.0]	W19 [3.0]	D13 [2.0]	L9 [1.5]	W24 [3.5]	3.5	40.5	14	
12	STANFORD UNIVERSITY TEAM B	1870	STAN2	STAN	W4 [2.5]	L16 [0.5]	D14 [2.0]	W18 [3.0]	L6 [0.0]	W22 [4.0]	3.5	38.75	12	
13	TONIGHT WE'RE GONNA CHECKMATE LI	2190	1989		W34 [3.5]	W22 [3.5]	L2 [0.5]	D11 [2.0]	L15 [1.5]	W23 [3.0]	3.5	36.25	14	
14	WE SNEEZED ON THE BEAT AND THE B	2044	BEAT		W30 [4.0]	L3 [0.5]	D12 [2.0]	W26 [3.0]	L10 [1.0]	W21 [2.5]	3.5	34.5	13	
15	MISSION WARRIORS	2044	WARR	MSJHS	D21 [2.0]	L4 [0.0]	W32 [2.5]	W33 [2.5]	W13 [2.5]	L6 [0.5]	3.5	23.25	10	
16	CALTECH TEAM A	2184	TECH1	CALT	W33 [4.0]	W12 [3.5]	L1 [1.5]	W22 [2.5]	L5 [1.5]	L7 [1.0]	3.0	44.25	14	
17	MISSION SAN JOSE HIGH SCHOOL	2056	MSJH	MSJHS	W20 [3.0]	L2 [1.0]	L7 [1.5]	W19 [2.5]	D22 [2.0]	D18 [2.0]	3.0	38.5	12	

18	UC BERKELEY TEAM D	2001	CALD	UCB	L10 [1.5]	W21 [3.0]	D4 [2.0]	L12 [1.0]	W33 [2.5]	D17 [2.0]	3.0	35	12	
19	SPEEDY CHECKMATERS	1949	SPEEDY		L3 [0.0]	W20 [3.5]	L11 [1.0]	L17 [1.5]	W35 [3.0]	W28 [3.5]	3.0	31.75	12.5	
20	THE HARKER EAGLES	1803	HARKER		L17 [1.0]	L19 [0.5]	B--- [4.0]	W30 [4.0]	L7 [1.0]	W29 [2.5]	3.0	21.5	13	
21	PAWN-Z-SCHEME	1766	PAWNZ		D15 [2.0]	L18 [1.0]	L26 [1.5]	W27 [3.0]	W34 [3.0]	L14 [1.5]	2.5	31	12	
22	FOUR ISOLATED PAWNS	2026	4ISO		W31 [4.0]	L13 [0.5]	W30 [4.0]	L16 [1.5]	D17 [2.0]	L12 [0.0]	2.5	28.25	12	
23	QUEEN RULES	2018	QRULE		W28 [3.0]	L6 [1.0]	D35 [2.0]	W34 [4.0]	L4 [0.5]	L13 [1.0]	2.5	26.25	11.5	
24	UC BERKELEY TEAM E	1996	CALE	UCB	L5 [1.0]	D29 [2.0]	W28 [3.0]	L10 [1.0]	W32 [3.0]	L11 [0.5]	2.5	25.75	10.5	
25	RIVETING ROOKS	2000	RIVRKS		L2 [0.0]	L7 [1.5]	D27 [2.0]	L32 [1.5]	W31 [4.0]	W34 [2.5]	2.5	25	11.5	
26	NO TRADING ROOKS TONIGHT	1971	NTRT		L1 [0.0]	D32 [2.0]	W21 [2.5]	L14 [1.0]	L28 [1.5]	W33 [3.0]	2.5	21	10	
27	BASIS TUSCON NORTH	1929	BASIS		L6 [1.0]	L30 [1.0]	D25 [2.0]	L21 [1.0]	B--- [4.0]	W32 [4.0]	2.5	19.5	13	
28	KINGS GAMBIT	1702	KGAMB		L23 [1.0]	D33 [2.0]	L24 [1.0]	B--- [4.0]	W26 [2.5]	L19 [0.5]	2.5	15.75	11	
29	CHECKMATE ASAP - XCELL CHESS CLU	1869	XCELL		L9 [0.5]	D24 [2.0]	L34 [1.0]	D31 [2.0]	W30 [2.5]	L20 [1.5]	2.0	21.75	9.5	
30	PHOENIX FLAME	1710	PHOFLA		L14 [0.0]	W27 [3.0]	L22 [0.0]	L20 [0.0]	L29 [1.5]	W35 [3.0]	2.0	15	7.5	
31	CHESS COOKIES	1708	COOKIES		L22 [0.0]	D34 [2.0]	L33 [1.5]	D29 [2.0]	L25 [0.0]	B--- [4.0]	2.0	9.25	9.5	
32	SAN JOSE CHESS CLUB CHIVARLY	1826	SJCCC	SJCC	L11 [1.0]	D26 [2.0]	L15 [1.5]	W25 [2.5]	L24 [1.0]	L27 [0.0]	1.5	22.5	8	
33	MAGNANIMOUS MAGNUSES	1892	MAGN		L16 [0.0]	D28 [2.0]	W31 [2.5]	L15 [1.5]	L18 [1.5]	L26 [1.0]	1.5	22.25	8.5	
34	WINNERS 2021	1900	WINN		L13 [0.5]	D31 [2.0]	W29 [3.0]	L23 [0.0]	L21 [1.0]	L25 [1.5]	1.5	18	8	
35	CHECK ME IF YOU CAN!	1587	CKIFCAN		B--- [4.0]	L8 [1.5]	D23 [2.0]	L4 [0.5]	L19 [1.0]	L30 [1.0]	1.5	17.5	10	2nd Place Best Team Name

SwissSys Standings. 2021 US Amateur Team West Championship: Team u/1800

#	Name	Rating	Team	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	T-US Amat.)	T-Game pnts	Prize
1	100% LADY CHESS MOVES	1786	LADY		D17 [2.0]	W22 [3.5]	W20 [4.0]	W12 [3.5]	W10 [2.5]	D2 [2.0]	5.0	59.5	17.5	1st Place Top Female Team
2	WE RAN OUT OF TRANQUILIZER PILLS	1570	TRANQ		W32 [3.5]	W19 [2.5]	W4 [2.5]	D10 [2.0]	W7 [2.5]	D1 [2.0]	5.0	52.75	15	2nd Place
3	THE CHEERIOS	1655	CHEERIOS		W26 [4.0]	L4 [1.5]	W17 [2.5]	W23 [3.0]	W13 [4.0]	D5 [2.0]	4.5	58.25	17	3rd Place Top High School Team
4	SAN JOSE CHESS CLUB CHESS HUNTER	1480	SJHUNT	SJCC	W28 [4.0]	W3 [2.5]	L2 [1.5]	W16 [2.5]	W8 [2.5]	D6 [2.0]	4.5	54.25	15	
5	FOREST WHERE 2+2=5	1528	2+2=5		W31 [2.5]	W24 [3.0]	D12 [2.0]	D6 [2.0]	W11 [2.5]	D3 [2.0]	4.5	46.75	14	
6	CALTECH TEAM B	1708	TECHB	CALT	W9 [3.0]	W13 [3.0]	L10 [1.5]	D5 [2.0]	W12 [4.0]	D4 [2.0]	4.0	59.75	15.5	
7	WHITNEY HS CHESS CLUB	1663	WHITNEY		W21 [3.0]	D20 [2.0]	D16 [2.0]	W18 [3.0]	L2 [1.5]	W10 [3.0]	4.0	48	14.5	
8	PLEASE DON'T CHEAT - WE'RE BAD E	1546	NOCHEAT		D16 [2.0]	W35 [4.0]	D11 [2.0]	W25 [3.0]	L4 [1.5]	W18 [3.0]	4.0	45.75	15.5	1st Place Best Team Name
9	TBOLT FIRESTORM	1296	TBOLT		L6 [1.0]	W30 [2.5]	W27 [2.5]	L13 [1.5]	W25 [3.0]	W20 [2.5]	4.0	37	13	
10	CARMEL A	1545	CARMELA		W25 [3.0]	W23 [2.5]	W6 [2.5]	D2 [2.0]	L1 [1.5]	L7 [1.0]	3.5	48	12.5	
11	SQUARES	1422	SQUARES		D30 [2.0]	W29 [3.0]	D8 [2.0]	W15 [4.0]	L5 [1.5]	D14 [2.0]	3.5	45.75	14.5	
12	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANG	1588	UCLA		W14 [3.0]	W18 [2.5]	D5 [2.0]	L1 [0.5]	L6 [0.0]	W21 [3.0]	3.5	38.5	11	
13	SWAMINATHAN FAMILY	1504	SWAM		W39 [4.0]	L6 [1.0]	W26 [3.0]	W9 [2.5]	L3 [0.0]	D15 [2.0]	3.5	36	12.5	Top Family Team
14	BRIGHT CHESS BEYOND ALPHA4	1146	BRIGHT	BRIGHT	L12 [1.0]	W38 [3.0]	L23 [1.5]	W33 [3.0]	W24 [3.0]	D11 [2.0]	3.5	34.5	13.5	
					L22	W39	W24	L11	W29	D13				

15	CALTECH TEAM C	unr.	TECHC	CALT	[1.0]	[3.0]	[2.5]	[0.0]	[2.5]	[2.0]	3.5	27	11	
16	UC BERKELEY TEAM F	1062	CALF	UCB	D8 [2.0]	W33 [4.0]	D7 [2.0]	L4 [1.5]	D17 [2.0]	D27 [2.0]	3.0	41.75	13.5	
17	SAN JOSE CHESS CLUB SUNRISERS	1310	SUNRISERS	SJCC	D1 [2.0]	D27 [2.0]	L3 [1.5]	W34 [2.5]	D16 [2.0]	D19 [2.0]	3.0	38.75	12	Top Elementary School Team
18	BLUNDER MASTERS	1395	BLUNDER		W37 [4.0]	L12 [1.5]	W32 [3.0]	L7 [1.0]	W26 [3.0]	L8 [1.0]	3.0	36.25	13.5	3rd Place Best Team Name
19	NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY	1454	NORTHW		W36 [3.0]	L2 [1.5]	D21 [2.0]	W31 [3.5]	L20 [1.0]	D17 [2.0]	3.0	35.5	13	
20	TCW	1427	TCW		W38 [4.0]	D7 [2.0]	L1 [0.0]	D21 [2.0]	W19 [3.0]	L9 [1.5]	3.0	35	12.5	
21	SARATOGA HIGH SCHOOL - TEAM B	1224	SARATOGA2	SARA	L7 [1.0]	W34 [4.0]	D19 [2.0]	D20 [2.0]	W23 [2.5]	L12 [1.0]	3.0	35	12.5	
22	PANDEMIC TOILET PAPER HOARDERS	1319	PTPH		W15 [3.0]	L1 [0.5]	L25 [1.0]	D28 [2.0]	D32 [2.0]	W35 [4.0]	3.0	33	12.5	
23	QUEENS GAMBIT	1412	QGAMBIT		W40 [4.0]	L10 [1.5]	W14 [2.5]	L3 [1.0]	L21 [1.5]	W32 [3.5]	3.0	32	14	
24	BURNSVILLE HS ALUMNI + BARTLETT	1386	BURNS		W34 [3.0]	L5 [1.0]	L15 [1.5]	W30 [2.5]	L14 [1.0]	W31 [3.0]	3.0	30.25	12	
25	CRYOGENIC CORROSIVE KINGDOM	1060	CRYO		L10 [1.0]	W40 [3.0]	W22 [3.0]	L8 [1.0]	L9 [1.0]	W29 [3.0]	3.0	28	12	
26	FOLSOM HIGH SCHOOL	1194	FOLSOM2	FOLSOM	L3 [0.0]	W28 [3.0]	L13 [1.0]	W35 [3.0]	L18 [1.0]	W37 [3.0]	3.0	26	11	
27	FOLSOM CHESS CLUB	1686	FOLSOM	FOLSOM	D29 [2.0]	D17 [2.0]	L9 [1.5]	D32 [2.0]	D31 [2.0]	D16 [2.0]	2.5	30	11.5	
28	MATCHMAKER'S U1800 TEAM	975	MMTEAM_2		L4 [0.0]	L26 [1.0]	W38 [3.0]	D22 [2.0]	D33 [2.0]	D34 [2.0]	2.5	21.5	10	
29	DON'T THROW IN THE TAL	1271	THROWTAL		D27 [2.0]	L11 [1.0]	D35 [2.0]	W37 [4.0]	L15 [1.5]	L25 [1.0]	2.0	28.75	11.5	
30	MAVS IN THE WEST	694	MAVS		D11 [2.0]	L9 [1.5]	D39 [2.0]	L24 [1.5]	D34 [2.0]	D38 [2.0]	2.0	27.5	11	
31	ABNB-UP	982	ABNB		L5 [1.5]	W37 [3.0]	D33 [2.0]	L19 [0.5]	D27 [2.0]	L24 [1.0]	2.0	26.25	10	
32	BRIGHT CHESS CHECKM8	1082	CHECKM8	BRIGHT	L2 [0.5]	W36 [3.0]	L18 [1.0]	D27 [2.0]	D22 [2.0]	L23 [0.5]	2.0	24	9	
33	SARATOGA HIGH SCHOOL - TEAM A	1426	SARATOGA	SARA	D35 [2.0]	L16 [0.0]	D31 [2.0]	L14 [1.0]	D28 [2.0]	D36 [2.0]	2.0	20.5	9	
34	JASS	962	JASS		L24 [1.0]	L21 [0.0]	W40 [3.5]	L17 [1.5]	D30 [2.0]	D28 [2.0]	2.0	18.25	10	
35	CARMEL B	699	CARMELB		D33 [2.0]	L8 [0.0]	D29 [2.0]	L26 [1.0]	W39 [4.0]	L22 [0.0]	2.0	17	9	
36	CHESS WIZARDS	885	WIZARDS		L19 [1.0]	L32 [1.0]	L37 [1.0]	D39 [2.0]	W40 [4.0]	D33 [2.0]	2.0	16	11	
37	LIGHTNING SQUAD	554	LSQUAD		L18 [0.0]	L31 [1.0]	W36 [3.0]	L29 [0.0]	W38 [2.5]	L26 [1.0]	2.0	14.75	7.5	
38	WARSAW KINGS	714	WARSAW		L20 [0.0]	L14 [1.0]	L28 [1.0]	W40 [3.0]	L37 [1.5]	D30 [2.0]	1.5	14.5	8.5	
39	MECHANICS' JUNIOR MAVERICKS	977	MJM	MECH	L13 [0.0]	L15 [1.0]	D30 [2.0]	D36 [2.0]	L35 [0.0]	D40 [2.0]	1.5	12.5	7	
40	TWO FAMILIES	666	2FAM		L23 [0.0]	L25 [1.0]	L34 [0.5]	L38 [1.0]	L36 [0.0]	D39 [2.0]	0.5	8.5	4.5	

Team Roster

Team Roster and Standings. 2021 US Amateur Team West Championship: Championship (1800+)

	Code	Name	Score	TBrk[U]	TBrk[G]
1	CALB	UC Berkeley Team B (2196.0) W26 W11 W16 W8 W2 W5	6.0	62.75	17.5
		FM Rayan Taghizadeh (2413) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		NM Arjun Bharat (2261) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		NM Christopher Pan (2156) 4.5 Bd: 3			
		Nathan Fong (1954) 6.0 Bd: 4			
2	CALA	UC Berkeley Team A (2198.3) W25 W17 W13 W3 L1 W8	5.0	66.5	18.5
		IM Kesav Viswanadha (2457) 4.0 Bd: 1			

		FM Teemu Virtanen (2368) 4.5 Bd: 2			
		WIM Ashritha Eswaran (2366) 5.5 Bd: 3			
		Junior Mejia (1602) 4.5 Bd: 4			
3	STAN1	Stanford University Team A (2191.5) W19 W14 W6 L2 D8 W10	4.5	54.5	15.5
		IM Bryce Tiglon (2498) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		WIM Emily Nguyen (2348) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		NM Seth Talyansky (2279) 4.5 Bd: 3			
		Robbie Selwyn (1641) 5.0 Bd: 4			
4	JMECH	Junior Mechanics' 2021 (2172.0) L12 W15 D18 W35 W23 W9	4.5	51.5	18
		FM Jason Liang (2406) 5.5 Bd: 1			
		NM Ruiyang Yan (2242) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Nicholas Weng (2025) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Kevin Su (2015) 4.5 Bd: 4			
5	SJCW	San Jose Chess Club Warriors (2194.8) W24 H-- W9 W6 W16 L1	4.5	39.75	13.5
		GM Andrey Gorovets (2559) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Pranav Sairam (2084) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		Abhinav Penagalapati (2078) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Alan Finkelstein (2058) 4.0 Bd: 4			
6	CALC	UC Berkeley Team C (2190.5) W27 W23 L3 L5 W12 W15	4.0	52.5	16
		IM Joshua Sheng (2536) 4.5 Bd: 1			
		IM Josiah Stearman (2467) 6.0 Bd: 2			
		NM Michael Wang (2324) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Trevor Stearman (1435) 2.0 Bd: 4			
7	FLOHR	The Flohr Boards (1878.0) L8 W25 W17 L9 W20 W16	4.0	40.5	13.5
		Ashley Pang (1954) 2.5 Bd: 1			
		Jaden Fang (1941) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Nathan Yan (1831) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		Vincent Qin (1786) 5.5 Bd: 4			
8	AZTS	Alpha Zero Tech Support (2173.0) W7 W35 W10 L1 D3 L2	3.5	47.25	12.5
		FM Robert Shlyakhtenko (2485) 4.5 Bd: 1			
		IM Keaton Kiewra (2459) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		IM Alex Costello (2358) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Kylan Jin (1390) 1.0 Bd: 4			
9	FACT	The Factory (2132.8) W29 D10 L5 W7 W11 L4	3.5	43.75	13
		IM John Donaldson (2420) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		FM Mark Pinto (2200) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Joshua Lawson (2101) 5.5 Bd: 3			
		Joseph Graves (1810) 2.0 Bd: 4			
10	MECH	Mechanics' Institute (2199.3) W18 D9 L8 W24 W14 L3	3.5	42.75	13
		FM Kyron Griffith (2502) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		GM Jim Tarjan (2469) 4.5 Bd: 2			
		Jonah Busch (1934) 0.5 Bd: 3			
		Chelsea Zhou (1892) 4.0 Bd: 4			
11	HAPY	A Happy Pawn (2083.0) W32 L1 W19 D13 L9 W24	3.5	40.5	14
		WGM Jennifer Yu (2411) 2.5 Bd: 1			
		FM Dachey Lin (2339) 5.5 Bd: 2			
		FM Guannan Song (2274) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Harrison Barclay (1308) 2.0 Bd: 4			
12	STAN2	Stanford University Team B (1869.8) W4 L16 D14 W18 L6 W22	3.5	38.75	12
		Sina Mohammadi (2163) 2.5 Bd: 1			
		Christopher Wolff (1889) 4.5 Bd: 2			
		Mikhail Molodyk (1862) 2.5 Bd: 3			
		Samuel Ogunsanya (1565) 2.5 Bd: 4			
13	1989	Tonight We're Gonna Checkmate Like It's 1989 (2190.0) W34 W22 L2 D11 L15 W23	3.5	36.25	14

		GM Patrick Wolff (2605) 4.5 Bd: 1			
		NM Andrew Metrick (2288) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		NM Christopher Chabris (2226) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Caleb Meyer-Chabris (1641) 3.5 Bd: 4			
14	BEAT	We Sneezed On The Beat and the Beat Got Sicker (2043.5) W30 L3 D12 W26 L10 W21	3.5	34.5	13
		Shreya Mangalam (2132) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Aria Hoesley (2091) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		WFM Kimberly Liu (2045) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Simona Nayberg (1906) 3.0 Bd: 4			
15	WARR	Mission Warriors (2043.8) D21 L4 W32 W33 W13 L6	3.5	23.25	10
		Nathan Zhang (2152) 2.5 Bd: 1			
		Maurya Palusa (2089) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		William Sartorio (2063) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		Leo Jiang (1871) 3.0 Bd: 4			
16	TECH1	CalTech Team A (2184.3) W33 W12 L1 W22 L5 L7	3.0	44.25	14
		FM Jason Shi (2278) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		FM Eugene Yanayt (2265) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		NM Tony Kukavica (2261) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Konstantin Zuev (1933) 2.5 Bd: 4			
17	MSJH	Mission San Jose High School (2056.0) W20 L2 L7 W19 D22 D18	3.0	38.5	12
		NM Kevin Pan (2278) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Stephen He (2066) 1.5 Bd: 2			
		Nicholas Jiang (2015) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Aidan Chen (1865) 3.5 Bd: 4			
18	CALD	UC Berkeley Team D (2001.0) L10 W21 D4 L12 W33 D17	3.0	35	12
		NM Jeffrey Wei (2208) 2.0 Bd: 1			
		NM Arman Baradaran (2162) 4.5 Bd: 2			
		Justin Brereton (2042) 5.0 Bd: 3			
		Raymond Ji (1592) 0.5 Bd: 4			
19	SPEEDY	Speedy Checkmaters (1949.0) L3 W20 L11 L17 W35 W28	3.0	31.75	12.5
		Shawnak Shivakumar (2153) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Nitish Nathan (1941) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Kapilan Karunakaran (1907) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Vishva Nanugonda (1795) 2.5 Bd: 4			
20	HARKER	The Harker Eagles (1802.8) L17 L19 B-- W30 L7 W29	3.0	21.5	13
		Rohan Rajaram (1905) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		Anika Rajaram (1858) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Jeffery Wang (1785) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Kyle Chang (1663) 3.0 Bd: 4			
21	PAWNZ	Pawn-Z-Scheme (1765.5) D15 L18 L26 W27 W34 L14	2.5	31	12
		Theo Biyiasas (2175) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Alejandro Canales (1738) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Mateo Hansen (1687) 0.0 Bd: 3			
		Daniel Perlov (1462) 5.0 Bd: 4			
22	4ISO	Four Isolated Pawns (2026.0) W31 L13 W30 L16 D17 L12	2.5	28.25	12
		FM Andy Lee (2337) 2.5 Bd: 1			
		Taylor Curtis (2011) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Damon Mosk-Aoyama (1902) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		David Taylor (1854) 4.0 Bd: 4			
23	QRULE	Queen Rules (2017.8) W28 L6 D35 W34 L4 L13	2.5	26.25	11.5
		NM Alice Lee (2200) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Evan Ai (2058) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Felix Liu (1922) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Alexander Nishio (1891) 2.0 Bd: 4			

24	CALE	UC Berkeley Team E (1995.5) L5 D29 W28 L10 W32 L11	2.5	25.75	10.5
		Theodore Coyne (2072) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		Rahul Malayappan (2047) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Ben Keltner (2012) 1.5 Bd: 3			
		Sharvil Trifale (1851) 1.0 Bd: 4			
25	RIVRKS	Riveting Rooks (1999.8) L2 L7 D27 L32 W31 W34	2.5	25	11.5
		Ethan Boldi (2120) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Daniel Lin (1999) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		Kristian Clemens (1997) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Nicholas Boldi (1883) 2.5 Bd: 4			
26	NTRT	No Trading Rooks Tonight (1971.0) L1 D32 W21 L14 L28 W33	2.5	21	10
		NM Craig Clawitter (2214) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		NM Brian Desousa (2117) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Cody Oldham (1950) 2.5 Bd: 3			
		Peter Holzer (1603) 0.0 Bd: 4			
27	BASIS	Basis Tuscon North (1928.8) L6 L30 D25 L21 B-- W32	2.5	19.5	13
		Jacob Song (2071) 2.0 Bd: 1			
		William Allen (1971) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Scotty Song (1853) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		David Li (1820) 3.5 Bd: 4			
28	KGAMB	Kings Gambit (1702.0) L23 D33 L24 B-- W26 L19	2.5	15.75	11
		Li Li (1826) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Ethan Guo (1707) 1.0 Bd: 2			
		Andrew Wong (1679) 1.5 Bd: 3			
		Jayden Wu (1596) 5.5 Bd: 4			
29	XCELL	Checkmate ASAP - Xcell Chess Club (1869.3) L9 D24 L34 D31 W30 L20	2.0	21.75	9.5
		Advay Bansal (1979) 0.5 Bd: 1			
		Prarthan Ghosh (1916) 0.5 Bd: 2			
		Sricharan Pullela (1889) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Adway Sane (1693) 4.5 Bd: 4			
30	PHOFLA	Phoenix Flame (1709.8) L14 W27 L22 L20 L29 W35	2.0	15	7.5
		Avery Yu (1768) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Ellie Zhang (1737) 1.5 Bd: 2			
		Maxwell Yang (1682) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		Alex Linu (1652) 1.0 Bd: 4			
31	COOKIES	Chess Cookies (1708.5) L22 D34 L33 D29 L25 B--	2.0	9.25	9.5
		Kyle Moon (2138) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Musa Jamshed (1904) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Lisa Sun (1421) 1.0 Bd: 3			
		Jordan Geiger (unr.) 2.5 Bd: 4			
32	SJCCC	San Jose Chess Club Chivarly (1826.0) L11 D26 L15 W25 L24 L27	1.5	22.5	8
		Saatvik Krishnan (1866) 0.0 Bd: 1			
		Krish Matai (1861) 1.0 Bd: 2			
		Eric Zhang (1809) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Pranav Sathish (1768) 3.5 Bd: 4			
33	MAGN	Magnanimous Magnuses (1892.0) L16 D28 W31 L15 L18 L26	1.5	22.25	8.5
		Shannon Miles (1992) 0.5 Bd: 1			
		Mat Martello (1938) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Stan Hwang (1844) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Karthik Tadepalli (unr.) 3.0 Bd: 4			
34	WINN	Winners 2021 (1899.5) L13 D31 W29 L23 L21 L25	1.5	18	8
		NM Sriram Krishnakumar (2192) 2.5 Bd: 1			
		Jaisuraj Kaleeswaran (2086) 1.0 Bd: 2			
		Ashik Uzzaman (1940) 4.5 Bd: 3			

		Jaidev Kaleeswaran (1380) 0.0 Bd: 4			
35	CKIFCAN	Check Me If You Can! (1586.8) B-- L8 D23 L4 L19 L30	1.5	17.5	10
		Aiden Liu (1682) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Leo* Jiang (1612) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		Andrew Gong (1531) 1.5 Bd: 3			
		Leo Yang (1522) 5.0 Bd: 4			

Team Roster and Standings. 2021 US Amateur Team West Championship: Team u/1800

	Code	Name	Score	TBrk[U]	TBrk[G]
1	LADY	100% Lady Chess Moves (1785.5) D17 W22 W20 W12 W10 D2	5.0	59.5	17.5
		Lauren Goodkind (1856) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		Barbara Goodkind (1791) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Daniela Keller (1758) 4.5 Bd: 3			
		Cheryl Lins (1737) 5.0 Bd: 4			
2	TRANQ	We ran out of tranquilizer Pills - Where can we buy more? (1570.5) W32 W19 W4 D10 W7 D1	5.0	52.75	15
		Vijay Surla (1857) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Adam Muhs (1525) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Rama Chitta (1475) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Ed Pernicka (unr.) 4.5 Bd: 4			
3	CHEERIOS	The Cheerios (1654.8) W26 L4 W17 W23 W13 D5	4.5	58.25	17
		Derek Clasby (2327) 6.0 Bd: 1			
		Hemtej Gundra (1594) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Siddhanth Balaji (1444) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Aditya Joshi (1254) 5.0 Bd: 4			
4	SJHUNT	San Jose Chess Club Chess Hunter (1479.8) W28 W3 L2 W16 W8 D6	4.5	54.25	15
		Aryan Achuthan (1551) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Vishnusankar Jonnalagadda (1483) 4.5 Bd: 2			
		Mohnishkirupaa Palani (1473) 2.5 Bd: 3			
		Rohan Dash (1412) 4.5 Bd: 4			
5	2+2=5	Forest where 2+2=5 (1528.5) W31 W24 D12 D6 W11 D3	4.5	46.75	14
		Max Hao (1761) 4.5 Bd: 1			
		Sritan Devineni (1633) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Adrien Cheng (1385) 5.0 Bd: 3			
		Vinesh Jethva (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 4			
6	TECHB	CalTech Team B (1708.5) W9 W13 L10 D5 W12 D4	4.0	59.75	15.5
		Dillon Holder (1795) 2.0 Bd: 1			
		Vignesh Varadarajan (1713) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Raffey, Iqbal Ahamed (unr.) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Angus Gruen (unr.) 5.5 Bd: 4			
7	WHITNEY	Whitney HS Chess Club (1662.8) W21 D20 D16 W18 L2 W10	4.0	48	14.5
		Brian Sui (1835) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Ryan Nurwono (unr.) 6.0 Bd: 2			
		Reema Dawar (1559) 2.5 Bd: 3			
		Neil Tendolkar (1472) 3.0 Bd: 4			
8	NOCHEAT	Please Don't Cheat - We're Bad Enough As It Is (1546.0) D16 W35 D11 W25 L4 W18	4.0	45.75	15.5
		Carey Fan (1621) 4.5 Bd: 1			
		Aezed Raza (1554) 4.5 Bd: 2			
		Dan Gertmenian (1507) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Stan Chao (1502) 2.5 Bd: 4			
9	TBOLT	Tbolt Firestorm (1296.0) L6 W30 W27 L13 W25 W20	4.0	37	13
		Patrick Kut (1843) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Joshua Morris (1555) 4.5 Bd: 2			
		Austin Hepp (922) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Tyson Dang (864) 2.5 Bd: 4			

10	CARMELA	CARMEL A (1545.0) W25 W23 W6 D2 L1 L7	3.5	48	12.5
		Bill Qian (1848) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		Yash Bhargava (1772) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Akash Bhowmik (1743) 4.5 Bd: 3			
		Oren Jensen (817) 1.0 Bd: 4			
11	SQUARES	SQUARES (1422.0) D30 W29 D8 W15 L5 D14	3.5	45.75	14.5
		Umesh Gopi (1729) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Dharshan Vetrivelan (1683) 4.5 Bd: 2			
		Savir Khanna (1163) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		Maxwell Medley (unr.) 5.0 Bd: 4			
12	UCLA	University of California Los Angeles (1587.8) W14 W18 D5 L1 L6 W21	3.5	38.5	11
		Roland Gadbois (1884) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Daniel Zahzouhi (1573) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Abhishek Kylasa (1472) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Brandon Zhao (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 4			
13	SWAM	Swaminathan Family (1503.5) W39 L6 W26 W9 L3 D15	3.5	36	12.5
		Arul Viswanathan (2071) 5.0 Bd: 1			
		Arjun Sankar (1585) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Viswanathan Swaminathan (1185) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Sankar Swaminathan (1173) 1.5 Bd: 4			
14	BRIGHT	Bright Chess Beyond Alpha4 (1146.5) L12 W38 L23 W33 W24 D11	3.5	34.5	13.5
		Aiden Leong (1470) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Elwen Zhao (unr.) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Suyuan Gui (873) 4.5 Bd: 3			
		Andrew Zou (unr.) 5.0 Bd: 4			
15	TECHC	CalTech Team C (0.0) L22 W39 W24 L11 W29 D13	3.5	27	11
		Yannis Angelopoulos (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Hannah Chen (unr.) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		Limbert Palomino (unr.) 2.5 Bd: 3			
		Jeff Zeidel (unr.) 5.0 Bd: 4			
16	CALF	UC Berkeley Team F (1062.5) D8 W33 D7 L4 D17 D27	3.0	41.75	13.5
		Lawrence Wong (1685) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		Neil Gupta (1013) 1.0 Bd: 2			
		Adam Stafford (831) 4.5 Bd: 3			
		Anish Doshi (721) 4.0 Bd: 4			
17	SUNRISERS	San Jose Chess Club Sunrisers (1309.8) D1 D27 L3 W34 D16 D19	3.0	38.75	12
		Devesh Mamidi (1376) 0.0 Bd: 1			
		Anvitha Penagalapti (1353) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Darsh Shetty (1264) 4.5 Bd: 3			
		Advik Garg (1246) 3.5 Bd: 4			
18	BLUNDER	Blunder Masters (1395.3) W37 L12 W32 L7 W26 L8	3.0	36.25	13.5
		Andy Xu (1432) 1.5 Bd: 1			
		Yichi Zhang (1412) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Brian Yu (1374) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Michael Xiao (1363) 5.5 Bd: 4			
19	NORTHW	Northwest University (1454.5) W36 L2 D21 W31 L20 D17	3.0	35.5	13
		Benjamin Mukumbya (2008) 6.0 Bd: 1			
		Guy Argo (1928) 4.5 Bd: 2			
		Walter Borbridge (966) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		James Brennan (unr.) 0.5 Bd: 4			
20	TCW	TCW (1427.0) W38 D7 L1 D21 W19 L9	3.0	35	12.5
		Lily Deng (1844) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Tayseer Khalil (1390) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Ethan Chung (1373) 3.0 Bd: 3			

		Jason Hunter (1101) 5.0 Bd: 4			
21	SARATOGA2	Saratoga High School - Team B (1223.5) L7 W34 D19 D20 W23 L12	3.0	35	12.5
		Anthony Liu (1815) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Yashom Kapoor (1532) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Dhilon Prasad (873) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Omkar Kulkarni (674) 3.0 Bd: 4			
22	PTPH	Pandemic Toilet Paper Hoarders (1319.0) W15 L1 L25 D28 D32 W35	3.0	33	12.5
		NM Joshua Grabinsky (2331) 5.5 Bd: 1			
		Dustin Herker (1276) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Riley Jones (940) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Sawyer Bergstedt (729) 2.0 Bd: 4			
23	QGAMBIT	Queens Gambit (1412.0) W40 L10 W14 L3 L21 W32	3.0	32	14
		Marina Xiao (1511) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Jessica Wang (1445) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Katherine Zhuge (1356) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Ella Guo (1336) 3.0 Bd: 4			
24	BURNS	Burnsville HS Alumni + Bartlett HS (1386.5) W34 L5 L15 W30 L14 W31	3.0	30.25	12
		John Eid (1676) 5.0 Bd: 1			
		Eric Lai (1464) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Cassius Lai (1363) 1.5 Bd: 3			
		Carter Eid (1043) 2.5 Bd: 4			
25	CRYO	Cryogenic Corrosive Kingdom (1059.5) L10 W40 W22 L8 L9 W29	3.0	28	12
		Jonathan Gong (1468) 1.5 Bd: 1			
		Nathan Zhao (1132) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		Katherine Sunny Lu (938) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Zayden Wang (700) 4.0 Bd: 4			
26	FOLSOM2	Folsom High School (1194.0) L3 W28 L13 W35 L18 W37	3.0	26	11
		Hari Rakul Ambethkar (1906) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		Medhansh Koka (1044) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Nishaad Sovani (938) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		Daniel Chang (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 4			
27	FOLSOM	Folsom Chess Club (1686.3) D29 D17 L9 D32 D31 D16	2.5	30	11.5
		NM Arun Dixit (2201) 6.0 Bd: 1			
		Supunay Nagpal (1769) 0.0 Bd: 2			
		Kritin Gopalakrishnan (1619) 4.5 Bd: 3			
		Jeremy Koo (1156) 1.0 Bd: 4			
28	MMTEAM_2	Matchmaker's u1800 Team (974.8) L4 L26 W38 D22 D33 D34	2.5	21.5	10
		Shreyank Krishnan (1146) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Aizvereah Somakandan (951) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Alec Johnson (unr.) 0.0 Bd: 3			
		Axton Boonswang (unr.) 5.0 Bd: 4			
29	THROWTAL	Don't Throw in the Tal (1271.0) D27 L11 D35 W37 L15 L25	2.0	28.75	11.5
		Jose Smokowski (1644) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		Samuel Harris (1466) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Erik Napiwocki (1012) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Grace Lewandowski (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 4			
30	MAVS	Mavs in the West (693.5) D11 L9 D39 L24 D34 D38	2.0	27.5	11
		Vishwath Srinivasan (731) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Matthew Frame (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 2			
		Aaron Henry (unr.) 5.0 Bd: 3			
		Sid Nanjangud (unr.) 4.0 Bd: 4			
31	ABNB	ABNB-UP (982.0) L5 W37 D33 L19 D27 L24	2.0	26.25	10
		Kevin Sun (1213) 0.5 Bd: 1			
		Titus Mei (984) 1.5 Bd: 2			

		Jake Li (873) 2.5 Bd: 3			
		Sean Wu (858) 5.5 Bd: 4			
32	CHECKM8	Bright Chess CheckM8 (1082.3) L2 W36 L18 D27 D22 L23	2.0	24	9
		David Jin (1277) 1.5 Bd: 1			
		Junren Li (1079) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Elizabeth Ying (1078) 4.5 Bd: 3			
		Katherine Ying (895) 1.0 Bd: 4			
33	SARATOGA	Saratoga High School - Team A (1425.5) D35 L16 D31 L14 D28 D36	2.0	20.5	9
		Samik Pattanayak (1463) 5.0 Bd: 1			
		Grant Chen (unr.) 1.5 Bd: 2			
		Jonathan Li (unr.) 2.5 Bd: 3			
		Dhruv Singh (unr.) 0.0 Bd: 4			
34	JASS	JASS (961.8) L24 L21 W40 L17 D30 D28	2.0	18.25	10
		Zixi Ni (1208) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Austin Jin (1153) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Serena Liu (762) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		Sean Yin (724) 2.5 Bd: 4			
35	CARMELB	CARMEL B (699.3) D33 L8 D29 L26 W39 L22	2.0	17	9
		Anukul More (956) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Nolan Jones (701) 1.0 Bd: 2			
		Jimmy Garnes (595) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Tommy Klein (unr.) 4.0 Bd: 4			
36	WIZARDS	Chess Wizards (885.3) L19 L32 L37 D39 W40 D33	2.0	16	11
		Charvi Atreya (944) 2.0 Bd: 1			
		Nandan Jayaprakash (899) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Kyler Shamoun (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 3			
		Stuart Heitschmidt (unr.) 5.0 Bd: 4			
37	LSQUAD	Lightning Squad (554.5) L18 L31 W36 L29 W38 L26	2.0	14.75	7.5
		Ayush Pathy (592) 2.0 Bd: 1			
		Aditya Panikkath (unr.) 0.5 Bd: 2			
		Carlos Rodriguez (unr.) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Raven Davis-Bailey (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 4			
38	WARSAW	Warsaw kings (713.5) L20 L14 L28 W40 L37 D30	1.5	14.5	8.5
		Aiden Carr (920) 0.0 Bd: 1			
		Kaitlyn Evens (752) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		Nate Andersen (616) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Colin Sekora (unr.) 3.0 Bd: 4			
39	MJM	Mechanics' Junior Mavericks (977.3) L13 L15 D30 D36 L35 D40	1.5	12.5	7
		Colin Yi (1303) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Andrew Ballantyne (948) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Adithya Chitta (912) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Shelton Cai (746) 1.0 Bd: 4			
40	2FAM	Two Families (666.3) L23 L25 L34 L38 L36 D39	0.5	8.5	4.5
		Anmol Warman (1187) 1.5 Bd: 1			
		Anjani Chakka (530) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Parthiv Chakka (499) 1.0 Bd: 3			
		Roshan Warman (unr.) 0.0 Bd: 4			

Individual Standings

SwissSys Standings. 2021 US Amateur Team West Championship: Championship (1800+) (Board order)

#/Bd	Name	Rating	Team	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1/1	FM Jason Liang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16041488)	2406	JMECH	marty435	D25	W28	W30
2/1	FM Robert Shlyakhtenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14951916)	2485	AZTS	1e41-0	W24	W32	D7
3/1	IM Joshua Sheng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13974250)	2536	CALC	jjosu	W31	W20	L11
4/1	GM Patrick Wolff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11343406)	2605	1989	amateurt2021	W29	W26	L5
5/1	IM Kesav Viswanadha (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159334)	2457	CALA	kesav	W19	D15	W4
6/1	FM Rayan Taghizadeh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13880825)	2413	CALB	fibrinogen	W18	D27	W8
7/1	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	2502	MECH	kyrongriffith	W30	D13	D2
8/1	FM Jason Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14026495)	2278	TECH1	mathapples	W34	W25	L6
9/1	Theodore Coyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13848228)	2072	CALE	theknightbefore	L12	W33	W21
10/1	Rohan Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15739716)	1905	HARKER	ninjatrick	L15	D16	B---
11/1	IM Bryce Tiglon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14230627)	2498	STAN1	thunderrpanda	W16	D14	W3
12/1	GM Andrey Gorovets (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15229287)	2559	SJCW	gmg	W9	H---	D13
13/1	IM John Donaldson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10270294)	2420	FACT	imjohndonaldson	W33	D7	D12
14/1	Shreya Mangalam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14385521)	2132	BEAT	confused_3	W22	D11	W25
15/1	NM Kevin Pan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14740822)	2278	MSJH	petearrpan	W10	D5	L24
16/1	Shawnak Shivakumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15641965)	2153	SPEEDY	alphaunlimited	L11	D10	W27
17/1	Theo Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	2175	PAWNZ	tabiyiasas	W28	L30	L18
18/1	NM Craig Clawitter (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12800135)	2214	NTRT	craiggoryc	L6	W35	W17
19/1	Ethan Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088362)	2120	RIVRKS	etvat	L5	L24	W31
20/1	NM Alice Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16059648)	2200	QRULE	powerofapoint	W21	L3	W32
21/1	Li Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16742266)	1826	KGAMB	eggonlea	L20	W34	L9
22/1	Avery Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15921044)	1768	PHOFLA	averyyu321	L14	W31	L26
	Kyle Moon						

23/1	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13076084)	2138	COOKIES	moonfawker	L26	L29	W34
24/1	Ashley Pang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15365204)	1954	FLOHR	blobbytheblobfish	L2	W19	W15
25/1	Sina Mohammadi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14116846)	2163	STAN2	sina101	D1	L8	L14
26/1	FM Andy Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559999)	2337	4ISO	falsenarwhal	W23	L4	W22
27/1	WGM Jennifer Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14117950)	2411	HAPY	ahappypawn	W35	D6	L16
28/1	Nathan Zhang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14885012)	2152	WARR	knightgazer05	L17	L1	W35
29/1	NM Sriram Krishnakumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15375510)	2192	WINN	2008king	L4	W23	W33
30/1	NM Jeffrey Wei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14399673)	2208	CALD	overfrost	L7	W17	L1
31/1	Jacob Song (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15410491)	2071	BASIS	jacobsong1	L3	L22	L19
32/1	Aiden Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16850092)	1682	CKIFCAN	harrypotterdh2	B---	L2	L20
33/1	Advay Bansal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16068511)	1979	XCELL	chessforme17	L13	L9	L29
34/1	Shannon Miles (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13103388)	1992	MAGN	dlec	L8	L21	L23
35/1	Saatvik Krishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15210955)	1866	SJCCC	saatvik1	L27	L18	L28
36/2	IM Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)	2467	CALC	josiwales	W44	W54	W57
37/2	FM Dachey Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13147854)	2339	HAPY	1800_strength	W67	D52	W51
38/2	Christopher Wolff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105523)	1889	STAN2	ffl0	W43	D42	W58
39/2	NM Arman Baradaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14466706)	2162	CALD	chessyinstinct	D40	W48	W43
40/2	GM Jim Tarjan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)	2469	MECH	tirantes	D39	D63	D47
41/2	FM Teemu Virtanen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14935806)	2368	CALA	nurmitv	W61	W65	D53
42/2	FM Eugene Yanayt (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12598805)	2265	TECH1	oogee	W64	D38	W52
43/2	NM Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)	2242	JMECH	jij2018	L38	W59	L39
44/2	William Allen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14518410)	1971	BASIS	mrmoney1	L36	W66	W61
45/2	Rahul Malayappan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15171018)	2047	CALE	wingey	W60	W70	W68
46/2	NM Brian Desousa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12243060)	2117	NTRT	briandesousa	L52	W67	D48
47/2	IM Keaton Kiewra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	2459	AZTS	keaton87	D50	W62	D40

	12642647)						
48/2	Alejandro Canales (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16913725)	1738	PAWNZ	lilpix2	W59	L39	D46
49/2	Taylor Curtis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12596716)	2011	4ISO	oyster2000	W56	L53	W66
50/2	Jaden Fang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16733964)	1941	FLOHR	crazykid777	D47	D61	D65
51/2	Nitish Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15494283)	1941	SPEEDY	breathechessalways	L57	W55	L37
52/2	NM Arjun Bharat (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13383606)	2261	CALB	rapiddefeat	W46	D37	L42
53/2	NM Andrew Metrick (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12080490)	2288	1989	finec2	W69	W49	D41
54/2	Evan Ai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14780703)	2058	QRULE	cfalcons8	W68	L36	L62
55/2	Anika Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446678)	1858	HARKER	kirotori	L65	L51	B---
56/2	Musa Jamshed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12930048)	1904	COOKIES	mjammy	L49	W69	L64
57/2	WIM Emily Nguyen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13942431)	2348	STAN1	enguyen2002	W51	W58	L36
58/2	Aria Hoesley (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14631046)	2091	BEAT	pumagirl	W66	L57	L38
59/2	Maurya Palusa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14641168)	2089	WARR	thechosenprince	L48	L43	W67
60/2	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	2084	SJCW	chesspilot01	L45	H---	W63
61/2	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	1999	RIVRKS	smilyface4	L41	D50	L44
62/2	Leo* Jiang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15436232)	1612	CKIFCAN	hi987	B---	L47	W54
63/2	FM Mark Pinto (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10048711)	2200	FACT	bondtrader	W70	D40	L60
64/2	Mat Martello (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13571106)	1938	MAGN	martellochesscoach	L42	W68	W56
65/2	Stephen He (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14726703)	2066	MSJH	knight459	W55	L41	D50
66/2	Ellie Zhang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15491413)	1737	PHOFLA	tamsong	L58	L44	L49
67/2	Krish Matai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16444206)	1861	SJCCC	pawnonfires	L37	L46	L59
68/2	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	1707	KGAMB	lightningdragon8	L54	L64	L45
69/2	Jaisuraj Kaleeswaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14968566)	2086	WINN	jaisuraj	L53	L56	W70
70/2	Prarthan Ghosh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15038196)	1916	XCELL	player2006lucky	L63	L45	L69
71/3	WIM Ashritha Eswaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14044705)	2366	CALA	goldenpuppy	W90	W82	W89
	Joshua Lawson						

72/3	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12809073)	2101	FACT	ncblunder	W79	W104	W81
73/3	Justin Brereton (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12852742)	2042	CALD	jbrere	W104	W105	W78
74/3	NM Christopher Pan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14693153)	2156	CALB	hoodc	W95	W77	D86
75/3	NM Seth Talyansky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14261574)	2279	STAN1	stalyansky	W91	W80	W84
76/3	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	1940	WINN	ashikuzzaman	D89	W103	W79
77/3	FM Guannan Song (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14248794)	2274	HAPY	smurfblayd	W87	L74	W91
78/3	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	2025	JMECH	ninjaforce	W94	W97	L73
79/3	Sricharan Pullela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15580337)	1889	XCELL	sricharan_the_king	L72	W100	L76
80/3	WFM Kimberly Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14268494)	2045	BEAT	nicecream18	W98	L75	L94
81/3	Abhinav Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	2078	SJCW	qing29	W100	H---	L72
82/3	Nicholas Jiang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15273385)	2015	MSJH	nic59832	L92	L71	W96
83/3	IM Alex Costello (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14702870)	2358	AZTS	larax	W96	D101	W104
84/3	NM Michael Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14224170)	2324	CALC	svmind	W88	W85	L75
85/3	Felix Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14709715)	1922	QRULE	closedforce	W102	L84	W101
86/3	NM Tony Kukavica (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13853062)	2261	TECH1	tonyq11	W93	W94	D74
87/3	Eric Zhang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16995898)	1809	SJCCC	ihavethechessskill	L77	W95	W97
88/3	Scotty Song (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15410505)	1853	BASIS	darkrai33	L84	L98	D90
89/3	NM Christopher Chabris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11316425)	2226	1989	christopherchabris	D76	W99	L71
90/3	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	1997	RIVRKS	kclemens	L71	W96	D88
91/3	Kapilan Karunakaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15495877)	1907	SPEEDY	kapilank	L75	W92	L77
92/3	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	1785	HARKER	twangbio	W82	L91	B---
93/3	Stan Hwang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12541467)	1844	MAGN	chessimprov2	L86	W102	W103
94/3	Mikhail Molodyk (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13573825)	1862	STAN2	mmolodyk	L78	L86	W80
95/3	Cody Oldham (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12845687)	1950	NTRT	theripevessel	L74	L87	W105
96/3	Nathan Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16430495)	1831	FLOHR	natey9	L83	L90	L82

97/3	William Sartorio (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14715380)	2063	WARR	unusualkid	W105	L78	L87
98/3	Maxwell Yang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16416795)	1682	PHOFLA	bearpanda2019	L80	W88	L99
99/3	Damon Mosk-Aoyama (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12630337)	1902	4ISO	tgregson	W103	L89	W98
100/3	Ben Keltner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14005153)	2012	CALE	radomado42	L81	L79	W102
101/3	Andrew Gong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16947137)	1531	CKIFCAN	thedude865	B---	D83	L85
102/3	Andrew Wong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16078318)	1679	KGAMB	chessdad2019	L85	L93	L100
103/3	Lisa Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16057292)	1421	COOKIES	goldfish235	L99	L76	L93
104/3	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	1934	MECH	kondsaga	L73	L72	L83
105/3	Mateo Hansen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14907254)	1687	PAWNZ	mateosh	L97	L73	L95
106/4	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	1954	CALB	nathanf314	W139	W132	W126
107/4	Vincent Qin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571968)	1786	FLOHR	chessner666	W135	W128	W118
108/4	Jayden Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16636182)	1596	KGAMB	sparkychesstiger	W133	W125	X137
109/4	Robbie Selwyn (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17281090)	1641	STAN1	rs-tprep	W127	W123	W134
110/4	Leo Yang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16851760)	1522	CKIFCAN	leomaster2012	B---	W135	W133
111/4	Daniel Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)	1462	PAWNZ	daniel_perlov	L122	W138	W139
112/4	Junior Mejia (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14679391)	1602	CALA	junior34601	W128	D118	W119
113/4	Kevin Su (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15799681)	2015	JMECH	bingbongwhoopy	L129	W122	W138
114/4	Adway Sane (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15955692)	1693	XCELL	strikerx235	D131	X137	W140
115/4	David Taylor (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?20005221)	1854	4ISO	logicalpha	W130	D119	W136
116/4	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	2058	SJCW	stratus_junior	X137	H---	W131
117/4	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	1892	MECH	mwncklmann	W138	W131	L135
118/4	Aidan Chen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14696860)	1865	MSJH	minimini5	W124	D112	L107
119/4	Caleb Meyer-Chabris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15117113)	1641	1989	soggywater	W140	D115	L112
120/4	David Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061283)	1820	BASIS	davidbtn	W134	L136	D128
121/4	Pranav Sathish (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	1768	SJCCC	championps	W132	W139	D122

	16464655)						
122/4	Leo Jiang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14738650)	1871	WARR	lionking-ca	W111	L113	D121
123/4	Simona Nayberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14373224)	1906	BEAT	roboro13	W136	L109	W129
124/4	Kyle Chang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16418462)	1663	HARKER	sophisticatedfork	L118	L127	B---
125/4	Karthik Tadepalli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30049262)	unr.	MAGN	therealslim_kt	L126	L108	D130
126/4	Konstantin Zuev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30106301)	1933	TECH1	barrellrider	W125	W129	L106
127/4	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	1795	SPEEDY	3ke31-0	L109	W124	L132
128/4	Nicholas Boldi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15088356)	1883	RIVRKS	nicarmt	L112	L107	D120
129/4	Samuel Ogunsanya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30076948)	1565	STAN2	sacrificethegift	W113	L126	L123
130/4	Jordan Geiger (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30024235)	unr.	COOKIES	jordanmainz	L115	W140	D125
131/4	Joseph Graves (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12429296)	1810	FACT	gravesjl45	D114	L117	L116
132/4	Harrison Barclay (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15613867)	1308	HAPY	babyjohnny	L121	L106	W127
133/4	Alexander Nishio (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14894235)	1891	QRULE	noobfectedxd	L108	W134	L110
134/4	Trevor Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006512)	1435	CALC	sterman	L120	L133	L109
135/4	Kylan Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15280774)	1390	AZTS	asianboy2002	L107	L110	W117
136/4	Alex Linu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)	1652	PHOFLA	ibalek	L123	W120	L115
137/4	Sharvil Trifale (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14940373)	1851	CALE	strifale	F116	F114	F108
138/4	Raymond Ji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14375498)	1592	CALD	zerozx99	L117	L111	L113
139/4	Peter Holzer (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12404393)	1603	NTRT	pedropatzer	L106	L121	L111
140/4	Jaidev Kaleeswaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15875682)	1380	WINN	jaidevk	L119	L130	L114

SwissSys Standings. 2021 US Amateur Team West Championship: Team u/1800 (Board order)

#/Bd	Name	Rating	Team	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2
1/1	Derek Clasby (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15194211)	2327	CHEERIOS	knightmare7724	W13	W16
2/1	NM Arun Dixit (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14607904)	2201	FOLSOM	limelight2727	W14	W39
3/1	Benjamin Mukumbya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	2008	NORTHW	Mukumbya	W25	W15

	16246516)					
4/1	NM Joshua Grabinsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14729181)	2331	PTPH	mateschmate	W31	D11
5/1	Arul Viswanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14490424)	2071	SWAM	hilariouspanda	W37	W24
6/1	John Eid (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12401142)	1676	BURNS	tangomanwest	W20	L8
7/1	Samik Pattanayak (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14833211)	1463	SARATOGA	opening1	W35	L10
8/1	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	1761	2+2=5	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	D38	W6
9/1	Carey Fan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12600936)	1621	NOCHEAT	careyfan	D10	W35
10/1	Lawrence Wong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13706652)	1685	CALF	i936490137	D9	W7
11/1	Lauren Goodkind (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12778910)	1856	LADY	laurengoodkindchess	W39	D4
12/1	Bill Qian (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206304)	1848	CARMELA	lilbillybiscuit	W27	W18
13/1	Hari Rakul Ambethkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15173194)	1906	FOLSOM2	harirakul24	L1	W32
14/1	Jose Smokowski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13746293)	1644	THROWTAL	jsmokowksi	L2	W22
15/1	Vijay Surla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12864769)	1857	TRANQ	v4vnkt	W28	L3
16/1	Aryan Achuthan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15445324)	1551	SJHUNT	chess_star1234	W32	L1
17/1	Anthony Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14372263)	1815	SARATOGA2	antwon_antony	W21	W20
18/1	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	1511	QGAMBIT	programmingmax	W30	L12
19/1	Roland Gadbois (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14623156)	1884	UCLA	epicness77	W33	W29
20/1	Zixi Ni (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16709070)	1208	JASS	zixini	L6	L17
21/1	Brian Sui (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15117217)	1835	WHITNEY	happykind	L17	W34
22/1	Umesh Gopi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14976408)	1729	SQUARES	umgop	W36	L14
23/1	Patrick Kut (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15898438)	1843	TBOLT	pkutchess	L24	W36
24/1	Dillon Holder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13192013)	1795	TECHB	dillonh21	W23	L5
25/1	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	944	WIZARDS	charvii	L3	L28
26/1	Ayush Pathy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14980845)	592	LSQUAD	ayushpathy	L29	L74
27/1	Jonathan Gong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16947143)	1468	CRYO	theutltl	L12	L30
28/1	David Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	1277	CHECKM8	smartgoldfish	L15	W25

	17168834)					
29/1	Andy Xu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16732301)	1432	BLUNDER	vivianandy	W26	L19
30/1	Anmol Warman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14668171)	1187	2FAM	awarman1	L18	W27
31/1	Yannis Angelopoulos (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105577)	unr.	TECHC	yannisang	L4	W37
32/1	Shreyank Krishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16258876)	1146	MMTEAM_2	gambit02	L16	L13
33/1	Aiden Leong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30027355)	1470	BRIGHT	dragonite700	L19	W40
34/1	Lily Deng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16640701)	1844	TCW	deng18	W40	L21
35/1	Anukul More (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16086104)	956	CARMELB	geekykiller	L7	L9
36/1	Vishwath Srinivasan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16418200)	731	MAVS	vsroblox	L22	L23
37/1	Colin Yi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16685250)	1303	MJM	handsomematch	L5	L31
38/1	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	1213	ABNB	kevin_mx_sun	D8	U---
39/1	Devesh Mamidi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15956056)	1376	SUNRISERS	son_of_the_bongcloud	L11	L2
40/1	Aiden Carr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15675424)	920	WARSAW	chessninjacat	L34	L33
41/2	Ryan Nurwono (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30107163)	unr.	WHITNEY	mekaw	W57	W52
42/2	Vishnusankar Jonnalagadda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16457328)	1483	SJHUNT	sankymaru	W50	W58
43/2	Joshua Morris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16590513)	1555	TBOLT	josh2325	D47	W78
44/2	Dharshan Vetrivelan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14968881)	1683	SQUARES	applepen0914	L78	W65
45/2	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	1928	NORTHW	GuyArgo	W64	D55
46/2	Aezed Raza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12656887)	1554	NOCHEAT	aezed	W76	W77
47/2	Vignesh Varadarajan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13911636)	1713	TECHB	discovery123	D43	W60
48/2	Barbara Goodkind (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12778604)	1791	LADY	eatdinner	D49	W71
49/2	Anvitha Penagalapti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315087)	1353	SUNRISERS	kween26	D48	W80
50/2	Aizvereah Somakandan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15279227)	951	MMTEAM_2	0824asomakandan	L42	L62
51/2	Jessica Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16367045)	1445	QGAMBIT	crazyhorse9	W72	D56
52/2	Tayseer Khalil (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248033)	1390	TCW	tayseer4ch	W68	L41

53/2	Yichi Zhang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16812938)	1412	BLUNDER	bored_2_death	W79	L59
54/2	Sritan Devineni (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15586296)	1633	2+2=5	the_nail	W74	W63
55/2	Adam Muhs (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12642226)	1525	TRANQ	ledatic	W69	D45
56/2	Yash Bhargava (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16100156)	1772	CARMELA	hondavtecyo	D66	D51
57/2	Yashom Kapoor (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15248313)	1532	SARATOGA2	yashom	L41	W70
58/2	Hemtej Gundra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15787205)	1594	CHEERIOS	chessplayer-112	W62	L42
59/2	Daniel Zahzouhi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15125045)	1573	UCLA	danielzahzouhi	W61	W53
60/2	Arjun Sankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14542170)	1585	SWAM	knightcanjump	W73	L47
61/2	Elwen Zhao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30014090)	unr.	BRIGHT	elwen200	L59	W68
62/2	Medhansh Koka (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15868904)	1044	FOLSOM2	medhanshkoka	L58	W50
63/2	Eric Lai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12443614)	1464	BURNS	ericylai	W70	L54
64/2	Nandan Jayaprakash (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16292014)	899	WIZARDS	nandanj644	L45	L69
65/2	Samuel Harris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15181090)	1466	THROWTAL	stegabob	W80	L44
66/2	Nathan Zhao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16391574)	1132	CRYO	cryogenicrime	D56	W72
67/2	Hannah Chen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30086838)	unr.	TECHC	chessdog0809	L71	W73
68/2	Kaitlyn Evens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15410987)	752	WARSAW	kaitlyn2024	L52	L61
69/2	Junren Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15230922)	1079	CHECKM8	junren_l	L55	W64
70/2	Austin Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144712)	1153	JASS	austinjin666xd	L63	L57
71/2	Dustin Herker (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16039850)	1276	PTPH	darkabyss144	W67	L48
72/2	Anjani Chakka (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16772287)	530	2FAM	hestia345	L51	L66
73/2	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	948	MJM	andrewaballantyne	L60	L67
74/2	Titus Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16959455)	984	ABNB	thankfuifortune	L54	W26
75/2	Grant Chen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109108)	unr.	SARATOGA	pattothecatto	W77	L76
76/2	Neil Gupta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14082527)	1013	CALF	zmunish	L46	W75
77/2	Nolan Jones (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30071537)	701	CARMELB	nolanjanes	L75	L46

78/2	Matthew Frame (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30093945)	unr.	MAVS	maffywaffy	W44	L43
79/2	Aditya Panikkath (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30103787)	unr.	LSQUAD	adityapanikkath2	L53	L110
80/2	Supunay Nagpal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15873465)	1769	FOLSOM	50up	L65	L49
81/3	Adrien Cheng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16318903)	1385	2+2=5	ricechessmaster1	W110	W117
82/3	Aaron Henry (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30034066)	unr.	MAVS	pizzaboy1696	W113	W99
83/3	Akash Bhowmik (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14722632)	1743	CARMELA	thewarriorstrikes	D93	W95
84/3	Daniela Keller (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12606395)	1758	LADY	danib85	D85	W97
85/3	Darsh Shetty (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16728985)	1264	SUNRISERS	nullmallard	D84	L87
86/3	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	831	CALF	aanval22	D92	W112
87/3	Kritin Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	1619	FOLSOM	krgchess2010	L96	W85
88/3	Elizabeth Ying (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30065057)	1078	CHECKM8	wawama	D91	W119
89/3	Suyuan Gui (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962930)	873	BRIGHT	suyuang	L94	W106
90/3	Raffey, Iqbal Ahamed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30086801)	unr.	TECHB	raffeyc	W99	W101
91/3	Rama Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	1475	TRANQ	draidus	D88	W114
92/3	Dan Gertmenian (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12544775)	1507	NOCHEAT	bruinsuperfan	D86	W107
93/3	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	938	CRYO	2nf31-0	D83	W118
94/3	Abhishek Kylasa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13033458)	1472	UCLA	aenews	W89	D100
95/3	Katherine Zhuge (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16715925)	1356	QGAMBIT	zu92710	W118	L83
96/3	Erik Napiwocki (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17102635)	1012	THROWTAL	wightunderscore	W87	L113
97/3	Riley Jones (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16250692)	940	PTPH	ryejones	W111	L84
98/3	Siddhanth Balaji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16068381)	1444	CHEERIOS	enadapoiuytrewq	W115	D109
99/3	Austin Hepp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16984553)	922	TBOLT	austinhepp	L90	L82
100/3	Brian Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16776123)	1374	BLUNDER	brianesdabest	W104	D94
101/3	Viswanathan Swaminathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14807565)	1185	SWAM	Gratefulbarnacle	W105	L90
	Dhilon Prasad					

102/3	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15587518)	873	SARATOGA2	pr20dhil	L108	W116
103/3	Ethan Chung (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17086860)	1373	TCW	ethanc509	X106	W108
104/3	Carlos Rodriguez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105628)	unr.	LSQUAD	twincarloss	L100	L123
105/3	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	912	MJM	adichi	L101	W111
106/3	Nate Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15675466)	616	WARSAW	bose7777365	F103	L89
107/3	Jimmy Garnes (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30068555)	595	CARMELB	slimjim8511	X112	L92
108/3	Reema Dawar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15744737)	1559	WHITNEY	glowtoad	W102	L103
109/3	Mohnishkirupaa Palani (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16696327)	1473	SJHUNT	chesswarriorsthepro	W120	D98
110/3	Jake Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)	873	ABNB	tanflatpupet	L81	W79
111/3	Limbert Palomino (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105585)	unr.	TECHC	limpal	L97	L105
112/3	Jonathan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109731)	unr.	SARATOGA	jonathanjelli	F107	L86
113/3	Savir Khanna (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15724048)	1163	SQUARES	firesoc	L82	W96
114/3	Walter Borbridge (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15111704)	966	NORTHW	walter2991	W119	L91
115/3	Nishaad Sovani (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16605057)	938	FOLSOM2	chessgenius369	L98	W120
116/3	Serena Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16887121)	762	JASS	shiningcrystal	L117	L102
117/3	Cassius Lai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15855411)	1363	BURNS	CassiusL	W116	L81
118/3	Parthiv Chakka (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16772293)	499	2FAM	carcrazy1	L95	L93
119/3	Kyler Shamoun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17331527)	unr.	WIZARDS	spongebob690	L114	L88
120/3	Alec Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30069218)	unr.	MMTEAM_2	reddragon1952	L109	L115
121/4	Angus Gruen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105599)	unr.	TECHB	syxton	D144	W150
122/4	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	1363	BLUNDER	swimgrass	W149	W151
123/4	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	858	ABNB	dum2020areeews	W155	W104
124/4	Cheryl Lins (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16906321)	1737	LADY	pema_yeshe	L138	W148
125/4	Maxwell Medley (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30062412)	unr.	SQUARES	medleymax1500	W135	W156
126/4	Jason Hunter (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	1101	TCW	thechessfalcon1	W140	W139

	16423236)					
127/4	Aditya Joshi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16655401)	1254	CHEERIOS	SpeedyCheesse123	W147	L132
128/4	Axton Boonswang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30036379)	unr.	MMTEAM_2	superlegos	L132	W147
129/4	Andrew Zou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100762)	unr.	BRIGHT	anicestep	W151	L140
130/4	Jeff Zeidel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105039)	unr.	TECHC	ledize1	X148	W157
131/4	Stuart Heitschmidt (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30083368)	unr.	WIZARDS	stuepat	W158	W153
132/4	Rohan Dash (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15933692)	1412	SJHUNT	chessrohan2	W128	W127
133/4	Ed Pernicka (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30097683)	unr.	TRANQ	copernickas	W153	W158
134/4	Anish Doshi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13252804)	721	CALF	filmic	W143	W159
135/4	Sid Nanjangud (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30103440)	unr.	MAVS	mikhaillesnichy	L125	D144
136/4	Zayden Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17088337)	700	CRYO	zayden1	L152	W160
137/4	Tommy Klein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30098409)	unr.	CARMELB	tommyklein1	X159	L143
138/4	Advik Garg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16429697)	1246	SUNRISERS	vgarg_chess	W124	W154
139/4	Neil Tendolkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14702528)	1472	WHITNEY	ben10dollar	W142	L126
140/4	Colin Sekora (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30103279)	unr.	WARSAW	colinsekora123	L126	W129
141/4	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	1336	QGAMBIT	sunnycountry	W160	W152
142/4	Omkar Kulkarni (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14542274)	674	SARATOGA2	rakmok	L139	W145
143/4	Stan Chao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12672201)	1502	NOCHEAT	stanchao	L134	W137
144/4	Tyson Dang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16984532)	864	TBOLT	tdang2003	D121	D135
145/4	Sean Yin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962464)	724	JASS	seanyin	W146	L142
146/4	Carter Eid (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17172261)	1043	BURNS	masterofdeceit1	L145	W155
147/4	Daniel Chang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17246131)	unr.	FOLSOM2	dcha2127	L127	L128
148/4	Sawyer Bergstedt (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16355805)	729	PTPH	sawyer945	F130	L124
149/4	Raven Davis-Bailey (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30103361)	unr.	LSQUAD	ravenstreetchess	L122	B---
150/4	Sankar Swaminathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14080777)	1173	SWAM	sankarswa	W157	L121
	Brandon Zhao					

151/4	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30108201)	unr.	UCLA	brndnzh	L129	L122
152/4	Oren Jensen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30071337)	817	CARMELA	orenjensen	W136	L141
153/4	Katherine Ying (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30065065)	895	CHECKM8	wawaba	L133	L131
154/4	Jeremy Koo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16879398)	1156	FOLSOM	koojeremy	W156	L138
155/4	Vinesh Jethva (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30035667)	unr.	2+2=5	reachvincj	L123	L146
156/4	Grace Lewandowski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30108139)	unr.	THROWTAL	gracelewandowski	L154	L125
157/4	Shelton Cai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16851095)	746	MJM	nerdyspacey	L150	L130
158/4	James Brennan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109681)	unr.	NORTHW	TheTsarevich	L131	L133
159/4	Dhruv Singh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109704)	unr.	SARATOGA	dhruv995	F137	L134
160/4	Roshan Warman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30106263)	unr.	2FAM	roshanwarman	L141	L136

February 2021 TNM Starts Tuesday February 9th

The Tuesday Night Marathon will begin this Tuesday February 9th. The tournamemt will be six rounds, G/35+2, and games will be manually paired on Chess.com. The tournament will be USCF online rated, and we will play two rounds per evening, the first starting at 6:30pm pacific time and the next at 8pm.

Full details can be found in the tournament announcement here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/february-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/february-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

We look forward to continuing the tradition that is the Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Marathon, where we bring our community together through chess, and invite others to join us as we strive to keep our chess community active and vibrant. We care about fair play, and we care about our players. Join us this Tuesday evening!

To register, please follow this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Feb2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220518070913/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Feb2021TNMOnline)

Thursday Night Marathon Report

GM Gadir Guseinov won a rather quick game against IM Elliott Winslow, where the game quickly went to an endgame that was favorable for Gadir as black. Gadir now leads with 4/4. Mike Walder and Jonah Busch also picked up b

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Newsletter #955

February 13, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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February 2021 TNM Report

The February 2021 edition of the TNM started with 60 players, 3 GM's, 2 IM's 2 FM's and plenty of strong competition for this 6-round G/35+2 USCF rated battle. We have an equal balance in sections, as we have as many players in the top section as there are in the u/1800 section. GM Jim Tarjan faced a tough 2nd round battle with Mechanics' regular David Askin, who was able to fight the game out to a draw. IM Josiah Stearman faced a tough 2nd round match with Daniel Lin, but took advantage of a mistake late in the game and under time pressure to get the win. Another upset in the first 2 rounds was a fine win by Vishva Nanugonda, who upset NM Alice Lee in round 1. Alice is the nation's top ranked 11 year old girl and will certainly be a force in women and girls chess in the years to come. In the under 1800 section, six players are at the top with 2/2 headed into next week.

GM Nick de Firmian will join our commentary team starting this Tuesday, as we will need his expertise as we figure to have elite action for rounds three and four. It will be a fun and exciting evening next week, tune in for all the action by following our Twitch channel here: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

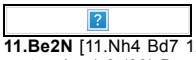
Here are some game from the first two rounds, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Lin (SmilyFace4),Daniel (2047) - IM Stearman (josiwales),Josiah (2658) [A45]

MI February TNM Chess.com (2.4), 09.02.2021

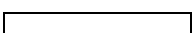
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Qb3 c4 [Nowadays keeping the tension with 5...Nc6 6.Nd2 *(6.Qxb6 axb6 7.Bc7* is a bit of a scare, but Gelfand has it all under control: *7...Nd7 8.Nf3 e6 9.Bb5 Be7 10.Nbd2 Bd8* ½-½ (67) Grischuk,A (2810)-Gelfand,B (2743) Beijing 2014*)* 6...e6 is most sensible *(6...c4 7.Qc2 Nh5 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Be2 Ng7 11.Bg3 Bf5 12.Qc1 e6* was a little something, enough for Magnus: 1-0 (41) Carlsen,M (2832)-So,W (2812) Leuven 2017*; 6...Qxb3!?* everybody has taken to open the a-file (one of the main points in the London System), but after *7.axb3 e6* Black has scraped up a couple wins (and three draws, no losses) for a fine showing*.)* 7.Ngf3 Be7 8.Qc2 Bd7 9.Rd1 Rc8 10.Qb1 Another motif -- the d-pawn was threatened! 10...Nh5 11.Bg3 g6 12.Bd3 0-0 13.0-0 Nxg3 And here: waiting for White to castle before exchanging, so as not to give White the h-file for the rook 14.hxg3 Qc7 15.Rfe1 Rfd8 16.a3 b6 17.b4 Bf6 18.Bf1 a5 19.b5 Ne7 20.a4 cxd4 21.cxd4 Qc2 22.Qa1 Qc3 23.Qa2 Qc2 24.Qa1 Qc3 25.Qa2 Qc2 26.Qa1 1/2-1/2 (26) Nihal,S (2620)-Fressinet,L (2635) chess24.com INT 2020] **6.Qc2 g6 7.Nd2** [7.b3!? Bf5 8.Qd1 cxb3 9.axb3 could try to take over the center after castling with c4.] **7...Bf5 8.Qc1 Nc6** Black has nothing to fear now, but with the rating difference he still wants to outplay his opponent somehow. **9.Ngf3 Rc8 10.h3 h5**



11.Be2N [11.Nh4 Bd7 12.b3 cxb3 13.axb3 a5 14.Qb2 Bg7 15.Bd3 Na7 16.0-0 Bb5 17.c4 Bxc4 18.Bxc4 dxc4 19.Rfc1 cxb3 20.Rxc8+ Nxc8 21.Nxb3 White recovered the pawn and actually went on to win: 1-0 (30) Bencze,L (2213)-Juhasz,B (2184) Berekfurdo 2010] **11...Bg7 12.0-0 0-0 13.b3 cxb3 14.axb3 Ne4 15.c4 Nxd2 16.Nxd2**

16...e5?! [16...dxc4 17.bxc4 e5! since now on 18.c5 (Better here is 18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.e4 *(19.Qa3 Rfd8 20.e4 Be6 21.Qxa7 Nxc4* is no worse for Black*)* 19...Be6 20.Be3 Qc7 21.Rxa7 Nxc4 22.Nxc4 Bxc4 23.Bxc4 Qxc4 24.Qxc4 Rxc4 25.Rxb7 Rxe4 with nothing for either side to play for.) there is 18...Qb4!] **17.dxe5?** [17.c5! Qc7 18.dxe5 Bxe5 19.Bxe5 Qxe5 20.Nf3 White has some prospects on the queenside.] **17...Nxe5** Now Black can take this way, with some advantage. **18.Qa3 dxc4?** [18...Nd3!?] **19.Bxe5 Bxe5 20.Nxc4**



20...Rxc4?! 21.Bxc4 Bxa1 22.Rxa1 Rd8?! [22...a6 23.Qe7 Be6 24.Bxe6 Qxe6 25.Qxb7 Rd8+/=] **23.Qxa7**

White is clearly better. **23...Rd1+ 24.Kh2 Qc7+ 25.g3?** And Black is back in the game. [25.f4 Rd2 26.Ra2+/- Bc2? 27.Qa4 Qe7 28.Qa5+- White keeps harrassing Black.] **25...Rd2 26.e4?**

[26.Kg1 White can hold] **26...h4!** White must be very careful now! **27.exf5 Qxg3+ 28.Kh1 Rxf2**

29.Qxf2?? [29.Bxf7+! first; now Black has to let White pick up a couple pawns before the queen sacrifice. 29...Kh7 *(29...Kxf7?? 30.Qxb7+ Kf6 31.Ra6+* and White is completely winning!*)* 30.fxg6+ *(30.Bxg6+?? Kh6 31.Qxf2 Qxf2 32.Rg1 Qe3 33.Kh2 Qe5+ 34.Kh1 Qc3 35.Kh2 Kg7)* 30...Kh6 31.Qxf2 Qxf2 32.Rg1 Kg7 33.Rg4= is a standstill. Amusingly it's Black who is blockading White, although that's not what is usually meant by a "blockade" in chess.] **29...Qxf2 30.Rf1 Qg3** The h-pawn goes and then Black's passer is a problem. **31.fxg6 Qxh3+ 32.Kg1 Qe3+** [32...Qg3+ 33.Kh1 Qxg6?? 34.Rg1= not a loss, but after what came just now it feels like one.; 32...b5!-+ is a good time for firing the last bullet.] **33.Kh2**

33...b5? [33...Qg3+ 34.Kh1 Qh3+ 35.Kg1 b5 is the right moment!] **34.Bxf7+! Kg7**

35.Rg1! Even without White's h-pawn, this is a blockade. **35...Qf4+ 36.Kh3 Qe3+ 37.Kh2 Qf2+ 38.Rg2 Qf1 39.Rg1 Qf5 40.Rg2 Qc8 41.Rg1 Kf6 42.Rg2 Ke7 43.Rg1 Qc2+ 44.Rg2 Qc8 45.Rg1 Kf6 46.Rg2 Kg7 47.Rg1 h3** A sort of last try. **48.Rg3 Qf5 49.Rxh3?!** Still 0.00, but Josiah has a dream now -- and Daniel's path narrows considerably. A king move, 49.Rc3, even 49.b4 (since the b3 square is locked up) all draw smoothly. **49...Qf2+ 50.Kh1 Kf6**

and with 49 seconds left White thinks for all his time and finds **51.Rh6??** [Easiest is 51.b4! which paradoxically gives the rook b3! Again: dead drawn.; Also a safe square is 51.Rh7; and even 51.Rh8 is fine!] **51...Qe1+** An interesting and exciting game from start to finish -- and Daniel Lin was so close to a draw at the end! [Blunter was 51...Qf1+ 52.Kh2 Qf4+ but he resigned in any case.] **0-1**

(2) Lenderman (AlexanderL),Aleksandr (2739) - Finkelstein (stratus_junior),Alan (1974) [D10]

MI February TNM Chess.com (1.1), 09.02.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 The Exchange Slav might be symmetrical at first, but it would be a mistake to think it's harmless. Imbalances can be brought about, creating chances for an interesting game. And White can't be too complacent either; sometimes it is Black who takes over an initiative. **3...cxd5 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.e3**

Like the "Modern" London System. [if the "natural" 5.Nc3 then Black could continue normally -- or "scramble" with 5...e5!?] **5...Nf6** [Seeing how the game goes Black could step up first with 5...a6!? and indeed, this is how Kamsky played back in 2015 against Nakamura in what must have been an important game. 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bd3 and it's back to a few thousand instances.] **6.Bb5!?** In chess school it's "Knights Before Bishops" -- and indeed in the Mega 2020 database there are a whole five games, vs. almost 9000 with the position after 6.Nc3. But very recently even (that is, since then) this extremely early position is being shaken up! [6.Nc3 a6!? (with some transposition games) has become the most popular line now, by over a thousand games -- so "Why not get there first?" is the question inventive players have been asking themselves. Here's an example via that Naka-Gata game: 7.Bd3 e6 8.Rc1 Bd6 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.Nf3 0-0 11.0-0 Bd7 12.Na4= Nb4 13.Bb1 Bxa4?! 14.Qxa4 Rfc8 15.Ne5 b5?! 16.Qa5 Ne8? 17.Rxc8 Rxc8 18.a3 f6 19.axb4 fxe5 20.dxe5 Qxe5 21.Qxa6 and White was winning -- but didn't: ½-½ (40), Nakamura,H (2816)-Kamsky,G (2680), Millionaire Open playoff-B match, Las Vegas 2015] **6...e6** [Caruana played 6. Bb5 in a high-profile game last October -- and Lenderman hae already taken it up before this game. 6...Bd7 7.Nc3 e6 *(7...a6 8.Bd3 Bg4 9.Nge2 e6 10.0-0 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 Be7 12.a3 0-0 13.Na4* 1-0 (94) Caruana,F (2828)-Duda,J (2757) Stavanger Oct 6, 2020. This actually varies on an earlier game from 1999(!)*.)* 8.Nf3 Be7 9.h3 0-0 10.0-0 Rc8 11.Rc1 h6 12.Bd3 a6 13.Qe2 Qa5 14.a3 b5 15.Ne5 Rfd8 16.Bb1 b4 17.axb4 Bxb4 18.Qf3 Be7 19.Nxd7 Nxd7 20.Rfd1 Qb4+/- 1-0 (33) Lenderman,A (2624)-Wheeler,C (2398) chess.com Jan 6, 2021] **7.Nc3 Bd6** After the dark-square bishops trade off, (and a case can be made for it happening on d6, f4, or g3) Black will have a "bad bishop" -- but with a little care it shouldn't make too much of a difference. **8.Nge2!?** Knights don't always have to go to B3 (Bishop Three -- old-style "Descriptive Notation")! **8...0-0 9.0-0 Bxf4 10.Nxf4 Qd6** [There's nothing wrong with 10...Bd7] **11.Bxc6**

11...bxc6?! Weak pawn (c6), weak square (c5) -- even if Black gets in ...e5. **12.Rc1+/- Ba6 13.Re1 Nd7 14.Qa4 c5?!** [Better to retreat the bishop 14...Bb7 15.Nd3 Rfc8 16.Nb1! and c5 is locked up. 16...c5? 17.Qa3 as in the game] **15.Qa3** and White wins the pawn **15...Qc6** [15...Bb7 16.Nd3 Qa6!? 17.Qxa6 Bxa6 18.Nxc5 Nxc5 19.dxc5 Rab8 20.b3 Rfc8 21.Na4 hangs on to the booty.] **16.dxc5 Rfc8 17.Red1 g5?!**

An unhealthy provocation! [17...Bb7] **18.Nfxd5! exd5 19.Nxd5 Qe6 20.c6+-** White wins back a rook for knight when it's rook and a lot of pawns for bishop and knight. **20...Nb8 21.Ne7+ Kg7 22.Nxc8 Bxc8 23.Rd8 Nxc6 24.Qf8+ Kg6 25.Rd6** AlexanderL won by resignation. An interesting game for opening theory, and a lesson in premature liberation. **1-0**

(3) GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes) (2435) - David_Askin (2035) [B10]

Live Chess Chess.com, 09.02.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 This variation against the Caro-Kann opens up the game and gets a more dynamic position at the cost of an isolated queen-pawn. **4...Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 Bf5 8.Nf3 e6 9.d4 Nc6 10.0-0 Be7**

David is not intimidated by his grandmaster opponent and has gotten everything developed to good squares. The position is fully equal for Black and he could even gain the advantage if White can't generate play to compensate the isolated d-pawn. **11.d5!?** Eliminating the problem of the isolated pawn, but simplifying into a game that is hard to win. It's hard to believe that Tarjan was satisfied with this positon having the white pieces. **11...Nxd5 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Qxd5 Qxd5 14.Bxd5 0-0** Can grandmaster Jim grind down his lower rated opponent from this simple symmetrical position? **15.Bg5 Rab8 16.Rac1 Bxg5 17.Nxg5 Nb4 18.Bb3 Nd3?!** This complicates the game by allowing the white rook to the seventh. Simply equal was [18...Nc6] **19.Rc7 Bg6 20.Rd1** [20.f4! would gain some edge. 20...Rfc8 21.Re7 Kf8 *(21...Re8 22.Rxf7!)* 22.Re3 gives Black troubles] **20...Rfc8 21.Rxc8+ Rxc8 22.h3?!** [22.Kf1] **22...Rc1 23.Rxc1 Nxc1 24.Bd5 Nd3** simplifying, but [24...b6! may even be better for Black] **25.Bxb7 Nxb2 26.Nf3 Kf8 27.Ne5 Bb1 28.Bd5 f6 29.Nc6 a6 30.Kf1 Bd3+?!** [30...Ke8 is more useful to bring the black king to the battleground] **31.Ke1 Bb5 32.Kd2 Nc4+ 33.Kc3** White is getting some chances in this simple endgame as his king is more active. **33...Nb6 34.Bf3 Ke8 35.Kb4 Kd7 36.Nd4 Bf1 37.a3** [More aggressive is 37.a4 g6 38.a5 Nc4 39.Be2 Bxe2 40.Nxe2 Nd6 41.Kc5 with play against the a6 pawn. This is of course much easier to see in the post-mortem with the computer than with live with little time.] **37...Nc4 38.Bg4+ Kd6** [38...Kc7 39.Ne6+ Kb6 40.Nxg7 a5+ 41.Kb3 Nd2+ 42.Kc2 Nc4 holds the draw] **39.Bf3** [39.Nf5+ Kc6 40.Ng3! Bd3 41.Kc3 Ne5 42.Bd1 Bg6 43.f4 Nd7 44.Kd4 still keeps the edge] **39...Ne5** [39...a5+! 40.Ka4 Nd2 41.Ba8 Kc5] **40.Be4 Kc7?** [40...Nd3+!] **41.f4?** [41.Ne6+ Kd6 42.Nxg7 wins a pawn with excellent chances to convert] **41...Nd3+ 42.Bxd3 Bxd3 43.Ne6+ Kd6 44.Nxg7 Bf1?!**

[44...Kd5] **45.Nh5?** [45.Nf5+! Ke6 46.Ne3 Be2 47.g4 is a winning position. White has and extra pawn and the black king can't cause trouble here.] **45...Bxg2 46.Nxf6 Bxh3 47.Nxh7** The extra pawn isn't enough here as there are only two white pawns left and the black bishop works well on both sides of the board. **47...Bf1 48.Ng5 Ke7 49.Ne4 Ke6 50.Ka5 Bb5 51.Nc5+ Kf5 52.Nxa6 Be2 53.Nc5 Kxf4 54.Kb6 Ke5 55.a4 Kd6 56.a5 Ke7 57.a6 Bxa6 1/2-1/2**

(4) Lardent (dashrndrx),Ranen (1805) - IM Winslow (ecwinslow),Elliott (2253) [A27]

MI February TNM Chess.com (2.6), 09.02.2021

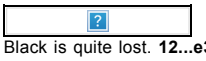
[de Firmian,Nick]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 [2...d6 is another way to prepare the aggression: 3.Nf3 (3.d4!? tries to take advantage of Black's lazy ...d6, but: 3...exd4 *(3...Nd7)* 4.Qxd4 Nf6 *(4...Nc6* right away is fine*)* 5.g3 Nc6 6.Qd2 Be6 7.Nd5 Ne5 8.b3 Ne4 9.Qe3 Nc5 10.Bb2 c6 11.Nf4 Ng4 12.Qd4

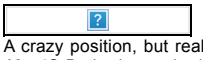
12...Ne4! 13.Bh3 Qa5+ 14.Kf1 Ngxf2 0-1 (28) Huebner,R (2605) -Kasparov,G (2715) Hamburg 1985) 3...f5!? (the most popular move here!) 4.d4 e4 (when at least there is no 5.d5 or knights going to h4)] **3.Nf3** [In the old days it was like the Closed Sicilian (Reversed): 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7] **3...f5!?** [3...g6?! 4.d4!; 3...Nf6 is the Four Knights English with ongoing theoretical disputes even almost fifty years after Korchnoi-Karpov games.] **4.d4!** The principled response. **4...e4 5.Bg5** [5.d5!? exf3 6.dxc6 fxg2 *(6...bxc6!?* what a mess*)* 7.cxd7+ Qxd7 8.Qxd7+ Bxd7 9.Bxg2 c6 *(9...0-0-0)* 10.Bf4 is a curious line with suspect pawns or both sides. 10...Bb4!?N and Black is almost better.; 5.Ng5 has come out on top in the theoretical battle.] **5...Nce7?!**

Of the over fifty games in the database with 5.Bg5, this was played ... once. But with a high pedigree. [5...Be7! 6.Bxe7 Ncxe7! is the line everybody knows. And they know 7.Ng1! as well, with another foreign English landscape that has done pretty well for White.; 5...Nf6!? 6.Nd2 *(*Nobody has tried *6.Nh4!?* here*)* 6...h6] **6.Nh4!** [6.Nd2 h6 7.Bxe7? *(7.Bh4! g5 8.Bg3* and White's ready to bust Black up. *8...f4? 9.e3! Ng6 10.Qh5 Kf7 11.Ndxe4 fxg3 12.fxg3!* with a big attack (Bd3, 0-0+)*)* 7...Nxe7? *(7...Bxe7 8.e3 Nf6=* or even a bit for Black*)* 8.e3 White is better as in many lines of this opening, but slipped up later: 8...g6 9.g4! Bg7 10.gxf5 Nxf5 11.Qg4 Ne7 12.Qxe4 0-1 (31) Lautier,J (2658)-Petrosian,T (2600) Paris 2009] **6...h6?** [6...g6 7.f3 exf3 8.gxf3 White takes over the center with an eventual e4] **7.Ng6! hxg5 8.Nxh8** If Black thought he was going to pick up that knight... **8...g6**

9.h4! g4 10.h5! gxh5 11.Rxh5 Nf6 12.Rh1



Black is quite lost. **12...e3!?** The threat of Qd2-g5 was more than Black could stand, so the dice are rolled. **13.Qc1! f4 14.fxe3 d5**



A crazy position, but really? Still lost. **15.exf4** [15.e4! Nxe4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Qxf4 is disaster on f7 or f6 17...Be6 18.Qf6 Qd7 19.Rh7 or e7!] **15...Bf5 16.e3 Bg7 17.cxd5 Nexd5 18.Bc4 c6 19.e4?** Both players had over 18 minutes left, so it's hard to explain what madness afflicted White here. [19.Qd2+- Time to get that extra rook into the game!] **19...Nxe4** It seems that Black is now drawing, if the "0.00" means anything from Stockfish. **20.Rh5?** and now it passes to Black. [20.Bxd5 cxd5 21.Qe3 Qb6 22.Rd1 (22.0-0-0?? Rc8 and the knight never got out. *(*or right away *22...Qf6)*)] **20...Nexc3** [20...Qe7!? 21.Rxf5 Qh4+ 22.Kd1 Qh1+ 23.Kc2 Qxg2+ 24.Ne2 Qf3 is still trouble] **21.bxc3 Qf6** Black humanly focuses on the knight. **22.Bxd5 cxd5 23.Qe3+?!**

[23.Qa3] **23...Kf8??** [23...Kd7! was the way to do it! Black's king can head to the queenside for safety.] **24.Kd2! Re8**

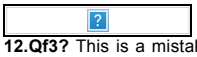
25.Qf2? [25.Qg3 puts key pressure on the g-pawn: 25...Bxh8 26.Re1! Rxe1 27.Qxe1 Black still has 27...Bg6! 28.Rxd5 Qb6 and White is under fire even after 29.f5 Bf7] **25...Bxh8** [25...Be4!] **26.Rah1** [26.Re1 Be4 27.Qg3 Bg7! 28.Qxg4 Qb6 It's White's king again.] **26...Bg7 27.Rg5 Be4 28.Rxg4 Qa6 29.Qg3 Qxa2+ 30.Ke3 Bxg2+ 31.Kd3 Qe2#** ecwinslow won by checkmate **0-1**

(6) Maximillian Katz (malletpercussion) (1541) - Michael Xiao (swimgrass) (1452) [C10]

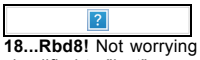
Live Chess Chess.com, 09.02.2021

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 The Rubenstein Variation of the French. Black gets free development at the cost of giving White a little space in the center. **4...Be7 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nxf6+ Bxf6 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.c3 0-0 9.0-0 e5** A good break to open the diagonal for the light-squared bishop and even the battle for the center squares. **10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5**



12.Qf3? This is a mistake [Interesting was 12.Bxf7+!? Kxf7 13.Qh5+ Ke6 14.f4 Bd6 15.c4 and the black king's position in the center will likely require Black to return the piece.] **12...Qd6?** [12...Qh4! 13.g3 Qxc4 simply wins the bishop] **13.g3 Rb8 14.Rd1 Qg6 15.Bf4?** A serious oversight. [15.Qe3 gets out of the threatened skewer and attacks a7] **15...Bg4 16.Qe3 Bxf4 17.Qxf4 Bxd1 18.Rxd1**



18...Rbd8! Not worrying about the c7 pawn is the right decision. Activating the forces lets Black keep control. **19.Rxd8 Rxd8 20.Qxc7 Rd1+ 21.Kg2 Qc6+! 22.Qxc6 bxc6** swimgrass has simplified to "just" one extra point - exchange for pawn. Yet this is a straightforward win with good technique. The black rook is clearly more powerful than the white bishop. **23.Kf3 Rd2! 24.b4 Rc2 25.Bb3 Rxc3+ 26.Ke4 Kf8** The last important thing for Black to do is activate the king, and swimgrass does that. **27.f4 Ke7 28.Kd4 Rf3 29.Kc5 Rc3+ 30.Kd4 Rc1 31.g4 f6 32.h4 Rf1 33.Ke3 Rh1 34.h5 Kd6 35.Ke4 Re1+ 36.Kf5 Re3 37.Bg8 h6 38.Kg6! Re4!** malletpercussion has done a fine job to try for counterplay with the active white king on g6. It's just not enough though. The hungry black rook gets the white pawns. **39.Kxg7 Rxf4 40.Kxh6 Rxg4 41.Bf7 Ke7 42.Bg6 Kf8 43.Kh7 Rxb4 44.h6 Rg4 45.Bf5 Rg5** Careful technique makes it easy. The white king is confined to the h-file so the white pawn can't advance. **46.Bd7 c5 47.Kh8 c4 48.Ba4 c3 49.h7 f5 50.Bc2 f4 51.a4 f3 52.a5 f2 53.Bd3 c2** swimgrass won on time **0-1**

SwissSys Standings. 2021 February TNM: 1800+ (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
1	**GM Aleksandr Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)**	12787646	2704	alexanderl	W25	W10	2.0
2	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2673	gguseinov	W26	W12	2.0
3	**FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2504	kyrongriffith	W15	W11	2.0

4	IM Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)	14006506	2491	josiwales	W16	W13	2.0
5	FM Eric Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	15688436	2344	kingandqueen2017	W28	W19	2.0
6	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W18	W14	2.0
7	GM Jim Tarjan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)	10991820	2469	tirantes	W27	D8	1.5
8	David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)	13776967	2023	david_askin	W20	D7	1.5
9	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	12517167	1928	GuyArgo	H---	W25	1.5
10	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	14958842	2066	stratus_junior	W24	L1	1.0
11	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2056	ninjaforce	W29	L3	1.0
12	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	12906142	2034	artliou	W30	L2	1.0
13	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	2009	smilyface4	W21	L4	1.0
14	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	mangonel	W22	L6	1.0
15	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	16291100	1890	twangbio	L3	W29	1.0
16	Javier Silva (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1889	j3chess24	L4	W30	1.0
17	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1869	mwncklmann	H---	H---	1.0
18	Ranen Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1820	dashrndrx	L6	W26	1.0
19	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1817	3ke31-0	W23	L5	1.0
20	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	joseph_truelsons_fan	L8	W27	1.0
21	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	14436451	1757	chessp1234	L13	W28	1.0
22	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	12931024	1622	mechanjin	L14	B---	1.0
23	NM Alice Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16059648)	16059648	2200	powerofapoint	L19	H---	0.5
24	Alexander Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465198)	16465198	1803	TNM2021	L10	H---	0.5
25	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	L1	L9	0.0
26	NM Tom Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	L2	L18	0.0
27	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	knvsback	L7	L20	0.0
28	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	a-boy415	L5	L21	0.0
29	Kevin Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L11	L15	0.0

	17254586)						
30	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1767	pgstar3	L12	L16	0.0

SwissSys Standings. 2021 February TNM: u/1800 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
1	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	12716964	1635	thedarkbishop	W26	W13	2.0
2	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	W18	W14	2.0
3	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1493	programmingmax	W19	W22	2.0
4	Jahaan Ansari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?21004356)	21004356	1446	jah23	W29	W9	2.0
5	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	W21	W11	2.0
6	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1183	sebbymeister	W23	W12	2.0
7	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	12797931	1789	kingsmasher35	D8	W16	1.5
8	Michael Jannetta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15172933)	15172933	1166	gm_fobby_bischer	D7	W24	1.5
9	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1679	giorgostsolias	W17	L4	1.0
10	Reka Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14656444)	14656444	1533	coachreka	H---	H---	1.0
11	Maximillian Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13994425)	13994425	1515	malletpercussion	W27	L5	1.0
12	Nicholas Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	12446259	1495	nmbrown2	W28	L6	1.0
13	Daniel R Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)	16465203	1463	Daniel_Perlov	W20	L1	1.0
14	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1337	sfdeals	W30	L2	1.0
15	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	16897133	1293	pjkrizzle	L22	W25	1.0
16	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	16738735	1190	victor6688	W31	L7	1.0
17	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1151	andrewballantyne	L9	W29	1.0
18	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	16551291	977	figsnoring	L2	W30	1.0
19	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	16816706	944	charvii	L3	W31	1.0
20	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	16802870	907	dum2020areeews	L13	W26	1.0
21	Samuel Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	16380615	673	comfyqueso	L5	W27	1.0
22	Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)	30032406	unr.	austin809	W15	L3	1.0
23	Rajtilak Jagannathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	30109752	unr.	rtindru	L6	W28	1.0

	30109752)						
24	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1446	echesmike	D25	L8	0.5
25	**Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30037403)**	30037403	812	vincitore51745	D24	L15	0.5
26	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	1037	bruce_hedman	L1	L20	0.0
27	**Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)**	30055583	1026	night_breeze	L11	L21	0.0
28	**Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)**	16695036	976	adichi	L12	L23	0.0
29	**Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)**	30032729	861	dribbler23	L4	L17	0.0
30	**Abhirup Mukherjee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17149023)**	17149023	672	phantom_beast23	L14	L18	0.0
31	**Aidan Cumbo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118987)**	30118987	unr.	worsepot	L16	L19	0.0

Thursday Night Marathon Report

GM Gadir Guseinov won the Jan-Feb Thursday Night Marathon after securing a draw against NM Mike Walder in the final round. That draw for Walder also put him in a tie for 2nd place with 4/5, along with IM Elliott Winslow and Vishva Nanugonda, who capitalized by a blunder from Arthur Liou from a losing position to turn things around and win. Congratulations also to under prize winners Bryan Hood, Marina Xiao, and Kevin Sun.

Our next Thursday Night Marathon will begin February 25th, and will go on until March 25th. To register, please follow this link:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021)

Tentative final results are below

SwissSys Standings. Jan-Feb 2021 Thursday Night Marathon: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2700	gguseinov	W13	W4	W5
2	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W14	W10	W11
3	**NM Mike Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2106	FlightsOfFancy	W20	W17	D6
4	**Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)**	16380312	1795	3Ke31-0	W30	L1	W14
5	**Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)**	15176393	2009	SmilyFace4	W21	W18	L1
6	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1997	kclemens	W22	W32	D3
7	**Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)**	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W26	W28	D16
8	**NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)**	10490936	1900	talenuf	L23	W22	W15
9	**Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)**	12458563	1835	knvsback	W33	H---	H---
10	**Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)**	16434922	1809	uzkuzk	W27	L2	W25
11	**Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	12906142	2034	artliou	W25	W23	L2

	12906142)						
12	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	12797931	1789	KingSmasher35	W34	L16	L20
13	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	11296106	1643	zenwabi	L1	W33	L28
14	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L2	W27	L4
15	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1551	maxskiff	L16	W30	L8
16	FM Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W15	W12	D7
17	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W38	L3	L23
18	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	13742111	1700	LudiMagisterJosephus	W35	L5	W32
19	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1560	jacobchess857	H---	W37	W29
20	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1519	rimus11	L3	W38	W12
21	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	16154827	1416	NXBex	L5	W35	W24
22	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	16497860	1406	loltheawesomedude	L6	L8	W30
23	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1158	kevin_mx_sun	W8	L11	W17
24	Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)	13836822	1652	ibalek	L28	W26	L21
25	Yali Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1428	noydan100	L11	W34	L10
26	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L7	L24	W38
27	Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)	12693378	1018	rahimftd	L10	L14	W34
28	Alexander Casassovici (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101063)	30101063	unr.	zatmonkey	W24	L7	W13
29	Reka Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14656444)	14656444	1533	rekasztaray	H---	W31	L19
30	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	954	adichi	L4	L15	L22
31	Raphael Hofmann (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30103963)	30103963	unr.	justkidding3	H---	L29	W37
32	Edward Pernicka (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30097683)	30097683	unr.	copernickas	B---	L6	L18
33	Andrew Fu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16403798)	16403798	1152	geese	L9	L13	L35
34	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	851	Bruce_Hedman	L12	L25	L27
35	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	843	caodanny	L18	L21	W33
36	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1766	pgstar3	H---	U---	U---
	Jared Michael Ruiz						

37	**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30106002)**	30106002	unr.	jpoka1	H---	L19	L31
38	**Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)**	17144246	946	TanFlatPupet	L17	L20	L26

Dr. Alexey Root

WIM Dr. Alexey Root has released an article highlighting positions from four games from the recently concluded US Amateur Team West Championship. There were tactics galore in that event and we are proud that Alexey has given readers the opportunity to enjoy some more games from that event. Read her article by following this link:

https://www.sparkchess.com/chess-us-amateur-team-west.html (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.sparkchess.com/chess-us-amateur-team-west.html)

Enjoy!

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 migh be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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, 2/16: https://www.chess.com/live#r=943710 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.chess.com/live#r=943710)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 2/18: https://www.chess.com/live#r=943711 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.chess.com/live#r=943711)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20220129010006/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - Game Review Class with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: Starting Feb 1 - Monday
   Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**
   New session started 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/20220129010006/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **NEW Class: The Art of Defense! with FM Paul Whitehead**

   Course Dates: March 3 through April 7 (6 classes)
   We all want to attack, but to be comfortable and skillful at defense is just as important.
   Learn how to safeguard your king and drum up counter play using chapters and examples taken from The Art of Defense in Chess, by Polugaevsky and Damsky (1988).
   Stalemate, Blockade, Trench Warfare, Counterattack, Traps: these are just a few of the concepts we will take up in this six-week course.
   Be prepared for a little homework - and become a chess player who's hard to beat!
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead)

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:

2/16 Tuesday - **February 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon**
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/february-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/february-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Join Now! Starts February 25: February/March 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/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/20220129010006/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/20220129010006/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/20220129010006/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)

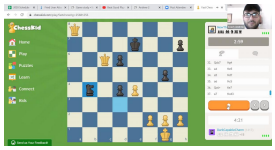
Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Presidents Day Chess Camp - Learn about the games of our Presidents!

We are gearing up for another fun 1-day chess camp on Monday, February 15, to celebrate our Presidents and study their chess games! Camps are 3 hours long in the morning from 9AM until 12PM and we have a fun combination of game analysis, discussion, puzzles, tournaments and more.
To register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/PresidentsDayChessCamp

Save the date: Mar 29 - Apr 2 - Spring Break Camp - Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp



Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129010006/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)
Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Saturday Feb 13: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=304397 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=304397)
- Sunday, Feb 14: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=304398 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=304398)
- Tuesday, Feb 16: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=336403 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=336403)
- Wednesday, Feb 17: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=336404 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=336404)
- Thursday, Feb 18: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=336405 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=336405)
- Friday, Feb 19: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=336406 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=336406)

2) USCF Online Rated tournaments on chesskid.com: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)
2/15 - Monday 3PM: 6SS G/10+2 Special Event: 2021 Presidents Day Scholastic Championship
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/SpecialPresidentsDayTournamentFeb15MON (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/SpecialPresidentsDayTournamentFeb15MON)
2/21 - Sunday 2PM: 8SS G/5+2

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentFeb21SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010006/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentFeb21SUN)

Scholastic Game of the Week

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

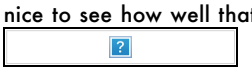
(5) BestMiddleSun (1595) - KindMagneticFist (1435) [D20]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian,Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 e5 4.Bxc4 exd4 5.exd4 Nf6 6.Nf3 White has the isolated queen pawn but nice active pieces. A common situation for the Queen's Gambit Accepted. **6...Bf5?!** This should lead to trouble. Much better is to develop the other bishop to e7 and castle to safety. **7.0-0** This is good, but [7.Qb3 really puts on the pressure. 7...Qe7+ 8.Kd1 Ne4 9.Bg5 Nxg5 10.Re1 Ne6 11.Qxb7 would win material for White.] **7...Bd6?!** [7...Be7 8.Qb3 0-0 9.Ne5 would be trouble for Black anyway. The game move should just lose a tempo for development.] **8.Nc3?!** This automatic developing move gives Black time to get out of trouble. [8.Re1+! and Black should play 8...Be7 having given White a free developing move 9.Qb3 0-0 10.Ne5 would be even better than the previous note.] **8...0-0 9.Be3 c6 10.Qd2 Re8 11.Rad1 b5 12.Bb3 Na6 13.a3 b4 14.axb4 Bxb4?**

[14...Nxb4! brings the knight on the rim back into play (it could come to the fine d5 square). Chances would be equal.] **15.Ne5!** White attacks both c6 and f7. **15...Qc7?** Black feels the pressure and fails to defend the f7 square. [15...Bg6 16.Nxc6 Qc7 leaves White a pawn ahead with a nice position, but that was the lesser evil.] **16.Bxf7+ Kh8 17.Bxe8 Rxe8 18.Bf4** The exchange and pawn ahead should be enough to win. BestMiddleSun doesn't disappoint us. **18...Qb7 19.Rfe1** When ahead material it is usually simplest to develop everything towards the center and trade off if challenged. It's nice to see how well that works here. **19...c5 20.Nf3 cxd4 21.Rxe8+ Nxe8 22.Nxd4 Be4 23.Qe3 Nf6 24.Nxe4 Nxe4**



25.Nc6! A great move, using all the active pieces to force a quick finish. **25...Nf6 26.Rd8+ Ng8 27.Qe8 Qxc6 28.Qxg8#** BestMiddleSun won by checkmate **1-0**

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches.

1. Zuckertort - Steinitz 1886.

I am always fascinated by technique in chess: how games are won. I am never tired of watching a slow grind with a miniscule advantage, or the flashy game-stopping shot.

Apart from everything else – hard work, talent, naked ambition – the World Champions possess the finest technique. The very best endgame players, with only a few exceptions, are the World Champions from **Paul Morphy** to **Magnus Carlsen**.

The 1st World Championship Match was a bloody affair. After 20 games Steinitz had won 10, lost 5, and 5 were drawn. Steinitz was clearly the better all-round player, but perhaps not tactically. At times he shot himself in the foot:

Solutions at End of Newsletter

Steinitz - Zuckertort, 4th Match Game 1886.

Steinitz played **1.Nxc4??** thinking the d-pawn was pinned? but after **1...dxc4! Qxb7** loses instantly to **2...Rxd1#.** The game ended rudely in yet another way: **2.Rxd8 Nxd8.** The black queen is defended! After **3.Qe2 Ne6**, **white resigned**.

The following puzzles are not too tough. Test your chess, and learn how to polish off your challenger – or defeat the champion!

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1. Steinitz - Zukertort, 2nd Match Game 1886.

Black moves. Hand Steinitz his hat.

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2. Zukertort - Steinitz, 3rd Match Game 1886.

White moves. Remove the defender.

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3. Zukertort - Steinitz, 5th Match Game 1886.

White moves. Remove the defender!

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4. Zuckertort – Steinitz, 7th Match Game 1886.

Black moves. Show Zukertort the door.

---

5. Zukertort – Steinitz, 13th Match Game 1886.

White moves. Keep it simple.

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6. Steinitz – Zukertort, 20th Match Game 1886.

White moves. Black really should have castled…

GM Nick de Firmian

The Undeserved Win

The great World Champion's were tremendous competitors and relentless opponents who would wear down an opponent by sheer force of will. Yet they were also artists of the chessboard and would seek through beautiful logic to create elegant themes that led them to victory. Capablanca, Alekhine, Karpov and Fischer left behind a treasure trove of masterful creations.

There is the other way to gain a victory – by any means necessary. I don't mean cheating as would some of the Soviets in the old days or online trolls today. I mean cheap threats or slimly plans that your opponent might overlook. In short, a swindle. We have recently seen FM Kyron Griffith play a whole queen down for 20 moves, calmly waiting for his opponent to leave open the door of opportunity. Kyron won 250 euros for that best swindle. Now with more online chess and faster time controls there are more of these tricky victories. Paul Whitehead said he had never tried to win like this before but recently also joined the dark side and tried queen on queen - attacking his opponents undefended queen with his undefended queen. He was completely lost and figured this was his best shot. His unwary opponent didn't consider such a ridiculous move and promptly lost the queen and the game. "It felt good" said Paul, who hopefully won't continue on the path to evil.

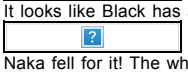
Before the reader passes complete moral judgement I will give two more examples of these "cheap" victories. The first from just a few days ago by the World Champion himself. Magnus is usually very principled on the chessboard, but apparently not always. The second, from long ago, is my most memorable swindle. Perhaps it shows a defect in my moral character, but even 35 years after the game the finish still makes me laugh.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Nakamura,Hikaru [D37]

Champions Tour Euro Opera, 07.02.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.a3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 This is a fairly common variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined. It has never offered White much chance for an opening advantage, but it's the kind of playable position with good scope of play that Magnus likes in rapid play. **8.b4 Be7 9.e3 a5 10.cxd5 Nxd5** [10...axb4 11.d6!] **11.Nxd5 exd5 12.b5 Nd7 13.Be2 Nc5 14.0-0 a4!** Black has full equality despite the isolated pawn. There are good squares for the black pieces. **15.Be5 Nb3 16.Ra2 Be6 17.Nd4 Bd6 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Bb2 Rc8 20.g3 Qd7 21.Bd3 Qf7 22.e4 Bc5 23.exd5 exd5** [23...Bxf2+ 24.Kg2 Nd2 25.Bd4 e5! was interesting. It's still about equal after 26.Rxd2 Qxd5+ 27.Kh3 Qe6+ 28.Kg2 Qd5+] **24.Be5 Rce8 25.Bf4 h6 26.Qg4 Re6 27.h4 h5 28.Qd1 Rf6 29.Kg2 g6** This is somewhat loosening. Black had an interesting exchange sacrifice instead - [29...Rxf4!? 30.gxf4 Nd4] **30.Bh6 Re8 31.Bg5 Rfe6 32.Bc2** The computer doesn't like this move, clearly preferring 32. Bb1 with a slight edge to White. There is no logical reason to keep the white rook on a2 blocked. Yet Magnus has not managed to break down Nakamura's defense by decent logical moves and so plays it cheap, offering him the extremely tempting invasion. **32...Re1?**

It looks like Black has achieved his aims. If 33. Rxe1 Qxf2+. Remember though that sneaky white rook on a2! **33.Bxg6!**

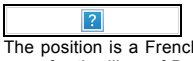


Naka fell for it! The white rook guards f2 and Black will lose a lot of material no matter what. On 33...Rxd1 34. Bxf7+ and if 33. Qxg6 34. Rxe1. Very good Magnus, cheap but effective. **1-0**

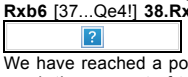
(2) De Firmian,Nick E (2540) - Chernin,Alexander (2495) [C19]

Tunis Interzonal Tunis (16), 1985

This game sticks in my memory as a moment I couldn't resist the dark side and played it cheap. It was the Interzonal in Tunis and thus a tournament where each game feels important. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Nf3 Nbc6 8.Be2 Qa5 9.Bd2 Bd7 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Re1 c4 12.Bf1 h6 13.g3 0-0-0 14.Bh3 Kb8**

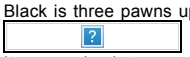


The position is a French Defense, Winawer Variation, which is strategically very difficult for both sides. White should theorectically have a small edge, but showing that in practice was difficult even for the likes of Bobby Fischer. **15.a4 Qa5 16.Qc1 Ka8 17.Qa3 Rde8 18.Reb1 Qd8 19.Bc1 Bc8 20.Bg2 f5 21.exf6 gxf6 22.a5 a6 23.Rb6 Na7 24.Qc5 Nec6 25.Bf4 Qe7 26.Bd6 Qd7 27.Bh3 Nb5 28.Bf4?!** [28.Rxb5 axb5 29.Nh4] **28...Nxc3 29.Bf1 Ne4 30.Qa3 Ng5** [30...e5] **31.Nxg5 hxg5 32.Bd6 e5 33.Rab1 Re6?!** [33...exd4!] **34.Bc5 Nxd4 35.Bxd4 exd4 36.Qc5 Qh7 37.h3 Rxb6** [37...Qe4!] **38.Rxb6 Qe4**



We have reached a position with level chances two moves before time control. There have been a couple of errors by both sides (as will happen in such a complex game). Now though we reach the moment of truth. Should White play the logical 39. Rxf6, getting a pawn back and helping guard the kingside? **39.Bg2** I saw the swindle continuation and couldn't resist. Now 39...Qe5 would be a big advantage for Black, but doesn't the game continuation look even better? **39...Qe1+ 40.Kh2 Qxf2?**

Black is three pawns up and threatens mate in one with 41...Rxh3. The black king has defenders and the white king is surrounded with no way out - except **41.Rxa6+! bxa6 42.Qxd5+**



It was a shock to poor Chernin that now he is getting mated in 2 moves. Surprisingly the white bishop on g2 has joined in the attack. **42...Kb8 43.Qd6+** Black resigned as 43...Ka7 44.Qb6 is mate. An undeserved victory but I was happy anyway. **1-0**

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Steinitz - Zukertort, 2nd Match Game 1886.

1…Bxf3! is perfectly timed. **2.g4 (2.Rxf3 d2!) Be2 3.Ng2 d2 4.ne3 cxb3 46.axb6 Bxg4 0-1**. The d-pawn costs white a piece.

---

2. Zukertort - Steinitz, 3rd Match Game 1886.

1.Rxf6! opened the road in for the white queen. **1-0. If 1…Rxf6 2.Qh4**, and mate shortly.

---

3. Zukertort - Steinitz, 5th Match Game 1886.

1.Rxg7! The target is e6, and **1-0**. After **1…Rxg7 2.Rxg7 Kxg7 3.Nxe6+** and **4.Nxc7**. White has won a piece.

---

4. Zukertort - Steinitz, 7th Match Game 1886.

After **1…Be5+ 2.f4 Bxf4+!** was the exquisite shot… **3.Qxf4 Qh1+ 4.Kg3 Qg1+!** …that sets up this precise finish, and **0-1**. After **5.Kh4 Qe1+ 6.Qg3 g5+** white loses the queen.

---

5. Zukertort - Steinitz, 13th Match Game 1886.

White cashed out with **1.g6+ Kf8 (1…Kf6 is met by the same reply) 2.Rxe7! 1-0**.

---

6. Steinitz - Zukertort, 20th Match Game 1886.

1.Bxh6 Nxh6 2.Rxh6! was a simple combination to end the match. After **2…gxh6 3.Nxf6+ Kf8 4.Nxg4 1-0.**

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Newsletter #956

February 20, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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February 2021 TNM Report

Round 3 of the TNM had some highly anticipated matchups, and in such a strong field, we knew there would be tough games in all the remaining rounds of the event. But as round 3 proved, anything can happen, and even some of the strongest talents in chess can have moments of humanity. IM Josiah Stearman was paired against GM Aleksandr Lenderman on board 1 with the white pieces. Josiah lost concentration for a moment, however, and blundered a piece before move 10, resulting in a quick finish to that game. What stood out for me was that I made the exact same blunder several years ago in a simul against Hou Yifan. It was a tough loss for a young phenom who only recently earned his IM title. He will no doubt bounce back strong, perhaps this weekend as he competes in the US Amateur Team North tournament organized by Chess Weekend.

GM Gadir Guseinov defeated IM Elliott Winslow, and FM Eric Li won a phenomenal game against FM Kyron Griffith with a brilliant positional sacrifice. Another exciting game in the top section in round 3 was Nicholas Weng's win against Chelsea Zhou, a game that is among the ones annotated for this newsletter. It's great to see such fighting chess in our events, particularly from the kids.

Round 4 saw a friendly draw between GM's Lenderman and Guseinov, in which the broadcasters joked about the over/under for a draw being agreed being 12 moves. It was 17. The board 2 game saw a methodical win by GM Jim Tarjan over FM Eric Li. This led to a 3-way tie at the top after 4 rounds, with GM Lenderman, GM Guseinov and GM Tarjan at 3.5/4.

In the under 1800 section, Sebby Suarez won the battle of unbeatens in round 4, using a nice tactical shot to score a win against Patrick Donnelly. He is in sole first with 4/4. Michael Jannetta is at 3.5 and four players sit with 3/4.

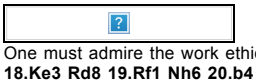
The final two rounds are next week, and we should see some lots of action and players position themselves for the prize pool of this USCF rated event.

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) FM Eric Li (kingandqueen2017) (2130) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2311) [A41]

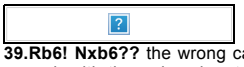
Live Chess Chess.com, 17.02.2021

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 e5 Kyron likes this variation where he hits at the central dark squares immediately. **5.dxe5 dxe5 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8** Black has lost the right to castle, but that is less important in the endgame. **7.f4 Nc6 8.Nf3 Bg4 9.Be2 Bxf3 10.gxf3 Nd4 11.Bd1** [More harmonius is 11.Kf2 as White is not afraid to lose the bishop for Black's strong central knight.] **11...f6 12.Kf2 Bh6 13.Kg3 c6 14.fxe5?!** This gives Black fine dark square control and thus some edge. White could maintain the balance with [14.Ne2] **14...fxe5 15.f4 Bxf4+ ∓ 16.Bxf4 exf4+ 17.Kxf4**



One must admire the work ethic of the white king who seems to be leading the charge to the middle of the board. Still, Black holds the advantage with the better pawn structure. **17...Ke7 18.Ke3 Rd8 19.Rf1 Nh6 20.b4 Rd7 21.h3 Rhd8 22.Rc1 Nf7?!** [22...Ne6 23.Be2 a5! hitting at the dark squares would maintain the edge. Now the white bishop comes to a good post.] **23.Bg4 Ne6**

24.Nd5+! This fine trade of material activates the white position. **24...cxd5 25.cxd5 Nf8 26.Bxd7 Nxd7** White has a rook and pawn for the two black knights, which is usually not quite enough. Here though it is Black on the defensive as the white rooks are active and the passed center pawns are a latent threat, **27.Rc7 Nfe5!** Active defense is best. Kyron gives away the queenside pawns to get all the black pieces to good squares. **28.Rxb7 Rc8 29.Rxa7 Rc3+ 30.Kd2 Rc4?!** It was better to keep the white king cut off with [30...Rxh3 when chances would be even. Black would have chances for mate if the black king would join the knights and rook in the attack.] **31.b5 Rxe4 32.a4 Kd6 33.a5 Rb4?!** [33...Nc4+ 34.Kc3 Nc5! 35.Rf8 Na4+ would still hold the draw as there are many variations where Black gets perpetual check. Now the white queenside pawns become a strong threat] **34.b6 Rb5 35.Kc2 Nc4** [35...Rxd5? 36.Rd1! is the idea. If the rooks get traded the white king has no problems] **36.Rf7 Nde5 37.Rf6+ Kxd5 38.b7 Kd4**



39.Rb6! Nxb6?? the wrong capture [39...Rxb6 40.axb6 Nd7 41.Ra8 Ncxb6 42.Rd8 Ke5 would be a draw with best play. White can always with a knight for the b-pawn but that would not be enough with the reduced material.] **40.b8Q** A queen is a queen. The black attack with the knights, rook and king doesn't work here. **40...Rc5+ 41.Kd2 Nd5 42.Qb2+ Nc3 43.Qa1! Nf3+ 44.Kc2** kingandqueen2017 won on time **1-0**

(2) FM Eric Li (kingandqueen2017) (2122) - GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes) (2444) [D31]

Live Chess Chess.com, 17.02.2021

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 Grandmaster Tarjan has always been a classical player. **4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4 Nf6** [5...c6 is the safer way to develop the queen bishop, but allows 6.e3 Bf5 7.g4 among other things.] **6.e3 Bf5 7.Qb3!?** White doesn't back down! Now Black joins the complications. **7...Nc6!?** [There is also the somewhat less exciting 7...Qc8 White could be the first to back down with 8.Nf3 which might be a small but solid advantage, whether Black finally plays *(8.Nxd5 Nxd5 9.Qxd5 Bb4+ 10.Kd1 0-0* with some comp in the king losing its right to castle, but that appears to be less permanent than the pawn deficit*.)* or keeps up the gambit ruse with 8...0-0 *(8...c6)* -- when White can take it even further: 9.h3 *(*or *9.Be2)* 9...h6 10.Be2 c6 11.0-0 Ne4 12.Rfc1 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nd7 14.a4 Nf6 15.c4 Be6 16.a5 Ne4 17.c5] **8.g4!?** Nor apparently is young Eric Yuhan Li -- but is this home preparation or over-the-screen inspiration? Probably the former. But many a player, including some of the finest (Gelfand!? Ivanchuk!?) have backed down. [8.a3 with better results -- but the computers think Black is fine, even a tad better after 8...Na5 9.Qa4+!? (9.Qa2 c6 10.Nf3 *(10.b4?! Nc4 11.Bxc4 dxc4 12.Qxc4 Be6 13.Qd3 b5* is the sort of position that the phrase "full compensation" is made for.*)*) 9...c6 10.Nf3 0-0! *(10...Nh5? 11.Bc7! Qxc7 12.Nxd5!* and the knight on a5 loses its safe square at c4*)* 11.Ne5 b5 12.Qd1 *(*You have to see *12.Qxa5!? Qxa5 13.Nxc6*

13...Bxa3!! which may well be fine, depending on how long the computer grinds away at it!*)* 12...Qc8!? 13.Be2 Qb7 14.0-0 Nc4 0-1 (25) Machalova,M (2187)-Garcia Vicente,N (2244) Plovdiv 2003; And what of 8.Qxb7!? Nb4 9.Bb5+ *(9.Rc1)* 9...Kf8! and now many moves are enticing, including 10.Kd2 Ne4+! *(10...Bd6 11.Bxd6+ cxd6 12.Be8! Kxe8 13.Qxb4* 1-0 (54) Volzhin,A (2425)-Koniushkov,I (2265) St Petersburg 1995*)* 11.Nxe4 Bxe4 12.Bxc7 Qc8 13.Qxc8+ Rxc8 14.f3! and White manages to hold on but it's not easy] **8...Nxg4 9.Qxd5!** [9.Nxd5 0-0 10.Bg2 Bh4 11.Bg3 Be6 12.Kf1 a5! was the "introduction" to this madness: 0-1 (39) Topalov,V (2725)-Kasparov,G (2795) Linares 1997.] **9...Qxd5!** [9...Qc8 10.Qg2! 0-0 11.e4 Bxe4!? 12.Nxe4! Bb4+ 13.Nc3 saw Aronian defending against one of Kasparov's ideas: 1-0 (39) Aronian,L (2808) -Kramnik,V (2785) Monte Carlo 2011 CBM 142 [Krasenkow,M]] **10.Nxd5 Bb4+! 11.Nxb4** "Almost" everybody has taken here, but notice the alternative and the players: [11.Nc3 0-0-0 12.Bg2 Bd6 *(12...Rhe8!* with a tiny advantage after *13.Nge2 Nf6 14.0-0 Nh5 15.Bg3 Nxg3 16.hxg3* -- that pawn center is a factor*.)* 13.Bxd6 Rxd6 14.Nge2 with a slight but persistent plus, 1-0 (46) Wojtaszek,R (2727)-Tarjan,J (2478) Caleta 2016. Tarjan must have taken a further look at this line since then.] **11...Nxb4 12.Rc1+/=** White just has an opening edge. Black can hope to hold White back, but with patience it should favor White. Not easy in practice! **12...0-0** [Perhaps this recent game attracted attention, by the player of the hour, most recent vanquisher of Carlsen (and who knows what's to come!): 12...Nd5 13.Bg3 *(13.h3!? Ngf6 14.Be5 0-0 15.Ne2* 1-0 (44) Fridman,D (2653)-Svane,R (2401) Osterburg 2012, but you know So has dissected this already*.)* 13...0-0-0 14.Ne2 c6 15.Rg1 Ngf6 16.Nc3 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Ne4 18.f3 ½-½ (39) So,W (2770)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020. And don't overlook the player of Black; eleven years So's junior, Abdusattorov is a future threat to the world throne.; But the most popular so far has been 12...c6 Look what happened to one of our current GM TNMers: 13.h3 Nf6 14.a3 Nbd5 15.Be5 Nd7 16.Bd6 (16.Bxg7?! Rg8 17.Bh6 *(17.Be5? Nxe5 18.dxe5 Nxe3!)* 17...Rg6 18.Bf4 Nxf4 scrambles White's pawns with advantage) 16...N7b6 17.b3 Rd8 18.Bg3 0-0 White's bishops and big center give him an edge, but they just didn't come into play: 0-1 (57) Lenderman,A (2623)-Le,Q (2697) Las Vegas 2015.] **13.h3 Nf6 14.a3 Nbd5 15.Be5 c6 16.Ne2**

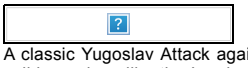
16...Rfe8N [It's all happened before until here, in a pretty high-level game: 16...Nd7 17.Bd6 Rfe8 18.Nf4 Nxf4 19.Bxf4 Nf6 20.Rg1 Nd5 21.Be5 f6 22.Bg3 Rad8 23.h4 Kf7 24.Kd2 h6 25.Be2 g5 26.hxg5?! hxg5= Here also the light-square control and central pressure kept Black afloat, even winning down the line: 0-1 (62), Gustafsson,J (2625)-Baramidze,D (2611) Oberhof 2012] **17.Rg1 Bg6 18.Bg2** [18.Nc3!+/-] **18...Rad8 19.Ng3 Nd7**

20.Bd6? The turning point comes relatively soon, once they left praxis. [White still has something after 20.Bxd5 Nxe5 *(20...cxd5 21.Bc7 Rc8 22.Kd2)* 21.dxe5 Rxd5 22.f4 but maybe the practical problems are too much: 22...Red8 23.f5 Rxe5!? and a lot of pawns are going for the piece.] **20...N7b6! 21.Bc5 Na4! 22.b3 Nb2!** Black's knights are all over the place! **23.Bf1?!** Bad, but already Black is on a roll. [23.Bxd5 Nd3+; 23.Bxa7 Nd3+ 24.Kd2 Nxc1 25.Rxc1 Rd6 gives White a pawn and both bishops on the board for the rook (and minor), but it's thankless and still lost.] **23...b6** Exposing the weakness at d4 (the pin on the e-pawn!). Black is quite won now. **24.Bb4 Nxb4 25.axb4 Rxd4 26.Bc4 Rh4** And there are more where that came from -- but Black never has to take on h3. **27.Kd2 Rd8+ 28.Kc3 Nxc4 29.bxc4 b5** [29...Rd3+ 30.Kb2 Rd2+ and ...Rxf2] **30.cxb5** [30.f4!?] **30...cxb5 31.Rgd1 Rc4+ 32.Kb2 Rxb4+ 33.Ka3 Ra4+ 34.Kb3 Rb8 35.Rc7 h5 36.Rdd7 h4 37.Ne2 Bf5 38.Re7 Be6+ 39.Kc3 b4+ 40.Kd2 Ra2+** Tirantes won by resignation. A fantastic game from both the theoretical and sporting aspect. Tarjan is one of the hardest working chess players ever! **0-1**

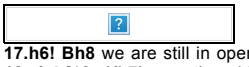
(4) Nicholas Weng (ninjaforce) (1984) - Chelsea Zhou (mwncklmann) (1947) [B70]

Live Chess Chess.com, 16.02.2021

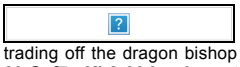
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.f3 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5



A classic Yugoslav Attack against the Dragon. It's wonderful to see this great fighting variation, which is a little out of fashion in top grandmaster chess these days. Those players prefer more solid openings like the London System. **12.h4 h5** The Soltis Variation is best. Black needs ...h5 to slow down the white assualt. Fischer had always said when playing against the Dragon. "pry open the rook file and sac, sac, mate!" **13.Bg5 Rc5 14.Kb1 b5 15.g4 a5 16.gxh5 a4**



17.h6! Bh8 we are still in opening theory **18.Bd5** [White could keep the lines to the black king open with 18.h7+ Nxh7 19.Bd5 b4 20.Nce2 though that's just another wild, complicated variation] **18...b4** [18...Kh7! uses the white pawn on h6 as a shield] **19.Nce2 Qb6?** [19...Kh7 is really required now] **20.Nf4 Kh7 21.h5!** now the white attack gathers steam and is hard to stop **21...Nxd5** [21...e6 22.hxg6+ Nxg6 23.Nxg6] **22.Nxd5 Rxd5 23.exd5 e6 24.Qf4 exd5 25.Bf6!**

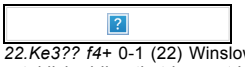


trading off the dragon bishop is the last key measure. White has a raging attack while Black never had time to get the counterattack going. **25...Qb8 26.Bxh8 Rxh8 27.Qf6 Rg8 28.f4 Ng4 29.Qxf7+ Kh8 30.hxg6** great attacking by ninjaforce! **1-0**

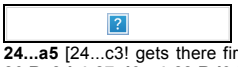
(5) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2230) - Jeffery Wang (twangbio) (1951) [E61]

Live Chess Chess.com, 16.02.2021

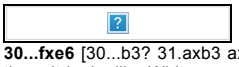
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 0-0 8.Rb1 [8.Be3 c5 9.Rc1 Nc6 10.d5 Ne5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Bxc5?! *(12.f4)* 12...Qa5?! 13.Bd4?! Bxd4 14.Qxd4 Qxa2 15.Bc4 Qb2 16.0-0 was these same two players last March; 0-1 (50) ecwinslow (2172)-twangbio (1759) Chess.com 2020] **8...c5 9.Be2 Nc6** [9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ has passed by the game to become "the main line" -- usually White offers the a-pawn: 11.Bd2 *(*Rather amusing was a bullet game of Nakamura's last year: he played *11.Qd2* and his opponent "pre-moved" *11...Qxa2!!* Naka response was "Huh?"*)* 11...Qxa2 12.0-0 when Black has played pretty much everything, including 12...a5!? at the highest levels: 13.Qc1 *(*White has more promising moves: *13.Bg5; 13.d5* even *13.Re1* has been successful.*)* 13...Bg4 14.Bc4 Qa4 15.Bb5 Qa2 16.Bc4 Qa4 White took on b7 but the draw happened shortly anyway: ½-½ (23) Kramnik,V (2765)-Leko,P (2630) Dortmund 1996.] **10.d5 Ne5** [10...Bxc3+ 11.Bd2 Bxd2+ 12.Qxd2 Na5 13.h4! Bg4 14.h5! Bxf3 15.gxf3 e5! is still quite up in the air. *(15...e6* allowed Winslow to show what he's capable of: *16.Qh6 Qf6 17.hxg6 Qxg6 18.Qh2 Kh8 19.Kd2 f5 20.Rbg1 Qf7 21.dxe6 Rad8+*



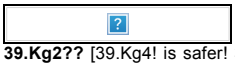
22.Ke3?? f4+ 0-1 (22) Winslow,E (2306)-Lu,J (1957) Berkeley 2018*)*] **11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Qc2** [The at first curious 12.Qd2 has been the main continuation for many many years, while the established line that has put White off has been 12...e6 13.f4 Bc7! So much for 14.c4! 14.c4 Ba5] **12...Qc7** [12...Qd6!? keeps an eye on d5 and could well be better. 13.g3 *(13.Qd2!?* is very tricky -- no . ..Bc7!*)* 13...f5! has done well in various games, but not in: 1-0 (33) Winslow,E (2318)-Sirak,G (1807) Mechanics' Capps mem, San Francisco Oct 28, 2017] **13.g3 e6** [13...Bh3? 14.f4 Bg7 15.g4!+- 1-0 (46) Winslow,E (2309)-Wang,Sophie (1515) Berkeley 2019] **14.f4 Bg7 15.Bc4!?** [15.c4 Bd4 16.h4 exd5 got very crazy in Komarov,D-Berebora,F, Cordoba op 1994.] **15...Re8** [15...b5!? 16.Bxb5 exd5 17.exd5 Bf5 18.Bd3 Rfe8+ 19.Kf2 and White hung on to win: 1-0 (32) Dudas,J (2310)-Mocary,M Bratislava 1990] **16.0-0+/= exd5?!** Permits White to set up an "outpost bishop" on d5. [16...b6 17.Bb5 Bd7? *(17...Rd8!* prevents the following*)* 18.d6! 1-0 (31) Remling, C-Beutel,J Wiesbaden 1992] **17.Bxd5 Rb8 18.c4 Be6 19.Bb2?! Bxd5 20.cxd5 Bxb2 21.Rxb2 c4!** Black's queenside majority could be no less dangerous than White's center and possible kingside play. **22.Kg2 Qc5 23.Rd1 b5 24.e5**



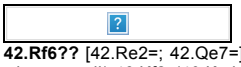
24...a5 [24...c3! gets there first, stopping the rook from blockading the passed c-pawn. White would have a harder task making anything happen with his queen tied down then.] **25.Qe4 c3 26.Rc2 b4 27.d6 a4 28.Rd3** White tries to hold the line by pressuring c3 **28...Qb5?!** [28...Qa5! draws, as do other moves. c3 is still covered, so now ...b3 is threatened.] Now White gets to open up the kingside, scaring the king. **29.d7! Red8 30.e6!**



30...fxe6 [30...b3? 31.axb3 axb3 32.Rcxc3 b2 33.Rb3+-] **31.Qxe6+** Here even Stockfish is having a hard time deciding what the evaluation is. **31...Kg7** [31...Kf8 was promising at first, but even there it looks like White worms his way in: 32.Rd5 Qb6 33.Rd6 Qb7+ 34.Kh3 Qf3 35.Re2] **32.Rd5 Qb7 33.Qe7+ Kg8 34.Qe6+ Kg7 35.f5!+-** Tearing up Black's king cover. (That's what a kingside majority is good for!) **35...gxf5 36.Kh3! Qb6 37.Qe7+** [37.Rd6 is even stronger, mate in 11 even, if you believe computers] **37...Kg8 38.Rxf5 Qh6+**



39.Kg2?? [39.Kg4! is safer! 39...Rf8 *(39...Kh8 40.Rg5)* 40.Rg5+ Kh8 41.Rf2 Qxg5+ 42.Kxg5 Rxf2 43.Qe5+ That rook on b8 keeps getting victimized.] **39...Qc6+[] 40.Kg1 h6[] 41.Qf7+ Kh8**

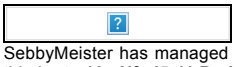


42.Rf6?? [42.Re2=; 42.Qe7=] **42...Rxd7-+ 43.Qg6** [43.Rxh6+ Qxh6 44.Qxd7 Rf8] **43...Rd1+ 44.Kf2 Qc5+** Now it's Black's turn -- and he still has his pawns. **45.Kg2** [45.Ke2 Qe5+ *(45...Rd7* wins as well*)* 46.Kf2 *(46.Kxd1?! Rd8+ 47.Kc1 Qe1#)* 46...Qg5] **45...Qd5+ 46.Kh3 Qg5!** The threat to exchange queens is a prime defensive motif. **47.Qf7 Rg8 48.Qe6 Qh5+ 49.Kg2 Qd5+ 50.Qxd5 Rxd5 51.Rxh6+ Kg7 52.Rb6 Rd4 53.Kf3 Rgd8 54.Ke2 Rd2+ 55.Rxd2 Rxd2+ 56.Ke3 Rb2 57.Kd3 c2 58.Kd2 b3 59.axb3 axb3 60.h4 Rb1** twangbio won by resignation. Another epic game in this variation. **0-1**

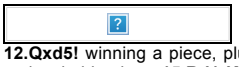
(6) Sebby Suarez (SebbyMeister) (1771) - Patrick Donnelly (thedarkbishop) (1776) [B22]

Live Chess Chess.com, 16.02.2021

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6!? better to just take the d-pawn back right away **4.c4** holding on to the material [4.Qa4+ Bd7 5.Qb3 is another way] **4...b5?!** This kind of Benko Gambit doesn't work well here. **5.Nc3 bxc4?!** [5...b4] **6.Bxc4 Nbd7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 Nb6 9.Bf4!**



SebbyMeister has managed the opening issues very well and has emerged with a clear pawn ahead, Pursuing development is the right thing to do here. **9...g6?** [9...Nxc4 10.Qxc4] **10.Nb5!** this hurts **10...Nfxd5 11.Bxd5 Nxd5**



12.Qxd5! winning a piece, plus disrupting Black's castling. The game is over. **12...Qxd5 13.Nc7+ Kd7 14.Nxd5 Bb7** thedarkbiship fights on, but there is nothing to be done unless White seriously blunders. **15.Rd1 Kc6 16.Nf3 f6 17.0-0 e5 18.Be3 e4 19.Ne1 Rd8 20.Rc1+ Kd6** [20...Kxd5 21.Rd1+ Ke6 22.Rxd8] **21.Nc3 Ba6 22.Rd1+ Kc7 23.Nd5+ Kb8 24.Bf4+ Kb7 25.Nc2 Bxf1 26.Kxf1** even winning this exchange is hopeless as the white pieces are very active **26...Kc6 27.Nd4+ Kxd5?!** [27...Kb7 28.Ne6 Rd7 29.Rd4 Kc6 30.Nxf6 is no real hope anyway] **28.Nb3+ Ke6 29.Rxd8** nothing can go wrong for White anymore **29...g5 30.Be3 Ke7 31.Ra8 f5 32.Rxa7+ Kd6 33.Ra8 Bg7 34.Rxh8 Bxh8 35.Bd4! Bxd4 36.Nxd4 Kc5 37.Nxf5 h5 38.a3 1-0**

SwissSys Standings. 2021 February TNM: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	R 4
1	**GM Aleksandr Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)**	12787646	2704	alexanderl	W23	W13	W11	D
2	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2673	gguseinov	W30	W6	W12	D
3	**GM Jim Tarjan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)**	10991820	2469	tirantes	W31	D9	W16	W
4	**FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2504	kyrongriffith	W8	W14	L5	W
5	**FM Eric Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)**	15688436	2344	kingandqueen2017	W24	W26	W4	L
6	**Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)**	12906142	2034	artliou	W28	L2	W25	W
7	**Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)**	15176393	2009	smilyface4	W20	L11	W22	W
8	**Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)**	16291100	1890	twangbio	L4	W18	W19	W
9	**David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)**	13776967	2023	david_askin	W19	D3	W13	L
10	**Javier Silva (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)**	16089208	1889	j3chess24	L11	W28	D20	W

11	IM Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)	14006506	2491	josiwales	W10	W7	L1	L
12	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W25	W15	L2	L
13	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	14958842	2066	stratus_junior	W27	L1	L9	W
14	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2056	ninjaforce	W18	L4	W17	L
15	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	mangonel	W21	L12	W26	L
16	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	12517167	1928	GuyArgo	H---	W23	L3	D
17	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1869	mwncklmann	H---	H---	L14	W
18	Kevin Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L14	L8	W31	W
19	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	joseph_truelsons_fan	L9	W31	L8	W
20	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	14436451	1757	chessp1234	L7	W24	D10	D
21	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	12931024	1622	mechanjin	L15	B---	W27	L
22	John R Hartmann (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12552251)	12552251	1765	john_hartmann	H---	H---	L7	D
23	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	L1	L16	W24	L
24	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	a-boy415	L5	L20	L23	B
25	Ranen Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1820	dashrndrx	L12	W30	L6	L
26	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1817	3ke31-0	W29	L5	L15	L
27	Alexander Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465198)	16465198	1803	TNM2021	L13	H---	L21	H
28	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1767	pgstar3	L6	L10	W30	L
29	NM Alice Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16059648)	16059648	2200	powerofapoint	L26	H---	U---	U
30	NM Tom Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	L2	L25	L28	H
31	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	knvsback	L3	L19	L18	D

SwissSys Standings. 2021 February TNM: u/1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1183	sebbymeister	W9	W20	W7	W4
2	Michael Jannetta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15172933)	15172933	1166	gm_fobby_bischer	D3	W21	W12	W1
3	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	12797931	1789	kingsmasher35	D2	W17	W10	D8

4	**Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)**	12716964	1635	thedarkbishop	W26	W5	W13	L1
5	**Daniel R Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)**	16465203	1463	Daniel_Perlov	W18	L4	W29	W1
6	**Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)**	30032406	unr.	austin809	W16	L8	W17	W1
7	**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1513	rimus11	W23	W15	L1	D9
8	**Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	16380642	1493	programmingmax	W29	W6	F14	D3
9	**Rajtilak Jagannathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109752)**	30109752	unr.	rtindru	L1	W28	W22	D7
10	**Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)**	17266862	1679	giorgostsolias	W22	L13	L3	W1
11	**Reka Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14656444)**	14656444	1533	coachreka	H---	H---	W23	L2
12	**Maximillian Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13994425)**	13994425	1515	malletpercussion	W27	L14	L2	W2
13	**Jahaan Ansari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?21004356)**	21004356	1446	jah23	W19	W10	L4	L6
14	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	swimgrass	W25	W12	F8	L5
15	**Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)**	16964125	1337	sfdeals	W30	L7	L18	W2
16	**Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)**	16897133	1293	pjkrizzle	L6	W24	H---	H--
17	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	16738735	1190	victor6688	W31	L3	L6	W2
18	**Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)**	16802870	907	dum2020areeews	L5	W26	W15	L1
19	**Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)**	30032729	861	dribbler23	L13	L22	W31	W2
20	**Nicholas Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)**	12446259	1495	nmbrown2	W28	L1	F25	H--
21	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1446	echecsmike	D24	L2	L27	W3
22	**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	17079795	1151	andrewaballantyne	L10	W19	L9	D2
23	**Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)**	16551291	977	figsnoring	L7	W30	L11	D2
24	**Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30037403)**	30037403	812	vincitore51745	D21	L16	L26	W3
25	**Samuel Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)**	16380615	673	comfyqueso	L14	W27	F20	H--
26	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	1037	bruce_hedman	L4	L18	W24	L1
27	**Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)**	30055583	1026	night_breeze	L12	L25	W21	L1
28	**Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)**	16695036	976	adichi	L20	L9	W30	L1
29	**Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	16816706	944	charvii	L8	W31	L5	L1

	16816706)							
30	**Abhirup Mukherjee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17149023)**	17149023	672	phantom_beast23	L15	L23	L28	L24
31	**Aidan Cumbo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118987)**	30118987	unr.	worsepot	L17	L29	L19	L21

February Blitz Championship Saturday the 20th!

Join us for a USCF rated G/5+2 8-round battle starting at 6:30pm Pacific time. Prize fund is $400 b/30. Register by following this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineBlitzChampionshipFeb2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineBlitzChampionshipFeb2021)

We will also be streaming the blitz on our Twitch channel here: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

See everyone at the virtual club for some fast and furious action Saturday night!

Thursday Night Marathon Begins February 25!

The February-March Thursday Night Marathon with a time control of G/60+5 begins this week, February 25th. This event is 5 rounds with one game per week and is USCF online regular rated This is the perfect tournament for those that prefer longer time controls. To register, please follow this link:

https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605FebMar2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605FebMar2021)

Here are the results from the previous Thursday Night Marathon:

SwissSys Standings. Jan-Feb 2021 Thursday Night Marathon: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2700	gguseinov	W13	W4	W5
2	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W14	W10	W11
3	**NM Mike Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2106	FlightsOfFancy	W20	W17	D6
4	**Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)**	16380312	1795	3Ke31-0	W30	L1	W14
5	**Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)**	15176393	2009	SmilyFace4	W21	W18	L1
6	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1997	kclemens	W22	W32	D3
7	**Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)**	12469525	1934	kondsaga	W26	W28	D16
8	**NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)**	10490936	1900	talenuf	L23	W22	W15
9	**Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)**	12458563	1835	knvsback	W33	H---	H---
10	**Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)**	16434922	1809	uzkuzk	W27	L2	W25
11	**Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)**	12906142	2034	artliou	W25	W23	L2
12	**Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)**	12797931	1789	KingSmasher35	W34	L16	L20
13	**Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)**	11296106	1643	zenwabi	L1	W33	L28
14	**Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)**	12839763	1574	fiddleleaf	L2	W27	L4
	Marina Xiao						

15	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1551	maxskiff	L16	W30	L8
16	FM Allan G Savage (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10014999)	10014999	2200	duchamp64	W15	W12	D7
17	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	cccalboy	W38	L3	L23
18	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	13742111	1700	LudiMagisterJosephus	W35	L5	W32
19	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1560	jacobchess857	H---	W37	W29
20	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1519	rimus11	L3	W38	W12
21	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	16154827	1416	NXBex	L5	W35	W24
22	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	16497860	1406	loltheawesomedude	L6	L8	W30
23	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1158	kevin_mx_sun	W8	L11	W17
24	Linu John Alex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13836822)	13836822	1652	ibalek	L28	W26	L21
25	Yali Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	16280288	1428	noydan100	L11	W34	L10
26	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	L7	L24	W38
27	Rahim Dharssi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12693378)	12693378	1018	rahimftd	L10	L14	W34
28	Alexander Casassovici (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101063)	30101063	unr.	zatmonkey	W24	L7	W13
29	Reka Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14656444)	14656444	1533	rekasztaray	H---	W31	L19
30	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	954	adichi	L4	L15	L22
31	Raphael Hofmann (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30103963)	30103963	unr.	justkidding3	H---	L29	W37
32	Edward Pernicka (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30097683)	30097683	unr.	copernickas	B---	L6	L18
33	Andrew Fu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16403798)	16403798	1152	geese	L9	L13	L35
34	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	851	Bruce_Hedman	L12	L25	L27
35	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	843	caodanny	L18	L21	W33
36	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1766	pgstar3	H---	U---	U---
37	Jared Michael Ruiz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30106002)	30106002	unr.	jpoka1	H---	L19	L31
38	Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)	17144246	946	TanFlatPupet	L17	L20	L26

Special Games from the US Amateur Team West

There were so many exciting games from our recently concluded US amateur Team West. Our local players did quite well, including our local college powerhouse UC Berkeley winning the championship of the west. We included some games in newsletter 954, but here are two games from some of our local talents that are very much worthy of mention. The first is a draw by Lauren Goodkind against NM Joshua Grabinsky and the second a win by 2020 San Francisco Scholastic Champion Shawnak Shivakumar against 2019 US Women's Champion WGM Jennifer Yu. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(7) Lauren Goodkind (laurengoodkindchess) (1997) - NM Joshua Grabinsky (MateSchmate) (2232) [C01]

Live Chess Chess.com, 30.01.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 The French Defense is very principled: bring the pressure on White's unguarded center pawn; if White pushes forward, attack the chain and (hopefully) be the one with the center in the end. **3.exd5** And this is a surprisingly popular way to avoid that struggle, of Space vs. Solidity. The cast of top players who have played the Exchange Variation is -- well, everyone. Kasparov played it quite a few times. Obviously White can't expect to get an objective advantage this way, and the percentages are pertty paltry, but it might win the psychological battle -- many French Defense players are disappointed at some level, to have their counterattacking chances thwarted. [3.e5; 3.Nd2; 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.exd5 Qxd5 *(4...exd5)*] **3...Qxd5** And some rare number or players go to extremes to do something about it! The database has about a thousand games with this -- out of well over 60,000! This has become, depending on how you look at it, a Center Counter where Black has blocked in the queen bishop -- not at all popular! [3...exd5 is of course normal, if you don't mind White still being a move up. In fact, Black scores a wee bit better than even!] **4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3** [The only game with a 2800+ average rating (!) went 5.c4 Qd8 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.Bf4 Bb7 10.Qe2 Nc6 11.Rad1 with a healthy space advantage. Admittedly this was a Bullet game (1 minute!), but the players make it noteworthy. 1-0 (26) Carlsen,M (2832)-Nakamura,H (2786) chess.com INT 2018] **5...Qd8** [5...Bb4 makes a bit more sense -- French players (well, Winawer players) shouldn't mind giving up their bishop if it comes to that. And in fact this position usually comes from the Winawer move order with 4.exd5.] **6.Bd3 c5!** [Last grandmaster reference: 6...Nbd7?! 7.Qe2 Be7 8.Be3 a6 9.Ne5 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nd5 11.Bd2 Bg5 12.0-0 Bxd2 13.Qxd2 Nb4 14.Rad1 Nxd3 15.Qe3! Bd7 16.Rxd3 Qe7 17.Rfd1 Bc6 18.Ne4 0-0

19.Nf6+!+- 1-0 (42) Ragger,M (2682)-Sokolov,A (2496) Brest 2019] **7.0-0 Nc6!?**

8.Bb5!?

8...Qc7N [Here the game heads out on its own. Previous was 8...Bd7 9.d5 exd5 10.Nxd5 Nxd5 11.Qxd5 Be7 12.Bg5 0-0 13.Rfd1 Bxg5 14.Nxg5 Qf6 15.Bd3 Nb4 16.Bxh7+ Kh8 17.Qxc5 and White has everything: 1-0 (26) Khadempour,F (2180)-Zentai,P (2263) Budapest 2009] **9.Re1** [9.Bg5!?; 9.d5! could catch Black's king in the center still.] **9...cxd4 10.Nxd4** [10.Qxd4! plays for Bf4] **10...Bd7 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.Qxd5** White's advantage is insignifcant now. **13...Bd6 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.Qh5**

15...0-0-0? Black takes this "playing for a win" too far -- the king would be much safer on the other side. **16.Be3 g6 17.Qh4 f5?! 18.Bg5 Rde8 19.Re3** The engines want to run the queen over to the queenside here, with what they make to be a won game. **19...e5?!** [19...h6] **20.Qa4** and here: +- **20...Kb7 21.Rb3+ Ka8 22.Be3 Rc8 23.Rd1?!**

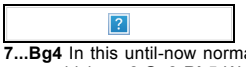
[23.Bb6! stops any ...Rd8 defence.] **23...c5?!** [23...Rhd8! works now, since 24.Bb6?? runs into 24...Bc5!! completely turning the tables.] **24.Qa6!** Now it's White on top again. **24...Rhd8 25.Rbd3 Be7 26.Rxd8** [26.Qe6! is a bit better.] **26...Rxd8 27.Rxd8+ Bxd8** [and here 27...Qxd8 loses a pawn also but with more counterplay.] **28.g3 g5 29.Qb5 f4 30.Bxc5 f3?!** That pawn should be lost. [30...h5] **31.Qd3** Even stronger: [31.h3; 31.c4] **31...Qxc5 32.Qxd8+ Kb7 33.Qd7+ Ka6 34.Qd3+** [34.Qxh7!?] **34...Kb6**

35.Qe3?? Everybody hates queen endings, but not when they are the way to win! [That pawn had to go: 35.Qxf3! Qxc2 36.Qf6+ gets the e-pawn, guarding b2 as well] **35...Qxe3! 36.fxe3 g4!=** Nobody can do anything, an all too common pawn ending situation. **37.Kf2 Kc5 38.Ke1 Kd5 39.Kf1 a5 40.Ke1 Kc4 41.Kf2 Kb4 42.Ke1 a4 43.a3+ Kc4 44.Kf2 Kd5 45.Ke1 Kc4 46.Kf1 h6 47.Ke1 Kd5 48.Kf1 Ke4 49.Kf2 h5 50.b3 axb3 51.cxb3 Kd5 52.b4 Kc4 53.Ke1 Kb5 54.Kf1 Kc4 55.Ke1 Kb5 56.Kf1 Ka4 57.Ke1 Kb5** Close! But the master slips away as all too usual. **1/2-1/2**

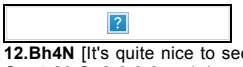
(3) WGM Jennifer Yu (ahappypawn) (2061) - Shawnak Shivakumar (alphaunlimited) (1996) [D35]

Live Chess Chess.com, 31.01.2021

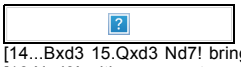
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3



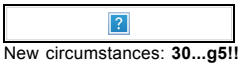
7...Bg4 In this until-now normal Exchange Queen's Gambit Black plays a fairly rare move, but it has to be taken seriously. Swinging around to g6 will counter White's most dangerous light-square bishop. **8.Qc2 Bh5** Wasting no time getting on plan. **9.Nf3** [9.Nge2 Bg6 gets there first.; 9.h3 Bg6 10.Bxg6 hxg6 11.Nf3 Nbd7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Rab1 a5 was a 2600 game with Black showing typical solidity against the Minority Attack: ½-½ (30) Bai,J (2600)-Zvjaginsev,V (2627) China 2019] **9...Nbd7 10.0-0-0** Not at all common in this particular configuration. [10.h3; 10.0-0 Bxf3!?] **10...Nf8!?** Black needn't be in any hurry to castle -- nor does he have to castle kingside! **11.h3 Ne6**



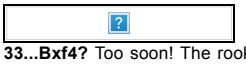
12.Bh4N [It's quite nice to see the final precedent being two of the superstars of the past: 12.g4 Nxg5 13.Nxg5 Bg6 14.Bxg6 hxg6 15.Kb1 Bb4 16.Ne2 Qe7 17.Nf4 Bd6 18.Nd3 Ne4 19.Nxe4 Qxe4 20.Qe2 0-0-0 and there it is, Black is happy to use that rook on h8. ½-½ (67) Polugaevsky,L-Lein,A Baku 1961; 12.Bxf6!? is a shade off equality for White.] **12...Bg6** [12...Bxf3 13.gxf3 Nh5 is fine for Black] **13.g4 Qc7?! 14.Ne5** [14.Bf5!? exchanges on White's terms] **14...Bd6?!**



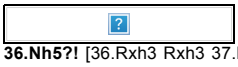
[14...Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Nd7! brings neutralizing exchanges.] **15.f4** Now White has more than a little edge. **15...Bxd3?!** [15...Bxe5 16.dxe5 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 Nd7 still looks dangerous.] **16.Qxd3** [16.Nxd3! with a pawn storm regardless of where Black's king goes.] **16...0-0-0? 17.g5?** [17.Qf5 sets up a lot of pins, winning.] **17...Nh5 18.g6!?** Winning the Exchange for a pawn, but all positional factors give Black compensation. **18...hxg6 19.Bxd8 Nxd8 20.Rhg1 Nf6 21.Rg3 Kb8 22.Kb1 Ne6 23.Rc1 Qe7 24.Rf3 Rh5 25.Qc2 Qe8 26.Ng4 Bc7 27.Nf2 Ng8** Black zeroes in on f5 as a knight outpost. **28.Ne2 Ne7 29.Ng3 Rh4 30.b4**



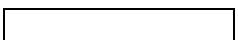
New circumstances: **30...g5!! 31.f5 g4!-+** The point -- ...Ng5 will pick up the Exchange and then some. **32.hxg4 Ng5 33.Rf4**

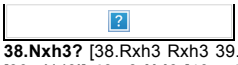


33...Bxf4? Too soon! The rook isn't going anywhere! [Best is 33...Nc8! and White can't do anything.] **34.exf4 Nh3 35.Rh1 Qh8=**



36.Nh5?! [36.Rxh3 Rxh3 37.Nxh3 Qxh3 38.Qe2! and someone is going to give perpetual.] **36...g6!** Just in time to cause a bit of trouble. **37.f6 Nc8**





38.Nxh3? [38.Rxh3 Rxh3 39.Nxh3 gxh5 40.g5 Nd6 41.Qe2 Ne4 and ...h4, still gives Black some thoughts of continuing.] **38...gxh5** But this, tying up the rook and knight, is fatal. **39.g5 Qf8?!** [39...Nd6!] **40.a3 Nd6** [40...a5!?] **41.Qf2 Rg4 42.Qf3? Ne4 43.Ka2 Rg3 44.Qxh5 Rg2+** [44...Nc3+!] **45.Kb3 Nd2+ 46.Kc3 Qe8!** And there's no stopping ...Qe3+ and mate. **47.Nf2 Qe3+ 48.Kc2** [48.Nd3 Nb1+ 49.Rxb1 Qd2+ 50.Kb3 Qc2#] **48...Rxf2 49.Qh8+ Kc7 50.Rh3 Nc4+** A difficult and interesting battle, with unusual tactics and maneuvers. **0-1**

2021 US Amateur Team West Scholastic Championship

On February 6, we held an online scholastic side event to the US Amateur Team West Championship. We originally were going to hold the event on Chesskid and pair games manually with live stream, but during a test session with half of the tournaments participants on, we realized a bug in the Chesskid system did not allow for manually paired games. With hours before the event, we were able to tranfer the entire tournament over to Chess.com, where thankfully all the players except a few already had Chess.com accounts. The few that did not already have accounts were able to sign up quickly, so all players who registered were able to participate. In all, we had 108 players, which far eclisped the number we had last year for our scholastic side event.

This year, the tournament was won by the Bright Chess Dragons, with a perfect 5/5 score. That team consisted of Jeremy Zhang, Eric Chen, Sean Zhang, and Ethan Han. In 2nd place was the Dublin High School Gaels with 4.5/5, and in 3rd on tiebreaks were the Fallon Impalas.

Here is one game from the tournament from Jeremy Xhang on the winning team. Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(8) Jeremy Zhang (SparkyChessTiger2021) (1428) - Shivam Prasad (champ_shivam) (1270) [C50]

Live Chess Chess.com, 06.02.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 The Giuoco Piano, as is played by the world's top players now and 400 years ago. **4.Nc3** This however is not what Carlsen plays. It is ok, but 4. c3 or 4.0-0 has more options. **4...h6 5.d3 Nf6 6.0-0 d6 7.Be3!** A good developing move with a question to Black's dark squared bishop. **7...Bxe3** Black may prefer 7...Bb6 so that White doesn't get the open f-file and the easy play that comes with it. **8.fxe3 0-0 9.Qe1 Bg4 10.Nh4**

10...Re8?! This seems to ignore the white buildup on the kingside. Black would only be a little worse after 10...Kh7 or 10...Be6 **11.Nf5** ± **11...Bxf5 12.Rxf5 Ne7 13.Rf3** [There was also a very promising exchange sacrifice with 13.Rxf6! gxf6 14.Qh4 Kg7 15.Rf1 Ng6 16.Qh5 c6 17.Ne2 Rh8 18.Ng3 and the active white pieces control the kingside.] **13...d5 14.exd5 Nexd5 15.Qg3 Nh5?** The leads to big trouble with the black knight stuck out on the rim. [Black would only be slightly worse after 15...Nxc3 16.bxc3 e4 17.Rf5 exd3 18.cxd3 Qd6] **16.Qh3 Ndf6** [16...Nhf6 17.Raf1 c6 18.Ne4 is a terrific attack] **17.g4 e4 18.Rf5** [Good enough, though 18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Bxf7+ Kh8 20.dxe4 was pretty easy.] **18...g6 19.Rf2 Ng7** [19...Qd7 20.Qg2! Qxg4 21.Bxf7+! wins the exchange] **20.Qxh6**] [also strong is 20.Raf1 b5 21.Bb3 and White crashes through on the f-file.] **20...Rf8**

21.Qxg6! Nh7 22.Nxe4 b5 23.Bxf7+ Kh8 24.Rf3 Qh4 25.Nf6 With 4 pawns ahead and the safer king there should be no problems for White to win. **25...Rad8** [25...Ng5 26.Qxg5! Qxg5 27.Rh3+ Nh5 28.Rxh5+] **26.Nxh7 Qxh7 27.Qxh7+ Kxh7** □ **28.Raf1** [28.Rh3+ Nh5 29.Rxh5+ Kg7 30.Bd5 is straightforward, but it really doesn't matter which road you choose] **28...Kh6 29.h4 Kh7 30.Bg6+! Kxg6 31.Rxf8 Rd6 32.R8f7** Now 4 pawns and the exchange. There can always be a miracle though. **32...Rc6 33.h5+ Kh7 34.c3 Re6 35.e4 c5 36.Rxa7 Re5 37.Kh2 c4 38.dxc4 bxc4 39.Rf4 Kg8 40.Ra6 Ne6 41.Ra8+ Kh7 42.Rf7+ Ng7 43.h6** [43.Raa7] **43...Kxh6 44.Rh8+ Kg6 45.Rf4 Ne6 46.Rg8+ Kh7 47.Re8!** Just when it seems Black might have a chance SparkyChessTiger plays a great pin to snuff out all hope. **47...Nxf4 48.Rxe5** Nothing more to say. **48...Ng6 49.Rc5 Nf4 50.a4 Ne6 51.Re5 Nd8 52.a5 Nc6 53.Rc5 Nb8 54.Rxc4 Kg6 55.Ra4 Kg5 56.a6 Nxa6 57.Rxa6 Kxg4 58.e5 Kf5 59.e6 Kf6 60.b4 Ke7 61.b5 Kd8 62.b6 Kc8 63.e7 Kd7 64.b7 Kc7 65.e8Q Kxb7** □ **66.Qc6+ Kb8** □ **67.Rb6+ Ka7** □ **68.Qb7#** SparkyChessTiger2021 won by checkmate **1-0**

SwissSys Standings. 2021 US Amateur Team West Scholastic: Open

#	Name	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	T-US Amat.)	T-Game pnts	Prize
1	BRIGHT CHESS DRAGONS	530	BRIGHT	W6 [2.5]	W3 [3.0]	W13 [3.0]	X--- [3.0]	W9 [3.0]	5.0	37.25	14.5	1st Place
2	DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL GAELS I.	1281	DHS	W24 [4.0]	W14 [3.0]	D9 [2.0]	W10 [3.0]	X--- [3.0]	4.5	28.5	15	2nd Place
3	FALLON IMPALAS	960	FALLON	W25 [3.5]	L1 [1.0]	W5 [3.0]	W20 [4.0]	W7 [3.0]	4.0	39	14.5	3rd Place
4	CHESS NUTS ON FIRE!	771	MECH	W17 [2.5]	X--- [2.0]	D22 [2.0]	W13 [3.0]	D8 [2.0]	4.0	22.75	11.5	1st U900
5	HILLSBOROUGH KNIGHTS TEAM A	509	HILLSB	X--- [2.5]	W22 [3.5]	L3 [1.0]	W19 [2.5]	W20 [3.0]	4.0	20.25	12.5	2nd U900
6	MECHANICS' JUNIORS	834	MECH	L1 [1.5]	W17 [4.0]	W19 [4.0]	D14 [2.0]	W12 [2.5]	3.5	36.75	14	3rd U900
7	DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL GAEL KINGS	852	DHS	W26 [3.0]	W21 [3.0]	X--- [3.0]	D12 [2.0]	L3 [1.0]	3.5	18	12	1st Place High School
8	KC COYOTES	912		D19 [2.0]	W16 [4.0]	D12 [2.0]	D9 [2.0]	D4 [2.0]	3.0	33	12	1st Place Elementary
9	FALLON WARHORSES	731	FALLON	W27 [3.5]	W10 [3.0]	D2 [2.0]	D8 [2.0]	L1 [1.0]	3.0	29	11.5	1st Place Middle School
10	MATCHMAKER'S TEAM 1	949		W22 [2.5]	L9 [1.0]	W26 [4.0]	L2 [1.0]	W14 [3.0]	3.0	22.75	11.5	
11	FALLON CHARGERS	765	FALLON	D15 [2.0]	L12 [0.0]	D18 [2.0]	W23 [4.0]	W21 [3.0]	3.0	21	11	
12	BRIGHT KNIGHTS CHESS CLUB	673	BRIGHT	D13 [2.0]	W11 [4.0]	D8 [2.0]	D7 [2.0]	L6 [1.5]	2.5	35.25	11.5	
13	FALLON BLACK KNIGHTS	1069	FALLON	D12 [2.0]	W15 [3.0]	L1 [1.0]	L4 [1.0]	W23 [4.0]	2.5	27.5	11	
14	FALLON BRONCOS	658	FALLON	W23 [3.0]	L2 [1.0]	W25 [3.0]	D6 [2.0]	L10 [1.0]	2.5	22	10	
15	BRIGHT KNIGHTS EXCELSIOR CHESS	307	BRIGHT	D11 [2.0]	L13 [1.0]	D16 [2.0]	W26 [3.0]	D18 [2.0]	2.5	20.5	10	1st U600

16	FALLON ZEBRAS	390	FALLON	D20 [2.0]	L8 [0.0]	D15 [2.0]	D24 [2.0]	W26 [3.0]	2.5	15	9	2nd U600
17	FALLON LANCERS	424	FALLON	L4 [1.5]	L6 [0.0]	D23 [2.0]	W27 [3.0]	W24 [3.5]	2.5	14.25	10	3rd U600
18	TVMCC KNIGHTS	869	TVMCC	L21 [1.0]	L25 [1.5]	D11 [2.0]	W22 [3.0]	D15 [2.0]	2.0	19	9.5	
19	FALLON MUSTANGS	338	FALLON	D8 [2.0]	D20 [2.0]	L6 [0.0]	L5 [1.5]	W25 [3.0]	2.0	19	8.5	1st U450
20	TVMCC FIGHTERS	796	TVMCC	D16 [2.0]	D19 [2.0]	W21 [3.0]	L3 [0.0]	L5 [1.0]	2.0	19	8	
21	FALLON PONIES	368	FALLON	W18 [3.0]	L7 [1.0]	L20 [1.0]	W25 [2.5]	L11 [1.0]	2.0	17	8.5	
22	FALLON UNICORNS	690	FALLON	L10 [1.5]	L5 [0.5]	D4 [2.0]	L18 [1.0]	W27 [3.5]	1.5	16.5	8.5	
23	TVMCC WARRIORS	399	TVMCC	L14 [1.0]	W24 [3.0]	D17 [2.0]	L11 [0.0]	L13 [0.0]	1.5	12	6	
24	FALLON PINTOS	739	FALLON	L2 [0.0]	L23 [1.0]	W27 [3.0]	D16 [2.0]	L17 [0.5]	1.5	7.75	6.5	
25	MATCHMAKER'S TEAM 2	543		L3 [0.5]	W18 [2.5]	L14 [1.0]	L21 [1.5]	L19 [1.0]	1.0	14.5	6.5	
26	FALLON STALLIONS	640	FALLON	L7 [1.0]	W27 [2.5]	L10 [0.0]	L15 [1.0]	L16 [1.0]	1.0	8.5	5.5	
27	HILLSBOROUGH KNIGHTS TEAM B	510	HILLSB	L9 [0.5]	L26 [1.5]	L24 [1.0]	L17 [1.0]	L22 [0.5]	0.0	7.75	4.5	

Team Roster and Standings. 2021 US Amateur Team West Scholastic: Open

	Code	Name	Score	TBrk[U]	TBrk[G]
1	BRIGHTDRAGON	Bright Chess Dragons (530.3) W6 W3 W13 X-- W9	5.0	37.25	14.5
		Jeremy Zhang (715) 4.5 Bd: 1			
		Eric Chen (446) 1.5 Bd: 2			
		Sean Zhang (430) 4.5 Bd: 3			
		Ethan Han (unr.) 4.0 Bd: 4			
2	GAELS1	Dublin High School Gaels I. (1281.0) W24 W14 D9 W10 X--	4.5	28.5	15
		Aadith Muthukumar (1529) 5.0 Bd: 1			
		Cassius Lai (1363) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Samyak Jain (1358) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Samarth Bhat (874) 3.0 Bd: 4			
3	IMPALAS	Fallon Impalas (960.0) W25 L1 W5 W20 W7	4.0	39	14.5
		Aryan Jain (1191) 2.5 Bd: 1			
		Laksh Jain (1097) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Eashan Mahajan (885) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Lucas Liu (667) 5.0 Bd: 4			
4	CHESSNUTS	Chess Nuts on Fire! (770.7) W17 X-- D22 W13 D8	4.0	22.75	11.5
		Jashith Karthi (995) 5.0 Bd: 1			
		Anagh Nag Puranik (524) 0.0 Bd: 2			
		Sreyan Ghosh (793) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Conrad Braun (unr.) 2.5 Bd: 4			
5	HILLKNTSA	Hillsborough Knights Team A (509.3) X-- W22 L3 W19 W20	4.0	20.25	12.5
		Dominic Matar (677) 3.5 Bd: 1			
		Tansen Mehta (614) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Felix Leung (523) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Jack Buswell (223) 3.5 Bd: 4			
6	MECHANICS	Mechanics' Juniors (834.0) L1 W17 W19 D14 W12	3.5	36.75	14
		Andrew Ballantyne (1060) 2.5 Bd: 1			
		Adithya Chitta (912) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Dylan Liu (827) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		William Fitzgerald (537) 4.0 Bd: 4			
7	KINGS	Dublin High School Gael Kings (852.5) W26 W21 X-- D12 L3	3.5	18	12
		Romir Hiremath (1137) 5.0 Bd: 1			
		Yashas Shashidhara (849) 1.5 Bd: 2			
		Evan Roche (720) 2.5 Bd: 3			
		Ankur Prasad (704) 3.0 Bd: 4			

8	KCCOY	KC Coyotes (912.0) D19 W16 D12 D9 D4	3.0	33	12
		Andrew Zihan Li (1062) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Serena Liu (762) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Henry Travis Han (unr.) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Eric Jiang (unr.) 4.0 Bd: 4			
9	WARHORSES	Fallon Warhorses (731.0) W27 W10 D2 D8 L1	3.0	29	11.5
		Shivam Prasad (789) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Eric Xiao (776) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		Aarav Goel (628) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Anshul Aennam (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 4			
10	MMT1	Matchmaker's Team 1 (949.0) W22 L9 W26 L2 W14	3.0	22.75	11.5
		Thendral Raj (949) 1.5 Bd: 1			
		Tyler Walsh (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Ram Stewart (unr.) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Isabel Greenblatt (unr.) 5.0 Bd: 4			
11	CHARGERS	Fallon Chargers (765.3) D15 L12 D18 W23 W21	3.0	21	11
		Arnav Antal (830) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Krishiv Jaini (806) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Jerry Lu (660) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Mahad Saeed (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 4			
12	BRIGHTKNIGHTS	Bright Knights Chess Club (672.7) D13 W11 D8 D7 L6	2.5	35.25	11.5
		Jocelyn Ren (1074) 4.0 Bd: 1			
		Robyn Nakhimovsky (714) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Jasmine Lee (230) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		Zeina Rebouh (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 4			
13	BLKKNTS	Fallon Black Knights (1068.8) D12 W15 L1 L4 W23	2.5	27.5	11
		Rajneesh Jain (1246) 2.0 Bd: 1			
		Sanat Gupta (1224) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Gavin Katz (1056) 3.0 Bd: 3			
		Rayan Jain (749) 3.0 Bd: 4			
14	BRONCOS	Fallon Broncos (658.5) W23 L2 W25 D6 L10	2.5	22	10
		Sahil Sandasani (852) 2.0 Bd: 1			
		Bishal Das (797) 4.0 Bd: 2			
		Akhil Venkatesh (672) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		Hartej Hansrai (313) 2.0 Bd: 4			
15	BK_EXCELSIOR	Bright Knights Excelsior Chess (307.0) D11 L13 D16 W26 D18	2.5	20.5	10
		Dhruv Thakur (307) 0.0 Bd: 1			
		Celine Chen (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 2			
		Martin Lee (unr.) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Anis Rebouh (unr.) 5.0 Bd: 4			
16	ZEBRAS	Fallon Zebras (390.0) D20 L8 D15 D24 W26	2.5	15	9
		Ananya Borkar (611) 2.0 Bd: 1			
		Prisha Pandeya (449) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Subhiksha Balaji (110) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		Amulya Medaramelta (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 4			
17	LANCERS	Fallon Lancers (423.5) L4 L6 D23 W27 W24	2.5	14.25	10
		Ribhav Vallishayee (545) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Shrihan Bodadi (302) 1.5 Bd: 2			
		Shivish Aneja (unr.) 3.5 Bd: 3			
		Rishika Uppudanti (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 4			
18	TVMCCKNTS	TVMCC Knights (869.3) L21 L25 D11 W22 D15	2.0	19	9.5
		Neal Sundar (984) 4.5 Bd: 1			
		Hrishikesh Bollini (973) 1.0 Bd: 2			
		Sri Ansh (651) 1.0 Bd: 3			
		Sasha Sundeep (unr.) 3.0 Bd: 4			
19	MUSTANGS	Fallon Mustangs (338.5) D8 D20 L6 L5 W25	2.0	19	8.5
		Krish Desai (448) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Daniel Wu (229) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Rohan Nihalani (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 3			
		Pranav Sivakumar (unr.) 3.5 Bd: 4			
20	TVMCC_FIGHT	TVMCC Fighters (796.0) D16 D19 W21 L3 L5	2.0	19	8

		Arnav Agarwal (796) 2.0 Bd: 1			
		Samarth Bhatia (unr.) 0.0 Bd: 2			
		Sankarshana Sudeendra (unr.) 4.0 Bd: 3			
		Advait Wankhede (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 4			
21	PONIES	Fallon Ponies (367.5) W18 L7 L20 W25 L11	2.0	17	8.5
		Adithya Gnanasundar (463) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Ronak Hiremath (272) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Mrinal Agarwal (unr.) 1.5 Bd: 3			
		Shriram Boddu (unr.) 3.0 Bd: 4			
22	UNICORNS	Fallon Unicorns (689.7) L10 L5 D4 L18 W27	1.5	16.5	8.5
		Tanay Manjunath (795) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Shashank Garag (712) 3.5 Bd: 2			
		Aakrisht Mehra (562) 2.0 Bd: 3			
		Sahej Bhowmick (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 4			
23	TVMCC_WARR	TVMCC Warriors (398.8) L14 W24 D17 L11 L13	1.5	12	6
		Aryaman Majumder (578) 2.0 Bd: 1			
		Rivanth Suresh (538) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Vikram Snyder (378) 1.0 Bd: 3			
		Soorya Balaji (101) 1.0 Bd: 4			
24	PINTOS	Fallon Pintos (739.0) L2 L23 W27 D16 L17	1.5	7.75	6.5
		Saif Jeelani (868) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Ekam Dhot (610) 2.5 Bd: 2			
		Pranil Gundugola (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 3			
		Agam Singh (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 4			
25	MMT2	Matchmaker's Team 2 (543.0) L3 W18 L14 L21 L19	1.0	14.5	6.5
		Aathya Srinivasan (543) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Samar Dh Bhowmick (unr.) 2.0 Bd: 2			
		Arnav Ravi (unr.) 1.5 Bd: 3			
		Khushi Bhatia (unr.) 0.0 Bd: 4			
26	STALLIONS	Fallon Stallions (640.0) L7 W27 L10 L15 L16	1.0	8.5	5.5
		Anuraag Aravind (640) 3.0 Bd: 1			
		Paarth Agrawal (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 2			
		Chris Johnson (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 3			
		Akshat Verma (unr.) 0.5 Bd: 4			
27	HILLKNTSB	Hillsborough Knights Team B (510.0) L9 L26 L24 L17 L22	0.0	7.75	4.5
		Avani Shenoy (950) 1.0 Bd: 1			
		Dominic Leung (480) 3.0 Bd: 2			
		Cole Sellers (100) 0.0 Bd: 3			
		Nathan Kim (unr.) 0.5 Bd: 4			

SwissSys Standings. 2021 US Amateur Team West Scholastic: Open (Board order)

#/Bd	Name	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1/1	Romir Hiremath (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16455165)	1137	VAP_1D	W10	W22	X---	W6
2/1	Aadith Muthukumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15488268)	1529	DabPacman	W24	W16	W8	W20
3/1	Jashith Karthi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30016333)	995	jazzfork	W9	X---	W21	W15
4/1	Jeremy Zhang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17076230)	715	SparkyChessTiger2021	D14	W13	W15	X---
5/1	Neal Sundar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17307025)	984	speedlimit1000	W22	D12	W11	W21
6/1	Jocelyn Ren (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16899282)	1074	Jocey107	W15	W11	W23	L1
	Dominic Matar						

7/1	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16748251)	677	tastycelery7	Z---	W21	L13	W25
8/1	Shivam Prasad (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16673648)	789	champ_shivam	W26	W20	L2	W23
9/1	Ribhav Vallishayee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499101)	545	RibhavV2018	L3	L14	W17	W26
10/1	Anuraag Aravind (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16824540)	640	anuraagaravind	L1	W26	L20	W27
11/1	Arnav Antal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16882427)	830	BaMBo0zlEd	W27	L6	L5	W17
12/1	Aathya Srinivasan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16827837)	543	audi7gsw	D13	D5	W16	L22
13/1	Aryan Jain (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802032)	1191	UgandanKnuckles7	D12	L4	W7	W18
14/1	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	1060	andrewaballantyne	D4	W9	W25	L16
15/1	Rajneesh Jain (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16887466)	1246	thundergamerz	L6	W27	L4	L3
16/1	Sahil Sandasani (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16415640)	852	sahildaGOAT	L17	L2	L12	W14
17/1	Aryaman Majumder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16670036)	578	chessaryaman	W16	W24	L9	L11
18/1	Arnav Agarwal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16814632)	796	agarwal4553	L19	W25	W22	L13
19/1	Ananya Borkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16954746)	611	Ananya670	W18	L23	W27	L24
20/1	Thendral Raj (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14313465)	949	10dral	D21	L8	W10	L2
21/1	Tanay Manjunath (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15292907)	795	Luckybananas	D20	L7	L3	L5
22/1	Adithya Gnanasundar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16560602)	463	siverlem	L5	L1	L18	W12
23/1	Andrew Zihan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16524478)	1062	lemonjuice99	L25	W19	L6	L8
24/1	Saif Jeelani (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17150207)	868	Saif_Chess	L2	L17	L26	W19
25/1	Krish Desai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17216743)	448	A_slithering_ape	W23	L18	L14	L7
26/1	Avani Shenoy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015624)	950	aquajollypopsicle	L8	L10	W24	L9
27/1	Dhruv Thakur (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16698256)	307	PoleStarChess	L11	L15	L19	L10
28/2	Bishal Das (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17120700)	797	BishopPlayz	W44	W33	W43	W32
29/2	Laksh Jain (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802026)	1097	smashyplayz	W43	L47	W46	W53
30/2	Krishiv Jaini (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16268124)	806	capawesome18	X52	L31	W50	W44
31/2	Robyn Nakhimovsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16064063)	714	Robynodude	W36	W30	W35	L48

32/2	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	912	adichi	W47	W49	W37	L28
33/2	Cassius Lai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15855411)	1363	CassiusL	W42	L28	W41	W45
34/2	Shashank Garag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17125451)	712	CyberSpaceKing	W45	D46	L57	W50
35/2	Serena Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16887121)	762	shiningcrystal	W37	W40	L31	W41
36/2	Sanat Gupta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16396482)	1224	Sanat2	L31	W52	W47	L57
37/2	Daniel Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15735630)	229	JazzyAsh	L35	W53	L32	W46
38/2	Ronak Hiremath (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16562442)	272	SelfishClothes	W50	W48	W53	L43
39/2	Dominic Leung (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17346830)	480	Daodao01	D41	W51	L42	W49
40/2	Prisha Pandeya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425830)	449	Pusheen_the_Pr0	W53	L35	W52	L42
41/2	Eric Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17150213)	776	Xiaowu2	D39	W45	L33	L35
42/2	Ekam Dhot (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15754603)	610	Ekam_Dublin	L33	L44	W39	W40
43/2	Samar Dh Bhowmick (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168813)	unr.	raginglion	L29	W50	L28	W38
44/2	Rivanth Suresh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16887308)	538	SuperRockstar	L28	W42	W49	L30
45/2	Tyler Walsh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17351055)	unr.	Tyler_YABOI_Walsh	L34	L41	W51	L33
46/2	Tansen Mehta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17203773)	614	NiceLoyalLogic	Z---	D34	L29	L37
47/2	Eric Chen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16956256)	446	Eric-100	L32	W29	L36	Z---
48/2	Yashas Shashidhara (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16595698)	849	Yashas06	L51	L38	Z---	W31
49/2	Shrihan Bodadi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16765673)	302	Shrihan98316	X54	L32	L44	L39
50/2	Hrishikesh Bollini (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16890941)	973	hrishikeshbollini	L38	L43	L30	L34
51/2	Paarth Agrawal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30096353)	unr.	Tactivian	W48	L39	L45	L52
52/2	Celine Chen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17337287)	unr.	ExcelQueen	F30	L36	L40	W51
53/2	Samarth Bhatia (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17340688)	unr.	Samurai-Sammy	L40	L37	L38	L29
54/2	Anagh Nag Puranik (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254681)	524		F49	---	---	---
55/3	Sean Zhang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17109032)	430	sean330	W58	W65	W66	Z---
56/3	Aarav Goel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	628	AaravGoel5	W81	W67	W63	W59

	16803516)						
57/3	Sreyan Ghosh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17248390)	793	Falcondragoon	D62	Z---	W34	W36
58/3	Dylan Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30018011)	827	lerdog	L55	W62	W76	W72
59/3	Henry Travis Han (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17196727)	unr.	lionkingh	W76	W71	W70	L56
60/3	Sankarshana Sudeendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30017519)	unr.	ChessWizard1393	W71	W76	W74	L65
61/3	Martin Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102977)	unr.	ChessDragon743	W68	L66	W71	W78
62/3	Shivish Aneja (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30036465)	unr.	SubtleGalaxy99	D57	L58	W77	W81
63/3	Samyak Jain (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15756642)	1358	SamDaGreat	W80	W72	L56	W67
64/3	Felix Leung (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17202283)	523	TheMightyDragon1	Z---	W73	W65	W76
65/3	Eashan Mahajan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16803522)	885	KnightTemplar0	W75	L55	L64	W60
66/3	Gavin Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15762048)	1056	mydonkey1234567890	W70	W61	L55	L95
67/3	Ram Stewart (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30036336)	unr.	buddyram	W73	L56	W78	L63
68/3	Jerry Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16480854)	660	nextspacejl	L61	L70	W79	W77
69/3	Evan Roche (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16601933)	720	Evan8435	W78	W74	Z---	L70
70/3	Jasmine Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17014123)	230	Jasjas08	L66	W68	L59	W69
71/3	Subhiksha Balaji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16773248)	110	chess4me1ly	L60	L59	L61	W80
72/3	Akhil Venkatesh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17205241)	672	CePtIcCrAsH5X_X	W77	L63	W75	L58
73/3	Aakrisht Mehra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15453476)	562	ak121	L67	L64	W95	L79
74/3	Mrinal Agarwal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30034234)	unr.	MrinalA	W79	L69	L60	D75
75/3	Arnav Ravi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105115)	unr.	arnavravi3	L65	W79	L72	D74
76/3	Rohan Nihalani (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30036092)	unr.	GivingPigeon	L59	L60	L58	L64
77/3	Vikram Snyder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16771964)	378	vikrams76	L72	W80	L62	L68
78/3	Chris Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16053497)	unr.	TerribleResolution	L69	W81	L67	L61
79/3	Sri Ansh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16709284)	651	srianshdumpala	L74	L75	L68	W73
80/3	Pranil Gundugola (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30033557)	unr.	pranil09	L63	L77	W81	L71
	Cole Sellers						

81/3	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30060725)	100	inkyemptymovies	L56	L78	L80	L62
82/4	Lucas Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15775155)	667	LucasLiu88	W108	W85	W89	W96
83/4	Isabel Greenblatt (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30037568)	unr.	Lefthanded32	W101	W97	W106	W91
84/4	Anis Rebouh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30104837)	unr.	Superpengha	W104	W90	W99	W106
85/4	Ethan Han (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30036213)	unr.	lionkingethan	W86	L82	W90	X---
86/4	William Fitzgerald (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17048414)	537	OlympusMons00	L85	W102	W88	W100
87/4	Eric Jiang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30119575)	unr.	barnaclesbear	L88	W99	W98	W97
88/4	Pranav Sivakumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30042911)	unr.	pranshikku	W87	W96	L86	D89
89/4	Jack Buswell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17194240)	223	Night362	X---	W101	L82	D88
90/4	Rayan Jain (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17009798)	749	lighteningcrushers30	W98	L84	L85	X---
91/4	Samarth Bhat (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16054045)	874	RaggedFire	W103	W100	L97	L83
92/4	Ankur Prasad (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16588712)	704	Ankur5206	W106	W93	X---	L98
93/4	Shriram Boddu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30045487)	unr.	sb1789	W94	L92	L96	W108
94/4	Sasha Sundeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17150715)	unr.	shasasha	L93	W108	W104	W101
95/4	Conrad Braun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109664)	unr.	kingcon3	W102	Z---	L73	W66
96/4	Advait Wankhede (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30026534)	unr.	yeetacopter2	W99	L88	W93	L82
97/4	Anshul Aennam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30035849)	unr.	AnshulPlaysChess	W107	L83	W91	L87
98/4	Zeina Rebouh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30104823)	unr.	Swirlpawn	L90	W104	L87	W92
99/4	Amulya Medaramelta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30035527)	unr.	MasterAmmu2	L96	L87	L84	W103
100/4	Hartej Hansrai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16732735)	313	NamritaHansrai	W105	L91	W108	L86
101/4	Sahej Bhowmick (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30042651)	unr.	SahejB	L83	L89	B---	L94
102/4	Rishika Uppudanti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30035857)	unr.	Rishika8	L95	L86	L105	W107
103/4	Agam Singh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30045434)	unr.	relish_potatoes	L91	W105	W107	L99
104/4	Mahad Saeed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30045085)	unr.	mip67	L84	L98	L94	W105
105/4	Soorya Balaji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16773233)	101	ChessBroSunGuy	L100	L103	W102	L104

106/4	Akshat Verma (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30039622)	unr.	akshat609	L92	D107	L83	L84
107/4	Nathan Kim (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30110436)	unr.	KingOfChess2030	L97	D106	L103	L102
108/4	Khushi Bhatia (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17340694)	unr.	kombat-khushi	L82	L94	L100	L93

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 migh be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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, 2/23: https://www.chess.com/live#r=957106 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.chess.com/live#r=957106)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 2/25:

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - Game Review Class with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: Starting Feb 1 - Monday and ongoing
   Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**
   New session started 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/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: The Art of Defense! with FM Paul Whitehead**

   Course Dates: March 3 through April 7 (6 classes)
   We all want to attack, but to be comfortable and skillful at defense is just as important.
   Learn how to safeguard your king and drum up counter play using chapters and examples taken from The Art of Defense in Chess, by Polugaevsky and Damsky (1988).
   Stalemate, Blockade, Trench Warfare, Counterattack, Traps: these are just a few of the concepts we will take up in this six-week course.
   Be prepared for a little homework - and become a chess player who's hard to beat!
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead)

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:

2/23 Tuesday - **February 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon**
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/february-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/february-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Join Now! Starts February 25: February/March 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129015120/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/20220129015120/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/20220129015120/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

2021 San Francisco Scholastic Championship Online
March 20 - Saturday - All day event
via ChessKid and Chesscom

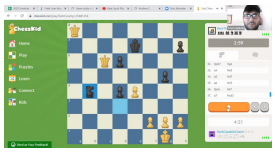
Continuing the tradition and a Mechanis' Institute heritage event: the annual San Francisco Scholastic Championship goes online this spring again to gather scholastic players from the Bay Area and beyond. Join us online for this FREE Event, where players can choose to play in a non-USCF rated section based on their grades, or compete in the Championship sections based on their rating and have their games USCF online rated. Chess Director, Abel Talamantez, and GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead will be covering the event live on our twitch channel!

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021SanFranciscoScholasticOnlineChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021SanFranciscoScholasticOnlineChampionship)

Virtual Chess Classes - Spring Session
March 22 through May 31

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin and Coach Abel – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Tuesdays 3-4PM - Register HERE
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andy Thursdays 4-5PM - Register HERE
- Advanced Class with Coach Andy Thursdays 5-6PM - Register HERE
- Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) Friday 3-4PM - Register HERE

Spring Break Virtual Chess Camp
Monday through Friday, Mar 29 - Apr 2 - 9AM - 12PM
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp)



Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)
Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Saturday Feb 20: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=348238

(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=348238)
- Monday, Feb 22: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=358546 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=358546)
- Tuesday, Feb 23: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=358547 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=358547)
- Wednesday, Feb 24: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=358548 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=358548)
- Thursday, Feb 25: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=358549 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=358549)
- Friday, Feb 26: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=358550 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=358550)

2) USCF Online Rated tournaments - Event registration and USCF membership is needed!
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)
2/21 - Sunday 2PM: 8SS G/5+2 https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentFeb21SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentFeb21SUN)
2/27 - Saturday 3PM: 4SS G/20+10 https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentFeb27SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentFeb27SAT)

3) NEW: Monthly Scholastic Blitz Online Championships - run on Chess.com & LIVE BROADCAST via Twitch.tv/mechanichchess
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom)

3/5 - Friday 6:30PM PT: 8SS G/5+2
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipMar2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipMar2021)
4/1 - Friday 6:30PM PT: 8SS G/5+2
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021)

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 2: Steinitz – Chigoran 1889.

Steinitz never turned down a challenge. His overall record in match play was an incredible +30 -3 =3.

If the match with Zukertort three years earlier was bloody, the match with Chigoran was even more so: only one draw in 17 games, with Steinitz the convincing winner at +10 –6 =1.

Chigoran was prone to blunders, as we shall see, but Steinitz was also sharper overall, and far more tactically aware.

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1. Steinitz – Chigoran, 2nd Match Game 1889.

White moves. Keep it simple.

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2. Chigoran – Steinitz, 3rd Match Game 1889.

White moves. Again, nothing fancy.

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3. Chigoran – Steinitz, 5th Match Game 1889.

Black moves. Spot the tactic.

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4. Chigoran – Steinitz, 7th Match Game 1889.

White moves. Punish Steinitz for his passive play.

---

5. Steinitz – Chigoran, 8th Match Game 1889.

White moves. A classic Steinitz finish.

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6. Steinitz – Chigoran, 10th Match Game 1889.

White moves. Another brutal finish.

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7. Chigoran – Steinitz, 13th Match Game 1889.

White moves. Keep it simple!

GM Nick de Firmian

Nick de Firmian's column will return next week!

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Steinitz – Chigoran, 2nd Match Game 1889.

White won effortlessly after **1.Nxd6 Rxd6 2.Bb4!** winning the exchange. Black held on, but not for long: **2…Rb6 3.Bxf8 Kxf8 4.Rc8+ Kf7 5.Rc7+ Kf6 6.Rf5+ Ke6 7.Rff7 Rb4 8.Rxb7 Rxg4 9.Rxg7 h5 10.Rxa7 Kf5 11.f3 Rg2 12.Ra6 1-0.**

---

2. Chigoran – Steinitz, 3rd Match Game 1889.

White finally broke through with **1.Bc4!** and black had to part with the 2nd exchange with **1…Rxc4**. After **2.bxc4 Kc8** the World Champion couldn't hold on, and lost quickly: **3.Rd6 Nc5 4.Rc6+ Kb8 5.Rh8 1-0.** If **5…Nb7** then **6.Rxb6!** and it's all over.

---

3. Chigoran – Steinitz, 5th Match Game 1889.

Steinitz wrapped it up with the simple **1…Bxf3 2.Nxf3 Qxg3!** winning a piece. White desperately tried to whip up a non-existent attack, and the game concluded with **3.Kh1 Qg6 4.Rd3 Qf6 5.Qd2 Ng6 6.Ng5 Nce5 7.Rf3 Nxf3 8.Bxf7+ Qxf7! 9.Gxf3 Qc4 0-1.**

---

4. Chigoran – Steinitz, 7th Match Game 1889.

Chigoran put the World Champion out of his misery with the decisive stroke **1.Nxf7!** After **1…Kxf7 2.f5! Ke8 3.fxe6 dxe6 4.Ne4 1-0. 5.d7+** is in the air, and Steinitz has had enough.

---

5. Steinitz – Chigoran, 8th Match Game 1889.

Black threatens to take the rook on e2. There are many tempting moves. However, it was **1. Rxe5!** that broke down the Russian challenger's defenses. After **1…fxe5 2.Bxe5**, the road to g7 has been opened and the bishop at d7 and knight at f4 are both hanging. Black tried to keep it together with **2…g5**, but **3.Bg6+!** was the deadly follow-through. Black resigned after **3…Kf8 (3…Nxg6 4.Qxd7+** and mate in 2 moves.) **4.Qxd7 Qa7 5.Qf5+ Kg8 6.d7! 1-0.**

---

6. Steinitz – Chigoran, 10th Match Game 1889.

1.Nf6+ Kd8 2.Rxe7! was too much for black. After **1…Kxe7 2.Qxc7+** black had 3 horrible choices: get mated after **2…Kxf6 3.Qe5#**, lose a rook after **2…Kf8 3.Qxb8+**, or suffer the loss of his queen as played: **2…Nd7 3.Qxa5 1-0.**

---

7. Chigoran – Steinitz, 13th Match Game 1889.

1.Rxd7! transposes into a winning K+P ending: **1…Rxd7 2.Nxd7 Kxd7 3.Ke2 Kc6 4.Kd3 Kb5 5.Kc3h5 (5…Ka4 6.Kc4** is hardly better) **6.Kb3 g5 7.Kxa3 Kc4 8.Kb2 Kd3** Steinitz goes for it, but he's far too late. **9.a4 Ke2 10.a5 Kf2 11.a6 Kxg2 12.a7 Kxh2 13.a8(Q) h4 14.Qg8 h3 15.Qxg5 Kh1 16.Qxe5 1-0.**

Submit your piece or feedback

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https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015120/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Chess Room Newsletter #957

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Newsletter #957

February 27, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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February 2021 TNM Report

The final two rounds of the February 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon saw Grandmaster battles that highlighted the precision and technique that make them a cut above all other chess players. GM Gadir Guseinov, no stranger to coming out on top of the TNM, showed his class in this TNM, as he had to defeat FM Kyron Griffith and GM Jim Tarjan en route to taking sole 1st place with 5.5/6. His game with Griffith was sharp, and he was a bit on the defensive, but a misstep by Kyron let Gadir improve his position and come back for the win. His own over Tarjan in the final round received compliments from Tarjan himself, as he congratulated Gadir's strong technical play in even looking positions. Gadir was able to take first by virtue of Tarjan and Lenderman drawing in theri round 5 game, giving Gadir the half point edge in the final standings.

In the u/1800 section, Sebby Suarez had a rough final two rounds after 4 perfect rounds, saving a draw in round 5, but losing to Aaron Nicoski, allowing Nicoski to leapfrog over him to a tie fo first place with 5/6 along with Michael Jannetta.

It was an exciting ending to the tournament, and the stream was rewarded with bonus coverage at the end. As we were waiting to Chief TD Judit Sztaray to upload the final results, a game popped up on the broadcast. Since I follow the players on Chess.com to view their games, games in progress just pop up for viewing. All of a sudden, viewers of the broadcast got treated to a G?3+2 game between GM Gadir Guseinov and GM Daniel Naroditsky! It had all the action you would expect, with Gadir getting down to a won endgame, only to lose on time with each player having seconds left. You can view that game, as well as the rest of the broadcast by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8TAq_Ye3S0 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8TAq_Ye3S0)

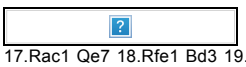
Here are some games from the championship round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Daniel Lin (SmilyFace4) (2057) - FM Eric Li (kingandqueen2017) (2091) [D00]

MI February TNM Chess.com (5.3), 23.02.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 The ever-popular London System (perhaps the "Accelerated London" will catch on). Black meets it classically, bringing out his own bishops. **2...d5** [2...g6 is more and more met by 3.Nc3 looking for e2-e4 and a variation of the Pirc that is no longer thought to be harmless! 3...d5 thwarts that, but now White can play calm-style with 4.e3 *(*or Jobava-style with *4.Qd2)* 4...Bg7 5.Be2 c6 when the most recent game is up there: ½-½ (48) Caruana,F (2823)-Giri,A (2764) Wijk aan Zee 2021] **3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nd2** Holding off Nf3 could matter if Qb6 and Qb3 happen **5...Bf5 6.Ngf3** Welcome back to the "classic" London **6...e6 7.Qb3** [Here's a game between one of India's next wave of superstars, and the Bay Area's already established current superstar: 7.Bb5 Bd6 8.Qa4 0-0 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Qa3 Nd7 12.Nb3 Rfb8 13.0-0 *(*White could grab the pawn directly with *13.Nxc5)* 13...a5 14.Nxc5 Nxc5 15.dxc5 Qc7 16.b3 e5+/=



17.Rac1 Qe7 18.Rfe1 Bd3 19.Qb2 f6 20.Qd2 Be4 21.c4 Qxc5 22.cxd5 Qxd5 23.Qe2 Bxf3 24.gxf3 a4 25.Red1 Qf7 26.bxa4 Rxa4 27.Rd2 h6 28.h3 Rh4 29.Kh2 Qh5 30.Qf1 Qxf3 31.Qg2 Qxg2+ 32.Kxg2 Rc8 33.Rd7 Ra4 34.Rb1 Kh7 35.Rbb7 Rg8 36.Rb2 Rga8 ½-½, Nihal,S (2620) -Shankland,S (2691) Chess24 Banter Blitz Cup Qual-A Sept 5, 2020] **7...Qc8** Trying to keep the pieces on, but it could run into trouble. [Avoiding the queen exchange that either player could initiate after 7...Qb6] **8.c4!?** White's play is very principled: pry open the c-file for a rook! [8.Nh4 is the main move] **8...cxd4**

[The computer suggests 8...dxc4 and now the unplayed 9.Qxc4!?] **9.exd4** ["Everybody" takes with the knight: 9.Nxd4] **9...Be7 10.c5** Sometimes this pawn structure can go very well for White -- especially if he gets in b4-b5, while holding Black's ...e5 (and maybe ...b6) at bay. [10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Na5 12.Qa4 Nxc4 13.Bxc4 dxc4 14.Nxc4 doesn't impress for either side. 1/2-1/2 (22) Rodriguez Fontecha,M (2244)-Van den Bersselaar,J (2211) Calvia 2011] **10...0-0**

11.Bd3?!-/+ [More to the position was 11.Bb5 (e5!) 11...Nh5 12.Be3 Qc7 13.Qc3?! *(13.0-0=; 13.h3 Nf6 14.0-0=)* 13...Nf4 *(13...Nf6!=/+)* 14.0-0 is very stable, but White lost the way and the game; 0-1 40, Studnicka,T (2341)-Hollan,P (2301) Czech Republic CZE-chT1W 2020.] **11...Nh5?!** [Best was 11...Bxd3 12.Qxd3 b6 Pecking away at White's pawns before can become a nuisance.] **12.Bg3?** [Certainly better was 12.Be3 but after 12...b6-/+ Black is still gathering momentum. The key is to answer any cxb6 with ...Rb8! and b-file action.] **12...Bg6?!=/+** [(-2.39) The best move was 12...Bxd3 13.Qxd3 b6-+ and White is in trouble, maybe even lost! Black waits for 0-0 before playing ...Nxg3 of course, but then ...Rb8 is on again.] **13.0-0 Nxg3 14.hxg3**

14...b6! 15.Bxg6 hxg6 16.cxb6 Rb8! 17.a3?! [17.Qe3= comes fairly close to even 17...Rxb6 18.Nb3 a5 19.Rfc1 Qa6 20.Rc2] **17...Rxb6 18.Qc3 a5 19.Rfc1 Qb7 20.Rab1 Rb8 21.Rc2 Qa6**

22.Ne5?! Black has pressure against the b-pawn and d4, but this overreacts. [22.Qe3=/+ keeps cool.] **22...Nxe5 23.dxe5 a4?** [23...Rb5! adds the plan of taking over the c-file, and it's close to too much for White.] **24.Rbc1 Bd8 25.Qd4 Rb5?!=** [25...g5 26.g4 g6 27.Nf3 *(27.g3* is too much copycat: *27...Kg7 28.Kg2 R6b7* adds ...Bb6 to the mix*)*] **26.Rc6?!** Further slippage; [26.Nf3 Rb3 27.Qd2 Qd3 28.Qf4 keeps the balance] **26...Qa8?** [26...Bb6!-/+ 27.Qc3 Qa7 is awkward] **27.R6c2 Bb6 28.Qd3 Ba7 29.Qc3?!** [29.Rb1] **29...Qb7** [29...d4! 30.Qc8+ Rxc8 31.Rxc8+ Qxc8 32.Rxc8+ Kh7 33.Rc4 Rxb2 34.Rxa4 Bc5 35.Ne4 d3 36.Ng5+ *(36.Nxc5?? Rb1+ 37.Kh2 d2)* 36...Kg8 *(36...Kh6 37.Nxf7+ Kh5?? 38.Rh4#)* 37.Ra8+ Bf8 38.Rd8 keeps it even!] **30.Nf3**

30...Rxb2?? Black "cashes in," except -- with over 14 minutes (to White's 6:10), he misses a nasty tail-end checkmate! [Simply 30...Rc5 31.Qd2 Rbc8 sees Black with what little advantage there is.] **31.Rxb2 Qxb2 32.Qxb2 Rxb2**

33.Rc8+ Kh7 34.Ng5+ Kh6 35.Nxf7+ Kh5 36.Rh8+ Kg4 37.Rh4+ Kf5 38.Rf4#

Very pretty. **1-0**

(2) GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes) (2459) - GM Aleksandr Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2733) [D85]

MI February TNM Chess.com (5.1), 23.02.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.c4 English **1...g6** But which English? **2.d4** No, a Queen's Pawn, Modern Defense **2...Nf6** No, back to normal King's Indian channels **3.Nc3 d5** That is, a Gruenfeld! Alex does play everything, but all in one game? **4.cxd5** The Exchange Variation, certainly still one the toughest tests. **4...Nxd5 5.e3** Mouse-slip? (No, of course not.) But note: the computer is not amused. [5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 is the way it usually goes, when it's British soldiers vs. American revolutionaries. That is, big formal center vs. sniping from every direction.; There are moves that try to get e2-e4 in without any softening of the long diagonal: 5.Bd2 This has been popular at the highest level for a while recently, with some fantastic games.; and even 5.Na4 has something to be said for it, get e4 in without allowing the knight trade.] **5...Bg7 6.Bc4!?** Not the most common move! [Kramnik has led the way to a simple and logical, if slight advantage: 6.Nxd5 Qxd5 7.Ne2 0-0 8.Nc3 and, of course, the minions have followed. A recent game went 8...Qd6 *(8...Qd8* is still the most frequent*)* 9.Be2 Rd8 10.0-0 Na6 11.Bd2 c5 12.d5! Nc7 *(12...Bxc3?! 13.Bxc3 Qxd5 14.Qa4* is ful compensation -- not much else, but what there is, is White's.*)* 13.e4 e6 14.Bc4?!=/+ 0-1 (35), Kryakvin, D (2594)-Tomczak,J (2605) Molodezhka-POL, lichess.org, May 2020 *(14.Bg5!+/=)*] Perhaps Tarjan has been re-reading the old classics? See next note. **6...Nxc3** [6...Nb6 (less common but on the whole far better scoring) was in the introductory chapter of The 1964 Art of the Middle Game by Kotov and Keres; Golombek translated it to English and sneaked in a game of his own to illustrate planning. 7.Bb3 0-0 8.Nf3 Na6 9.0-0 c5 10.a4 Bg4 11.h3 cxd4 12.exd4 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Qxd4 14.a5! 1-0 (24) Golombek,H-Footner,J England 1963.] **7.bxc3 c5**

8.h4 Welcome to the 21st Century! Or is this the 19th Century? In any case, White tosses up the h-pawn, like a neural net Romantic. **8...Nc6** [And, it turns out that Tarjan has played this before! Against far lesser competition, but you can't knock success in the form of a quick rout: 8...h5 9.Nh3 0-0 10.Ng5 Qc7 11.0-0 cxd4

12.Qb3! e5? *(12...e6 13.cxd4+/-)* 13.Ba3 Rd8 14.Bxf7+ Kh8 15.Bxg6 Rd7 16.Qd1 Kg8 17.Bh7+ Kh8 18.Qxh5 Bf8 19.Bc2+ Kg8 20.Bb3+ Kg7 21.Qh7+ Kf6 22.Ne4# 1-0 (22) Tarjan,J (2381)-Johnson,D (1857) PNWCC Online Masters WOO chess.com, July 5 2020.] **9.h5**

9...Qc7N Lenderman sets up possible c-file threats while keeping certain options open. [Another flash win was 9...Bf5 10.Ne2 Rc8 11.Ng3?! *(11.h6 Bf6 12.Bb3 0-0 13.Ng3* is complicated with chances for both sides*)* 11...cxd4 12.h6?! *(12.Nxf5 gxf5 13.exd4 Nxd4* show it has gone bad for White*)* 12...Bf6 13.Nxf5 gxf5 14.Qh5

14...Ne5? *(14...0-0-+)* 15.Bb5+ Kf8? *(15...Nc6=)* 16.exd4+/- Qa5? Perhaps Black thought he was winning? 17.Qxf5! Wrong guy. 17...Qxc3+ 18.Bd2! Qxa1+ 19.Ke2 1-0. Jumabayev,R (2654)-Eynullayev,A (2227) Titled Tuesday chess.com 29th Dec, 2020; And then there was also recently 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 b5

11.Bxf7+?! *(11.Bd3!; 11.Be2!)* 11...Kxf7 12.Qf3+ Ke8? *(12...Bf6 13.Qxc6 Rb8+/=)* 13.hxg6 *(13.Qxc6+! Bd7 14.Qd5+-)* 13...Nxd4?! *(13...Bb7!? 14.Qf7+ Kd7 15.Rxh7 Rxh7 16.gxh7 Qh8* still won*)* 14.Qf7+ Kd7 15.exd4+- Bxd4 16.g7 Bxa1 17.Qd5+ Ke8 18.Qh5+ Kd7 19.Qxb5+ Ke6 20.Qc4+ Kd7 21.Rh5 1-0 Napoli,N (2270)-Gonzalez Rivera,E (2092) TCh-Madrid 2014-15, Mar 8, 2015] **10.Bb3?!+/=** Too accommodating? [10.Qf3!? 0-0?! *(10...Rf8; 10...e6!?)* 11.hxg6 hxg6 12.Qe4! Bf5!? *(12...e6 13.Qh4+-* is probably lost*)* 13.Qh4 g5!? 14.Qxg5 e6+/= and Black is finally ready to take on d4] **10...Bf5** complicated... **11.Ne2** [11.Qf3!? c4 12.Bd1 Bd3 13.h6; Now would be a good time to commit to 11.h6!]

11...0-0-0! Yes, that option. And he's not just joking -- Stockfish puts this at the top. The king can always step aside if it feels uncomfortable on the c-file. [11...Rd8 is the more mundane play, when Stockfish 13 jumped on 12.Kf1!? *(*before finally preferring *12.f3)*] **12.Bb2?!=/+** [12.h6 Certainly there's no longer any reason to keep the hxg6 option open...] **12...e5** [12...Ne5!?; and best is 12...Kb8 awaiting developments.] **13.Rc1?!** [13.h6] **13...Rhe8**

[13...gxh5! when who knows, the g-file could be Black's second path in.] **14.Kf1!?-/+** Not to be outdone, White atypically solves his king position. [14.0-0 gxh5 15.Ng3 Bg4 16.Qc2 h4 could be trouble over there.] **14...Kb8 15.Kg1 gxh5** [15...Qb6! is that last straw to the attack on d4; White has problems. 16.d5?? c4-+] **16.Rxh5 Bg6 17.Rh3 Qb6-/+** There it is after all. **18.Ba1?!**

[18.Ba3!?] **18...cxd4 19.cxd4 exd4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Bxd4 Bxd4 22.exd4 Rxd4**

Black has cashed in and is a clear pawn up. But no clear win; Tarjan defends well and Lenderman misses a chance or two. **23.Qf3 Qd6 24.Qc3 a6 25.Re3 Rxe3 26.Qxe3 Re4 27.Qc3 Rh4?**

Missing a tactic. [27...Rd4 might be the best try, and at some point ...f6 should be played.] **28.Qc8+?** As does White! [28.Bd5!!= gets the bishop to a better diagonal, with a threat (Qc8+ on b7) thrown in, 28...Rb4 with no easy way forward, if any. *(*and a trap *28...Qxd5?? 29.Qg3+* is winning*)*] **28...Ka7 29.Qc7 Rd4** Black should be happy to trade queens; his king is somewhat less safe, whereas then it could participate in making something out of the extra pawn. [29...Qxc7!? 30.Rxc7 f6 31.Bd5 Rb4 32.Re7 a5! looks to untangle, progress.] **30.Qc3** Rightly reconsidering. **30...h5** [30...f5!?] **31.Qe3 Qb6 32.Rc8 Rd6** The biggest think of the game at 5m13s. Making sure he doesn't get mated! **33.Qe8 Qd4 34.Rc4** [34.Ra8+ Kb6 35.Rc8] **34...Qa1+ 35.Kh2 Re6 36.Qc8 Qe5+ 37.f4 Qd6** Finally Black has loosened up White's king position a bit, so White finally accepts going into a R+B ending. **38.Qc5+ Qxc5 39.Rxc5**

39...Rf6 40.Kg3 h4+ 41.Kf3 Bf5 42.Rc7 Be6?! [42...Kb6 43.Rxf7 Rxf7 44.Bxf7 Kc5 45.g4!=] **43.Bxe6 fxe6** [43...Rxe6 44.f5 Rf6 45.Kg4 a5 46.Kg5 Rc6 47.Rxf7 Rc2 48.a4 Rxg2+ 49.Kxh4 Ra2 inevitably draws in some rook vs. pawn ending after Black gives up the rook for White's f-pawn. White's king is the farthest away it could be.] **44.Rh7** White almost has an advantage! But that's not going to happen. Lenderman clamps down on the draw. **44...e5 45.Rxh4 b5 46.Ke4 exf4 47.Rxf4 Re6+ 48.Kd3 Re1 49.a4 bxa4** A tough game all the way. It remains to be seen if Lenderman had a way to win somewhere when it was QRB and an extra pawn. In any case, Tarjan kept a clear head and traded sensibly, reaching a drawn rook ending. **1/2-1/2**

(3) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2638) - GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes) (2447) [B17]

MI February TNM Chess.com (6.1), 23.02.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.c3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bc4 Qc7 8.Qf3 Bg4 [8...e6 9.Bf4 Bd6 10.Ne2 Bxf4 11.Qxf4 Qxf4 12.Nxf4 b6 13.0-0-0 Ke7 14.Rhe1 Rd8 15.Nd3 Bb7 16.f4 Kf8 17.g3 Rac8 18.Ne5 Nd7 19.f5 Nxe5 20.Rxe5 exf5 21.Rxf5 Rc7 22.Rg1 Re8 23.Rgf1 Ree7 24.a4 Bc8 25.R5f4 Be6 1/2-1/2 (25) Guseinov,G (2665)-Bacrot,E (2673) chess.com INT 2020] **9.Qg3 Qxg3 10.hxg3 Bf5** [10...e6 11.Nf3 Bd6 12.Ne5 Bf5 13.f3 Nd7 14.Bf4 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Bc7 16.0-0-0 Rd8 17.Bb3 Bg6 18.Rxd8+ Kxd8 19.Bc2 Bxc2 20.Kxc2 Kc8 21.g4 h6 22.Rh5 Rg8 23.Be3 b6 24.f4 c5 25.Kd3 Rd8+ 26.Ke2 Kd7 27.c4 Kc6 28.Rh1 b5 29.cxb5+ Kxb5 30.Rc1 Bb6 31.b3 a5 32.Rc4 Ra8 33.Kd3 Rd8+ 34.Ke2 Rh8 35.Rc3 Ra8 36.a4+ Kc6 37.Rd3 Rd8 38.Rxd8 1/2-1/2 (38) Sutovsky,E (2657)-Harikrishna,P (2672) Wijk aan Zee NED 2010] **11.f3** [11.Ne2 e6 12.f3 Nd5 13.g4 Bg6 14.Nf4 Nxf4 15.Bxf4 Kd7 16.Ke2 Bd6 17.Bxd6 Kxd6 1/2-1/2 (17) Ivanchuk,V (2740)-Karpov,A (2775) Dortmund GER 1995] **11...e6 12.g4 Bg6 13.Ne2**

13...Kd7!?N [Predecessor: 13...Bd6 14.Bf4 Ke7 15.Bxd6+ Kxd6 16.Nf4 Nd5 17.Bxd5 cxd5 18.Kd2 f6 19.Rh3 Bf7 20.Re1 h6 21.Nh5 Rhg8 22.Re3 a5 23.Rh1 Rae8 24.Rhe1 Re7 25.R1e2 b6 26.Re1 Ree8 27.R1e2 Re7 28.Re1 1/2-1/2 (28) Zivkovic,V (2358)-Tica,S (2389) Mali Losinj 2017] **14.Bf4 Nd5**

15.Bxd5 Rather a surprising decision! But Guseinov was half a point ahead of the field, and was content to "play for two results" -- and he must have know that Tarjan was no has-been but still a dangerous force to be reckoned with (reference Tarjan-Kramnik, Isle of Man 2017!) **15...cxd5 16.Kd2 Be7 17.Be3 b5** [17...h6 to save the bishop against Nf4] **18.a3 a5** Black pursues the Minority Attack, usually one has rooks there first... **19.Nf4 Rhc8** [19...f6!? when White has to grab the bishop now or worry about it stepping to f7.] **20.Nxg6 hxg6 21.Rh7 Rg8=** [21...Rh8 is equally equal but a transparent trap: 22.Rah1 *(22.Rxg7?? Ke8!-+)* 22...Rxh7 23.Rxh7 Rg8= Tarjan might have wanted to have both rooks on the board to keep his own winning chances alive (he was half a point behind Guseinov).] **22.Kd3 Bd6?!+/=** [He still has 22...Rh8=; And 22...a4 would be a cold shower to either player's winning chances.] **23.Bd2** [Right away 23.a4! doesn't le Black lock it up 23...b4 24.c4! as in the note below.] **23...Kc6** [Last chance for 23...a4] **24.a4! bxa4** Tarjan thought for over four minutes on this important decision. [Guseinov wanted to be able to meet 24...b4 with 25.cxb4= and a protected passed pawn, *(*but *25.Rc1!?+/=* and c4 is a different sort of endgame activity*.)* although after 25...Bxb4 26.Bxb4 axb4 27.Rc1+ *(27.Kc2!? Rac8 28.Kb3 Kb6* Black keeps getting counterplay*.)* 27...Kd6 28.b3 Rac8! 29.Rhh1 g5 is a standoff.; 24...Rab8!? 25.axb5+ Rxb5 26.Kc2 e5!? might be Black's best line: 27.dxe5 Bxe5 A bishop on the long diagonal (covering g7, trying to get the R/g8 into the game) isn't permanent, but does White really want to boot it with f4/g5?] **25.Rxa4+/=** White now has a pretty good result on the queenside, with various possibilities against the a-pawn and b3/c4 as well. (Note the bishop indirectly aiming at a5!) **25...Rab8 26.Kc2 Kb5 27.b3 Ra8 28.Rh1 Bc7 29.Rha1**

The a-pawn is a definite problem. **29...Rh8?!** Counterplay, but it turns out to be not enough. [Better defensive chances were to be had with 29...Kc6+/=; or 29...Ra7+/= 30.c4+ dxc4 31.bxc4+ Kc6 32.Bxa5?? Rga8-+] **30.c4+ Kc6 31.Bxa5 Bxa5 32.Rxa5 Rxa5 33.Rxa5 dxc4** [33...Rh2 34.Ra7 Rxg2+ 35.Kd3 f6 36.Re7! Kd6 37.Rxg7 (so that c5+ is a free move) is getting to be won for White.] **34.bxc4 Rh2** [34...Kb6 35.Ra2 lets White hold g2] **35.Ra7 f5 36.Rxg7 fxg4 37.Kd3** [37.fxg4? Rxg2+ 38.Kd3 Rxg4=] **37...Rxg2 38.Rxg6 gxf3 39.Rxe6+** with a standard win **39...Kd7 40.Rf6 f2 41.Ke3 Rg3+ 42.Kxf2 Rc3 43.c5 Rd3 44.Rd6+ Kc7 45.Ke2 Rc3 46.Kd2 Ra3 47.Kc2 Rh3 48.Rb6 Rg3 49.Rb3 Rg1 50.Kd3 Rc1 51.Ke4 Rh1 52.Kd5 Rg1 53.Rh3 Rg5+ 54.Kc4 Rg1 55.Rh7+ 1-0**

(4) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2313) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2626) [E76]

MI February TNM Chess.com (5.2), 23.02.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 Kyron has some experience with the Four Pawn King's Indian: 3-0 in chess.com play. But... **5...0-0 6.Nf3** Nobody has played **6...e5!?**

against him. This is a Guseinov specialty, with five or so games played with it since 2015. [Opening lore has for ages said Black has to prepare ...e5 with 6...Na6 and indeed Guseinov played this a couple times back in 2013 or so, with a win and a loss, both against Nguyen.; 6...c5 7.d5 e6 is the more traditional reaction, and could come from the Benoni move order.] **7.fxe5** Being an odd-numbered round the pairing was up for a day, and Kyron could have seen that there was a good chance this is how Guseinov would play. So is this a preparation? If so, it was the sort that could easily backfire. [7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 *(8.Nxe5 Qxd1+ 9.Kxd1 Na6 10.Be2 Rd8+ 11.Kc2 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bf5 13.Bf3 Nc5 14.Re1 Bxe5 15.fxe5 Rd4 16.Kc3 Rd3+ 17.Kc2 Rd4 18.Kc3 Rd3+ 19.Kb4 Na6+ 20.Ka5 b6+ 21.Kxa6 Bc8+ 22.Kb5 Bd7+ 23.Ka6 Bc8+ 24.Kb5 Bd7+ 25.Ka6 ½-½* (25) Mamedyarov,S (2752) -Svidler,P (2746) Fide GP, Baku 2008*)* 8...Rxd8 9.Nxe5 Na6 10.Be2 resembles the Exchange Variation of the Classical King's Indian (5.Nf3/6.Be2), but Black does pretty well afte 10...Nc5 11.Bf3 Be6 *(or 11...Nfd7!?)* 12.Nd5 *(12.Be3!?)* 12...Nfxe4N *(12...Nfd7* is mostly seen, very well for Black*)* 13.Nxc7 Bxe5 14.Nxe6 Bxb2 15.Bxb2 fxe6 and on to a quick win: 0-1 (26) Potterat,M (2129)-Guseinov,G (2643) Zuerich Chess Challenge op 6th, 2017] **7...dxe5 8.d5** White tries to keep a lid on the center, but it's hard to make something of it. It's no surprise that Guseinove plays the highest-scoring line -- or is it the highest scoring line because Guseinov plays it! **8...Na6** Often reached via the 6...Na6 move order, so there are a few hundred games here. **9.Bd3** Computers favor this slightly over 9.Qc2; [9.Be2 c6 10.0-0 Nc5 *(10...cxd5* Varying from his own *11.cxd5 Qb6+ 12.Kh1 Ng4 13.Qe1 Bd7!?N 14.h3 Ne3 15.Bxe3 Qxe3* with an easy game: 0-1 (38) Suleymanli,A (2032) -Guseinov,G (2645) AZE-ch 71st, Baku Mar 19, 2016*)* 11.Nd2 a5 12.Kh1 a4 13.Rb1 cxd5 14.cxd5 Bd7 15.b4 axb3 16.axb3 b5 17.b4 Na4 18.Nxa4 Rxa4 19.Bd3 Black was doing okay but started to drift; 1-0 (44) Jobava,B (2603)-Guseinov, G (2665) World op 48th (online) ICC Aug 8, 2020] **9...c6**

The East German tactician and GM Rainer Knaak gave this a "!" in an article in 1995, and Guseinov has stayed loyal to it. **10.0-0 cxd5** [He did vary with 10...Nh5 in a blitz game: 11.Kh1 Bd7 12.Be3 Qe7 13.Qd2 Nc5 14.Bc2 Na6 Not very convincing! 15.a3 b6 16.b4 with a won game for White -- but Gadir won anyway: 0-1 (33) Johannessen,L (2487)-Guseinov,G (2646) EU Blitz ch, Minsk 2015] **11.cxd5** This is typical King's Indian: the computers make White the high side of plus over equal, +0.55 or so. But in practice Black so often breaks out in a tactical firefight that it turns into anyone's game. Guseinov tries to play the standard Grandmaster playbook: as White, slight advantage in clearcut positions, as Black, head for murky complications. **11...Ne8** Played 29 years ago, in a game mentioned in that Knaak article. And it's not surprising: Black logically heads for the ideal outpost d6, and frees the f-pawn to advance. [Very noteworthy is this fairly recent sample, in a big tournament, against an already established up-and-coming superstar: 11...Nc5 12.Be3 b6 13.Kh1 Bg4 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Rxf3 Nxd3 16.Qxd3 Ne8 17.Raf1 Nd6 18.Nb5 Qd7 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.g4 Rac8 21.Kg2 Rc7 22.R1f2 Qb4 The longer they look the less the computers think White has here, definitely something -- but Gadir held the draw, by sending in confusion: 23.Bg5 Rd7 24.Rc2

24...f5!? 25.gxf5 gxf5 26.Rxf5 Rxf5 27.exf5 Qd4 Still: computers +-, human draw.½-½ (72), Dubov, D (2690)-Guseinov,G (2666) WCh (rapid), Moscow Dec 27, 2019; Gadir tried 11...Qd6 a few years ago: 12.Kh1 Bg4 *(12...Bd7 13.Nd2 Rac8 14.Nc4 Qe7 15.Bg5 h6 16.d6 Qe6 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Na5 Bg5 19.Nxb7 Nc5 20.Nxc5 Rxc5 21.Bc2 Rc6 22.Bb3 Qxd6 23.Ba4 Qxd1 24.Raxd1 Rxc3 25.Rxd7 Rc4 26.Rxa7 Rxe4 27.Bb3 Re2 28.Raxf7 Rxf7 29.Bxf7+ Kg7 30.b4 e4 31.Bc4 Rb2 32.Rf7+ Kh8 33.Rf8+ Kg7 34.Rf7+ Kh8 35.Rf8+ Kg7 36.Rf7+ Kh8 37.Rf8+* 1/2-1/2 (37) Riazantsev,A (2628)-Iljiushenok,I (2539) Sochi 2020*)* 13.h3 Bd7 14.Be3 Nh5 15.Kh2 f5 16.Nd2 f4 17.Bf2 Kh8 18.Nc4 Qe7 19.Qb3 Nc5 20.d6 Qg5 21.Bxc5 Qg3+ 22.Kh1 Bxh3 23.Qc2 Be6 24.Bf2 Qg5 25.Nd5 Ng3+ 26.Kg1 Qh4 27.Bc5 Qh1+ 28.Kf2 Qh4 29.Kg1 Rac8 30.b4 Qh1+ 31.Kf2 Qh4 32.Kg1 b6 33.d7 bxc5 34.dxc8Q Rxc8 35.Nd6 Rd8 36.Nb7 Rxd5 37.Nxc5 Bg4 38.Rac1 Qh1+ 39.Kf2 Qh4 40.Kg1 Rd8 41.b5 Qh1+ 42.Kf2 Qh4 43.Kg1 Bf6 44.Bc4 Qh1+ 45.Kf2 Qh4 46.Kg1 Qh1+ 47.Kf2 Nxf1 48.Rxf1 Bh4+ 0-1 (48) gmmoranda (2727)-Guseinov,G (2689) Chess.com 2018] **12.Kh1?!** [12.Qe2 (The only move in Knaak's article) 12...Nc5 went five wins for Black and a draw, so players are looking elsewhere.; 12.Be3 looks stronger and was played not so long ago: 12...Nd6 13.Qa4 Nc7 14.Qa3 b6 15.Nd2 *(15.Rae1!?; 15.Rac1!?)* 15...Re8 16.Qb3 f5 17.a4 f4 18.Bf2 g5 Massive storms are ahead: 1-0 (41) 78, Indjic,A (2523)-Damljanovic,B (2566) Subotica 2014. White should strike now with 19.Nc4 Bf8 20.a5 and again: some degree of advantage, but Black is still with resources.] **12...Nd6 13.Bg5 f6 14.Bh4 Qe8**

[14...Qd7!? Since Black is intending ...Nc5, ...b6 and ...Ba6, this could be the better square; Stockfish solves the last undeveloped piece with just 14...Bg4 and not so far off equality in its evaluation.] **15.Qe2N** White somewhat fumbles here and lets Black coordinate. [Previously 15.Nd2 Nc5 16.Nc4 got rid of the key offensive/ defensive knight on d6 with some advantage: 16...Qe7 *(16...Nb5!? 17.Nxb5 Qxb5 18.a4 Qb3 19.Qxb3 Nxb3 20.Ra3 Nc5 21.Bc2* and Black still hasn't developed nor equalized*)* 17.Nxd6 Qxd6 18.Nb5 Qd7 19.d6?! *(19.Rc1!+/-)* 19...Kh8 20.Rc1 1/2-1/2 (20) Gretarsson,H (2544)-McShane,L (2438) Reykjavik 2000] **15...Nc5 16.Bc2?!** [16.Nb5 remains even after some exchanges.] **16...b6=/+ 17.b4 Ba6** [17...Ncb7!?] **18.Qd1?!** [18.Qd2=] **18...Nd7** Guseinov spent an unheard-of six minutes on this move! [18...Ncb7 in fact is a good alternative, but how many pieces can go to c4?] **19.Bd3 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 Rc8?!** [20...a6=/+ and Black is ready for aggression, with ...f5, ...Bh6, ...Rc8 in some order.] **21.Nb5!** Now White is no worse **21...Nxb5 22.Qxb5 Bh6=**

23.a4 Rf7 24.a5 bxa5 25.Rxa5 Rb8?! [25...Nb6 26.Qxe8+ Rxe8 remains solid, if currently all defense.] **26.Qa4** [26.Qc4!?; 26.Qc6!? even] **26...Bf8 27.Rb1 Nb6 28.Qa2 Nc8 29.Ra6 Nd6** There is always a knight on d6 and the e-pawn attack. **30.Nd2=**

30...Rbb7? Various counterattacks were preferable: [30...Qb5; 30...Rc8] **31.Nc4??** (after not quite 3 minutes) White had almost twice the time (18:26 vs. 10:35) but finds the wrong way to increase the attack on the key square d6, overlooking or miscalculating the subsequent tactics. [31.Bf2! Heading for c5 with no loose pawns! Black is uncomfortable still, to say the least.] **31...Nxe4** Of course. **32.Qc2 f5 33.Re6 Qc8!** [33...Qb5 also imperils the knight and the d-pawn, but White has resources: 34.Rxe5 (34.Nxe5 Rfc7 35.Rc6 Bd6 36.Bd8 Rxc6 37.Qxc6 *(37.dxc6?! Qxe5-+* threatens mate!*)* 37...Bxe5 38.Qe6+ Rf7 39.Qxe5 Qd3=/+ 40.Re1 Qc3 41.Qxc3 Nxc3 42.Be7 Nxd5=/+ isn't so bad) 34...Rfc7] **34.Rc6 Qb8-/+**

Black attacks White's weak pawns now. **35.Bg3?!** [35.Rd1!? Rxb4 36.d6! and White's d-pawn wins material! Black still has an advantage though: 36...Qe8 37.Nxe5 Qxe5 38.d7 Rb8! 39.d8Q (39.Rc8 Rxd7 40.Qa2+ *(40.Rxd7 Rxc8 41.Qxc8 Qa1+)* 40...Rf7 stays a piece up)] **35...Rxb4 36.Rc1 Rfb7 37.Na5** [37.Bxe5 Rxc4 38.Bxb8 Rxc2 39.R1xc2 Rxb8 will win with some care.] **37...Rb2 38.Qd1 Rd2 39.Qxd2** Out of frustration, but it isn't close. **39...Nxd2 40.Nxb7 Qxb7 41.Bxe5 Qb5 42.Bd4 Nb3** One can learn a lot about the King's Indian, and attack and defense, through study of this game. Guseinov didn't buckle, and (with a bit of tactical magic) grabbed the moment when it was offered. Griffith kept up the pressure until finally stumbling. **0-1**

(5) John Hartmann (john_hartmann) (1661) - Nicholas Weng (ninjaforce) (1980) [D85]

MI February TNM Chess.com (6.9), 23.02.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Bb5+ This move is becoming popular in the Exchange Grunfeld. It leads to early tactics. **8...Nc6 9.d5 Qa5 10.Rb1 Bxc3+ 11.Bd2**

Black has snatched a pawn but must deal with the pin on the c6 knight. **11...a6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.dxc6 Be6 14.Bxc3** [Previously seen was 14.Rc1 Bb4 15.0-0 Bxd2 16.Qxd2 Qxd2 17.Nxd2 0-0 18.Nb3 Bxb3 19.axb3 Rd6 20.Rxc5 Kc7 21.Ra1 Rb8 22.e5 Rxc6 23.Rxc6+ Kxc6 24.Rxa6+ Kd5 25.Ra7 Rxb3 26.f4 Ke6 27.Ra6+ Kf5 28.Ra7 Kxf4 29.Rxe7 Rb1+ 30.Kf2 Rb2+ 31.Kg1 Rb1+ 32.Kf2 Rb2+ 33.Kg1 Rb1+ 34.Kf2 Rb2+ 35.Kg1 Rb1+ 1/2-1/2 (35) Andreikin,D (2726)-Vitiugov,N (2722) Sochi 2020] **14...Qxc3+ 15.Qd2 Qxd2+?!** Now White gets a pleasant endgame. Preferable was [15...Qc4 causing White trouble to castle. Chances would be about even.] **16.Kxd2**

16...Rc8N [White scored a quick victory after 16...Bxa2 17.Rb7 Be6 18.Rc1 Bc8 19.Rxc5 f6 20.Rb6 a5 21.c7 Kd7 22.e5 Rf8 23.e6+ 1-0 (23) Korinek,J (1721)-Salazar Moran,A (1503) LSS email 2011] **17.Rb6 Kd8 18.Rxa6?!** This lets Black off the hook. [18.Kc3! Kc7 19.Rb7+! Kxc6 20.Rhb1 Kd6 21.Ra7 would be a clear advantage for White. The rook on the 7th is stong and the black king is in danger, being surrounded by the white forces.] **18...Kc7 19.Rc1 Ra8 20.Rxa8 Rxa8 21.Rxc5 Rxa2+ 22.Ke3 Ra3+ 23.Ke2 Bg4 24.Rc2 h5 25.h3 Bxf3+ 26.gxf3 Ra6** Now we are headed for an even pawn king endgame. **27.Ke3 e5 28.Rc1 Rxc6 29.Rxc6+ Kxc6 30.f4 exf4+** [30...Kd6 is also just even] **31.Kxf4 Kd6 32.e5+ Kd5 33.h4 Kd4?!**

[Black is playing agressively and gets into some trouble. Perhaps he didn't see White's next move. 33...Ke6 34.Ke4 f6 35.f4 fxe5 36.fxe5 Kf7 37.Kf4 *(37.Kd5 Ke7 38.e6 g5 39.hxg5 h4)* 37...Ke6 is an easy draw] **34.e6! fxe6 35.Kg5** now the white king invades and Black is on the edge **35...Ke4 36.Kxg6**

36...Kf4? [36...Kf3 37.Kxh5 Kxf2 38.Kg5 e5 39.Kf5 Kf3! holds the draw. Black either supports his own pawn after 40. h5 e4 or wins the last white pawn after 40. Kxe5 Kg4] **37.Kxh5 Kf5 38.Kh6 Kf6 39.f4** White will get a pawn through to queen. An excellent king ending by John Hartmann. **1-0**

(6) Sebby Suarez (SebbyMeister) (1770) - Michael Jannetta (GM_Fobby_Bischer) (1725) [B22]

MI February TNM u1800 Chess.com (5.1), 23.02.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2! [Better than 5.d4 Nf6 6.Be3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bxf3 8.gxf3 e6 9.Nc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+ Nc6 11.0-0 Bb4 which was very comfortable for Black in Katz,A (2427)-Quesada Perez,Y (2568) Las Vegas 2019] **5...e5 6.h3 Bh5 7.g4 Bg6 8.Qb3?!** [Better is to advance in the center now with 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Nc3 and White has the opening advantage] **8...Qxb3 9.axb3 Nc6 10.Bb5 Bd6!N**

[Better than 10...Be4?! 11.Ke2 Bd6 12.d3 Bxf3+ 13.Kxf3 Nge7 14.Nd2 0-0 15.Ne4 with a big advantage for White, De Oliveira,W (1335)-Brusamolin,V (1969) Curitiba 2018] **11.Na3 Nge7 12.Nc4?!** [White is ok after 12.Nh4 Be4 13.Rg1 Bd5 14.d3] **12...0-0-0! 13.Na5?!** [13.Nh4] **13...Nxa5 14.Rxa5 a6 15.Be2 h5** [It would have been strong to centralize here with 15...Rhe8 16.d3 e4 17.dxe4 Bxe4] **16.gxh5 Bxh5 17.d3 Rdg8 18.Be3 f5 19.Ng5** [19.Bxc5 Nc6 20.Bxd6 Nxa5 21.Nxe5 Nxb3] **19...Nc6 20.Ra4 Bxe2 21.Kxe2** Black has a clear advantage in the ending with his forces working together better and White isolated h and f pawns. **21...Rh5 22.Nf3 f4 23.Bd2 Kd7 24.Raa1 g5 25.Rag1 Ke6 26.Rg4 Be7 27.Rhg1** [27.h4? Rgh8 makes use of the pin] **27...Kf5?!** [27...Rxh3 28.Nxg5+ Bxg5 29.Rxg5 Rxg5 30.Rxg5 Rh1 would have kept a good edge for Black] **28.h4!** making the weak h-pawn useful **28...Na5 29.hxg5?!** [29.b4 cxb4 30.cxb4 Nb3 31.hxg5] **29...Nxb3 30.g6?!** [better to challenge on the h-file with 30.Rh4 though Black is still better after 30...Rgh8! 31.Rxh5 Rxh5 32.g6 Rh8] **30...Rh3! 31.Ng5 Rxg6 32.Nxh3?!** [32.Rxf4+ exf4 33.Nxh3 f3+ 34.Kd1 Rxg1+ 35.Nxg1 Nxd2 36.Kxd2 Kf4 is still very good for Black as the white knight is stuck] **32...Rxg4 33.Rxg4 Kxg4 34.Ng1 Nxd2 35.Kxd2** Black is simply winning this endgame **35...b5 36.c4 bxc4 37.dxc4 Bf6 38.b3 e4 39.Ke2 Bd4 40.Ke1 e3 41.fxe3 Bxe3 42.Ne2 f3 43.Nc3 Kg3 44.Kf1 Kf4 45.Nd5+ Ke4 46.Ke1 Kd3 47.Kf1 Bd4 48.Nc7 a5 49.Ne6 Kc3 50.Ke1 f2+** [50...Be3] **51.Kf1 Kxb3 52.Nxd4+ cxd4 53.c5 d3 54.Kxf2**

54...Kc2?? A tragedy! [54...d2 55.Ke2 Kc2 56.c6 d1Q+ is very simple] **55.c6 ∓ 55...d2 56.c7 d1Q** Critical move. **57.c8Q+ Kb2 58.Qh8+ Kb1 59.Qg7?! Qd2+?!** [59...a4] **60.Kf3 a4 61.Qb7+ Qb2 62.Qe4+ Ka2?** [The last chance was 62...Qc2 holding onto the a-pawn] **63.Qxa4+ Qa3+ 64.Qxa3+ Kxa3** Game drawn. Quite a struggle! **1/2-1/2**

Final standings are here. Congratulations to all the participants and to the winners!

SwissSys Standings. 2021 February TNM: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	R 4
1	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2673	gguseinov	W31	W6	W23	D
2	**GM Aleksandr Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)**	12787646	2704	alexanderl	W13	W10	W22	D
3	**Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)**	15176393	2009	smilyface4	W17	L22	W16	W
	GM Jim Tarjan							

4	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)	10991820	2469	tirantes	W28	D7	W14	W
5	FM Eric Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	15688436	2344	kingandqueen2017	W29	W25	W9	L
6	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	12906142	2034	artliou	W21	L1	W19	W
7	David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)	13776967	2023	david_askin	W8	D4	W10	L
8	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1761	joseph_truelsons_fan	L7	W28	L11	W
9	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2504	kyrongriffith	W11	W24	L5	W
10	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	14958842	2066	stratus_junior	W20	L2	L7	W
11	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	16291100	1890	twangbio	L9	W26	W8	W
12	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1940	mangonel	W27	L23	W25	L
13	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	12469525	1934	kondsaga	L2	L14	W29	L
14	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	12517167	1928	GuyArgo	H---	W13	L4	D
15	Javier Silva (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	16089208	1889	j3chess24	L22	W21	D17	W
16	John R Hartmann (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12552251)	12552251	1765	john_hartmann	H---	H---	L3	D
17	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	14436451	1757	chessp1234	L3	W29	D15	D
18	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	15239016	1869	mwncklmann	H---	H---	L24	W
19	Ranen Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1820	dashrndrx	L23	W31	L6	L
20	Alexander Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465198)	16465198	1803	TNM2021	L10	H---	L27	H
21	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1767	pgstar3	L6	L15	W31	L
22	IM Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)	14006506	2491	josiwales	W15	W3	L2	U
23	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	ecwinslow	W19	W12	L1	L
24	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2056	ninjaforce	W26	L9	W18	L
25	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	16380312	1817	3ke31-0	W30	L5	L12	L
26	Kevin Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1783	chessappeals	L24	L11	W28	W
27	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	12931024	1622	mechanjin	L12	B---	W20	L
28	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1835	knvsback	L4	L8	L26	D
29	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1831	a-boy415	L5	L17	L13	B

30	NM Alice Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16059648)	16059648	2200	powerofapoint	L25	H---	U---	U
31	NM Tom Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	talenuf	L1	L19	L21	H

SwissSys Standings. 2021 February TNM: u/1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	12797931	1789	kingsmasher35	D2	W26	W12	D3
2	Michael Jannetta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15172933)	15172933	1166	gm_fobby_bischer	D1	W28	W25	W2
3	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	16380642	1493	programmingmax	W30	W18	F20	D1
4	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1183	sebbymeister	W11	W19	W9	W5
5	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	12716964	1635	thedarkbishop	W14	W6	W7	L4
6	Daniel R Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)	16465203	1463	Daniel_Perlov	W22	L5	W30	W2
7	Jahaan Ansari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?21004356)	21004356	1446	jah23	W17	W12	L5	L18
8	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1337	sfdeals	W27	L9	L22	W1
9	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	rimus11	W21	W8	L4	D1
10	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1151	andrewaballantyne	L12	W17	L11	D2
11	Rajtilak Jagannathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109752)	30109752	unr.	rtindru	L4	W16	W10	D9
12	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1679	giorgostsolias	W10	L7	L1	W2
13	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	16897133	1293	pjkrizzle	L18	W29	H---	H--
14	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	17344551	1037	bruce_hedman	L5	L22	W29	L17
15	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	30055583	1026	night_breeze	L25	L23	W28	L8
16	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	976	adichi	L19	L11	W27	L25
17	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	30032729	861	dribbler23	L7	L10	W31	W1
18	Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)	30032406	unr.	austin809	W13	L3	W26	W7
19	Nicholas Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	12446259	1495	nmbrown2	W16	L4	F23	H--
20	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	16380636	1363	swimgrass	W23	W25	F3	L6
21	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	16551291	977	figsnoring	L9	W27	L24	D1
22	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	16802870	907	dum2020areeews	L6	W14	W8	L12

23	**Samuel Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)**	16380615	673	comfyqueso	L20	W15	F19	H---
24	**Reka Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14656444)**	14656444	1533	coachreka	H---	H---	W21	L2
25	**Maximillian Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13994425)**	13994425	1515	malletpercussion	W15	L20	L2	W1
26	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	16738735	1190	victor6688	W31	L1	L18	W3
27	**Abhirup Mukherjee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17149023)**	17149023	672	phantom_beast23	L8	L21	L16	L29
28	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1446	echecsmike	D29	L2	L15	W3
29	**Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30037403)**	30037403	812	vincitore51745	D28	L13	L14	W2
30	**Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)**	16816706	944	charvii	L3	W31	L6	L26
31	**Aidan Cumbo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118987)**	30118987	unr.	worsepot	L26	L30	L17	L28

February Blitz Championship Report

We began the first of our new monthly blitz championship last Saturday night, with most of the registrants joining just houra before it was to start. Though we had 23 players, it was very top heavy, as GM Aleksandr Lenderman, FM Jason Liang, FM Eric Li, FM Kyron Griffith, and NM Mike Sailer were among the participants. Time control was G/5+2 and 8 rounds, and GM Aleksandr Lenderman was the winner with 7.5/8. Fortune and skill were definitely on Lenderman's side, as he escaped near defeat at the hands of FM Eric Li to turn things around and win. He also saved a draw against FM Jason Liang, where he was worse for most of the game, taking advantage of Liang's time pressure.

Here are the games, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(7) GM Aleksandr Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2779) - FM Eric Li (kingandqueen2017) (2330) [D00]

MI February Blitz ch Chess.com, 20.02.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 The bishop travels one square further than the London System, and makes the game a sharper battle. **2...d5 3.e3 c5** This is the aggressive, principled move. More consevative is 3...e6. **4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.dxc5 e6 6.Nf3** [6.c4 dxc4 7.Qc2 Nc6 8.Bxc4 Qa5+ 9.Nd2 Qxc5 10.Rc1 Bg7 11.Ngf3 0-0 was equal in Fedoseev-Abdusattorov, Moscow 2019.] **6...Bxc5 7.Be2 Nd7 8.0-0 b6N** [Also reasonable is 8...Bf8 9.Nbd2 Bg7 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 0-0 12.c3 f5] **9.Nbd2 Bb7 10.c4 dxc4 11.Nxc4 Qe7?!** This leaves the bishop on c5 unable to retreat if needed, Simply 11..0-0 was fine. **12.Nd4 Ne5 13.Nxe5 fxe5 14.Bb5+?!** [14.Qa4+ Kf8 15.Nb3 Rg8 16.g3 Kg7 17.Rad1 was a better setup for White] **14...Kf8 15.Nc6 Qc7 16.b4**

16...a6! 17.bxc5? [17.Ba4 b5 18.Na5 Bxb4 19.Nxb7 Qxb7 20.Rb1! Be7 21.Qh5 is only slightly worse for White] **17...axb5 18.Nb4 bxc5 19.Rc1 Qe7?** [19...Rg8 20.g3 c4 maintains the extra pawn. Black would have a winning position with the powerful bishop on b7.] **20.Nd3 c4 21.Nxe5 Qg5 22.Nf3 Qg4?!** [22...Qd5! 23.Qxd5 Bxd5 24.Nd4 b4 would still be a great endgame for Black. Now Lenderman gets to stay in a muddled middlegame.] **23.Qd6+ Kg8 24.Ne1 h5 25.f3** [25.Qb6!] **25...Qg5 26.Nc2 h4 27.h3 Rh6 28.Rf2?! Rg6 29.Kh1?** [29.Qc7 Bxf3 30.g4! is the bes defense now] **29...Qg3! 30.Qxg3 hxg3 31.Rd2 Rxa2 32.Rd8+ Kg7 33.e4 Rb2 34.Ne3 Rh6?** [getting this rook quickly over to the queenside would win routinely - 34...Rg5 35.Rb8 Bc6 36.Nc2 Rc5! and the black pawns are ready to run] **35.Kg1?** [35.Rb8! Ba6 36.Nxc4] **35...Rh8 36.Rd7 Bc8 37.Rd6 Kf6 38.Ng4+ Ke7 39.Rc6 Bd7 40.Rc7 Rc8 41.Ra7**

41...f6? This makes it complicated. Black can win with the direct [41...c3 42.Ne5 Rd2] **42.e5! fxe5 43.Nxe5** [43.Rd1 Rd8 44.Nxe5 c3! 45.Nc6+ Ke8 46.Nxd8 c2 47.Rc1 *(47.Raxd7 Rb1!)* 47...Kxd8 wins] **43...Rd2 44.Kf1 c3 45.Ke1 Rd5 46.Ng6+ Kf6 47.Nf4**

47...Rd2?? a terrible oversight from kingandqueen after having played such a great game. Black loses the critical c3 pawn now. He would be winning easily after [47...Re5+ 48.Kd1 Be8 49.Kc2 Kf5 50.Nd3 Re2+ 51.Kb3 Rxg2] **48.Rxc3! Rxc3 49.Kxd2** now pawns are even and White has the edge with the mobile knight **49...Rc4 50.Nh5+ Kg5 51.Nxg3 Bc6** Critical move. **52.Rc7 Bxf3?** [Black should still draw after 52...b4 53.Rg7+ Kh6 54.Rg4 Rxg4 55.hxg4 Kg5 56.Kd3 Bd5] **53.Rxc4 bxc4 54.gxf3 Kh4**

can White hold onto one of the pawns to get the whole point? Alex shows us how. **55.Ne4 Kxh3 56.Ke3! Kg2 57.Nc3 Kg3 58.Ne2+ Kg2 59.Nf4+ Kg3 60.Nxe6 c3 61.Nd4** There it is. The white knight stops the c-pawn. The rest needs no comment. **61...Kh4 62.Nc2 Kg5 63.Ke4 Kf6 64.Kd3 Ke5 65.Kxc3 Kf4 66.Nd4 Ke3 67.Kc4 Kf4 68.Kd5 Kg5 69.Ke5** AlexanderL won by resignation**1-0**

(8) GM aleksandr Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2778) - FM Jason Liang (Marty435) (2586) [D07]

MI February Blitz ch Chess.com, 20.02.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.cxd5 Bxf3 5.gxf3 Qxd5 6.e3 e6 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Bxc3 9.bxc3 The Chigorin Defense gives Black active play and quick development at the cost of White;s bishop pair and pawn center. It is slightly dubious but a tricky defense. **9...Nf6 10.e4?N**

[10.Rb1!] **10...Nxe4! 11.Qb3** [11.fxe4 Qxe4+ 12.Qe2 Qxh1] **11...Nxd2 12.Qxd5 exd5 13.Kxd2 0-0-0**

Black is a clear pawn up with better pawn structure. The endgame should be winning with best play. **14.Rg1 g6 15.f4 Ne7 16.Re1 Rhe8 17.Bh3+ f5 18.Bg2 c6 19.Re5** White makes a fight of it by posting the rook on the strong e5 square. **19...Ng8 20.Rge1 Kd7 21.Rb1 b6 22.Bf3 Nf6 23.h4 Kd6 24.h5 Nd7 25.Rxe8 Rxe8 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Rh1 Nf6 28.Rh6 Rg8 29.a4 Ke6 30.Rh1 Kf7**

31.c4! Playing actively gives the best chances for defense. Lenderman makes the white bishop a better piece. **31...Rc8 32.Rc1 Ke6 33.a5 dxc4 34.Rxc4 Nd5 35.axb6 axb6 36.Rc1 Nxf4?!** trading the doubled pawn for a good one on c6 **37.Rxc6+ Rxc6 38.Bxc6 Kd6 39.Be8 g5 40.Ke3 Nd5+ 41.Kd3 Nf4+ 42.Ke3 Kd5 43.Bf7+ Kd6?** Marty435 allows a draw by 3 time repetition. He would still have many winning chances after [43...Kc6] **44.Be8!** Drawn by repetition **1/2-1/2**

Watch the stream of the February Blitz Championship here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dfscz-reAKE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dfscz-reAKE)

Full results are here:

Mechanics Monthly Blitz Championship - February 2021

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	GM Aleksandr Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)	AlexanderL	12787646	2704	W14	W3	W4	W
2	FM Jason Liang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16041488)	Marty435	16041488	2406	W9	W5	W7	L4
3	NM Mike Sailer (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12451516)	MikeSailer	12451516	2233	W13	L1	W21	W
4	FM Eric Yuhan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	kingandqueen2017	15688436	2344	W6	W20	L1	W
5	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	stratus_junior	14958842	2058	W17	L2	L6	W
6	Ethan Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	erm999	16090467	1482	L4	W16	W5	L3
7	Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	TitanChess666	16090452	2149	W11	W19	L2	W
8	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	knvsback	12458563	1835	U---	W23	W15	W
9	David Flores (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	PlayerCreate1	14799653	1812	L2	W13	W19	L7
10	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	ninjaforce	15499404	2045	U---	U---	W17	W
11	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1753	L7	W22	W20	L5
12	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	A-boy415	16571026	1831	W22	W14	L18	L8
13	Jose Pacheco (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095177)	pachewise	17095177	1454	L3	L9	W23	W
14	Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	SebbyMeister	16875347	1358	L1	L12	W16	W
15	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	831	W16	L18	L8	L1
16	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	thedarkbishop	12716964	1635	L15	L6	L14	B-
17	Nathaniel Andaya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30054738)	nathaniel	30054738	1274	L5	L21	L10	W

18	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	KyronGriffith	12860484	2480	W21	W15	W12	L1
19	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	andrewaballantyne	17079795	1093	B---	L7	L9	L1
20	Michael Takahashi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14333301)	ElDiabloTener	14333301	2134	W23	L4	L11	W
21	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	kapalovich	12680193	1776	L18	W17	L3	L1
22	Maximillian Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13994425)	malletpercussion	13994425	1515	L12	L11	B---	L2
23	Kevin Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	L20	L8	L13	L1

Thursday Night Marathon Report

The Thursday Night Marathon kicked off its first round on Thursday, and we are happy to announce we will now also provide live coverage of the Thursday Night Marathons on our Twitch channel! You can watch the coverage of the first round by follow ing this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uahhdnVmoU (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uahhdnVmoU)

Here are the current standings after round 1:

SwissSys Standings. Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2680	W23					1.0
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W24					1.0
3	Theo Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	tabiyiasas	13989054	2175	W25				H---	1.0
4	Brandon Xie (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14961610)	swift_breeze	14961610	2130	W26					1.0
5	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2107	W27					1.0
6	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	artliou	12906142	2034	W28					1.0
7	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	W29					1.0
8	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	oka_ako	15206848	1980	W30					1.0
9	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W31					1.0
10	Robert Smith III (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	W32					1.0
11	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	uzkuzk	16434922	1812	W33					1.0
12	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	W34					1.0
13	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W35					1.0
14	Roger V V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	1-h4-1-0	16191192	1776	W36					1.0
15	Adam For Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	831	W21					1.0
16	Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)	austin809	30032406	unr.	W22					1.0
17	NM Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	D19					0.5
18	Rama Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	draidus	17350313	1475	H---					0.5
19	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	Loltheawesomedude	16497860	1392	D17					0.5
20	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	caodanny	16939797	895	H---					0.5
21	McCarty-Snead-Cal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	L15					0.0
22	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	ludimagisterjosephus	13742111	1700	L16					0.0
23	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	L1					0.0
24	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	thedarkbishop	12716964	1635	L2					0.0

25	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	jacobchess857	17083655	1629	L3					0.0
26	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	L4					0.0
27	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	L5					0.0
28	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1493	L6					0.0
29	Yali Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	noydan100	16280288	1442	L7					0.0
30	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	NXBex	16154827	1416	L8					0.0
31	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1399	L9					0.0
32	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1356	L10					0.0
33	Kevin M Chui (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16998580)	Kchui999	16998580	1290	L11					0.0
34	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	944	L12					0.0
35	Katherine Sunn Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2Nf31-0	16425316	938	L13					0.0
36	Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)	TanFlatPupet	17144246	866	L14					0.0
37	Raven Davis-Bailey (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30103361)	RavenStreetChess	30103361	unr.	U---					0.0

Reciprocity Partnership With Marshall Chess Club

The Mechanics' Institute and the Marshall Chess Club entered into a partnership last year where we agreed to recognize each others members so that our players can enjoy the benefits our respective clubs. Now that there are so many course offerings and USCF online rated events, we wanted to let our chess community know again that if you are a member of the Mechanics' Institute, meaning you have a membership card and paid the annual fee, you may enjoy playing at Marshall or taking one of their course at the Marshall member rate. Marshall has also promoted this reciprocity agreement with Mechanics' in their newsletter the Marshall Spectator. To subscribe to their newsletter, please follow this link: https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f).

To see their list of events, click this link: https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming)

If you are a member and wish to be added to the list of members to participate in Marshall events, please send an email to chessroom@milibrary.org and list your USCF number. We will verify membership and place you on the list.

We look forward to this partnership between our two historic clubs in an effort to continue bringing communities together through chess!

Grandmaster Chef: Boris Gulko by Mike Walder

NM Mike Walder has written his first installment of Grandmaster Chef for Chessbase, caarying on the series started by WIM Alexey Root. In it he writes about GM Boris Gulko and his favorite dish. To read about what it is as well as the recipe, click on this link: https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-boris-gulko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://en.chessbase.com/post/grandmaster-chef-boris-gulko)

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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, 3/2: https://www.chess.com/live#r=970142 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.chess.com/live#r=970142)

GM Nick de Firmian Arena Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 3/4: https://www.chess.com/live#r=971139 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.chess.com/live#r=971139)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - Game Review Class with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: Starting Feb 1 - Monday and ongoing
   Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**
   New session started 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/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **STARTING NEXT WEEK: Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: The Art of Defense! with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: March 3 through April 7 (6 classes)
   We all want to attack, but to be comfortable and skillful at defense is just as important.
   Learn how to safeguard your king and drum up counter play using chapters and examples taken from The Art of Defense in Chess, by Polugaevsky and Damsky (1988).
   Stalemate, Blockade, Trench Warfare, Counterattack, Traps: these are just a few of the concepts we will take up in this six-week course.
   Be prepared for a little homework - and become a chess player who's hard to beat!
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead)

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:

2/23 Tuesday - **March 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon**
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Join Now! Starts February 25: February/March 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129004750/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/20220129004750/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/20220129004750/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Scholastic Chess Town Hall - March 3rd, Wednesday 6:00-7:30PM Pacific Time (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-chess-town-hall)
Question & Answer session for the 2021 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship Online

Join us Wednesday, March 3rd at 6PM Pacific Time to hear a brief presentation about the upcoming 2021 San Francisco Scholastic Online Championship, a free event for any K-12 player. Have an opportunity to ask any questions regarding the event, sections, platforms and fair play.

You'll also have an opportunity to share any feedback about online scholastic chess, online rated chess, and engage in a community discussion about what our scholastic players need, and how to move forward towards a common goal.

Join Mechanics' Institute Chessroom Director Abel Talamantez, who have been leading Mechanics' Institute and Dr. Judit Sztaray, member of the USCF Scholastic Council and part of the USCF Online Play Task Force, that developed the USCF Chapter 10 rules for Online chess. We have been organizing online rated events on the state and national level for almost a year and we would love to share our experience in answering any questions.

We hope that this townhall and the 2021 San Francisco Scholastic Championship will serve as an opportunity to celebrate the power of chess in bringing communities together.
More information with tentative rough agenda: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-chess-town-hall (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-chess-town-hall)
Register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-chess-town-hall (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-chess-town-hall)

2021 San Francisco Scholastic Championship Online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online)
March 20 - Saturday - All day event
via ChessKid and Chesscom

Continuing the tradition and a Mechanis' Institute heritage event: the annual San Francisco Scholastic Championship goes online this spring again to gather scholastic players from the Bay Area and beyond. Join us online for this FREE Event, where players can choose to play in a non-USCF rated section based on their grades, or compete in the Championship sections based on their rating and have their games USCF online rated.
Chess Director, Abel Talamantez, and GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead will be covering the event live on our twitch channel!

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021SanFranciscoScholasticOnlineChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021SanFranciscoScholasticOnlineChampionship)

Virtual Chess Classes - Spring Session
March 22 through May 31

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin and Coach Abel – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Tuesdays 3-4PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTUESDAYS34PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andy Thursdays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring)
- Advanced Class with Coach Andy Thursdays 5-6PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS56PM2021Spring)
- Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) Friday 3-4PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring)

Spring Break Virtual Chess Camp

Monday through Friday,

Two weeks: Mar 29 - Apr 2 and Apr 5-9
9AM - 12PM
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp)

Tournament Player Highlight - Dallas Pak

Please meet Dallas Pak from Sourthern California, one of our newest member of the Mechanics' Institute scholastic community.
On a family road trip last August, his iPad lost its battery. As chess was the only game available to him on his father's cellphone, Dallas was introduced to chess on the drive home and immediately enjoyed playing.
Dallas and his parents found Mechanics' offerings online, and joined the weekend online tournament early January. His enthusiasm shines through and he earned two trophies during his first two tournaments! We held off mailing his medals, because they were set to visit Northern California and planned on picking up the trophies in person.
During their recent visit to San Francisco, Dallas enjoyed getting to see the Mechanics' Institute in person. Reviewing the history of the Mechanics' Institute, the family felt honored to be able to walk through the building during this pandemic. He relayed to us that he hopes that being featured will inspire other children and encourage them to learn and play chess.
Congratulations Dallas, keep up the good work!

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)
Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Sunday Feb 28: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=359310
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=359310)
- Monday, Mar 1: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=380329
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=380329)
- Tuesday, Mar 2: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=380330
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=380330)
- Wednesday, Mar 3: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=380331
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=380331)
- Thursday, Mar 4: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=380332
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=380332)
- Friday, Mar 5: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=380334
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=380334)

2) USCF Online Rated tournaments - Event registration and USCF membership is needed!
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)
2/27 - Saturday 3PM: 4SS G/20+10 https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentFeb27SAT
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentFeb27SAT)

3) NEW: Monthly Scholastic Blitz Online Championships - run on Chess.com & LIVE BROADCAST via Twitch.tv/mechanichchess
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-

chesscom)

3/5 - Friday 6:30PM PT: 8SS G/5+2
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipMar2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipMar2021)
4/1 - Friday 6:30PM PT: 8SS G/5+2
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021)

Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(9) KeenUpbeatClock (1532) - NeevGBayAreaChess (1540) [A22]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.e4 The Botvinnik System, where White clamps down on the d5 square but loses some control over d4 and other darks squares. GM Jim Tarjan is a fan of White's setup. **5...0-0 6.d3 c6 7.h3** This is a little slow in developing. 7. Nge2 is usual. **7...Be6 8.Be3?!**

[8.Nge2 develops and is better preparation for Black's central action. "Knights before Bishops!"] **8...Nbd7?!** [8...d5! hits in the center, trying to open the game while Black has a lead in development. 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.exd5 Nxd5 is simply better for Black.] **9.Nge2 Nb6N 10.b3 h6** [10...d5!] **11.0-0 Nh7 12.f4** White is getting play in the center now with all the pawns there in play. **12...exf4 13.gxf4 f5 14.e5** [14.Nd4! would also cause some trouble for Black] **14...dxe5 15.fxe5 Bg5 16.Qd2 Bxe3+ 17.Qxe3 Qg5?!**

18.Qxg5! The endgame is surprisingly excellent for White. Black is in serious trouble due to the white center pawns. **18...Nxg5** [18...hxg5 19.d4 Rad8 20.Rad1 and the white pawns roll in the center] **19.d4 Rad8 20.h4 Nf7 21.Rad1 Rfe8 22.Nf4 Bc8 23.h5**

A great position for White. Note how the h-pawn holds up the black kingside pawns while the white center pawns are passed and soon ready to advance. **23...Ng5 24.Ng6 Nd7 25.Rxf5 Nf8 26.Nxf8??** Oh no! After a brilliant positional game KeenUpbeatClock forgets about his rook. White is winning after just [26.Rxf8+ Rxf8 27.Nxf8 Kxf8 28.d5 cxd5 29.cxd5 Bg4 30.Re1 Bxh5 31.Nb5 and the white pawns march up the board] **26...Bxf5 27.Ng6 Bxg6 28.hxg6 Re6 29.Re1?! Rxg6 30.d5?!** 30. Kf2 is better but it is quite lost anyway **30...Nf3+** Knight fork. NeevGBayAreaChess won by resignation **0-1**

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 3: Steinitz – Gunsberg 1890

The match with Isidor Gunsberg, held at the Manhattan Chess Club, proved to be a tough test for Steinitz. He suffered from a nasty cold in the earlier stages, and with characteristic stubbornness kept to a dubious opening or two.

Gunsberg was a worthy opponent, however. He had drawn Chigoran a match in Havana, and had defeated both Bird and Blackburne in matches as well.

Yet the final score of +6 -4 =9 in Steinitz's favor seems about right.

Steinitz was the "Father of Modern Chess" after all, and his challenger had confessed his own play lacked maturity.

Isidor had his moments, though, as you can see from the examples below.

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1. Gunsberg – Steinitz, 2nd Match Game 1890.

Black moves. Win something.

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2. Steinitz – Gunsberg, 5th Match Game 1890.

Black moves. Checkmate Steinitz.

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3. Gunsberg – Steinitz, 6th Match Game 1890.

Black moves. Blow away the defenses.

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4. Steinitz – Gunsberg, 7th Match Game 1890.

White moves. A famous finish.

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5. Gunsberg – Steinitz, 12th Match Game 1890.

White moves. Put black out of his misery.

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6. Gunsberg – Steinitz, 16th Match Game 1890.

White moves. Force resignation.

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7. Gunsberg – Steinitz, 18th Match Game 1890.

Black moves. Find the winning sequence.

GM Nick de Firmian

More Swindles

Three-time US Champion Larry Christiansen is well known for his aggressive attacking style. His books “Storming the Barricades” and “Rocking the Ramparts” are classics showing virtuoso performances of attacking chess. He is also known for his amazing and surprising tactics, where he finds inventive sequences of variations that others couldn’t dream of.

There is no better time to find shocking tactics than when you are lost and desperately in need of a game changer. This should be something any chess player tries to do, but in practice there are few who can do this with any routine expectation. The great Mikhail Tal was one of those players and America’s Larry Christiansen is another. I think the main ingredient needed (besides oodles of talent) is the belief that if you look hard enough you will find something undiscovered that lies hidden. The strange idea waits for you to show it to the rest of the world if you really search (and you will also win your chess game). May these two examples below from Christiansen inspire you to the art of swindling.

(1) James L Burden - Larry Mark Christiansen [B07]

North American Open Las Vegas, NV USA (4), 01.1992

James Burden is a chess master and this game was from the swiss-system tournament played at the end of the year in Las Vegas. **1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 c6** Christiansen plays a fluid Robatsch Defense, hoping to get winning chances with the Black pieces against his lower rated opponent. **5.Bc4 Nf6 6.f3 0-0 7.Qd2 d5 8.Bb3 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.fxe4 e5 11.d5?** A blunder from Burden, overlooking Black's next move winning the e-pawn. **11...Qh4+ 12.Qf2 Qxe4 13.0-0-0** Now Black has an extra pawn and Christiansen probably thought he would cruise to victory now. He soon lets his guard down. **13...a5 14.a3 a4 15.Ba2 Bg4?!** [15...Qf5] **16.Ne2 Nd7??**

17.Ng3! Oops! The black queen is trapped. Black is hopelessly lost here and could resign with a clear conscience. Yet Christiansen decides it too early to go to the bar and plays on. **17...Qxe3+ 18.Qxe3 Bxd1 19.Rxd1 c5** White has a queen for a rook and pawn plus a great passed d-pawn and good pieces. Note though that Black's last move was the best he could do, trying to keep the game closed where material difference doesn't show itself as quickly. **20.Ne4 b6 21.Rf1 f6 22.Qh3 f5 23.Ng5 Nf6 24.d6+ Kh8 25.Nf7+ Rxf7 26.Bxf7**

This looks ever more hopeless than 10 moves ago when Black lost the queen. White has a queen for knight, the passed d-pawn and threatens 27. Bxg6. Watch now as Christiansen begins to work his magic. **26...Ng4 27.Kb1** [27.Bxg6? Bh6+ 28.Kb1 hxg6] **27...Nh6 28.Bc4 Ng4 29.Qd3 Rd8 30.d7 e4 31.Qd6** The white d-pawn looks set to win a piece, but Christiansen finds a way to hold on longer. **31...Be5 32.Qe7 Bf6 33.Qe8+ Kg7 34.Qf7+ Kh6 35.h3**

Can it get any worse? **35...Ne3 36.Qxf6 Rxd7 37.Qe6** Now White is a full queen ahead. At least the pesky white d-pawn is gone. **37...Rd4 38.Re1 Nxg2!** [38...Nxc4 39.c3 Nd2+ 40.Kc2 Rd3 41.Rd1 allows for simplification, so Christiansen calmy plays a full queen down instead.] **39.Rg1 Nf4 40.Qg8 e3 41.Qf8+ Kh5 42.h4?!** Finally a mistake from Burden. Of course he is still completely winning, but 42. Qg7 would probably have ended it right away. **42...Rxc4 43.Qf6** [43.Rg5+ Kxh4 44.Qh6+ Nh5] **43...Kh6** [43...h6 44.Rg5+!] **44.Qg5+ Kg7 45.Qe7+ Kh6 46.Qxe3** This is a very natural human move. The computer finds mate in 9 but getting rid of the advanced e-pawn shouldn't be wrong. Yet Black is still alive here with a knight for the queen. **46...Re4 47.Qf2 Nh3 48.Qd2+ Kh5 49.Re1 Rxe1+!** The best chance, even though it simplifies more. **50.Qxe1 f4 51.Qe7 h6 52.Qf6 g5**

Looking at the diagramed position one actually gets the idea that maybe Black has hope. Yes, it is objectively completely lost but there are two connected passed black pawns and the black king isn't worried now about immediate mate. Some improvement from the situation 36 moves ago when Black lost the queen. **53.hxg5 hxg5 54.Qxb6 f3 55.Qxc5 Kg4 56.Qe3 Kg3 57.c4 Kg2 58.c5 f2**

White is still winning but has to be precise now as the black pawns run quickly. **59.Qe4+?** [59.Qc1! f1Q 60.Qxf1+ Kxf1 61.c6 would win] **59...Kh2!** Black should be able to hold the draw now **60.Qf3 g4! 61.Qe2** [61.Qxf2+? Nxf2 62.c6 Ne4 63.c7 Nd6] **61...g3 62.c6?** [62.Ka2 g2 63.Qe5+ Kh1 64.Qh5 would hold the draw; 62.Qd2] **62...g2**

Incredibly White is lost now. Christiansen used everything he had and the black knight and passed pawns have gotten maximum use. **63.Qe5+ Kh1 64.c7 g1Q+ 65.Kc2 f1Q**

Now Black is a queen ahead. There is nothing White can do. **66.Kc3** [66.Qe4+ Qgg2+ 67.Qxg2+ Qxg2+ 68.Kc3 Qc6+] **66...Qc1+ 67.Kb4 Qb6+ 68.Kxa4 Qcc6+** 69. Qb5 Qxb5 is mate. Something amazing about this game was how long it took to progress. It wasn't just one or two horrible oversights from Burden, but a gradual transformation from resignable to hopelessly lost to only lost, then drawing and winning. I hope this game inspires the swindler (or fighting spirit) in all of you. **0-1**

(2) Alexander Beliavsky - Larry Mark Christiansen [E11]

Reggio Emilia 1987/88 Reggio Emilia ITA (2), 28.12.1987

Swindles shouldn't just be against lower rated opponents. The true trickster will even confuse a higher rated opponent, perhaps the best in the world. Here Larrry Chistiansen battles with Alexander Beliavsky, who was number 3 in the world at this time. Things go wrong for Black and Christiansen again finds himself in dire straits. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7 5.Bg2 Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 d6 7.Nc3** Black has a solid position from this Bogo-Indian, though White has a small edge from the spatial advantage. **7...0-0 8.Nf3 e5 9.0-0 Re8 10.e4 Bg4 11.d5 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Nbd7 13.b4 a5 14.a3 Ra6 15.Nb5 Nb6?!** [15...Rc8 keeps it close to level] **16.Rac1 axb4 17.axb4 Qd7 18.Qd3 Ra4 19.Qb3 Rea8 20.Rfd1 h5 21.h4 g6 22.Rb1 Ng4 23.Be2 Qe7 24.Rbc1 c6 25.dxc6 bxc6**

26.c5! Avoiding Black's nice trap - [26.Nxd6? Ra3 27.Qb1 Nxf2! 28.Kxf2 Qf6+ 29.Kg2? Re3 30.Qb2 Raa3 would win for Black] **26...dxc5 27.bxc5 Nd7 28.Nd6 Ndf6?** [28...Rd4 was needed] **29.Bc4** Black is losing the important f7 pawn and is lost here. Christiansen tries for complications. **29...Nxf2!? 30.Kxf2 Ra3 31.Bxf7+ Kg7 32.Qe6** Well played by Beliavsky. White has an extra

piece and keeps all his forces centralized to be sure they factor in the game. Christiansen is clearly lost, but not done fighting. **32...Ra2+ 33.Kg1 R8a3! 34.Ne8+!** Not falling for [34.Qxe7? Rxg3+ 35.Kh1 Rh3+ 36.Kg1 Rg3+ 37.Kf1 Rf3+ with perpetual check. The white queen maintains control over h3 so it can take a rook there.] **34...Kh6! 35.Nxf6 Rxg3+ 36.Kh1**

Two pieces down against the worlds #3 player. Almost everyone else would lose hope. **36...Qxf7! 37.Rd7** Not falling for 37. Qxf7 Rh3+ with perpetual again. Beliavsky presses, seeing 37...Qxe6 37. Rh7 is mate and he continues to guard the h3 square. Time to resign for Black? **37...Qxf6!**

38.Qxf6?

Beliavsky sees he can prevent the perpetual check and finally goes wrong. He could have won by 38. Rh7+, but he didn't envision that Christianen had also another diabolical swindling plan. **38...Rh2+!!** And here a draw was agreed. Beliavsky saw there will be a stalemate after 39. Kxh2 Rg2+ 40. Kg1 Rg1+! 41. Rxg1. Another great escape from Houdini Christiansen. **1/2-1/2**

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Gunsberg – Steinitz, 2nd Match Game 1890.

1…Nc3! won the exchange, and with it the game.

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2. Steinitz – Gunsberg, 5th Match Game 1890.

Gunsberg found the brilliant **1…Na4+!** and after **2.Kxa4 Rd4+ 3.b4 Rxb4+** 0-1. It's mate in 2 moves.

---

3. Gunsberg – Steinitz, 6th Match Game 1890.

Steinitz tore apart the defenses with **1…Bxf3! 2.gxf3 Qh2!** White is helpless, and the game ended quickly after **3.Qd7 Qh1+ 4.Bg1 Qxf3+ 5.Bf2 Ng3+ 0-1.**

---

4. Steinitz – Gunsberg, 7th Match Game 1890.

1.Qxa8! was the winning shot. The white pawns marched in after **1…Qxa8 2.Rc8+ Rg8 3.Rxa8 Rxa8 4.e6 1-0.**

---

5. Gunsberg – Steinitz, 12th Match Game 1890.

1.Na8! was the "Fischer Random" like-move. Black loses material, and was destroyed after **1…Rxa8 2.Qxa8 Kd8 3.Rxd7+! Kxd7 4.Rd1+ 1-0.**

---

6. Gunsberg – Steinitz, 16th Match Game 1890.

1.Ne4! wins the black queen **1-0.** If **1…Qe3 2.Bf1**, etc.

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7. Gunsberg – Steinitz, 18th Match Game 1890.

1…Bxf2+! is the "petit combination" that basically ended the match. **2.Kxf2 Nd3+ 3.Ke3 Nxc1 4.Nxc1 Rd1!** was the killing follow up. **5.Ne2 a4 6.Nfd4 c1(Q) 7. Nxc1 Rxc1 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:

https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004750/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #958

March 6, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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The Mechanics' Institute is partnering with the Thompson Family Foundation, founded by Klay Thompson and his family, with the mission of enriching the lives of youth through fitness and education.

Program: Saturday March 13, 2021

The Mechanics' Institute is proud to partner with the Thompson Family Foundation with the Think, Move, Play initiative. Join us next Saturday for an afternoon of FREE fun, friendship, and competition in a celebration of the power of chess in bringing communities together.

3PM - 5PM: FREE tournament for scholastic players on chess.com
5 rounds of G/10+2 game
Players must be part of the Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Club on chess.com.
https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-scholastic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-scholastic)

5:30-6:30PM: 60-minute G/5+2 game Arena
with very special guests participating.

The event will be broadcast live via Mechanics' Twitch channel:
www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)
with commentary by 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead and Chessroom Director, Abel Talamantez. Chief TD will be Dr. Judit Sztaray.
We will have special guests on throughout the tournament and the arena, stay tuned for more details.

Special event teeshirt for the first 100 participants.
Special chess set for all participants.
All materials will be picked up after the event at announced dates.

This event is limited to 250 players. To register, click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThinkMovePlayFREEeventsponsoredbytheKlayThompsonFoundation)

Come join us next Saturday for this very special online event at the Mechanics' Institute!

March 2021 TNM

The March 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon begins next week March 9th with an 8-round open section event. As usual, games will be manually paired on Chess.com and will be USCF rated with a time control of G/35+2, two games per evening. We will broadcast the games on our Twitch channel with commentary from GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead, and Chess Director Abel Talamantez. Dr, Judit Sztaray is the Chief TD and will start the games. We anticipate a strong tournament, and we are already seeing new TNM participants register.

Register for the tournament by clicking here: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Mar2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Mar2021TNMOnline)

Full tournament information can be found on this page: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Don't miss the fun and excitement of Tuesday nights at the Mechanics' Institute!

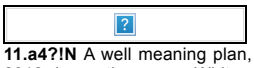
Thursday Night Marathon Report

The Thursday Night Marathon has completed two rounds, and we have eight players with perfect 2/2 scores. Current standings are below, but here are a few games from the first round, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Kristian Clemens (kclemens) (1837) - Yali Dancig-Perlman (noydan100) (1726) [A13]

MI Feb-Mar ThNMO Chess.com (1.7), 25.02.2021

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.b3 Nf6 4.Bb2 c6 5.g3 Nbd7 6.Bg2 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.d4 Qc7 9.Qc2 A typical Catalan move. Alternatively White can try [9.Nbd2 Ne4? 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.Nxe4 1-0 (23) Hejazipour,M (2319) -Netra,P (1534) Lichess.org INT 2021; The "deep" move here is 9.Nc3 intending a line-up on the queen. 9...Re8 10.Rc1 and, as Black really doesn't want to allow 11.cxd5 and 12.Nb5, trading knight for bishop, Black has to move again: 10...Qb8 11.Nd2!? *(*in fact, *11.e4!* even works*)* 11...e5? Black "lashes out" 12.cxd5! exd4 13.Nce4 *(13.dxc6! dxc3 14.cxd7 Bxd7 15.Bxc3!* works, since *15...Ba3 16.Rc2 Bf5 17.e4! Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Bxe4 19.Qd4! Qe5! 20.Qa4!)* 13...cxd5 *(13...Nxd5 14.Nxd6+/-)* 14.Nxd6 Qxd6 15.Bxd4 1-0 (42) Kaidanov,G (2572)-Gamboa Alvarado,O (1913) Caleta 2017] **9...Ne4** [9...dxc4!? 10.bxc4 c5 11.e3 e5 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nbd2 Bd7 14.Ng5 h6 If only his knight was c3 instead of d2, he'd have 15.Nd5! +- But he's still doing well. 15.Nge4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4+/- ½-½ (24) Golonka,S-Ball,Michigan ch, E Lansing 1987] **10.Nbd2 f5**



11.a4?!N A well meaning plan, to trade the dark-squared bishops. [11.Rac1 Rf6 12.e3 Rh6 13.c5+/- No, there is no double piece sac on g3:1-0 (36) Srbis,J (2303)-Muskardin,M (2211) Topusko 2012; In another game White executed the textbook Anti-Stonewall knight maneuver: 11.Ne1! Ndf6? *(11...Nxd2 12.Qxd2 dxc4 13.bxc4 e5!?)* 12.Ndf3 Qf7 13.Nd3 Qh5 14.Nfe5 followed by further lessons in How to Push Back: 14...Bd7 15.f3 Ng5 16.h4 Nf7 17.Bc1 Black's queen is cut off from the retreat! 17...g5? 18.hxg5 Nxg5+- 1-0 (40) Devcic,D (2191)-Frank,V (2243) Velika Gorica 2002] **11...a5** [11...b6+/=; 11...Bb4!? 12.Ba3 a5+/=] **12.Ba3?!** [12.Nxe4 fxe4 13.Ng5 Nf6 14.c5 Be7 15.f3+/-] **12...b6** It's a nice thought, to trade off Black's "good" bishop, but it takes time. And time matters even in closed positions. **13.Bxd6 Qxd6=**

When Black gets .. Bb7 and ...c5 in it's all good: the Modern treatment of the Dutch Stonewall. **14.Rac1 Ba6** [14...c5!? first and foremost] **15.Rfd1** [15.cxd5!? cxd5 16.Qc7 Bxe2! comes out okay] **15...Rac8** Every rook move had something to be said for it; this one is fine. **16.e3** [16.Qb2!?] **16...Rf7?!+/=** [16...c5 -- you can't wait forever!] **17.Qb2**

17...g5? Just an oversight, losing a big pawn. **18.Nxe4 fxe4 19.Nxg5+-** and Kristian wraps it up well enough. **19...Rg7 20.Nh3 Nf8 21.Bf1** [21.Nf4 keeps an eye on f2-f3.; 21.c5! perforates the queenside as well.] **21...Ng6??** oops,losing a piece **22.c5! Qc7 23.Bxa6 Rf8 24.cxb6 Qxb6 25.Bf1 Nh4 26.Qc2 Nf3+ 27.Kg2 Rc7 28.Nf4 Ng5** and resigned (29.h4 and 30.Nxe6) **1-0**

(2) Walder FlightsOfFancy,Michael (2084) - Uzakbaev rimus11,Nursultan (1490) [C70]

MI Feb-Mar ThNMO Chess.com (1.5), 25.02.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Bc5 Rather unusual here; [Usually seen after 4...Nf6 5.0-0 Bc5 *(*or with *5...b5 6.Bb3* thrown in *6...Bc5)*] **5.c3** Preparing d2-d4 **5...Nge7** Now it's rarified ground, from the thousands of games to the dozens. [5...b5] **6.0-0** Still not quite ready for d2-d4 -- and it's transposed into "hundreds" of games. [6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ intending to follow up with ...d5, isn't so bad at all.] **6...0-0?!** Nine moves have been played here at least a few times, [including 0-3 with 6...h6 (but not the highest ratings); 6...b5 is most played: White wanted that extra option for his bishop, now he has to commit! 7.Bb3! anyway still makes sense. *(7.Bc2)* ; 6...Ng6!? 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4 and all three sensible retreats have held their own.] **7.d4 Bb6?!**

[7...exd4 8.cxd4 Ba7 9.d5 and Black risks being pushed back badly.] **8.d5! Na5?!** The liabilities are compounding -- first the e-pawn and now the knight. [8...Nb8 appeared in one game, which Black won; his chances right now are pretty bleak. 9.Nxe5 d6 10.Nc4 *(10.Nf3!+-)* 10...Ba7 11.Bc2 Ng6 *(11...b5!?+/-)* 12.Be3 Nd7 13.Bxa7 Rxa7 14.Nbd2 White is just up a pawn for nothing. Bu 0-1 (51) Gosio,D (2164) -Pelagatti,A (2082) playchess.com INT 2006] **9.Nbd2!** More disruptive than just taking the e-pawn right away. **9...Ba7 10.b4 b5 11.Bc2 Nb7** [After 11...Nc4 12.Nxc4 bxc4 White gets to play a Knight's Tour taking pawns.] **12.Nxe5 Ng6 13.Nxg6 fxg6** Hoping for counterplay along the f-file to f2, but **14.e5**

The Dream Center. **14...Qh4 15.Nf3 Qe7**

16.d6! A little combination to fire up those bishops, while making laughingstocks out of Black's. **16...cxd6 17.Bg5 Qe8 18.exd6 Nd8** This loses material, but Black's position was quite gone anyway. **19.Bxd8** [19.Qd5+ Ne6 20.Qxa8 Rxf3 21.gxf3 Nxg5 22.Qxa7 is the computer wipe-out.] **19...Bb7** [19...Qxd8 20.Qd5+ Kh8 21.Qxa8] **20.Be7 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Rf4 22.Qd2 Rxf3 23.Qd5+ Rf7 24.Bb3** Now it'll be a whole rook. Black gets to play to mate, as is his right. **24...Rc8 25.Qb7 Rc4 26.Bxc4 bxc4 27.Qxa7** Material gains material. **27...Rf4 28.f3 g5 29.Rae1 h6 30.Re4 Rf5 31.Qxa6 Kh7 32.Qxc4** [32.Qb7 followed by a2-a4-5-6-7-a8=Q?] **32...h5 33.Qd3 Kh6 34.f4 gxf4 35.Rexf4 Qg6+ 36.Qg3 Rd5 37.Qxg6+ Kxg6 38.Rd4 Re5 39.a4 Re2 40.Rd3 h4 41.Rf4 Re1+ 42.Kf2 Rh1 43.Kg2 Ra1 44.Rdf3 Rxa4 45.Rg4+ Kh7 46.Rxh4+ Kg6 47.Rg4+ Kh7 48.Rh3+ Kg8 49.Rf4 Ra2+ 50.Kf3 g6 51.Rf8+ Kg7 52.Rhh8 Ra8 53.Bf6#** Walder played a number of excellent moves to control cashing in his advantage. And Nursultan: hang on to those center pawns! **1-0**

(3) Michael Xiao (swimgrass) (1475) - Arthur Liou (artliou) (2199) [B22]

MI Feb-Mar ThNMO Chess.com (1.6), 25.02.2021

1.e4 c5 2.c3 A good practical choice against the Sicilian for anyone who doesn't want to study much opening theory. **2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 e6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Nc3 Nb6?!** This retreat loses time. Preferable is [7...d6 or; 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 d6] **8.Bg5! Qc7** [8...Be7 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Ne4 Qb4+ 11.Qd2 is an excellent endgame for White] **9.Nb5 Qb8**

10.Bf4?! This gives back a tempo. White would have a fine position after the natural developing move [10.Bd3] **10...Nd5 11.Bg3 Bb4+ 12.Nd2 a6 13.Nd6+ Bxd6 14.exd6 Nxd4 15.Ne4 Nf5 16.Rc1?!** [White should get the kingside developed. 16.Bc4 Nb4 17.a3 Nc6 18.Qh5 would be good play for the pawn sacrificed] **16...b5 17.Qg4 Bb7 18.Nc5 Bc6 19.Bd3 Nf6 20.Qh3 Nxg3 21.Qxg3 0-0**

Now Black is a clear pawn ahead with a solid position. **22.0-0 a5 23.a3 Qb6 24.Rfe1 Rac8 25.Re5 Bd5 26.Qe3?!** [26.Rg5 g6 *(26...Rxc5? 27.Rxg7+ Kh8 28.Rxc5 Qxc5 29.Qf4!* would be enough to draw, e.g. *29...Ne4 30.Rxh7+ Kxh7 31.Qh4+ Kg7 32.Qg4+ Kf6 33.Qf4+)* 27.b4 would support the knight and give some chances for kingside play] **26...Qxd6** now it's two clean pawns and a solid position. **27.Qd4 Qb8** This is alright but far from the kingside. Safer is [27...Qe7] **28.Rg5 e5! 29.Qe3** [taking the pawn loses directly 29.Rxe5 d6 30.Rg5 h6 31.Rg3 dxc5 32.Qxf6 Qxg3!] **29...d6?**

[Oh no! One careless move can ruin it all. Taking time for defense with 29...g6 would let Black have time to calmly win with the extra pawns] **30.Na6?** [White misses a golden opportunity - 30.Rxg7+! Kxg7 *(30...Kh8 31.Qh6)* 31.Qg5+ Kh8 32.Qxf6+ Kg8 33.Bxh7+ Kxh7 34.Rc3 is mate in 3 moves] **30...Rxc1+ 31.Qxc1 Qb7?**

Once again not seeing the danger. [31...Qd8! 32.Bxb5 Ne4 33.Rg4 Qb6 would be back to complete control] **32.f4?** This was the last chance, [32.Rxg7+! works again 32...Kxg7 33.Qg5+ Kh8 34.Qxf6+ Kg8 35.Qg5+ Kh8 36.Qh6 f5 37.Qxf8+] **32...Qxa6** Now its all over. **33.Qf1 Qb6+ 34.Kh1 Bc4 35.fxe5 dxe5** An extra piece and 2 pawns with a safe kingside. The rest needs no comments. **36.Bxc4 bxc4 37.Qxc4 Qxb2 38.h3 Qxa3 39.Qc6 Qa1+ 40.Kh2 e4 41.Qd6 a4 42.Qg3 Ne8 43.Qe3 Qf6 44.Rg3 Qc6 45.Qa3 f5 46.Qa2+ Kh8 47.Qa1 f4 48.Rg4 f3 49.Qa3 Qd6+ 50.Qxd6 Nxd6 51.Rg5 f2 0-1**

SwissSys Standings. Feb-Mar 2021 Thursday Night Marathon: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2680	W20	W15	
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W21	W16	
3	Theo Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	tabiyiasas	13989054	2175	W29	W17	
4	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2107	W23	W18	
5	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	artliou	12906142	2034	W31	W19	
6	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	W38	X12	
7	Adam For Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	831	W28	W14	
8	Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)	austin809	30032406	unr.	W35	W13	
9	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	A-boy415	16571026	1831	H---	W33	
10	David Flores (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	playercreate1	14799653	1812	H---	W34	
11	Rama Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	draidus	17350313	1475	H---	W27	
12	Brandon Xie (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14961610)	swift_breeze	14961610	2130	W22	F6	
13	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	W24	L8	
14	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	oka_ako	15206848	1980	W36	L7	
15	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W30	L1	
16	Robert Smith III (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	W26	L2	
17	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	uzkuzk	16434922	1812	W37	L3	
18	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W32	L4	
19	Roger V V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	1-h4-1-0	16191192	1776	W39	L5	
20	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	L1	W36	
21	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	thedarkbishop	12716964	1635	L2	W38	
22	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	L12	W39	

	12839763)						
23	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	L4	W37	
24	Yali Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	noydan100	16280288	1442	L13	W40	
25	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	Loltheawesomedude	16497860	1392	D27	D28	
26	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1356	L16	W35	
27	NM Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	D25	L11	
28	McCarty-Snead-Cal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	L7	D25	
29	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	jacobchess857	17083655	1629	L3	D31	
30	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1511	L15	D32	
31	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L5	D29	
32	Katherine Sunn Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2Nf31-0	16425316	938	L18	D30	
33	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	caodanny	16939797	895	H---	L9	
34	Tyler Wong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30135235)	tdubchess	30135235	unr.	H---	L10	
35	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	ludimagisterjosephus	13742111	1700	L8	L26	
36	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	NXBex	16154827	1416	L14	L20	
37	Kevin M Chui (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16998580)	Kchui999	16998580	1290	L17	L23	
38	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	944	L6	L21	
39	Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)	TanFlatPupet	17144246	866	L19	L22	
40	Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)	juditsztaray	14708926	827	U---	L24	

Reciprocity Partnership With Marshall Chess Club

The Mechanics' Institute and the Marshall Chess Club entered into a partnership last year where we agreed to recognize each others members so that our players can enjoy the benefits our respective clubs. Now that there are so many course offerings and USCF online rated events, we wanted to let our chess community know again that if you are a member of the Mechanics' Institute, meaning you have a membership card and paid the annual fee, you may enjoy playing at Marshall or taking one of their course at the Marshall member rate. Marshall has also

promoted this reciprocity agreement with Mechanics' in their newsletter the Marshall Spectator. To subscribe to their newsletter, please follow this link: https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f).

To see their list of events, click this link: https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming)

If you are a member and wish to be added to the list of members to participate in Marshall events, please send an email to chessroom@milibrary.org and list your USCF number. We will verify membership and place you on the list.

We look forward to this partnership between our two historic clubs in an effort to continue bringing communities together through chess!

Chess in Art 1100-1900: Peter Herel Raabenstein

I was given the privilege of obtaining a copy of the newly released book Chess in Art 1100-1900 by Peter Herel Raabenstein, and I'll say that it is a must have for any chess collection. Many of us have often searched for chess depicted in paintings and other works of art, and this book compiles them all in one spot, chronicled by year, dating back to 1100. It's a coffee table book, but one that is difficult to put down. The reader sees chess depicted in so many ways by so many artists, through the centuries, capturing different themes and emotions, as well as social, political and religious change. More importantly, you see the great game of chess impact society for 800 years. The book is pricey, but the collection within the pages provides great value. If you would like to order a copy, please clickHERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.amazon.com/Chess-Art-History-Paintings/dp/8090577652/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=chess+in+art&qid=1614926895&sr=8-4).

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 3/9: https://www.chess.com/live#r=984662 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.chess.com/live#r=984662)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - Game Review Class with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: Starting Feb 1 - Monday and ongoing
   Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**
   New session started 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/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: The Art of Defense! with FM Paul Whitehead**
Course Dates: March 3 through April 7 (6 classes)
We all want to attack, but to be comfortable and skillful at defense is just as important.
Learn how to safeguard your king and drum up counter play using chapters and examples taken from The Art of Defense in Chess, by Polugaevsky and Damsky (1988).
Stalemate, Blockade, Trench Warfare, Counterattack, Traps: these are just a few of the concepts we will take up in this six-week course.
Be prepared for a little homework - and become a chess player who's hard to beat!
$150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead)

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:

3/9 Tuesday - **March 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon**
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Join Now! Starts February 25: February/March 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129014633/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/20220129014633/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/20220129014633/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Scholastic Chess Town Hall - March 17th Wednesday 7:00-8:00PM Pacific Time (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-chess-town-hall)
Question & Answer session for the 2021 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship Online

Join us Wednesday, March 17th at 7PM Pacific Time to hear a brief presentation about the upcoming 2021 San Francisco Scholastic Online Championship, a free event for any K-12 player. Have an opportunity to ask any questions regarding the event, sections, platforms and fair play.

You'll also have an opportunity to share any feedback about online scholastic chess, online rated chess, and engage in a community discussion about what our scholastic players need, and how to move forward towards a common goal.

Join Mechanics' Institute Chessroom Director Abel Talamantez, who has been leading Mechanics' Institute's chess programs, and Dr. Judit Sztaray, member of the USCF Scholastic Council and part of the USCF Online Play Task Force which developed the USCF Chapter 10 rules for Online chess. We have been organizing online rated events on the state and national level for almost a year and we would love to share our experience in answering any questions.

We hope that this townhall and the 2021 San Francisco Scholastic Championship will serve as an opportunity to celebrate the power of chess in bringing communities together. More information with a tentative agenda: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-chess-town-hall (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-chess-town-hall)

2021 San Francisco Scholastic Championship Online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online)
March 20 - Saturday - All day event
via ChessKid and Chesscom

Continuing the tradition and a Mechanics' Institute annual event: the San Francisco Scholastic Championship will be hosted virtually again this spring for scholastic players from the Bay Area and beyond. Join us online for this FREE Event, where players can choose to play in a non-USCF rated section based on their grades, or compete in the Championship sections based on their rating and have their games USCF online rated.
Chess Director Abel Talamantez, GM Nick de Firmian, and FM Paul Whitehead will be covering the event live on our twitch channel!

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021SanFranciscoScholasticOnlineChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021SanFranciscoScholasticOnlineChampionship)

Virtual Chess Classes - Spring Session
March 22 through May 31

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin and Coach Abel – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Tuesdays 3-4PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTUESDAYS34PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andy Thursdays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring)
- Advanced Class with Coach Andy Thursdays 5-6PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS56PM2021Spring)
- Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) Friday 3-4PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring)

Spring Break Virtual Chess Camp
Monday through Friday,
Two weeks: Mar 29 - Apr 2 and Apr 5-9
9AM - 12PM
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp)

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)
Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Saturday, Mar 6: 5SS G/5+2: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=382267 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=382267)
- Monday, Mar 8: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=383033 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=383033)
- Tuesday, Mar 9: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=383034 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=383034)
- Wednesday, Mar 10: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=383035 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=383035)
- Thursday, Mar 11: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=383036 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=383036)
- Friday, Mar 12: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=383037 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=383037)

2) USCF Online Rated tournaments - Event registration and USCF membership is needed!
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)
3/7 - Sunday 3PM: 6SS G/10+2

3) NEW: Monthly Scholastic Blitz Online Championships - run on Chess.com & LIVE BROADCAST via Twitch.tv/mechanichchess
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom)

4/1 - Friday 6:30PM PT: 8SS G/5+2
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014633/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021)

Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(4) SafeRelaxedKite (1367) - CuteDynamicGargoyle (1697) [D40]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.cxd5 exd5 4.e3 This locks in the dark squared bishop and is a little passive. Developing one of the knights would be preferable. **4...Nf6 5.Nc3 c5 6.Nf3 a6 7.dxc5 Nc6 8.Bd3** [8.Be2] **8...Bxc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bc2 Bg4** we have transposed to a Semi-Tarrasch defense. Black has active pieces for the isolated pawn (which is ready to be pushed soon). White's bishop would stand better on e2 here. **11.h3 Bh5 12.Bb3 d4 13.exd4 Nxd4**

14.Be3?! [14.g4 Nxg4 15.Nxd4 Qh4 16.hxg4 Bd6 *(16...Bxg4 17.Qd3)* 17.f4 Qg3+ 18.Kh1 Qh3+ 19.Kg1 Qg3+ would be a draw] **14...Nxf3+ 15.gxf3 Bb4?!** [Black should keep the queens on with White's damaged kingside pawn structure. 15...Qe7 would be a clear advantage] **16.Qxd8 Raxd8 17.Kg2 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Nd5 19.Bd4?** [19.Rad1! Nxc3?! 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Rc1 Nb5 22.a4 Nd6 23.Rd1 is active play for the pawn] **19...Nf4+! 20.Kg3 Ne2+ 21.Kh4 Bxf3** The white king is brave but in an unhealthy spot up the board. **22.Bd1**

22...Rd5 [22...g5+! 23.Kxg5 Rd5+ is a mating attack. e.g. 24.Kf6 Re8 25.Rg1+ Nxg1 26.Bxf3 Re6#] **23.Bxe2 Bxe2 24.Rg1 Rh5+ 25.Kg3** Black has an extra pawn and this is a winning position with perfect technique, but that is still a lot of work. **25...f5 26.Kf4 g6 27.Rab1 b5 28.a4!** trying to get open lines and counterplay. **28...Kf7 29.Kg3** [29.axb5] **29...h6?!** [29...Rg5+ 30.Kf4 Rxg1 31.Rxg1 bxa4] **30.axb5 axb5 31.Rh1 Bc4?! 32.h4! Be6 33.f4** now the Black rook is stuck on h5 and the position should be a draw **33...Bc4 34.Ra1 Re8 35.Ra7+ Re7 36.Rxe7+ Kxe7 37.Re1+ Kd6 38.Rh1 g5**

39.Rh2! nice defense.This should be an easy draw now. **39...gxf4+ 40.Kxf4 Bd5 41.Be5+ Ke6 42.Rh3 Be4 43.Rh2 Kd5 44.Rh3 Kc4 45.Rh2 Bd3 46.Bd4?** after great play White commits an error that allow the black b-pawn to advance, Most any other move such as [46.Bf6 is a dead draw] **46...b4! 47.Be3 bxc3 48.Bc1 Kb3 49.Kg3 f4+** freeing the black rook at the cost of a pawn. [49...c2 would also be reasonable] **50.Kxf4?** [50.Bxf4 works better] **50...Rf5+ 51.Kg4 Rf6** [51...h5+!] **52.Kh5 Be2+??** It's almost mate, but unfortunately the bishop is en pris here. [52...c2!] **53.Rxe2 Rf1 54.Bxh6** now White should be winning **54...Rf5+ 55.Bg5 c2 56.Kg6??** [56.Re1 wins] **56...Rxg5+ 57.hxg5 c1Q 58.Re6 Kb4 59.Rf6 Kc5 60.Rf5+ Kd6 61.Rf6+ Ke7 62.Kg7? Qxg5+ 63.Rg6** queen vs rook is a theoretical win but can be tricky sometimes **63...Qe5+ 64.Kh7 Kf7 65.Kh6 Qf5 66.Rg7+ Kf6?**

67.Rg8? [67.Rf7+! Kxf7 is stalemate] **67...Qh3#** CuteDynamicGargoyle won by checkmate **0-1**

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 4: Steinitz – Chigoran 1892

The return match between these two titans was held again in Havana, and although Steinitz emerged triumphant +10 -8 =5 Chigoran missed a chance to tie it up 9-9 by blundering horribly in the 23rd game:

Chigoran – Steinitz, 23rd Match Game 1892.

1.Bb4?? has gone down in history as one of the worst blunders in a World Championship Match. Poor Chigoran resigned after **1…Rxh2+**! (oops!) and mate next move. Instead, **1.Rxb7**! would have kept a winning advantage.

Indeed, the match was a slugfest, and both players landed some heavy blows. Steinitz seemed out of form and dodged a bullet: but isn't that what champions do?

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1. Chigoran – Steinitz, 1st Match Game 1892.

White moves. A nice series of moves, and black is doomed.

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2. Steinitz – Chigoran, 4th Match Game 1892.

White moves. Recapture on d4 or…?

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3. Steinitz – Chigoran, 10th Match Game 1892.

Black moves. No clues for this one!

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4. Chigoran – Steinitz, 15th Match Game 1892.

White moves. Find the cleanest win.

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5. Chigoran – Steinitz, 17th Match Game 1892.

White moves. A few precise moves, and it's all over.

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6. Steinitz – Chigoran, 18th Match Game 1892.

White moves. Again, find the cleanest win.

GM Nick de Firmian

Restart

Have you gotten your Covid-19 vaccine yet? Probably not unless you are over the age of 65, but the good news is that it will be coming before too long, and you and the rest of the world will be able to restart life again as it used to be - or something like it.

The defining start of the coronavirus pandemic for the chess world was the interruption of the Candidates Tournament last March. The eight challengers to the throne bravely traveled to Ekaterinburg, Russia at the start of the outbreak and played seven games - the first half of the double round robin. Of course we know the players were sent home at the end of March. Now after a year's delay, the Candidates Tournament is set to resume in Ekaterinburg, Russia on April 18th. The eight participants will return to the scene of last year's battle with the score from a year ago, with Ian Nepomniachtchi and Maxim Vachier-Lagrave (MVL) in the lead at 4.5/7.

America's Fabiano Caruana is a point behind the leaders and will face MVL in the first game of the second half. He needs a restart with fresh energy to catch up to the leaders and become the challenger again. Judging from his form of the last months he is back to his old self. We give Fabiano's last encounter with MVL from January, a truly brilliant effort.

Another of the participants who has reverted to his good form is Anish Giri, who tied for first earlier this year in the super tournament at Wijk aan Zee. As a reminder of where we came from this last year I include his epic battle from last year against the other Candidates leader, Nepomniachtchi, The players now get a restart in this second half. The results may be different this time around.

(1) Fabiano Caruana (2823) - Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (2784) [B97]

Tata Steel Masters Wijk aan Zee NED (7), 23.01.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 MVL is devoted to the Najdorf. This was much more common among top players 20 years ago (and of course the great Bobby Fischer would play almost nothing else in responce to 1.e4). Nowadays fewer players will brave the sharpest Sicilians as their opponents can prepare extreme complications with computer analyses. I applaud MVL for his courage, but he will be a target for the highly prepared opponent. **6.Bg5** Fabiano chooses the very sharpest line in response. No doubt he was prepared to the hilt. **6...e6 7.f4 Qb6** Just like Fischer, MVL doesn't back down and plays the uber-aggressive Poisoned Pawn variation. **8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.Be2 Nc6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.e5 Nd5 13.Nxd5 exd5?**

[13...cxd5 14.0-0 h6 would be more normal and a roughly balanced game.] **14.e6!** A terrific and unexpected shot! Fabi tosses a second pawn to keep Black's position bottled up. **14...f6** [14...fxe6 15.f5 exf5 16.Bh5+ g6 17.Qd4 Rg8 18.Qf6 is a winning attack, e.g. 18...gxh5 19.Qd8+ Kf7 20.Rb7+! Bxb7 21.Qf6+ Ke8 22.Qe6+ Be7 23.Qxe7#] **15.Bh5+ Kd8** [15...g6 16.Bxf6] **16.Bh4 d4** [16...Bxe6 17.0-0 is too large a lead in development for Black to survive. e.g. 17...d4 18.Rfe1 Bd7 19.Bf2 c5 20.Qe2 Rc8 21.Be8 Qa4 22.Bxd7 Qxd7 23.Qxa6 Be7 24.Rb7 etc.] **17.Bf2 Qc3 18.f5!**

The protected passed pawn on e6 is a real thorn in the side even in the endgame. Black's extra pawn doesn't compensate for White's extra mobility. **18...Qxd2+ 19.Kxd2 c5 20.Bf3 Ra7 21.g4 g6 22.Bh4 Be7 23.Rb6 h5 24.h3!** maintaining the white pawn chain is key. Black cannot make use of the pin on the h-file - **24...Ke8** [24...hxg4 25.hxg4 g5 26.Bg3 Rxh1 27.Bxh1 wins the black pawn on d6] **25.Bg3 Rc7**

26.Kd3! Not rushing to capture on d6. Black is tied up so Caruana first brings his king into the battle. This subtle touch reminds one of Capablanca. **26...hxg4 27.hxg4 Rxh1 28.Bxh1 gxf5 29.gxf5 Bf8 30.Kc4 Rh7 31.Be4 Be7 32.Bxd6** Now White cashes in and the win is easy with the help of the active king on c4. **32...Bxd6 33.Rxd6 Bb7 34.Bxb7 Rxb7 35.Rxa6 Rb2 36.Kxc5 Rxc2+ 37.Kxd4**

Black resigned. Two pawns ahead with the super pawn on e6 make the win trivial. A great game from Caruana. If he can play like this for the second half of the tournament he will win. **1-0**

(2) Anish Giri (2763) - Ian Nepomniachtchi (2774) [A33]

World Championship Candidates Yekaterinburg RUS (1.3), 17.03.2020

One of the key battles from the first half of the tournament last March. **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6 6.g3 Qb6 7.Ndb5 Ne5 8.Bf4 Nfg4 9.e3 a6 10.h3**

This very sharp opening is known theory. Though it is hard for normal chess players to navigate these complications it is normal for the elite players of this tournament. **10...axb5 11.hxg4 Nxc4 12.Rc1 d5 13.b3 Bb4! 14.bxc4 Ra3 15.Be5 f6 16.Bd4 Qa5** Black is getting his piece back. **17.Be2 Bxc3+ 18.Rxc3 Rxc3 19.Kf1! b4!** the initiative is worth more than the exchange here **20.g5 e5 21.Bxc3 bxc3 22.gxf6 gxf6 23.Qb1?!** [Both players have played extremely well through the complications, but Giri makes a slight error, Just 23.cxd5 keeps it fully balanced] **23...Qc7 24.Qd3 b5! 25.Qxc3 bxc4 26.e4 dxe4 27.Rh4 Be6 28.Rxe4 0-0 29.Bxc4 Kg7 30.Qb3?!** [30.Qb4 Rb8 31.Bb5 Bxa2 32.Qd2 Be6 33.Bd3 is a pawn more for Black but White should be able to hold the draw here.] **30...Rb8**

31.Bxe6 The queen sacrfice is the best chance [31.Qa4 Bd7 32.Qd1 Bf5 wins the exchange] **31...Rxb3 32.Rg4+ Kf8 33.Bxb3** The position has clarified to a hard ending. It looks like White should hold, but Nepo keeps up the pressure. **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**

42...h4! 43.gxh4 f5! Wonderfully energetiv play from Nepo causes White great trouble. Now the black pawns become a dangerous force. Giri makes a practical decision to try for a fortress by giving up the bishop. **44.Rxf5! Qe1+ 45.Kg2 Qxd1 46.Rg5** [46.Re5+?! Kf6 47.Rxe4 Qd5 48.f3] **46...Qa1 47.Rg4 Qb1 48.Rg3 Qxa2 49.Rh3 Qd5 50.Kf1 Qd1+ 51.Kg2 Qg4+ 52.Rg3 Qh5!** [52...Qxh4 53.Kf1! allows the white king to get to the other side of the f-pawn. With the white king on e1 or e2 the white rook can just shufffle between g3 and e3 to hold the draw] **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 patient and careful play by Nepo gathers up the h-pawn **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 Qd3!**

Giri resigns. He cannot take on d3 as the black pawn would queen. Black threatens a winning king ending with 74....Qxe3 and if 74. Rg3 Kc3 followed by bringing the black king to e2. A great battle and tremendous effort by Neponiachtchi. This year we will see if Giri can get his revenge. 0-1

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Chigoran – Steinitz, 1st Match Game 1892.

1.Nxf7! was a wonderful combination to start off the match. After **1…Kxf7 2.e6+! Kxe6 3.Ne5!** was the brilliant follow up. Black's king is caught in the center. Steinitz did not survive the challenger's surgical finish: **3…Qc8 4.Re1 Kf6 5.Qh5 g6 6.Bxe7+ Kxe7 7.Nxg6+ Kf6 8.Nxh8 Bxd4 9.Rb3! Qd7 10.Rf3 Rxh8 11.g4 Rg8 12.Qh6+ Rg6 13.Rxf5+ 1-0.**

2. Steinitz – Chigoran, 4th Match Game 1892.

1.Rxh7+! was the spectacular finish to this famous game. Chigoran's king did not survive the walk of shame: **1…Kxh7 2.Qh1+ Kg7 3.Bh6+ Kf6 4.Qh4+ Ke5 5.Qxd4+ 1-0.**

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3. Steinitz – Chigoran, 10th Match Game 1892.

Steinitz has just blithely put down **1.g5??** but had to lose his queen after **1…Ne7! 0-1**

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4. Chigoran - Steinitz, 15th Match Game 1892.

1.Qxd5! is certainly cleaner than **1.Ng6+ Rxg6,** and black survives a move or two. **1-0.**

---

5. Chigoran – Steinitz, 17th Match Game 1892.

1.Bxg7+! destroyed the defenses. After **1…Kxg7 2.Qe7+!** black lost his queen and soon the game: **2…Kg6** (Black would meet the same fate after **2…Kg8 3.Ne6+**) **3.Ne6+ Qxg3+ 4.hxg3 R8f7 5.Qe8 b3 6.axb3 axb3 7.g4 Re5 8.Qg8+ 1-0.** If **8…Kf6** then **9.g5+ Ke7 10.Qd8#.**

---

6. Steinitz – Chigoran, 18th Match Game 1892.

1.Qxg7+! was the elegant finish. **1-0.** If **1…Rxg7** then **2.e7+** wins shortly.

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 #959

March 13, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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The Mechanics' Institute is partnering with the Thompson Family Foundation, founded by Klay Thompson and his family, with the mission of enriching the lives of youth through fitness and education.

Program: Saturday March 13, 2021

The Mechanics' Institute is proud to partner with the Thompson Family Foundation with the Think, Move, Play initiative. Join us next Saturday for an afternoon of FREE fun, friendship, and competition in a celebration of the power of chess in bringing communities together.

3PM - 5PM: FREE tournament for scholastic players on chess.com
5 rounds of G/10+2 game
Players must be part of the Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Club on chess.com.
https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-scholastic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-chess-club-scholastic)

5:30-6:30PM: 60-minute G/5+2 game Arena
with very special guests participating.

The event will be broadcast live via Mechanics' Twitch channel:
www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)
with commentary by 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead and Chessroom Director Abel Talamantez, and Chief TD will be Dr. Judit Sztaray.
We will have special guests on throughout the tournament and the arena, stay tuned for more details.

Special event teeshirt for the first 100 participants.
Special chess set for all participants.
All materials will be picked up after the event at announced dates.

This event is limited to 250 players. To register, click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThinkMovePlayFREEeventsponsoredbytheKlayThompsonFoundation)

Join us next Saturday for this very special online event at the Mechanics' Institute!

March 2021 TNM Report

The March 2021 TNM began its true marathon tournament this past Tuesday as the 8-round open section tournament fielded its highest turnout to date at 73 players! As always for our online TNM, time control is G/35+2, two games played per evening. Since it is an open tournament, the first two rounds had pairings that gave underdogs an opportunity to compete against much stronger players, and we saw a couple of games where opportunities were converted and others lost. The most intriguing game of the first round was between Vedant Talwalkar (1644) and IM Brian Escalante (2544). After Escalante blundered the exchange in the middle game, it looked like Talwalkar was in control of the game, surely at least to secure a draw. But time pressure, IM technique and experience prevailed, as Escalante slowly clawed his way back to take advantage in a rook and pawn endgame and win the match. Another escape artist was IM Josiah Stearman (2505), who in round 2 was locked in a tight battle against Jeffery Wang (1878). After arriving at a drawn looking endgame with 2 rooks and a few pawns on the board, Wang

blundered walking into mate in 2. Such is the challenge of the open section, hungry challengers taking their shot. One player that did cash in on the opportunity was Tyler Wong, an unrated scholastic player who was in a losing position in his first round game against Bryan Lynch (1769) when he took advantage of a blunder in a 2 rooks and bishop vs. queen ending to pull off the upset.

Here are some games from the round, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(6) Vedant Talwalkar (serverbusy) (1822) - IM Brian Escalante (BrianEscalante) (2354) [C07]

MI March TNMO Chess.com (1.2), 09.03.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 [4.exd5 is the other main move, when Black can recapture on d5 either way, both with long history.] **4...cxd4 5.Nxd4** [5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Bc4 is still a complicated battle with chances for both players.] **5...Nf6** [Also common is 5...Nc6 when the maneuver 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 is a nice finesse, but Black is okay anyway.] **6.exd5 Qxd5** White can't get Bc4 in so has to do something else. **7.c3** Not really the time for this. [White players with big ratings have been 7.Nb5!? (Michael Adams played it in 1993 but it took another decade or so before it took off) 7...Na6 *(7...Qd8* was MVL-Caruana, a Black win, but very lost in the middle.*)* 8.Nc3 *(8.a3!?)* 8...Qd8 9.a3 Be7 10.Qf3 Nc7 *(10...0-0?? 11.Bxa6* 1-0! Tzermiadianos,A (2437)-Sigalas,F (2195), Greece Team ch 2013 and Carlsen,M (2881)-Caruana,F (2791) Flor & Fjaere 2014! Note that that is Aggelos not Andreas (author of "How to Beat the French Defense" (2008) where 5. exd5 was recommended. If Aggelos had written the book it might have been a lot shorter! But the more interesting story is that other game -- Carlsen-Caruana? 1-0 11?? Okay, it was a blitz game. But still!*)* 11.Bd3 Ncd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Ne4 Bd7 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Be4 Qc4 16.Qe2 Rc8 17.Qxc4 Rxc4 was nothing special, ½-½ (81) Priyadharshan,K (2425)-Lenderman,A (2539) Saint Louis 2013] **7...Nc6 8.N2f3 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Bc5 10.Bb5+ Ke7** The king is cozy here. **11.Qxd5 Nxd5 12.0-0 Rd8 13.Re1 a6 14.Bf1 b5** [14...f6 to get the center pawn going (and the king to f7) is the shady side of even.] **15.g3** [15.a4] **15...b4?** [15...f6; 15...Bb7] **16.Bg2** [16.Ne5! Bb7 17.Nd3! puts Black in a pickle; White's extra pawn on the queenside is mattering more than Black's central pawn, and in fact White might just be winning the b-pawn.] **16...bxc3 17.Ne5?!** [17.bxc3! and the pawn is poison! So 17...Ra7=] **17...cxb2 18.Bxb2 Bb7** [18...Kf8 with a light advantage] **19.Rab1 Rab8 20.Nd3**

White is getting the pawn back, it seems... **20...Ba7??** After almost eleven minutes off the clock the International master blunders, losing back the exchangeinstead with a far worse, probably lost position! [20...Bd6 lets White just win back the pawn, 21.Bxg7 when 21...Ba8 22.Rbc1 Rbc8 and it's nothing much for either side. But in an early round Black could still hope to outplay his far lower rated opponent in the queenless middlegame..] **21.Be5** Somewhere between a pin and a removal of the guard -- the rook is frozen, else the bishop goes with check. **21...Ba8 22.Bxb8 Bxb8** Black does have certain compensations: a pawn, both bishops, a great knight on d5. But those factors look better on paper than actually: White should win. **23.Nc5 Ba7 24.Nxa6?!** Too soon, letting Black direct counterplay at f2. [Most decisive is 24.Rec1+- keeping Black's knight from becoming troublesome.] **24...Nc3** White is still better, but the threats get the better of him. **25.Bxa8?** [25.Rb2? Nd1 For example.; 25.Rbc1 (or 25.Rb3, the same) 25...Rd2! 26.Bxa8! Bxf2+ 27.Kf1 Bxe1 28.Rxc3 Rxa2 29.Kxe1 Rxa6 30.Bf3+/- when only White can win (a selling point in itself), but it's going to be hard.] **25...Nxb1 26.Rxb1 Rxa8**

White has given back the exchange, and gone under on the clock (5:59 to 6:22). As often happens, the endgame gets a bit wild. **27.Rb7+ Kd6 28.Rxf7 Bb6 29.Nb4 Ra4 30.Nd3** [30.a3 Rxa3 31.Rxg7 Rf3 32.Rxh7 is similar] **30...Rxa2 31.Rxg7 Rd2 32.Nf4 Rxf2 33.Kh1 e5 34.Nh3** After all the excitement it should be a draw, but with the clocks winding down (0:50 to 1:07) the better (faster) player is favored. [34.Rxh7 exf4 35.gxf4 is always a thought, but not only is rook and bishop versus rook daunting (worth the time to learn something about, though!), also White's king looks like it could be trapped (even if it can't be).] **34...Rb2 35.Rxh7 Be3 36.Rh4 Kd5 37.Ra4 e4 38.Ra3** One-move threats are a recipe for losing endings (although not yet). [How about 38.Ra8 to get the rook behind the pawn and maybe even push the g-pawn. Stockfish still makes it 50%.] **38...Kd4 39.Ra4+** One-move threat to the king... **39...Kd3 40.Ra3+** Another... **40...Ke2 41.Ng1+** Dangerous but still holding on... **41...Bxg1 42.Kxg1 e3** vs. 0:06.4 (!) **43.h4??** Played instantly: and there it is. Rook or king needed to be improved: [43.Kg2; 43.Ra1 or any other rook move along the a-file (not Ra2!) would draw. White has to be ready to check Black's king off of f3.] **43...Kf3** It's over (if Black doesn't lose on time). Black will win the rook for the e-pawn, when White's pawns won't matter. **44.h5 Rg2+ 45.Kf1** [45.Kh1 Rxg3 46.Kh2 Rg5] **45...Rh2** [45...Rxg3 is the win: 46.h6 Rh3 47.Kg1 Rxh6 Okay, the White pawns did matter. But now they don't. Now it's the "Can't Get the 'Philidor Position' Position" and a win for Black. The point is that the pawn on e3 stops side checks, and White can't get to the checks from behind in time (if only the rook had one diagonal move!).] **46.Kg1 Rxh5** [46...Rg2+] **47.Rb3** Rook up the board at least took ten moves longer. **47...Rh3** and here rook to the queenside was a bit faster. **48.Rc3 Rxg3+ 49.Kf1 Rh3** Here this was the only move to win. **50.Kg1 Rh8 51.Rb3 Rg8+ 52.Kf1 Rh8 53.Kg1 Rd8** 0:13.1 vs. 0:13.0. Black doubled his time with the repetitions and the increment, and now it's over. **54.Rc3 Rd1+ 55.Kh2 Kf2 56.Rc2+ e2 57.Rxe2+ Kxe2** Talwalkar put up an admirable fight and was even on top for a while but succumbed eventually. As for Escalante, this his first game in the Tuesday Night Marathon should warn him that it won't be easy! **0-1**

(7) GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes) (2449) - Chelsea Zhou (mwncklmann) (1937) [A20]

MI March TNMO Chess.com (2.4), 09.03.2021

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 Black's development is rather bland. Consider that this is a Sicilian Reversed: would you play like that against the Sicilian? Is being down a move grounds for playing so quietly? And yet, some books call this the Karpov System. **7.a3 a5 8.e3 h6 9.b3 Re8 10.d4 exd4 11.exd4 Bb6 12.h3 Bf5 13.g4?!** The fact is, the Karpov System is not a pushover. This move provides targets for Black at some point. And if in some deep future Black gets a bishop and a queen on the b8-h2 diagonal... [13.Kh2 is the preferred computer move, still a wait and see approach.] **13...Bh7 14.Be3** Black's bishop on b6 (soon to be a7) will be out of play for quite a while; White has to see if he can make something out of his "extra" piece. But the pressure on d4 and control of e4 (and don't overlook the bishop bearing on b1!) keep Black with full counterplay. **14...d5?!** Not this way. Now it's going to be that much harder to get the bishop into the game. **15.c5** White doesn't have to cut the tension; [15.Re1 keeps the options on the queenside.] **15...Ba7** That bishop is in deep hibernation. **16.Rc1** [16.Qc1! looks for Qb2 and b4, and maybe a sacrifice on h6!?] **16...Qd7?! 17.Re1?!** [17.Ne5! and the pawn can't be taken: 17...Nxe5? *(17...Qe6 18.Nb5 Bb8 19.f4+/-)* 18.dxe5 Rxe5 19.c6! bxc6 20.Bxa7 and the rooks get queen forked.] **17...Ne4 18.Ne2** [18.b4!?] **18...Rab8**

Slowly breaking out, when [18...b6 tries right away; or 18...f6] **19.b4!** Tarjan sees a tactical resolution and grabs it. **19...axb4 20.axb4 Nxb4** else White rolls forward. **21.Ne5 Rxe5?!** This provides scant relief; some queen move had to be played. Now White has an exchange along with the bind . [21...Qb5? 22.Bxe4 Bxe4 23.Nc3 Qa6 24.Ra1 wins; 21...Qd8 22.Qa4 Na6 gives White terrific compensation for a pawn] **22.dxe5 Qe7 23.Qa4 Nc6! 24.Nd4! Bxc5** Losing a piece, but there wasn't a defence. **25.Nxc6 bxc6 26.Bxe4** Good enough, but the computer notes that the other way [26.Bxc5 Nxc5 27.Qa3 is cleaner. Why quibble! White is up a rook!] **26...Bxe4 27.Bxc5 Qxe5 28.Qd4 Qg5 29.Qe3 Qg6 30.f3 Bc2 31.Re2 Bd3 32.Rd2 Bc4 33.Bd4 Rb3 34.Qf4 Rb1 35.Rxb1 Qxb1+ 36.Kh2** Three completely blocked pawns do not come close to a rook. Tarjan never quite felt threatened the whole game. Perhaps this Karpov System is just too sophisicated and subtle for younger players. Is there a Yugoslav Attack Reversed? **1-0**

(1) IM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2595) - Patrick Donnelly (thedarkbishop) (1782) [B24]

MI March TNMO Chess.com (1.3), 09.03.2021

A tough pairing for Patrick. Black against Josiah in no picnic. **1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 Nf6 6.f4 d6 7.Nf3 0-0** We have a classic Closed Sicilian. Josiah plays like Spassky did to win the Candidate's matches (2 times). Patrick has a perfectly good setup - like an English reversed. **8.0-0 a6** [8...Rb8 to get the rook out of the long diagonal and still support ...b5 is the usual plan.] **9.h3 Qc7 10.g4 b5 11.f5 Bb7 12.Ne2 Rac8 13.Nf4 Nd4 14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Rf2**

[15.g5 is also reasonable if White wishes to avoid the game complications. (Josiah though feels no need to do that.)] **15...g5!? 16.Ne2 Qxc2?!** This doesn't really win a pawn. Black would do better to hold the kingside with [16...h6] **17.Bxg5 Qxb2?** Insisting of taking a dangerous pawn. Black should instead trade into a slightly worse endgame with [17...Qxd1+] **18.Ng3 Qa3 19.Bc1!** Retreating the bishop allows the white pawns to advance to tear up the kingside. **19...Qa5?** [19...Qc5 keeps the black queen more in play, but Black would still be in trouble.] **20.g5 Nd7**

21.f6! exf6 22.gxf6 Rxc1 Trying to slow the powerful White attack, but it is not enough. **23.Qxc1 Nxf6 24.Nf5** The white pieces create many threats. There is no good defense. **24...Qc3**

25.e5! dxe5 [25...Bxg2 26.Rxg2 Nh5 27.Rxg7+ Nxg7 28.Qg5 Qxa1+ 29.Kh2 Qxa2+ 30.Kg3 and g7 can't be guarded.] **26.Bxb7 Qxd3 27.Nxg7 Kxg7 28.Kh2** White is a rook ahead. The game is over. **28...Ne4 29.Bxe4 Qxe4 30.Qg5+ Qg6 31.Qxe5+ f6 32.Qxd4 Rf7 33.Rg1 1-0**

(2) Aaron Nicoski (KingSmasher35) (1806) - FM Eric Li (kingandqueen2017) (2116) [A45]

MI March TNMO Chess.com (2.5), 09.03.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 Playing this King's Indian setup against the London System is one of the most aggressive things Black can do. At least the center doesn't get locked up with these lines. **3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.h3 Nbd7 7.c4** This is a good move, but the truly classic London System play would be 7. c3 and then expand on the queenside. With the pawn on c4 Black has the chance to try to loosen the central dark squares. **7...b6 8.Nc3 Bb7 9.0-0 Re8**

10.d5!? Again, not bad at all yet 10. Bh2 is a more "London" move. **10...e6 11.e4 Nc5 12.Bd3** This exposes the white bishop to the black knight. I would prefer [12.Qc2] **12...exd5** [12...b5! would start a lot of central action. Black is not sacrificing a pawn with that.] **13.exd5 Nh5 14.Be3 Bxc3!?** A positionally aggressive move, giving up the fianchettoed bishop to give doubled pawns. **15.bxc3 Ng7 16.Qc2 Bc8 17.Nd4 Bd7 18.Rfe1 Qc8 19.Bf4 Ba4 20.Qd2** The game is still roughly balanced. **20...Qd7 21.Bc2 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Re8 23.Rxe8+ Qxe8 24.Bxa4 Qxa4**

25.Qe2 [White has more winning chances in a middle game than an endgame. Sharper is 25.Bh6 Qe8 *(25...Qxc4? 26.Qg5!* wins*)* 26.g4] **25...Qe8 26.Kf1 f6 27.Qxe8+ Nxe8 28.Ke2 Kf7 29.g4 Ne4 30.Bd2 a6 31.f3 Nc5 32.Nb3 Nd7 33.f4?! Nc5 34.Nxc5?!** Black starts to gain a little edge. It would still be equal keeping the knights on with [34.Nd4] **34...dxc5**

35.Kf3? losing a pawn [35.f5 gxf5 36.gxf5 Nd6 37.Bf4 Nxc4 38.Bxc7 Ke7 is better for Black but White has decent drawing chances 39.Kd3?! Kd7! 40.Kxc4? Kxc7 41.Kd3 Kd6 is a winning king and pawn ending] **35...Nd6 36.Ke2 Nxc4 37.Kd3?!** A pawn down king and pawn ending is bad news. It would objectively still be lost, but White has more practical chances after [37.Be1] **37...Nxd2 38.Kxd2 b5 39.c4 Ke7 40.Kc3 Kd6 41.a3 g5 42.fxg5 fxg5 43.Kb3**

43...c6! 44.dxc6 Kxc6 Now it's an easy win **45.cxb5+ axb5 46.Kc3 Kd5 47.Kb3 Kd4 48.a4 bxa4+ 49.Kxa4 c4 0-1**

(8) NM Mike Walder (FlightsOfFancy) (2092) - Ethan Mei (erm999) (1796) [C00]

MI March TNMO Chess.com (1.9), 09.03.2021

1.e4 d6 2.d4 e6!? Mike is known for his opening preparation, but is this taking things too far? **3.c4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nf3 Ne7** Heading for the Hippo! It has hardly caught on at the top levels, with a famous and extreme exception: down two games after eleven in the 1966 World Championship match, Spassky answered 1.Nf3 with 1...g6, 3...d6, 4...Nd7 and 5...e6 (while Petrosian had grabbed the center just like Walder has here), and filled in the rest of the moves shortly. The game was in fact drawn after a lot of excitement (and White was certainly winning), and Spassky won the next game and another after a few draws, but then it was Petrosian to the finish for the first time a world champion had defended his title decisively since the death of Alekhine. Did the hippo have anything to do with that? Probably not. **6.Be2 b6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Be3 Nd7 9.Qd2 Bb7**

It's a full-bore Hippopotamus Defense. Black adopts a "come and get me" stance. The problem is, White can also just make good moves and see what Black is going to do. And if you're not Spassky, what he does is probably just going to get in trouble. **10.Bh6** Okay, that's a bit of a something -- maybe the dark squares will fall apart, and White will get an attack on the king. **10...e5**

[Often Black hits with 10...f5 but in this position there are problems with it: 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.e5? *(12.Ng5 Rf6 13.f4!* turns out to be deadly*)* 12...d5? *(12...dxe5* and White's e5-pawn is going to be in trouble*)* 13.Ng5 dxc4 14.Nxe6+ 1-0 (14) Schwabeneder,A (2004)-Ardelt,H (1732) Playchess.com INT 2020] **11.Bxg7N** [11.Rad1 was a somewhat recent game in 2014 -- White had the standard space and squares but somehow the lower rated player held on for a draw. 11...Nc6 12.dxe5 Ndxe5 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Kg8 16.f4 Nc6 17.Qe3 f6 18.Bg4 Bc8 ½-½ (69), Sajka,M (2217)-Kolakovic,K (2052) Gelsenkirchen 2014.] **11...Kxg7 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nd4 N7c6 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.f4 Nd7 16.Rae1 Re8 17.Bf3 Rc8?** Watch how ineffective this rook turns out to be. You can't waste moves! [17...f6 maybe?] **18.e5!**

White grabs the moment to open things up with tactics. Maybe the pawn doesn't fall immediately, but it will eventually. **18...Bxf3 19.Rxf3 Qh4?!** [19...Qe7!? 20.Rd1 Funny: Black puts the queen in line with the rook -- and the rook moves away! White will often do best by pausing the d6 capture, improving his position first (b3, Rd3, Nb5) -- Black of course can't do anything about it.] **20.Rh3!** White spent the longest think of the game on this move, 3:49 -- and it's decisive, going after something bigger than a pawn. Now Black has to worry about his king as well. **20...Qg4 21.f5!**

Walder's attacking play is crisp. **21...h5** And here Black took his longest think, four and a half minutes -- but that time would have been better spent before when it was critical. Now it's just too late. [21...Nxe5 22.Qh6+ Kf6 23.Nd5+ Kxf5 24.Ne3+ is nice; 21...Rxe5 is similar after 22.Rxe5 *(or 22.Qh6+)*] **22.f6+ Kh7 23.Re4 Qe6** Around now the computers start favoring various ways of giving up the queen to delay mate. [23...Qf5 24.g4!] **24.Rxh5+! gxh5 25.Qg5 Nxf6 26.exf6 Qxf6 27.Qxf6 Rxe4 28.Nxe4 Rg8 29.Qxf7+ Rg7 30.Nf6+ Kh8 31.Qxh5+ Rh7 32.Qxh7#** Not just another first-round mispaired crush, but an instructive and attractive win against an opening that can be difficult for White without a plan. **1-0**

Watch the exciting broadcast of our forst two rounds here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVkGCMk6sWM (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVkGCMk6sWM)

Standings are here after two rounds:

SwissSys Standings. March 2021 TNM: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2738	W39	W24	
2	IM Brian Escalante (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16836558)	BrianEscalante	16836558	2544	W40	W29	
3	GM James Edwa Tarjan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)	tirantes	10991820	2469	W41	W31	
4	FM Eric Yuhan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	kingandqueen2017	15688436	2344	W42	W25	
5	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W43	W33	
6	Austin R Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	TitanChess666	16090452	2149	W44	W35	

	16090452)						
7	FM Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	MMSanchez	14947382	2141	W45	W34	
8	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	ninjaforce	15499404	2055	W48	W38	
9	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W50	W52	
10	IM Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)	josiwales	14006506	2505	W55	W30	
11	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	chesspilot01	15424820	2084	X47	W36	
12	Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	Qing29	15467440	2082	X59	W37	
13	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	artliou	12906142	2037	W61	W22	
14	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	nathanf314	13001390	2015	W62	W26	
15	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	SmilyFace4	15176393	2000	W63	W21	
16	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2127	W46	D19	
17	FM Kyron Wa Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	KyronGriffith	12860484	2500	H---	W23	
18	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	stratus_junior	14958842	2054	D53	W58	
19	Pranav Sathish (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16464655)	championps	16464655	1770	W71	D16	
20	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	A-boy415	16571026	1831	H---	W53	
21	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	Sebbymeister	16875347	1343	W27	L15	
22	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1205	W28	L13	
23	Adam For Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1014	W32	L17	
24	Kapil Karunakaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15495877)	kapilank	15495877	1907	W56	L1	
25	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W57	L4	
26	Rajtilak Indrajit (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109752)	rtindru	30109752	unr.	W54	L14	
27	David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)	David_Askin	13776967	2023	L21	W63	
28	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	L22	W61	
29	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	W64	L2	
30	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	twangbio	16291100	1878	W65	L10	
31	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	mwncklmann	15239016	1875	W66	L3	
	Christian Jensen						

32	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12780890)	Christianjensen23	12780890	1844	L23	X62	
33	Ranen A Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	dashrndrx	12614986	1815	W67	L5	
34	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	16083648	1785	W68	L7	
35	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	W69	L6	
36	Sos Hakobyan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14452712)	SacrificeandCrush	14452712	1771	W70	L11	
37	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1753	W72	L12	
38	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	LightningDragon8	16761994	1726	W73	L8	
39	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	GiorgosTsolias	17266862	1679	L1	W65	
40	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	serverbusy	16408266	1644	L2	W64	
41	Kenneth S Wells (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14960218)	shoshonte	14960218	1626	L3	W66	
42	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	MechAnjin	12931024	1622	L4	W69	
43	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	bigchampionofchess	16600505	1610	L5	W67	
44	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	L6	W71	
45	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1484	L7	W68	
46	Ethan R Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	erm999	16090467	1482	L16	W72	
47	Jahaan Ansari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?21004356)	jah23	21004356	1446	F11	W70	
48	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	ppra06	15871762	1445	L8	W73	
49	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1293	H---	H---	
50	Leon Diaz Herrera (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355661)	Aeqetes	17355661	1175	L9	W60	
51	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	night_breeze	30055583	933	H---	H---	
52	Tyler Wong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30135235)	tdubchess	30135235	unr.	W60	L9	
53	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1417	D18	L20	
54	Roman Gurovich (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14173406)	heyitsroman	14173406	1716	L26	D56	
55	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	thedarkbishop	12716964	1635	L10	D57	
56	Michael Jannetta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15172933)	GM_Fobby_Bischer	15172933	1165	L24	D54	
57	Sean Han Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020arEEEWS	16802870	952	L25	D55	

58	Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	nmbrown2	12446259	1495	H---	L18	
59	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	Echecsmike	12279170	1446	F12	H---	
60	Bryan Lynch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15493651)	nycsheep	15493651	1769	L52	L50	
61	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L13	L28	
62	Prescott Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16009618)	prescott00000	16009618	1296	L14	F32	
63	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	andrewaballantyne	17079795	1206	L15	L27	
64	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	dribbler23	30032729	1102	L29	L40	
65	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1032	L30	L39	
66	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	1020	L31	L41	
67	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	966	L33	L43	
68	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	Vincitore51745	12814843	826	L34	L45	
69	Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	ComfyQueso	16380615	739	L35	L42	
70	Aaron Peredia (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16443747)	GoodKnightmyQueens	16443747	486	L36	L47	
71	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	unr.	L19	L44	
72	Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)	austin809	30032406	unr.	L37	L46	
73	Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)	MrRap9	30118209	unr.	L38	L48	

Thursday Night Marathon Report

The Thursday Night Marathon has completed 3 rounds and there are still 4 perfect scores remaining, top seeds GM Gadir Guseinov, IM Elliott Winslow, Theo Biyiasas and NM Michael Walder. There are 2 more rounds left, current standings are here:

SwissSys Standings. Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2680	W21	W25	W
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W11	W19	W
3	Theo Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	tabiyiasas	13989054	2175	W22	W9	W
4	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2107	W12	W26	W
5	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	A-boy415	16571026	1831	H---	W37	W
6	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	artliou	12906142	2034	W33	W27	L1

	12906142)						
7	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	W13	L16	W
8	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	ako_h	15206848	1980	W32	L15	W
9	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	uzkuzk	16434922	1812	W35	L3	W
10	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	W41	X17	L3
11	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	thedarkbishop	12716964	1635	L2	W41	W
12	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	L4	W35	W
13	Yali Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	noydan100	16280288	1442	L7	W38	W
14	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	Loltheawesomedude	16497860	1392	D18	D29	W
15	Adam For Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	831	W29	W8	L2
16	Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)	austin809	30032406	unr.	W40	W7	L4
17	Brandon Xie (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14961610)	swift_breeze	14961610	2130	W31	F10	H-
18	NM Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	D14	L24	W
19	Robert Smith III (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	W34	L2	D2
20	David Flores (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	playercreate1	14799653	1812	H---	W39	L5
21	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	L1	W32	D1
22	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	jacobchess857	17083655	1629	L3	D33	W
23	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1511	L25	D36	W
24	Rama Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	draidus	17350313	1475	H---	W18	L8
25	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W23	L1	L1
26	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W36	L4	L1
27	Roger V V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	1-h4-1-0	16191192	1776	W42	L6	L1
28	Leo Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061785)	mu3tang	16061785	1765	H---	H---	L1
29	McCarty-Snead-Cal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	L15	D14	D3
30	Jason Romsak (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12841181)	zer0chills	12841181	1681	H---	H---	L7
	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?						

31	**12839763)**	**fiddleleaf**	12839763	1574	L17	W42	L9
32	**Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)**	**NXBex**	16154827	1416	L8	L21	W
33	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	**swimgrass**	16380636	1363	L6	D22	D3
34	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	**kevin_mx_sun**	16898540	1356	L19	W40	L1
35	**Kevin M Chui (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16998580)**	**Kchui999**	16998580	1290	L9	L12	W
36	**Katherine Sunn Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)**	**2Nf31-0**	16425316	938	L26	D23	D2
37	**Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)**	**caodanny**	16939797	895	H---	L5	D3
38	**Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	**juditsztaray**	14708926	827	U---	L13	H-
39	**Tyler Wong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30135235)**	**tdubchess**	30135235	unr.	H---	L20	L2
40	**Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)**	**ludimagisterjosephus**	13742111	1700	L16	L34	L2
41	**Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)**	**Charvii**	16816706	944	L10	L11	L3
42	**Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)**	**TanFlatPupet**	17144246	866	L27	L31	L3

Mechanics' Institute Defeats Edinburgh Chess Club (Scotland) In a Match of Two Historic Clubs

The Mechanics' Institute was victorious in a club match friendly with the Edinburgh Chess Club from Scotland. They claim to be the 2nd oldest chess club in the world, founded in 1822. Schachgesellschaft Zürich is the oldest, founded in 1809, with Mechanics' Institute not far behind (1854). The match was played on Chess.com in club match format, players palying 2 games of G/10+2 against the same opponent, onw white, one black. We had 13 players on each side, and the final match score was 15-11 in favor of Mechanics'. Congrats to our players!

Here are two games from the match, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(3) Austin Mei (TitanChess666) (2339) - thebalernobull (2242) [C33]

Mechanics' vs. Edinburgh Chess.com, 06.03.2021

1.e4 e5 2.f4 The brave, fearless (yet risky) KIng's Gambit. **2...exf4 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.d4 Nf6!** Aggressive development is the best way to meet the King's Gambit. You have to be sure of your steps though. **5.Nc3** [5.e5 Ne4 6.Nf3 d5 is quite fine for Black.] **5...Bb4 6.Nge2! f3!** [6...Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3 8.Nxc3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 d5 10.Bd3 Be6 11.Bxf4 is active play for the pawn. Chances are objectively about even, though this is the type of game White is looking for and TitanChess666 would surely be happy here.] **7.gxf3 d5**

Hitting at the center avoids trouble for Black that can occur in this opening. **8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Bd6 11.Ng3 0-0 12.Ne4 Ne7** The computer likes Black here (computers don't like the KIng's Gambit much). A human though may be happy with White's game if he/she likes open, active play. **13.Kh1 Ng6 14.Bg5 Be7 15.Bd2 Bh3 16.Rg1 Qd7 17.Qe2 Rae8 18.Qd3 c6** Black has the advantage with the more solid pwan structure. **19.a4 Bf5 20.Rae1 Kh8 21.Be3 Qc7** [21...Bd8! would clear the lanes and keep a small edge for Black] **22.Bf2 Bd6 23.Bg3 Bf4 24.Re2 b6 25.Qd1 Be6 26.Bb3 Qd7 27.c4 f5 28.Nc3 Bh6** [Black is backing up a bit. Again, it would be good to clear the e-file - 28...Bg8!] **29.d5 Bg8 30.Rge1 f4** This is a good square for the black pieces but now a pawn occupies it. [30...Rxe2 31.Rxe2 Bf4] **31.Bf2** [31.Rxe8 Rxe8 32.dxc6 Qxc6 *(32...Qxd1 33.Nxd1)* 33.Rxe8 Qxe8 34.Bf2 Bg5 35.c5] **31...Rxe2** [Here Black could try the active 31...Re3! 32.Bxe3 fxe3 33.Rxe3 Bxe3 34.Rxe3 Nh4 with a good, active position] **32.Qxe2 Bg5 33.Ne4 Be7?**

[33...Bh4 is equal chances] **34.d6!** The turning point of the game. TitanChess666 makes use of a tactic to get a monster pawn on d6 and start queenside play. **34...Bd8** [34...Bxd6? 35.Rd1 wins material] **35.c5! b5?** This gives White a winning duo of passed pawns. [35...bxc5 36.Bxg8 Kxg8 37.Bxc5 h6 38.c4 is a big edge to White but Black would still have a fighting chance.] **36.axb5 cxb5 37.Bxg8 Kxg8 38.Qd3 Ne5 39.Qd5+ Nf7 40.Kg2 Kh8 41.c6**

Black resigned. The final position is a picture of pawn power. **1-0**

(4) Daniel Lin (SmilyFace4) (2075) - BoutrosBoutrosGhali (2014) [A45]

Mechanics' vs. Edinburgh Chess.com, 06.03.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Qd2 c6 6.0-0-0 SmilyFace4 is not messing around. This aggressive (and good) opening play aims for the attack. **6...Qa5 7.Nf3 b5?! 8.e5! b4?** A usual counter stroke to battle for the center squares. It fails here due to a surprising tactic. Black should instead play [8...Nh5] **9.exf6 bxc3 10.Qxc3**

10...Qf5 The only way not to lose a piece. Too late BoutrosBoutrosGali sees that [10...Qxc3? 11.fxg7! is game over.] **11.fxg7 Qxf4+ 12.Kb1** Black has saved the piece but is down in development with his king stuck in the center. **12...Rg8 13.d5** [13.Bb5 Bd7 14.Ba4 Rxg7 15.Rhe1 Rg8 16.Qa5 would be a winning position with everything developed against Black's scattered forces] **13...c5 14.h4 h5 15.g3 Qf6 16.Qxf6 exf6** Still, this is an excellent endgame for White. **17.Nd2! f5 18.Nc4 Kd7 19.Bg2 Ba6 20.Nd2** [20.Na5 Rxg7 21.Rhe1 Rg8 22.Re3 Re8 23.Rde1

Rxe3 24.Rxe3 is winning.] **20...Rxg7 21.c4 Bb7 22.Rhe1 Na6 23.a3 Rgg8 24.Re3 Rae8 25.Rde1 Nc7 26.Bf1 f6 27.Bd3 Re5 28.Nf3 Rxe3 29.Rxe3 Ba6**

30.Ne1 Kd8 31.b3 Bc8 32.Ng2 finding a powerful plan. The threat of Nf4 makes Black weaken the kingside. **32...g5 33.Rf3 f4 34.gxf4 g4** [34...gxh4 35.Nxh4 Rg4 36.Nf5 Ne8 is very bad for Black but could offer more hope] **35.Re3 Bd7 36.f5! Ne8 37.Nf4 Ng7 38.Ne6+ Kc8 39.Kb2 a5 40.Kc3 Bxe6 41.dxe6 Kd8 42.Be4 Ke7 43.Bd3 Rb8 44.Re1 Ne8 45.f3?!** this is hasty [45.Rg1 and a timely break with f3 would surely take the point] **45...gxf3 46.Rf1 Nc7 47.Rxf3 Rg8 48.Be4 Rg4 49.Bc6 Rxh4 50.Rg3 Rg4** [50...Kf8 51.Rg6] **51.Rxg4 hxg4 52.Kd3 Na6 53.Ke3 g3 54.Kf3 d5?** ditching this pawn gives up all hope for drawing the game. [54...g2 55.Kxg2 Nc7 and it's not so easy for White to break through the blockade, e.g. 56.Kg3 Na6 57.Kg4 Nc7 58.Kh5 Na6 59.Kg6 Nc7 60.Kg7 Na6 61.Bd5 Nc7 62.Bb7 Ne8+] **55.Bxd5 Kd6 56.Kxg3 Nc7 57.Kf4 Ne8 58.Bf3 Nc7 59.Be2 Ne8 60.Bf3**

How to break through? Smilyface4 finds the right plan. **60...Nc7 61.Bd5 Ne8 62.Ke3 Nc7 63.Kd3 Ne8 64.Kc3 Nc7 65.b4!** That does it. There is no defense here. **65...axb4+ 66.axb4 cxb4+ 67.Kxb4 Na6+ 68.Kb5 Nc7+ 69.Kb6 Ne8 70.Bc6 1-0**

Full match results are here: https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/585671 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/mechanics-chess-club-club-match/585671)

To watch the bradcast of this club match, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43hcvmnLGjk (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43hcvmnLGjk)

Reciprocity Partnership With Marshall Chess Club

The Mechanics' Institute and the Marshall Chess Club entered into a partnership last year where we agreed to recognize each others members so that our players can enjoy the benefits our respective clubs. Now that there are so many course offerings and USCF online rated events, we wanted to let our chess community know again that if you are a member of the Mechanics' Institute, meaning you have a membership card and paid the annual fee, you may enjoy playing at Marshall or taking one of their course at the Marshall member rate. Marshall has also promoted this reciprocity agreement with Mechanics' in their newsletter the Marshall Spectator. To subscribe to their newsletter, please follow this link: https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f).

To see their list of events, click this link: https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming)

If you are a member and wish to be added to the list of members to participate in Marshall events, please send an email to chessroom@milibrary.org and list your USCF number. We will verify membership and place you on the list.

We look forward to this partnership between our two historic clubs in an effort to continue bringing communities together through chess!

WIM Dr. Alexey Root

WIM Dr. Alexey Root has a great new article out in SparkChess warning players not to turn wins into draws. We just had a discussion in a recent broadcast how endgame technique is so important in a players development, because many points are left on the table from players who do not know how to convert won games. Alexey wrote in her article about one example of proper technique from a round in our Thursday Night Marathon she viewed while watching our broadcast. Read the article here :

https://www.sparkchess.com/the-russian-endgame-handbook-dont-turn-wins-into-draws.html (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.sparkchess.com/the-russian-endgame-handbook-dont-turn-wins-into-draws.html).

Enjoy!

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 3/16: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1017842 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1017842)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - Game Review Class with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: Starting Feb 1 - Monday and ongoing
   Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**
   New session started 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/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: The Art of Defense! with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: March 3 through April 7 (6 classes)
   We all want to attack, but to be comfortable and skillful at defense is just as important.
   Learn how to safeguard your king and drum up counter play using chapters and examples taken from The Art of Defense in Chess, by Polugaevsky and Damsky (1988).
   Stalemate, Blockade, Trench Warfare, Counterattack, Traps: these are just a few of the concepts we will take up in this six-week course.
   Be prepared for a little homework - and become a chess player who's hard to beat!
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead)

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:

3/16 Tuesday - **March 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon**
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Join Now! Starts February 25: February/March 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129003927/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/20220129003927/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/20220129003927/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Two FREE Special Events in March
Spring Classes starting week of March 22
Spring Camps
Tournament Report from last weekend
Upcoming Tournament Schedule
Scholastic Game of the Week

Mechanics' Institute is organizing **two very special events** for the scholastic community free of charge for the players.

March 13, Saturday @ 3PM - Think, Move, Play - Special event with the Thompson Family Foundation via Chess.com - Read all about it at the top of this Newsletter!

March 20, Saturday All day - 2021 San Francisco Scholastic Championship Online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online) via ChessKid and Chesscom

Continuing the tradition and a Mechanics' Institute annual event: the 2021 San Francisco Scholastic Championship will be hosted virtually again this spring for scholastic players from the Bay Area and beyond. Join us online for this FREE Event, where players can choose to play in a non-USCF rated section based on their grades, or compete in the Championship sections based on their rating and have their games USCF online rated.
Chess Director Abel Talamantez, GM Nick de Firmian, and FM Paul Whitehead will be covering the event live on our twitch channel!
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021SanFranciscoScholasticOnlineChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021SanFranciscoScholasticOnlineChampionship)

Have questions about the event? Join us:
Scholastic Chess Town Hall - March 17th Wednesday 7:00-8:00PM Pacific Time (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-chess-town-hall)
Question & Answer session for the 2021 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship Online
Click the link for more information! Zoom link will be posted on the page on 3/17.

Spring Session of our Virtual Chess Classes are starting March 22 through May 31

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin and Coach Abel – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Tuesdays 3-4PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTUESDAYS34PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andy Thursdays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring)
- Advanced Class with Coach Andy Thursdays 5-6PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS56PM2021Spring)
- Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) Friday 3-4PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring)

Spring Break Virtual Chess Camp

Sign your child up for some fun virtual chess camp during their spring break!
Monday through Friday,
Two weeks offered: Mar 29 - Apr 2 and Apr 5-9
9AM - 12PM
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp)

Last weekend's USCF Online Rated event

We had 18 players participating last Sunday's USCF online rated tournament. Players had 6 rounds of G/10+2 games, and created some super intersting and intense positions. Congratulations to our two new players, Alexander and Nivaa, who places 1st and 3rd places, and of course some of our regular, Ethan, Jashith Shlok, Dallas and others for winning awards.

Detailed regults are here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom#Results (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom#Results)
USCF cross table is here: http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202103079482 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202103079482)

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom) Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Saturday, Mar 13: 5SS G/10+2: Thompson Family Foundation Event - on chess.com! https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThinkMovePlayFREEeventsponsoredbytheThompsonFamilyFoundation (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThinkMovePlayFREEeventsponsoredbytheThompsonFamilyFoundation)
- Monday, Mar 15: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384725 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384725)
- Tuesday, Mar 16: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384726 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384726)
- Wednesday, Mar 17: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384727 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384727)
- Thursday, Mar 18: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384728 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384728)
- Friday, Mar 19: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384729 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384729)

2) 3/14 - Sunday 3PM: 6SS G/15+2 - USCF Online Rated tournaments - Event registration and USCF membership is needed!
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMAR14SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMAR14SUN)

3) 4/1 - Friday 6:30PM PT: 8SS G/5+2: Monthly Scholastic Blitz Online Championships
Run on Chess.com & LIVE BROADCAST via Twitch.tv/mechanichchess
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021)

Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(5) LightIris (1307) - Nightimeninja (1419) [C50]
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.d3 d6

This position has been seen at least thousands of times. Both sides get their pieces out. The extra tempo that White has doesn't mean much in this position. **6.Bg5 Be6** This contests the d5 square and develops, so is a very reasonable move. Black would also be happy with [6...h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Nd5 Qd8] **7.Bb3 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nd5 Bxd5 11.exd5?!** This is the start of White's troubles. The d5 pawn blocks the bishop on b3 so it is less active. It's better to play [11.Bxd5 with a completely even game.] **11...Nd4 12.Nxd4 Bxd4 13.c3 Bc5** [13...Bb6] **14.d4?** Just an oversight

to lose a pawn. We'll see what a difference a pawn makes. **14...exd4 15.Qd2 dxc3 16.bxc3 Rfe8 17.Rae1 Rxe1 18.Qxe1?!**

The white rook should capture instead. "Rooks belong on open files." **18...Kf8!** Putting everybody to work! The black king helps the rook take over the e-file, increasing Black's advantage. **19.h3 Re8 20.Qd2 Qg5 21.Qxg5 hxg5** Black has an extra pawn plus the active rook which controls the only open file. If the black rook can invade the white camp then the position will be winning for Black. The bishops of opposite color help White's drawing chances. **22.Bc2** [22.Rc1 Re2 23.Rc2 Bxf2+ 24.Kf1 Rxc2 25.Bxc2 Bc5 is probably winning as White is two pawns down. Even here though the bishops of opposite color would make Black's task to take the full point difficult. (It's much better for the defense to have the rooks off the board).] **22...g6** [22...Re2!] **23.Kh2** [23.Bd3! stops the rook from coming in for now] **23...Kg7** [23...Re2] **24.Rb1 b6 25.Ba4 Re2**

The black rook invades and wins a second pawn. Nightimeninja wraps it up with good technique. **26.f3 Rxa2 27.Bb3 Ra3 28.Kg3 a5 29.Bc4 Rxc3 30.Ba2 Rc2 31.Bb3 Bf2+ 32.Kh2 Rc3 33.Bd1 Rd3 34.Bc2 Rxd5 35.Rc1?! Rc5!** This pin wins even more material. Very alert play by Nightimeninja. **36.g4 Be3 37.Re1 Rxc2+ 38.Kg3 Bf2+** Nightimeninja won by resignation **0-1**

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 5: Lasker – Steinitz 1894

The World Champion, 58 years old, finally met his doom in the guise of a young Prussian, Emanuel Lasker. The 25-year-old challenger skillfully took Steinitz into queen-less middlegames and dry technical endgames, and the match was won by a score of +10 -5 =4 with hardly a spectacular combination played. At one point in the match Steinitz lost 5 consecutive games, yet bravely fought on.

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1. Lasker – Steinitz, 1st Match Game 1894.

White moves. A nice one-two punch.

---

2. Steinitz – Lasker, 2nd Match Game 1894.

White moves. Remove the you-know-what.

---

3. Lasker – Steinitz, 3rd Match Game 1894.

White moves. Find the quickest way.

---

4. Lasker – Steinitz, 7th Match Game 1894.

White moves. A simple sequence, and it's over.

---

5. Steinitz – Lasker, 10th Match Game 1894.

Black moves. Win something.

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6. Steinitz – Lasker, 16th Match Game 1894.

Black moves. Find the “little combination”.

GM Nick de Firmian

Nick's column will return next week

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Lasker – Steinitz, 1st Match Game 1894.

1.f4! The black rook has no good squares. After **1…Rxg4 2.Rxg4 Rxd3 3.c5!** was the deadly follow up. The passed pawn created here will cost black a piece. Steinitz struggled on for a while before resigning: **Re3 4.Rc4 d3 5.Rg1 d2 6.Rd1 bxc5 7.b6 Bd4 8.b7 Re8 9.Kc2 Rb8 10.Rb1 Kf7 11.Ra4 1-0.**

---

2. Steinitz – Lasker, 2nd Match Game 1894.

1.Rxg6! destroying the defenses was the Steinitz of old, the “Austrian Morphy”. Black was routed in short order after **1… Kxg6 2.Qf5+ Kf7 3. Qxh5+ Kg8 4. Qxc5 Qe5 5. Be3 a6 6.a4 Rfe8 7.axb5 axb5 8.Qxe5 Rxe5 9.Ra6 Rc8 10.Ng4 Re7 11.Bc5 Ree8 12.Ne3 Bf8 13.Bd4 Kf7 14.h5 Be7 15.Bb3+ Kf8 16.Nf5 1-0.**

---

3. Lasker – Steinitz, 3rd Match Game 1894.

1.Rxd3! dispelled black’s hopes. White went about utilizing the f-pawn after: **1…cxd3 2.Nxf6 Rxb5 3.Ne8 Kc6 4.f6 d4 5.Ng7 dxc3 6.Bxc3 Rg5 7.f7 1-0.**

---

4. Lasker – Steinitz, 7th Match Game 1894.

Black lost his queen by force after **1.Qg1+ d4 2.Qg5+ Qd5 3.Rf5.** Steinitz gave up the ghost after **3… Qxf5 4.Qxf5+ Kd6 5.Qf6+ 1-0.**

---

5. Steinitz – Lasker, 10th Match Game 1894.

1…Nd4! won a pawn and put white in a hopeless position. Steinitz held on for a bit: **2.Bxd4 exd4 3.Bd3 dxc3 4.g4 Ba3+ 5.Kc2 Bc6 6.Kb3 Bc5 7.Nh3 Be3 8.Bc2 Bd2 9.Nf2 Rd4 10.Ka3 Be8 11.Nd3 Rxe4 12.Nb4 Rd4 13.Bb3 a5 14.Nc2 b5 0-1.**

---

6. Steinitz – Lasker, 16th Match Game 1894.

1…Rxb7! got rid of the dangerous passed pawn. Black seemed to be winning, but… **2.Bxb7 Ne2+ 3.Kf3 Nxc1 4.Kxe3 Nxa2 5.Kd4?** Loses. Robert Huebner spotted **5.f5!** simplifying and ridding white of a weak pawn - with a probable draw. If **5…exf5?** then **6.Bd5+**. **5…Kf6 6.Kc5 Nc3 7.Kc4 Ne2 8.Kb5 Nxf4 9.Kxa5 Ng6 10.h5 Nf4 11.Bf3 Kf5 12.Kb4 e5 13.Kc3 e4 14.Bd1 e3 15.Bf3 Kg5 16.Kc2 Kh4 17.Kd1 Kg3 0-1.**

Submit your piece or feedback

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https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003927/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #960

March 20, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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Think, Move, Play Scholastic Tournament and Arena Brings 158 Kids Together!

The Thompson Family Foundation and the Mechanics' Institute came came together in support of the power and benefits of chess to children by offering a free 5-round, non-rated scholastic swiss tournament, which was followed by a G/5+2, 60 minute arena with special guests participating. In total, 158 players participated in the tournament, with player strengths ranging from new learner to master playing in one open-section event. In the end, three players finished with perfect scores, with NM Sriram Krishnakumar, Rohan Rajaram, and Callaghan McCarty-Snead finishing in this tiebreak order with 5/5. Congratulations to them and to all the participants!

The Thompason Family Foundation, founded by Golden State Warrior Klay Thompson and his family, has a mission of enriching the lives of youth through sport and fitness. It was an honor for us to partner with them and combine our goal of bringing communities together through chess. All participants will receive a free chessboard with the Thompson Family Foundation logo on it and chess set. In addition, the first 90 participants will receive a free Think, Move, Play t-shirt, subject to size availability.

We also received support from the Golden State Warriors Foundation's e-sports department, as we had Golden Guardian streamer Zain and Bay Area Super Smash Brothers streamer Toph join us for the event. Toph joined us on the broadcast for the arena coverage with Zain as one of the guest players playing. Also participating in the arena were former professional basketball player Mychel Thompson (Klay Thompson's older brother), Seth Tarver (Director of Programs and Partnerships with the Thompson Family Foundation), Adam Cheyer (co-founder of Siri), and local talents IM Josiah Stearman and WCM Allyson Wong.

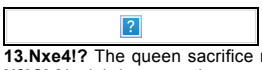
In the arena, as in the tournament, NM Sriram Krishakumar put in a dominant performance, including a sharp win against Stearman to take first. It was fun to watch our local kids, especially our developing young players play against these top juniors and adults. These young players have, as they really took it to the celebs showing no fear on the chessboard. Win or lose, they played with passion and determination, all with fun. Here are some of the games from the tournament and arena, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(5) NM Sriram Krishnakumar (2008king) (2297) - IM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2579) [B01]

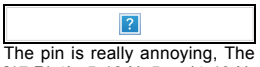
Live Chess Chess.com, 14.03.2021

[de Firmian]

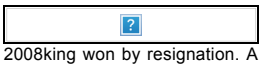
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Be3!? Slightly unusual development. White has a small edge after the more normal [6.Bd3] **6...Be7 7.Qd2 0-0 8.0-0-0 b6 9.Be2** [9.h4 Bb7 10.h5 as White plays in the Petrov's would be a good plan] **9...Bb7 10.h4 Nbd7 11.h5 Bb4 12.a3?** getting into trouble [12.Qd3 would keep a slight edge] **12...Ne4!**



13.Nxe4!? The queen sacrifice may be the best practical chance [13.Qd3 Nxc3 14.axb4 Nxd1 15.Bxd1 would be a little play for the exchange in a still complex game] **13...Bxd2+ 14.Nexd2 Nf6?!** [Josiah has won the queen and gets careless, allowing White serious play. He should close down the kingside with 14...h6 15.g4 f6] **15.h6! g6?** [15...Ng4 16.hxg7 Kxg7 17.Rh3 f6 18.Rdh1 Rh8 19.Ne5 fxe5 20.Bxg4 Bxg2 21.Bh6+ Kg6 22.Bxe6 Bxh3 23.Rxh3 exd4 looks scary but would be winning for Black with accurate play] **16.Bg5!**



The pin is really annoying, The game is even again now. **16...Re8?** [needed was 16...Bxf3 17.gxf3 Qxd4 18.Ne4 Nxe4 19.Rxd4 Nxg5 20.f4 e5! 21.fxe5 Rad8 with even material] **17.Nc4?!** [17.Rh4! c5 18.Ne5 cxd4 19.Ng4 would win the knight and give White a huge advantage] **17...Ba6?!** [17...b5 18.Nce5 b4 19.axb4 a5 20.b5 a4 21.Ng4 Nxg4 22.Bxd8 Rexd8 23.Rdf1 is a nice pawn up for White but Black would still be in the game] **18.Rhe1?** [18.Nfe5 Bxc4 19.Bxc4 b5 20.Be2 and White will win the knight on f6 (after Rh3-f3) with a winning game. The three minor pieces are much more powerful than the black queen in that position] **18...Kf8?** [missing the chance to get out of the pin with 18...Bxc4 19.Bxc4 Qd6! as 20.Bxf6 Qf4+ wins the bishop back on f6] **19.Nce5** Now Black is in a bind again with no way out **19...Bxe2 20.Rxe2 Qe7?!** [20...Kg8 21.Nd2 Qxd4 22.Ndc4 Qxd1+ *(22...Qc5 23.Bxf6* is a completely winning bind for White*)* 23.Kxd1 Nd5 24.Ne3 is still a huge edge for White] **21.Bxf6 Qd6** [21...Qxf6 22.Nd7+] **22.Ng5**



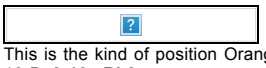
2008king won by resignation. A great comeback and a very entertaining battle. [22.Ng5 Kg8 23.Ne4 Qf8 24.Bg7 and Nf6 is the end] **1-0**

(6) Adam Cheyer (acheyer) (1279) - Gogosf (1621) [A00]

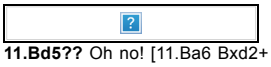
Live Chess Chess.com, 14.03.2021

[de Firmian]

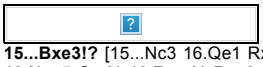
The Orangutan. An unusual opening that's not so bad. White offers the b-pawn to get a center pawn. **1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.e3 0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bb2 Bg4 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.h3 Bxf3?!** [8...Bh5] **9.Bxf3**



This is the kind of position Orangutan players should be seeking when they play this opening. **9...Ne5 10.Bxb7** risky. White would have the two bishops and some edge after the simple retreat 10 Be2 **10...Rb8**



11.Bd5?? Oh no! [11.Ba6 Bxd2+ 12.Nxd2 Rxb2 is equal] **11...Nxd5 12.0-0 Bc5 13.d4 Rxb2 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Nd2**



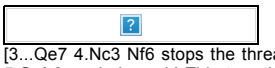
15...Bxe3!? [15...Nc3 16.Qe1 Rxc2 is the most straightforward win] **16.Nf3** [16.fxe3 Nxe3 17.Qe1 Nxf1 18.Nxf1 Qd4+ would be an easy win with the extra material] **16...Bb6 17.Re1 Nf4 18.Nxe5 Qxd1 19.Raxd1 Rxc2 20.a4?!** [20.Rf1 Rxa2 is quite lost anyway] **20...Bxf2+ 0-1**

(7) jwiejoo (862) - Mychel Thompson (TrygaMyke) (544) [C20]

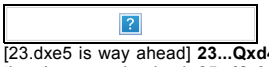
Live Chess Chess.com, 14.03.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.Qh5 h6? [2...Nc6 3.Bc4 g6] **3.Bc4** [3.Qxe5+ is a clear pawn ahead] **3...g6?**



[3...Qe7 4.Nc3 Nf6 stops the threatened checkmate and drives White back] **4.Qxe5+ Be7** [4...Qe7 is a little better, but 5.Qxh8 Qxe4+ 6.Be2 Qxg2 7.Bf3 wouldn't save material for Black] **5.Qxh8** a whole rook! This trap that has been played thousands of times. **5...d6?** [5...Kf8 guards the knight] **6.Qxg8+ Kd7 7.Bb5+ c6 8.Bxc6+?!** Still winning but there is no reason to give the piece back. [8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Be2 is nine points ahead] **8...Nxc6 9.Qxf7 Ne5 10.Qd5 a6 11.Ne2 Qc7 12.Nd4 b5!?** One may as well mix it up when you are losing. **13.Qe6+** [13.Qxa8 Bb7 14.Qh8 Bxe4 gives Black a little play before the huge amount of material takes its toll] **13...Kd8 14.Qg8+ Kd7 15.0-0 Nc4 16.Qe6+ Ke8 17.Qxg6+ Kd7 18.Qg4+ Kd8 19.Ne6+ Bxe6 20.Qxe6 Ne5 21.d4 Qxc2 22.Bxh6?!** [22.dxe5] **22...Qxe4 23.Nc3??**



[23.dxe5 is way ahead] **23...Qxd4??** [Black could have gotten right back in the game with 23...Nf3+! 24.gxf3 Qxe6 winning the queen with roughly even material] **24.Qg8+ Kd7 25.Qxa8** Now there's no coming back **25...Ke6 26.Qc8+ Kf7 27.Rfd1 Qh4 28.Qf5+ Bf6 29.Qh7+ Ke6 30.Ne4 Qh5 31.Nxf6** [31.Rxd6#] **31...Qe2 32.Bg5 Nf7 33.Qg8 Kf5 34.Rd5+ Ne5 35.h3 Qf3 36.Qh7+** jwiejoo won on time, though mate would be soon anyway **1-0**

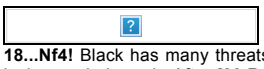
(11) Luke Widjaja (lukewidjaja) (1893) - NM Sriram Krishnakumar (2008king) (2175) [C54]

Live Chess Chess.com, 14.03.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.a4

Threatening to trap the black bishop. This modern move keeps play on both sides of the board. **6...a5 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.h3 Be6** the other retreat would also give White a small edge after [9...Bh5 10.Re1 h6 11.Nf1 Bb6 12.Ng3] **10.Re1 Qd7 11.Bxe6** [11.Bb5! Bxh3 12.gxh3 Qxh3 13.Nf1 Qg4+ 14.Kh1 Bxf2 15.N1h2 Qh3 16.Re2 Ng4 17.Qf1 is quite good for White] **11...fxe6 12.Nc4 Ba7 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.Nxe3 h6 15.Rc1 Qf7 16.Qc2?!** [16.Rc2] **16...Nh5 17.d4?!** [17.Ng4] **17...exd4?!** allowing White the opportunity to capture on d4 with the knight. White declines this generous offer which would have kept the disadvantage small. [17...Nf4! 18.dxe5 Nxh3+ is a big advantage for Black] **18.cxd4?**



18...Nf4! Black has many threats such as ...Nxg2 and ...Nxh3+. If White moves the Nf3 then d4 hangs. **19.d5** [19.Kf1 Nxg2] **19...exd5 20.exd5 Nb4 21.Qxc7 Nbd3 22.Qxf7+ Rxf7 23.Nc4?** losing a whole rook. After [23.Rcd1 Nxe1 24.Nxe1 White is down the exchange for a pawn, but it would be a very hard ending as the black rooks have good, active lines.] **23...Nxc1 24.Nxd6** [24.Rxc1 Ne2+] **24...Rd7 25.Nf5 Ncd3 26.Rd1 Rf8!** 2008king plays accurately, avoiding the tricky white knights. There is no hope for White without a black blunder. [26...Rxd5? 27.Ne7+ would give back the whole rook] **27.Ne3 Nxb2 28.Rb1 Nxa4 29.Ne5 Re7 30.N3c4 Nc3 31.Ra1 b5 32.d6 Re6 33.Nd7 bxc4 34.Nxf8 Kxf8 35.d7 Rd6 36.Rxa5 Rxd7 37.Rf5+ Rf7 38.Rc5 Nce2+ 39.Kf1 Ra7 40.Rf5+ Kg8 0-1**

We would like to thank the Thompson Family Foundation for sponsoring this event. Special thanks to Seth Tarver from the Thompson Family Foundation for working with us to organize the event, Christina Pederson and Daniel Biery from the Golden State Warriors, and streamers Zain and Toph for coming on the broadcast. Thanks also to our special guests who joined us on the commentary including Adisa Banjoko, GM Patrick Wolff, WCM Allyson Wong, and Mechanics' Institute CEO Kimberly Scrafano. Lastly, thank you to the chess team at the Mechanics' Institute - Dr. Judit Sztaray as Chief TD and running the Zoom HelpDesk, along with commentators GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead. It was a fun free event for the kids, and we hope this event will help continue to inspire the kids playing and learning and promote more interest in chess.

To watch the broadcast of the tournament and arena, please follow this link: https://www.twitch.tv/videos/948404161 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.twitch.tv/videos/948404161)

You can also click to our YouTube channel for the video and past videos HERE
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos)

Full results from the tournament are here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/think-move-play---g10-tournament-2143507
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/think-move-play---g10-tournament-2143507)

Full arena results here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/think-move-play---g52-1007570
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/think-move-play---g52-1007570)

March 2021 TNM Report

Fireworks were abound in rounds 3&4 of the Tuesday Night Marathon, as there was plenty of action to entertain viewers, two of these games provided by IM Josiah Stearman. Stearman won an incredibly sharp game against Nicholas Weng in round 3, where Weng's king marched to the b5 square by move 14. Stearman then went on to win another action game in round 4 against IM Elliott Winslow. GM Jim Tarjan survived a scare in round 3 against Abhinav Penagalapati, taking advantage of time pressure to come back from the brink of defeat. He was not so fortunate in round 4 against GM Gadir Guseinov. Tarjan appeared to be in a losing endgame, then found a resourceful continuation to get the position to his 2 rooks, bishop and pawns against Guseinov's queen, rook and pawns where it appeared even. But one miscaluclation opene the position enough for Guseinov to convert the win. IM Brian Escalante also had some great games including a nice positional win against FM Eric Li.

After 4 rounds, GM Guseinov, IM Escalante and IM Stearman are the only perfect scores at 4/4, with FM Kyron Griffith and NM Mike Walder at 3.5/4.

Watch the broadcast by clicking here:

Here are some games from a great Tuesday night, annotated by GM Nick de Frimian.

(1) IM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2598) - Nicholas Weng (ninjaforce) (1984) [A34]

MI March TNMO Chess.com (3.3), 16.03.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 The "symmetrical" English opening is a transpositional jungle, with plenty of opportunities for both sides to inject asymmetry into the battle. [1...c5 is the immediate mirror move, but don't think that means it's boring. The most famous example of symmetry gone wild was R.Byrne-R.Fischer, 1963 U.S. Championship, which you must know if you have learned the moves. NOT Donald Byrne (as in New York 1956, "The Game of the Century") but his brother Robert. The story of what happened after the last move can easily be found online or in books. 2.Nf3 (2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 *(3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nc7* is Rubinstein's Variation, when it could be Black setting up what was later known as the Maroczy Bind with ...e5*)* 3...d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5) 2...Nf6 3.Nc3 d5] **2.Nc3 d5** This has a sort of flaw, see below. [2...c5 3.Nf3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 is the more common move order.] **3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.Nf3** Not trying to take advantage of Black's early central play. [4.g3!? picks on the knight before Black is ready to do something with it. The idea is if Black plays ...Nxc3 then bxc3 and a bishop on g2 and a rook on b1 will make Black's development difficult.; 4.e4!? also might set up a big center before Black is ready to oppose it. 4...Nxc3 5.bxc3 g6 It's curious to watch the game count jump from a few hundred... *(5...c5 6.d4 g6)* 6.d4 ...to over 33,000 -- transposition! (into the Gruenfeld Variation)] **4...c5** On the other hand, with this knight on f3 blocking the long diagonal, there has been a proliferation of interest in this position. To be fair, most of the recent games (involving Wesley So, Giri, Nepomniatchi, Dubov, Radjabov as White, Vachier Lagrave, Caruana, Mamedyarov, Fedoseev as Black) have started: 1.Nf3. Worth noting. **5.e4** Everything under the sun has been tried: [5.g3; 5.d4; 5.e3; Even 5.Qa4+] **5...Nc7?!** This relinquishes the opening initiative to White. [The Big Move is 5...Nb4 when in the early 1980s Yasser Seirawan had quite a run with 6.Bc4!? Nd3+ *(6...Be6!? 7.Bxe6 Nd3+ 8.Kf1 fxe6 9.Ng5 Qb6 10.Qe2 c4 11.b3 h6 12.Nf3 Nc6 13.bxc4 0-0-0* with just the sort of wild position the Black player revels in: 0-1 (28) Polugaevsky,L (2625)-Tal,M (2615) Riga 1979 -- but Seirawan and everyone since must have a good line here*.)* 7.Ke2 Nf4+ *(7...Nxc1+* isn't so bad after all*)* 8.Kf1! Ne6 *(8...Nd3!? 9.Qe2 Nxc1* was, among others, played by So in 2016: *10.Rxc1 e6 11.h4 a6 12.e5 Nc6 13.Rh3 b5 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.Be4 Qd7* ½-½ (37) Aronian,L (2785)-So,W (2794) London 2016*)* 9.b4!? was the old move, still seen; *(9.h4!?* the new move, not only as a reaction to ...g6 but here preempting it!*)*] **6.d4! cxd4 7.Nxd4** [7.Qxd4!? is just as good] **7...e5!?** Very challenging! And actually first seen on move 8 (that is, with e2-e3 and ...e7-e6!). **8.Bb5+!?** [The computer confirms what has been known for almost forty years: 8.Ndb5! is the way to go. 8...Nxb5 *(8...Qxd1+ 9.Kxd1 Nxb5 10.Nxb5 Na6 11.Be3* and White has the jump on Black*.)* 9.Bxb5+ Nc6 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Be3 Be6 12.0-0-0+ 1-0 (37), Tregubov,P (2612) -Flear,G (2503) France 2003.] **8...Nxb5N** [Perhaps 8...Bd7 as played in a game between a couple B players (!) is best.] **9.Ndxb5 Qxd1+?** Maybe Black was too concerned with who could castle and who couldn't. [Equality was to be had with 9...a6 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Na3 Be6 12.0-0 Nd7] **10.Kxd1 Na6 11.Nd5 Kd8** So now Black's king is center-bound as well -- and White's knights are most uncomfortable. **12.Bg5++/= Kd7?** [Black had to see 12...f6! 13.Be3 *(13.Nxf6?? h6 14.Bh4 Be7-+* turns it completely around*)* 13...Bd7 14.a4 Nb4 *(*or *14...Bc5* trading off a bishop to smooth the way for the errant knight. White has some advantage but Black is in it.*)* 15.Nbc3!] **13.Ke2** White is winning. **13...Kc6 14.Rhc1+?!** Flashy but sometimes a quiet move is even better: [14.a4! is attacking the king: 14...b6 15.Rhc1+ Kb7 16.Nbc7 Rb8 17.a5! Nc5 18.b4! Nxe4? 19.a6#] **14...Kxb5 15.a4+ Ka5 16.Bd2+ Nb4 17.Nxb4 Bxb4 18.Rc5+ Kb6** [18...Ka6 19.Bxb4 b6 is a little better, clear advantage for White but it's not over.] **19.Rb5+ Kc7?** [19...Ka6 20.Bxb4 Re8 21.Ra5+ Kb6 22.Rd5 Ka6 refuses to go under!] **20.Rc1+ Kd8?!** [20...Kb8 21.Bxb4 Rd8 22.Be7 wins the pawn and Black's king still is a liability.] **21.Bxb4** but this is even worse. **21...Be6 22.Rxb7 Re8?** (♔ Mate in 1) **23.Ba5#** A fun win for Josiah -- and for Nick, a reminder that even the flank openings can get sharp and require theoretical preparation! **1-0**

(2) IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2249) - IM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2604) [E15]

MI March TNMO Chess.com (4.3), 16.03.2021

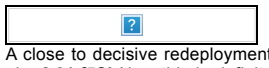
[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 The Queen's Indian Defense. **4.g3** Not quite the oldest reply but close. And first played by the great Akiva Rubinstein. One hundred and one years ago! **4...Bb7** [4...Ba6 is much more the modern move, although Nimzovich made it his own starting in 1925. It's hard for White to be happy with any defense of c4. And no, the first game with this exaggerated fianchetto, his opponent did not play 5.Bg2?? Bxc4 -- but a sleepy opponent did fall for that against Nimzovich in 1934.] **5.Bg2 d5!?** A favorite of Moiseenko, who scores quite wel with it, but it seems a bit heavy with e4 already well controlled. **6.Ne5**

So the text move might seem counter to principles of development, but this was the big move, putting on the pressure right away now, a hundred years ago! The first game in the database is Alekhine-Vajda, and many of the greats of the era also found themselves playing it. Gruenfeld. Botvinnik. Saemisch. Najdorf. [The late Ljubomir Kavalek simply played 6.0-0 against Ljubo Ljubojevic in Montreal 1979, and after 6...Be7 7.Ne5 0-0 8.Nc3 Na6!? 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Nd3 c5 11.dxc5 bxc5 12.Bg5 with textbook pressure against the hanging pawns.1-0 (39) Kavalek,L (2590) Ljubojevic,L (2590) Montreal 1979.; But in all likelihood Josiah would play, as Moiseenko is fond of, 6.0-0 dxc4! and the bishop is back in light. He's shown himself in similar positions to be at home.; 6.cxd5!? could well be the best way of dealing with Black's blunt pawn move, when any recapture has its problems.] **6...c6?!** [6...Nbd7 was Moise's move the one time anyone played the old 6.Ne5 against him: 7.Qa4 Bd6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Nxd7 Qxd7 10.Qxd7 Nxd7 11.cxd5 Bb4! 12.0-0 Bxc3 13.dxe6 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Bxd4 15.exd7 Rad8 16.Rd1 Be5 17.Bf4 Bxf4 18.gxf4 f5 19.Rd5 Rf7 20.Rad1 g6 and Black somehow kept White from that one little last pawn move to the eighth. ½-½ (36), Fridman,D (2633)-Moiseenko,V (2501) St Petersburg 2018; 6...c5!? was the choice of the first British grandmaster and brief American player Tony Miles, with success: 7.Qa4+ Nbd7 8.cxd5 Bxd5 9.Bxd5 Nxd5 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bd6 12.0-0 cxd4 13.cxd4 Bxe5 14.dxe5 0-0 and it was good knight bad bishop: 0-1 (45) Goodman,D (2230)-Miles,A (2510) Portsmouth (Southsea) 1976] **7.cxd5 cxd5** Best, keeping the bishop less indirectly controlling e4 than after ...exd5. But now ...c5 has gone away. **8.0-0 Bd6** [8...Nfd7!? 9.f4 Nxe5 10.fxe5 Nc6 had Black building up nicely on the queenside, French-style: 0-1 (42) Demina,J (2355)-Eismont,O (2470) Novosibirsk 1998] **9.Nc3**

9...0-0N [9...Nbd7 10.Bf4 Qe7 11.Nb5 Bb8 12.Rc1 went horribly wrong in Otte,M (2173)-Suligoy,A (1818) Munich 2006:1-0 (33).] **10.Bf4 Nc6 11.e3?!** [11.e4!? tries to take advantage of the moment to make something of the long diagonal. But 11...Nxe4 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Bxe4 Rc8 14.Rc1 Bxe5 15.dxe5 is about even whether either side trades queens or not.; 11.Nb5!? Bb8 12.Rc1 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 tries to take over c7, so 13...Ne8! denies White.] **11...Bxe5** [11...Rc8!? 12.Rc1 Qe7 continues with development (with b8 for the bishop if need be)] **12.Bxe5** White has to return the bishop pair, to have f2-f4 guarding the pawn. **12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nd7 14.f4 Ba6?!** This could have started going bad. [14...Rc8; 14...Nc5] **15.Rf2 b5?!**

Now it's White fumbling his development. [15...Qe7 16.e4 d4 17.Qxd4 Rfd8 18.Rd1 is some advantage still for White] **16.Rd2?** [16.Qd4!+/- covers a lot of dark squares; 16...Qb6 17.a3 and White is ready to think about f5.] **16...Qb6! 17.Rd4 Rac8** Black has solved his problems and is thinking about going forward. **18.Qd2?** [18.a4 is Stockfish's best move, pretty much keeping it equal. 18...b4 19.a5 Qc5 20.Na4! Qxa5 21.e4 with a sharp forcing line: 21...Nb6 22.exd5 Nxd5 23.Bxd5 exd5 24.Nc3 Qc5 25.Rxa6 bxc3 26.bxc3 Qxc3=] **18...Nb8!**



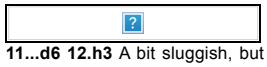
A close to decisive redeployment. **19.Bxd5?!** Desperation or oversight, in any case a dreadful attempt to change the direction of the game. **19...exd5 20.Nxd5 Qe6** [20...Qb7 was also a big plus.] **21.f5?!** Now this is definitely desperate. **21...Qxe5** If it was any consolation, this was the only move. **22.f6 Nc6** There were other defenses; every attempt to attack falls flat. **23.Rg4 g6** [Even 23...g5 works, when after 24.h4 Kh8 25.Rxg5 Qe4 the g-file could just end up leading to checkmate -- by Black!] **24.Rd1** [When the computer recommends 24.e4 Qd4+ you know it's over.] **24...h5 25.Rf4 Rcd8 26.e4 Kh7 27.Qe3 Nb4** When ahead: trade. **28.Rf5!? Nxd5?!** [28...Qe6! and White has nothing.] **29.Rxd5 Rxd5 30.Rxe5 Rxe5 31.Qa3** White was quite short on time but still fires a bullet or two. But objectively the rooks are going to run over the queen. **31...Rfe8?!** [31...Kg8 32.Qxa6 Rxe4 33.Qxa7 Re2 Once the rooks start threatening mate, it will be done.] **32.Qxa6 R8e6 33.Qxa7** Stockfish only gives it minus over plus, but with the time disadvantage White just won't put up resistance for long. **33...Rxf6 34.Qd4?** [34.Qb7] **34...Rfe6** Back to -+ **35.Kf2 Rxe4 36.Qd3 R4e5 37.a3 Kh6 38.b3 Rf5+ 39.Kg2 Kh7 40.a4 bxa4 41.bxa4 Rfe5 42.Kf2 Re4 43.a5?! R4e5 44.a6 Ra5 45.Qd7 Rf6+ 46.Ke3 Raxa6 47.h3 Ra3+ 48.Ke4 Rxg3 0-1**

(3) GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes) (2443) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2621) [E60]

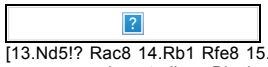
MI March TNMO Chess.com (4.1), 16.03.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

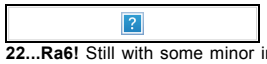
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nc3 c5 with Panno or Benoni a possibility, but they "agree" to head for a popular line with no clear name, a sort of fianchetto Maroczy Bind (White hasn't played e4, but the control of the light squares is there.). **6.Nf3 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nc6 8.0-0 Qa5** [8...Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 was for years the main way to play. There is even a Fischer-Spassky game from their world championship match in this line: 10.Bg5 *(10.Qd3* was up til then the main line*)* 10...Be6 11.Qf4 1-0 37, Fischer,R. - Spassky,B., Reykjavik (8) 1972; 8...d6 is a gambit that's not so easy to crack, but it seems to have had its day.] **9.Nc2** [9.Nb3; and 9.e3 are two major alternatives.] **9...Qh5 10.e4 Qxd1** White has done quite well here, but it's still anyone's game. And Guseinov seems to handle these typical positions quite well. [10...d6 is another way to go, but note the White player's name: 11.Qxh5 Nxh5 12.Nd5 Bd7 13.Bg5 f6 14.Bd2 1-0 (37) Guseynov,A (2399)-Ozgur,I (1930) Kesan 2017] **11.Rxd1**



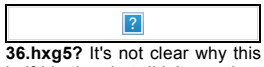
11...d6 12.h3 A bit sluggish, but the computer is okay with it. White has various more pointed moves: [12.Rb1; 12.b3; 12.Ne3] **12...Be6 13.b3**



[13.Nd5!? Rac8 14.Rb1 Rfe8 15.b3 Nd7 16.Nf4 catches the bishop for knight: 1-0 (48) Arkell,K (2424)-Pleasants,A (2103) Cardiff 2017; 13.Ne3 Rac8 14.Rb1 Nd7 15.Ne2 Nc5 16.b3 a6 17.Bb2 regroups and neutralizes Black on the long diagonal: 17...Bxb2 18.Rxb2 b5 19.Nf4 g5 20.Nfd5 1-0 (42) Ragnarsson,D (2391)-Duong,T (2230) Montreal 2019] **13...Nd7N** [Previously played was 13...Rfc8 14.Rb1 Nd7 15.Ne2 *(15.Nd5!?+/=)* 15...Nc5 *(15...a6=; 15...a5=)* 16.Bb2 *(16.Nf4+/=)* 16...Bxb2 *(16...a5=; 16...Rab8)* 17.Rxb2 a5 18.a4?! *(18.f4)* 18...Kg7=/+ 1-0 (31) Arnold,F (2583)-Krivoshey,S (2434) Eupen 2000] **14.Bb2** [14.Bd2 Perhaps just moving off the long diagonal is a better plan, when Black's dark-squared bishop could become ineffective.] **14...Nc5 15.Rab1 a5** Black's standard queenside counterplay is often a real problem for White. **16.Nd5?!** [16.Ne3] **16...Bxd5 17.Rxd5** The pawn captures turn in Black's favor. **17...Nb4 18.Nxb4 axb4 19.Bxg7 Kxg7** And somehow Black has come up with good knight bad bishop, a frequent motif in the Maroczy bind positions, only made worse with the bishop doing not a lot on g2. **20.e5** a calculation that doesn't quite work out. [Perhaps it's time to go into a defensive mode with 20.Rb2] **20...Rxa2 21.exd6 exd6 22.Rxd6**



22...Ra6! Still with some minor initiative. **23.Rbd1** Offering to trade b-pawn for b-pawn, but Gadir looks for his own terms. **23...Rc8 24.h4 Ra3 25.Rb6 Rxb3 26.Rb5 Rc7-/+ 27.Rd5?** [27.Bd5 is still a hard nut to crack.] **27...Na4!** Black is winning -- he's going to try to escort the passed pawn to queening. **28.Rd2 Rb1+** [28...b6! intending ...Rc5, cleaning up his extra pawn and squelching counterplay.] **29.Kh2 b3 30.Bxb7 b2?** Too soon. [Perhaps 30...Rxc4 31.Bd5 Rc2 32.Rd4 Nc5!? *(32...Nc3 33.Rxb3 Rxf2+ 34.Kh3 Rxb3 35.Bxb3 Ne2* is good chances as well.*)* 33.Kg2 b2 34.Be4 Nxe4 35.Rxe4 Rd1 36.Reb4 Rdd2 37.Rf4 h5 Can Black win this? Perhaps there is no way to queen after all.] **31.Bd5 Re7 32.Rb4 h6?!** [32...Rbe1 33.Rdxb2 Nxb2 34.Rxb2 R1e2 35.Rxe2 Rxe2 36.Kg2 Kf6 Of course Black is better, but the win might not be there.] **33.Rxa4 Rh1+ 34.Bxh1 b1Q** Here the clocks read: 9:17 10:40. White is close to equality, what with the bishop stronghold on d5. **35.Raa2** [35.Bd5] **35...g5**



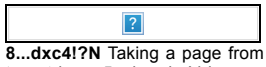
36.hxg5? It's not clear why this is a disaster for White yet, but Stockfish is adamant. [36.Bd5 lets Black split White's pawns, but there's no way in to them.] **36...hxg5 37.Rac2?** Tarjan used half his time but didn't see the point. [He had to try 37.Re2 but it's still lost: 37...Re6! (Black had to find this) 38.Rxe6 Qxa2 39.Rd6 Qxf2+ 40.Bg2 f5] **37...Re8** Guseinov had let the rope slip almost completely, but he snared Tarjan anyway. **0-1**

(4) FM Eric Li (kingandqueen2017) (2135) - IM Brian Escalante (BrianEscalante) (2401) [D31]

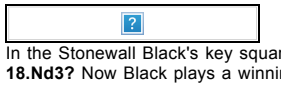
MI March TNMO Chess.com (4.2), 16.03.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 c6 The Noteboom? **4.e3** Invitation to a Meran **4...f5** A Stonewall! **5.f4** A Double Stonewall!! **5...Nf6 6.Nf3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0**



8...dxc4!?N Taking a page from the Noteboom notebook: the Stonewall looks like it wants to maintain, what else, a stone wall, but at any moment it could come crashing down. Black expects to get in ...c5 when he'd be no worse than White. [8...b6 9.Bd2 Ba6 10.Qe2 Nbd7 11.cxd5 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Nxd5 13.Rac1 N7f6 14.Be1 Qd7 15.Bh4 Rac8 16.Bxf6 Nxf6 17.Rfd1 b5 18.Ne5 Qb7 19.Qe2 a6 20.Nd3 c5 21.dxc5 Bxc5 22.Na4 Ba7 23.Nac5 Qe7 24.b4 Ne4 25.Qc2 Rfd8 26.Qb3 Nxc5 27.Nxc5 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Bxc5 29.bxc5 Rc6 30.Rc1 Rxc5 31.Rxc5 Qxc5 32.Qxe6+ 1/2-1/2 (32) Berkes,F (2665)-Bartel,M (2641) Budapest 2014] **9.Bxc4 b5 10.Bb3 a5** Queenside expansion "for free" (since White's bishop has to keep moving) **11.a4 b4 12.Ne2 Nd5 13.Bd2 Nd7 14.Rc1 Bb7 15.Qe1 Rc8**



In the Stonewall Black's key square is e4 -- but here it's as if he doesn't care about that square at all. But neither does White it seems. **16.Qf2?** [16.Ng3= Square e4!] **16...Qe7 17.Ne5 c5 18.Nd3?** Now Black plays a winning sequence, leaving White's position in ruins. [18.Nxd7 Qxd7 19.dxc5=/+] **18...Ba6! 19.Bc4 Bxc4 20.Rxc4 N7b6 21.Rcc1 c4**

Any questions? **22.Ne5 Bxe5 23.fxe5 Nxa4 24.Ra1 Nxb2 25.Rxa5 c3**

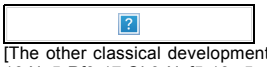
Curiously it looks like a Noteboom again, gone very right. **26.Bc1 Nc4 27.Ra6 b3 28.Nf4 Nxf4 29.exf4 b2** Who could blame Eric if he switches to 1.e4 after this! **0-1**

(10) Abhinav Penagalapati (qing29) (2113) - GM Jim Tarjan (Tirantes) (2455) [A80]

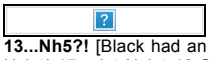
MI March TNMO Chess.com (3.4), 16.03.2021

[de Firmian]

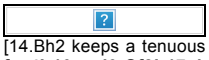
This was a complicated game! Once the fireworks started, the players kept making sure they didn't stop. **1.d4 f5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3** The old adage "Knights before Bishops" is often ignored by todays London System practitioners. [Even another game: 4.Be2 Nc6 5.Nf3 Ne7 6.0-0 Ng6 7.c4 And then there's the one about bishops being worth a bit more than knights? 7...b6 8.Nc3 Bb4 9.Rc1 Bb7 10.Nb5 Nxf4 11.exf4 a6 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Ne5 d6 14.Nf3 Bxc3 15.Rxc3 Ne4 1/2-1/2 33, Ni,H (2668)-Maghsoodloo,P (2656) Abu Dhabi 2019] **4...g6N** This move seems to invite White to use his lead in development to either develop an initiative or grab space.



[The other classical development got a rough treatment: 4...Be7 5.c4 0-0 6.Nc3 d6 7.h3 Qe8 8.Nf3 Bd8 9.g4 Nc6 10.Bg3 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Bxf5 Bxf5 13.gxf5 e4 14.Ng5 Ne7 15.Ne6 Rf7 16.Ng5 Rf8 17.Qb3 Nxf5 18.c5+ Kh8 19.Ne6 Nxg3 20.fxg3 Rg8 21.Qxb7 Qxe6 22.Qxa8 Qa6 23.c6 Be7 24.Qb7 Qd3 25.Qxa7 Bd6 26.Rg1 Qc2 27.Qd4 Qxb2 28.Ne2 Qa3 29.Kf1 Qa5 30.Rb1 Qxa2 31.Qb2 Qf7 32.Nf4 Qc4+ 33.Kg2 Qxc6 34.Rgc1 Volkov,S (2627)-Esipenko,A (2523) Sochi 2017 1-0 (67)] **5.c3** White chooses to play his solid set-up before engaging his opponent's forces. [5.Nc3 Nc6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.e4 d6 9.Qd2|^; 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.c4 d6 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Re1+/=] **5...Bg7 6.Nd2 d6 7.Qc2 Nc6 8.0-0-0** White could still go the other way: [8.Ngf3 Qe7!? *(8...0-0 9.0-0)* 9.e4 e5 but Black is already causing some trouble in the center.] **8...Qe7 9.f3 Bd7 10.h4 h6** White is all set up to play in the center... **11.g4?!** ...but then launches the g-pawn! Perhaps he thought Black was castling queenside, perhaps he wanted to encourage Black to castle queenside! [11.Ne2 0-0-0 12.e4=] **11...0-0-0 12.gxf5 gxf5 13.Ne2**

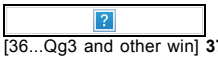


13...Nh5?! [Black had an opportunity to take the initiative right now with 13...e5! 14.dxe5 *(14.Bh2 Nd5 15.Nf1 exd4 16.exd4 Qxh4; 14.Bg3 Nd5 15.Nf1 f4)* 14...dxe5 15.Bg3 Nd5-/+ 16.Nc4 Ncb4! 17.cxb4 Nxb4 18.Qb3 Be6 when it's not certain Black quickly recovers the piece, but there are problems with White's king as well; in any case computers like Black.] **14.e4?!**



[14.Bh2 keeps a tenuous balance.] **14...e5!?** initiating mass confusion! [Simply 14...fxe4 15.fxe4 *(15.Bxe4 d5 16.Bd3 e5)* 15...e5 achieves an advantage without the complications.] **15.dxe5 fxe4! 16.exd6 Qf8! 17.dxc7 exd3?** [Better was 17...Re8 with a plus -- something will be coming back to Black shortly. 18.Bxe4 Nxf4 19.Nc4 Re7 20.Ng3 Kxc7 21.Qb3 Kb8 22.Nd6 Be6 23.Qb5 Nd8 24.Ngf5 Rc7 25.Kb1 Bxf5 26.Nxf5] **18.cxd8Q+ Kxd8[]** The only move to keep the balance. [18...Nxd8? 19.Qxd3 Nxf4 20.Qc4+] **19.Bg5+?!** Maybe too tricky. [19.Qxd3 Nxf4 20.Nxf4 Qxf4 21.Rhg1 and Rg4 (the bishop can't take), White would stand no worse.] **19...hxg5 20.Qxd3 Ne5** [20...Nf4!? 21.Nxf4 Qxf4 is more sensible] **21.Qe3** (on the a-pawn) [21.Qd5!? (on the b-pawn!?)] **21...Nf4** [21...g4!?] **22.Nxf4** [or 22.hxg5] **22...Qxf4 23.Qxa7**

23...Nd3+? This goes nowhere and just turns the plus over to White. A lot of other moves kept the balance, [while Stockfish is adamant that 23...Kc8! is the only path to any advantage for Black.] **24.Kb1!+/- Rxh4?!** [24...Nxb2? 25.Qa5+! *(25.Kxb2?? Qb4+)* ; 24...Kc8 is still the best shot, but now White has 25.Qa8+ Kc7 26.Qa5+ and 27.Qxg5.] **25.Rxh4** [More was offered by 25.Rhg1 Kc8 26.Qa8+ Qb8 27.Qxb8+ Kxb8 28.Ne4+/-] **25...gxh4 26.Ne4** Finally White gets the d-file going! **26...Ne5** The biggest think of the game (seven minutes), and the grandmaster finally admits he had to regroup. **27.Qb8+ Ke7** v 6:58 **28.Nc5=** White thought for three minutes and stayed calm; [28.Rxd7+!? could send it into an interesting ending: 28...Kxd7 29.Qxb7+ Kd8 *(29...Ke6!? 30.Qxg7 Nxf3)* 30.Qxg7 Qxf3 31.Qf6+ Qxf6 32.Nxf6 h3= it's looking like Black's mighty h-pawn compensates for White three connected passed pawns. (Quality vs. Quantity!)] **28...Bf5+?** [28...Qxf3 doesn't lose material, and in fact was the equalizer. 29.Qd6+ Ke8 30.Nxd7 Qf5+ 31.Ka1 Nxd7 achieves the run of "0.00" on White's best moves.] **29.Ka1** v 4:39 **29...Qxf3?** This should lose. Various king or bishop moves still favor White but less so. **30.Qd8+?** [30.Qc7+ was a winner. 30...Bd7 *(30...Kf6 31.Rd6+)* 31.Qd6+ (no longer a check on f5 -- it's already been taken!)] **30...Kf7 31.Qc7+** Everything has gone from roses to ruin; [31.Rg1 Ng6 32.Qc7+ Kg8 33.Qxb7 Qxb7 34.Nxb7 Be5 and the h-pawn is well escorted.] **31...Kg6! 32.Qd6+** [32.Rg1+ Ng4] **32...Kh7 33.Qd2** It's hard to suggest a plan for White now **33...Nc4** [33...h3 is an easy to suggest plan!] **34.Qd8 Qf2** vs. 2:05 **35.Nd3 Qh2?!** getting in the way of the h-pawn? [35...Qg3] **36.Rf1** 0:17.9 vs. 1:45 **36...Ne3??**



[36...Qg3 and other win] **37.Rc1??** A final mistake, Black now drives home the point. [37.Qg5! draws! There's always some perpetual.] **37...Qg3** and that's that. Tarjan thought for half a minute on this and saw it through from there. **38.a3 h3 39.Rh1 h2-+ 40.Ka2 Be6+ 41.b3 Qg2+ 42.Nb2 Qxh1 43.Qh4+ Kg6 44.Qg3+ Ng4 45.Qd3+ Kh6 46.Qh3+ Kg6 47.Qd3+ Kf7 48.Qe2 Qg1 49.Qf3+ Ke7 50.Qxb7+ Kf6 51.Qf3+ Kg5 52.Qe4 h1Q** As so often, the grandmaster ends up being the tougher fighter in the crunch. **0-1**

Current standings after 4 rounds are here:

SwissSys Standings. March 2021 TNM: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2738	W40	W32	W
2	IM Brian Escalante (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16836558)	BrianEscalante	16836558	2544	W29	W16	W
3	IM Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)	josiwales	14006506	2505	W30	W22	W
4	FM Kyron Wa Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	KyronGriffith	12860484	2500	H---	W65	W
5	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2127	W44	D36	W
6	GM James Edwa Tarjan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)	tirantes	10991820	2469	W57	W17	W
7	FM Eric Yuhan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	kingandqueen2017	15688436	2344	W41	W24	W
8	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W51	W33	W
9	Austin R Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	TitanChess666	16090452	2149	W42	W25	W
10	FM Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	MMSanchez	14947382	2141	W43	W34	L1
11	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	chesspilot01	15424820	2084	X45	W35	L2
12	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	artliou	12906142	2037	W58	W60	L7

13	David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)	David_Askin	13776967	2023	L46	W59	W4
14	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	nathanf314	13001390	2015	W47	W50	L9
15	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	L60	W58	W5
16	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	W62	L2	W4
17	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	mwncklmann	15239016	1875	W64	L6	W4
18	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	ninjaforce	15499404	2055	W53	W39	L3
19	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	stratus_junior	14958842	2054	D54	W52	D3
20	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	SmilyFace4	15176393	2000	W59	W46	L8
21	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W61	W69	L4
22	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	twangbio	16291100	1878	W63	L3	D5
23	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	A-boy415	16571026	1831	H---	W54	L5
24	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W71	L7	W4
25	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	W67	L9	D5
26	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1753	W75	L31	W6
27	Roman Gurovich (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14173406)	heyitsroman	14173406	1716	L50	D55	W7
28	Cal McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	DoctorBanner	14948275	1700	H---	H---	W6
29	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	serverbusy	16408266	1644	L2	W62	W3
30	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	thedarkbishop	12716964	1635	L3	D71	W5
31	Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	Qing29	15467440	2082	X70	W26	L6
32	Kapil Karunakaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15495877)	kapilank	15495877	1907	W55	L1	L2
33	Ranen A Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	dashrndrx	12614986	1815	W66	L8	L4
34	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	16083648	1785	W73	L10	W6
35	Sos Hakobyan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14452712)	SacrificeandCrush	14452712	1771	W74	L11	W6
36	Pranav Sathish (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16464655)	championps	16464655	1770	W68	D5	D1
37	Bryan Lynch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15493651)	nycsheep	15493651	1769	L69	L61	W7
38	John R Hartmann (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	john_hartmann	12552251	1765	H---	H---	L4

	12552251)						
39	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	LightningDragon8	16761994	1726	W76	L18	W4
40	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	GiorgosTsolias	17266862	1679	L1	W63	L5
41	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	MechAnjin	12931024	1622	L7	W67	L1
42	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	L9	W68	L1
43	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1484	L10	W73	L2
44	Ethan R Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	erm999	16090467	1482	L5	W75	L1
45	Jahaan Ansari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?21004356)	jah23	21004356	1446	F11	W74	W3
46	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	Sebbymeister	16875347	1343	W13	L20	W3
47	Prescott Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16009618)	prescott00000	16009618	1296	L14	X72	W7
48	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1293	H---	H---	X7
49	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	night_breeze	30055583	933	H---	H---	L3
50	Rajtilak Indrajit (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109752)	rtindru	30109752	unr.	W27	L14	W4
51	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	bigchampionofchess	16600505	1610	L8	W66	D2
52	Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	nmbrown2	12446259	1495	H---	L19	W5
53	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	ppra06	15871762	1445	L18	W76	D2
54	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1417	D19	L23	L3
55	Michael Jannetta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15172933)	GM_Fobby_Bischer	15172933	1165	L32	D27	L5
56	Aidan Cumbo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118987)	worsepot	30118987	unr.	H---	H---	H-
57	Kenneth S Wells (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14960218)	shoshonte	14960218	1626	L6	W64	L1
58	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L12	L15	W6
59	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	andrewaballantyne	17079795	1206	L20	L13	W6
60	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1205	W15	L12	L2
61	Leon Diaz Herrera (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355661)	Aeqetes	17355661	1175	L21	W37	L3
62	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	dribbler23	30032729	1102	L16	L29	X7
63	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1032	L22	L40	W7
	Charvi Atreya						

64	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	1020	L17	L57	L6
65	Adam For Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1014	W72	L4	L2
66	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	966	L33	L51	L5
67	Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	ComfyQueso	16380615	739	L25	L41	L5
68	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	unr.	L36	L42	W(
69	Tyler Wong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30135235)	tdubchess	30135235	unr.	W37	L21	L3
70	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	Echecsmike	12279170	1446	F31	H---	L2
71	Sean Han Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020arEEEWS	16802870	952	L24	D30	L3
72	Christian Jensen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12780890)	Christianjensen23	12780890	1844	L65	F47	F4
73	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	Vincitore51745	12814843	826	L34	L43	L4
74	Aaron Peredia (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16443747)	GoodKnightmyQueens	16443747	486	L35	L45	F6
75	Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)	austin809	30032406	unr.	L26	L44	U-
76	Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)	MrRap9	30118209	unr.	L39	L53	L6

Thursday Night Marathon Report

After 4 rounds of the Thursday Night Marathon, GM Gadir Guseinov remains as the sole perfect score, a half point ahead of IM Elliott Winslow and NM Mike Walder. Gadir was victorious in round 4 from the challenge of Theo Biyiasas. Here are the current standings heading into next weeks final round.

SwissSys Standings. Feb-Mar 2021 Thursday Night Marathon: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2680	W13	W16	W5	W4		4.0
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W20	W9	W15	H---		3.5
3	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2107	W22	W17	W26	H---		3.5
4	Theo Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	tabiyiasas	13989054	2175	W30	W8	W12	L1	H--	3.0
5	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	artliou	12906142	2034	W36	W18	L1	W10		3.0
6	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	W23	L26	W34	W22		3.0
7	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	ako_h	15206848	1980	W35	L15	W14	W20		3.0
8	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	uzkuzk	16434922	1812	W37	L4	W21	W24		3.0
9	Robert Smith III (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	W32	L2	D13	W23		2.5
10	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	A-boy415	16571026	1831	H---	W38	W11	L5		2.5
11	David Flores (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	playercreate1	14799653	1812	H---	W39	L10	W31		2.5
12	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	W40	X27	L4	D15		2.5
13	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	L1	W35	D9	W28		2.5
14	Rama Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	draidus	17350313	1475	H---	W28	L7	W27		2.5
	Adam For Stafford									

15	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	831	W19	W7	L2	D12		2.5
16	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W31	L1	L20	W30		2.0
17	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W25	L3	L24	W35		2.0
18	Roger V V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	1-h4-1-0	16191192	1776	W43	L5	L22	W36		2.0
19	McCarty-Snead-Cal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	L15	D24	D25	W37		2.0
20	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	thedarkbishop	12716964	1635	L2	W40	W16	L7		2.0
21	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	L27	W43	L8	W38	U--	2.0
22	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	L3	W37	W18	L6		2.0
23	Yali Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	noydan100	16280288	1442	L6	W41	W29	L9		2.0
24	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	Loltheawesomedude	16497860	1392	D28	D19	W17	L8		2.0
25	Katherine Sunn Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2Nf31-0	16425316	938	L17	D31	D19	W42		2.0
26	Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)	austin809	30032406	unr.	W33	W6	L3	U---		2.0
27	Brandon Xie (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14961610)	swift_breeze	14961610	2130	W21	F12	H---	L14		1.5
28	NM Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	D24	L14	W32	L13		1.5
29	Leo Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061785)	mu3tang	16061785	1765	H---	H---	L23	D32		1.5
30	Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	jacobchess857	17083655	1629	L4	D36	W39	L16		1.5
31	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1511	L16	D25	W33	L11		1.5
32	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1356	L9	W33	L28	D29		1.5
33	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	ludimagisterjosephus	13742111	1700	L26	L32	L31	X43		1.0
34	Jason Romsak (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12841181)	zer0chills	12841181	1681	H---	H---	L6	U---		1.0
35	Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	NXBex	16154827	1416	L7	L13	W40	L17		1.0
36	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L5	D30	D38	L18		1.0
37	Kevin M Chui (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16998580)	Kchui999	16998580	1290	L8	L22	W43	L19		1.0
38	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	caodanny	16939797	895	H---	L10	D36	L21		1.0
39	Tyler Wong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30135235)	tdubchess	30135235	unr.	H---	L11	L30	D40		1.0
40	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	944	L12	L20	L35	D39		0.5
41	Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)	juditsztaray	14708926	827	U---	L23	H---	U---		0.5
42	Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	vincitore51745	12814843	619	H---	U---	U---	L25		0.5
43	Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)	TanFlatPupet	17144246	866	L18	L21	L37	F33		0.0

March 2021 Blitz Championship

The Mechanics' Institute held its monthly blitz championship last Saturday, with a very tough field joining the action. 29 players in total participated in this 8 round USCF rated G/5+2 battle, which was won by IM Christopher Yoo with a perfect score of 8/8. Congratulations to him and thanks to all the players for partivipating! Here is a victory by Christopher against Austin Mei.

(9) IM Christopher Yoo (ChristopherYoo) (2923) - Austin Mei (TitanChess666) (2306) [A53]

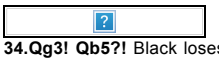
MI March Blitz Chess.com (3.1), 13.03.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d6 3.c4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e4 h6 7.Be3 e6 8.Be2 b6 9.d5 [9.h3 Bb7 10.Qc2 Is a little edge due to more space.] **9...Nc5 10.Nd2 a5 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qc2 Re8 13.h3 Qe7 14.Rfe1 Bb7 15.Bf1** An interesting King's Indian . White has a small edge with more space, but the black pieces are active. **15...Rad8 16.a3 Ra8 17.b4?!**

[17.b3] **17...axb4?!** [Black had the nice shot 17...Ncxe4! 18.Ncxe4 Nxe4 19.Nxe4 axb4 with an edge. He will get at least one more pawn and the black bishops are excellent.] **18.axb4 Rxa1 19.Rxa1 Ncxe4**

20.Ra7! Not falling for trouble on the long black diagonal. White gains the pawn back with advantage. **20...Nxd2 21.Qxd2 Rb8 22.dxe6 Qxe6 23.Bxh6 Ne4 24.Nxe4 Qxe4 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.Qc3+ Kg8 27.c5** [27.Qf6!] **27...bxc5 28.bxc5 Bd5?!** losing a pawn. Black would stay equal after [28...Qc6!] **29.Rxc7 dxc5 30.Rxc5 Ba8?!** [30...Be6 is a better defensive square] **31.Rc4?!** [31.h4! Kh7 32.Rh5+ gxh5 33.Bd3 should win for White] **31...Qd5?!** [31...Qe7!] **32.h4?!** [32.Rh4! Threatening mate on h8 is a knockout blow] **32...Kh7 33.h5 Qxh5**



34.Qg3! Qb5?! Black loses material in any case. **35.Rh4+ Kg8 36.Bxb5 Rxb5 37.Qc3 Rb2 38.Rh8# 1-0**

Final standings are here:

Mechanics Montly Blitz Championship - March 2021

Crosstable: http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202103130522

(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202103130522)

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	IM Christopher W Yoo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15244943)	ChristopherYoo	15244943	2592	W11	W12	W6
2	FM Jason Liang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16041488)	Marty435	16041488	2425	W16	W8	W2
3	NM Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	microbear	13778105	2202	W17	W7	W4
4	Shaashw Sivakumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15089302)	Dontmesswithme_2	15089302	2092	W24	W14	L3
5	FM Eric Yuhan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	kingandqueen2017	15688436	2344	W15	W13	W1
6	Austin R Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	TitanChess666	16090452	2149	W23	W21	L1
7	NM Michael Aigner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12595730)	fpawn	12595730	2207	W9	L3	D1
8	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	stratus_junior	14958842	2054	W25	L2	L1
9	Davi Flores Gomez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	PlayerCreate1	14799653	1812	L7	D25	W1
10	Kr Gopalakrishnan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16545130)	KRGchess2010	16545130	1578	L19	W23	D2
11	Ethan R Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	erm999	16090467	1482	L1	L18	W2
12	NM Michael Lei Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13605850)	coalescenet	13605850	2098	W27	L1	W1
13	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	SmilyFace4	15176393	2000	W28	L5	W2
14	Javier Silva III (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16089208)	J3Chess24	16089208	1889	W22	L4	W2
15	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1753	L5	W22	W8
16	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	SebbyMeister	16875347	1343	L2	W27	D7
17	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	thedarkbishop	12716964	1635	L3	D24	L9
18	Roger V V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	1-h4-1-0	16191192	1782	L26	W11	L12

19	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	**swimgrass**	16380636	1484	W10	W20	L5
20	**Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)**	**3Ke31-0**	16380312	1794	L21	L19	W2
21	**Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	**programmingmax**	16380642	1363	W20	L6	D1
22	**Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)**	**ppra06**	15871762	1445	L14	L15	B--
23	**Stewart* Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)**	**knvsback**	12458563	1835	L6	L10	L2
24	**Daniel Robert Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)**	**Daniel_Perlov**	16465203	1567	L4	D17	D2
25	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	**kevin_mx_sun**	16898540	1377	L8	D9	D2
26	**IM Elliott* Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	**ecwinslow**	10363365	2278	W18	W29	L2
27	**Clarence E Lehman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10497272)**	**FrankJamesMarshall**	10497272	1904	L12	L16	L1
28	**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	**andrewaballantyne**	17079795	1206	L13	B---	L1
29	**Aneesh Mardikar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16115542)**	**AneeshDaBoss**	16115542	604	B---	L26	L1

FIDE Chess in Education Spotlight

by Abel Talamantez

I had the privilege of participating in a pilot program by FIDE, which was designed to train elementary school teachers to use chess as a learning tool in their classrooms. There were 20 people selected from many different countries, and I was one of two Americans, Jonathan Lee Singler from Alaska being the other. It was a three-day seminar, held 5am-10am Friday-Sunday. In many countries around the world, chess is taught in schools and used as a tool in teaching critical thinking. This is very different from teaching chess specifically for improvement or for competition. It involves teaching the rules of chess to a teacher, using the language of educators, who will then teach their students who do not yet know the game. This involves a slightly different skill set, one more focused on theories of learning combined with instruction in chess. It is an exciting initiative and while it will be a challenge expanding this on a broader level in the United States, it is nonetheless a tool that can be used by educators to teach learning and decision making on a new, fun level.

Participants who complete the program will then be assigned by FIDE as lecturers to provide seminars to teachers to earn the title of School Instructor (SI). It was an honor to participate with chess professionals from other countries, many of which have chess more incorporated into the learning culture, and hear about their experiences and persoectives. I'll continue to write on my experience with this program as it develops, as I believe this is a great initiative and opportunity to enhance ways children learn in an actively fun and engaging way.

Reciprocity Partnership With Marshall Chess Club

The Mechanics' Institute and the Marshall Chess Club entered into a partnership last year in which we agreed to recognize each organization's members so that our players can enjoy the benefits our respective clubs. Now that there are so many course offerings and USCF online-rated events, we wanted to let our chess community know again that if you are a member of the Mechanics' Institute (meaning you have a membership card and paid the annual fee), you may enjoy playing at Marshall or taking one of their courses at the Marshall member rate. Marshall has also promoted this reciprocity agreement with Mechanics' Institute in their newsletter the Marshall Spectator. To subscribe to their newsletter, please follow this link: https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f).

To see their list of events, click this link: https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming)

If you are a member and wish to be added to the list of members to participate in Marshall events, please send an email to chessroom@milibrary.org and list your USCF number. We will verify membership and place you on the list.

We look forward to this partnership between our two historic clubs in an effort to continue bringing communities together through chess!

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 3/23: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1051765 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1051765)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20220129015020/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:30-8:00PM - Game Review Class with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: Starting Feb 1 - Monday and ongoing
   Registration Fee: $20/class for Mechanics' member, $25/class for non-member
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/game-review-class-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/GameAnalysisClasswithFMPaulWhitehead)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**
   New session started 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/20220129015020/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: The Art of Defense! with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: March 3 through April 7 (6 classes)
   We all want to attack, but to be comfortable and skillful at defense is just as important.
   Learn how to safeguard your king and drum up counter play using chapters and examples taken from The Art of Defense in Chess, by Polugaevsky and Damsky (1988).
   Stalemate, Blockade, Trench Warfare, Counterattack, Traps: these are just a few of the concepts we will take up in this six-week course.
   Be prepared for a little homework - and become a chess player who's hard to beat!
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead)

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:

3/23 Tuesday - **March 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon**
Format: 8SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Join Now! Starts February 25: February/March 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-feb-mar-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129015020/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/20220129015020/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/20220129015020/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Spring Classes starting week of March 22
Spring Camps
Tournament Report from last weekend

Upcoming Tournament Schedule
Scholastic Game of the Week

Spring Session of our Virtual Chess Classes are starting
March 22 through May 31

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin and Coach Abel – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Tuesdays 3-4PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTUESDAYS34PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andy Thursdays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring)
- Advanced Class with Coach Andy Thursdays 5-6PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS56PM2021Spring)
- Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) Friday 3-4PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring)

Spring Break Virtual Chess Camp

SAVE YOUR SPOT - Sign your child up for some fun virtual chess camp during their spring break!
Monday through Friday,
Two weeks offered: Mar 29 - Apr 2 and Apr 5-9
9AM - 12PM
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp)

Last weekend's USCF Online Rated event

While Saturday's free event had close to 200 players, this did not stop many of our regulars to play in Sunday's USCF online rated tournament - 18 players came online to participate in the six rounds, G/15+2 time control tournament.
Congratulations to our winners: Jashith Karthi (CoolPowerulGhoul) and Alex Smirnov (OpenPeskyBird) for the tied first place, with Jashith taking 1st place with a slightly better tiebreak score. Shared third place goes to Eric Japson (SafeRelaxedKite) and Archer Troy (ArcherTBayAreaChess).

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129015020/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)
Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Sunday, Mar 21: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384731 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=384731)
- Monday, Mar 22: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406742 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406742)
- Tuesday, Mar 23: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406743 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406743)
- Wednesday, Mar 24: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406744 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406744)
- Thursday, Mar 25: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406745 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406745)
- Friday, Mar 26: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406746 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406746)

- Saturday, Mar 27: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406747 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406747)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments

3/28 Sunday - Fun, Fast & Furious Blitz: 8SS G/5+2 affecting USCF Online blitz rating.
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMAR28SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMAR28SUN)

4/1 - Friday 6:30PM PT: 8SS G/5+2: Monthly Scholastic Blitz Online Championships
Run on Chess.com & LIVE BROADCAST via Twitch.tv/mechanichchess
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015020/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021)

Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(8) CoolPowerfulGhoul (1572) - OpenPeskyBird (1413) [C42]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qe2 Qe7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Qxe7+ Bxe7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Re8

The game begins as a dry Petrov's Defense, but turns into a real battle. **11.Re1 Bg4 12.Bg5 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 h6 14.Bh4 Nd4! 15.Rac1?!** [15.Bd1] **15...Nxf3+ 16.gxf3 g5 17.Bg3 Bf8 18.Ne4 Nd7 19.Nc3 f5?!** [19...c6!] **20.f4 g4 21.Nd5 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 c6?!** [22...Kf7!] **23.Ne7+** [23.Ne3! will win a pawn 23...Re8 24.Kf1 Kf7 25.Nxf5] **23...Bxe7 24.Rxe7 Nc5 25.d4?!** The game begins to turn here. White would hold a good advantage with either [25.Bh4 Rf8 26.b4 Na6 27.a3; or 25.b4 Na4 26.Rxb7 would keep the black knight off the strong central square] **25...Ne4 26.Rxb7 Re8!** now Black gets good play for the pawn **27.Bh4?!** [27.Rxa7 Nd2 28.Kg2 Nf3 is dangerous as the black rook and knight become an attacking force but 29.h3 Re1 30.hxg4 fxg4 31.Bh2 seems to hold the game] **27...Kf8 28.Rh7?** [28.Kg2 Nd2 29.h3 is worse for White but not too bad] **28...Nd2 29.Rh8+ Kf7 30.Rxe8** It's even worse now if White doesn't exchange the rooks. The black rook and knight would be deadly. **30...Kxe8 31.Kg2 Nf3**

White is a pawn ahead in this bishop vs knight ending, but in deep trouble. The black knight is able to get to the white pawns. **32.Bf6 Kf7 33.Bd8** [33.Bh8 Nh4+ 34.Kg3 Ng6 wins the bishop] **33...Nxd4 34.Bc7 Ke6 35.Bb8 a6 36.c3 Ne2 37.f3 h5 38.fxg4 hxg4 39.c4 Nxf4+ 40.Kg3 Nd3 41.b3 Ke5** [also good is 41...Nc1 winning a second pawn] **42.Kg2 f4 43.h3 gxh3+** [43...f3+ 44.Kg3 f2! 45.Kg2 gxh3+] **44.Kxh3 Nc1?** [44...c5 first would win. Now White gets counterplay with a pin.] **45.c5! Nxa2 46.cxd6** now White is able to draw **46...Ke6 47.Kg4 Nc1 48.Kxf4 Nxb3 49.Ke3 Na5 50.Kd4 Nb7 51.Kc4 Nxd6+**

amazingly White has escaped to a drawn position. [51...Kd7 52.Kb4 Kc8 53.Ba7 Nxd6 54.Kc5 Kd7 55.Bb8 Nc8 56.Bg3 holds the draw despite being two pawns down] **52.Kc5 Nb7+ 53.Kxc6 a5 54.Kxb7 a4 55.Bf4 a3 56.Bc1 a2 57.Bb2** just in time! **57...Kd5 58.Bh8 Kc4 59.Kc7 Kb3 60.Kc6 Kc4 61.Kb6 Kb4 62.Kc6 Kc4 63.Kb6 Kb4 64.Kc6 Kb3 65.Kb6 Kb4** Game drawn by repetition **1/2-1/2**

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 6: Lasker – Steinitz 1896.

The Lasker - Steinitz rematch was a truly lop-sided affair, with an improving Lasker dominating the aging Steinitz +10 -2 =5. Four weeks after declaring Lasker the greatest player who ever lived, Steinitz offered God pawn and move… and was soon admitted to a psychiatric hospital.

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1. Lasker – Steinitz, 2nd Match Game 1896.

White moves. Drive the king out.

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2. Lasker Steinitz, 6th Match Game 1896.

White moves. Break down the walls.

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3. Lasker – Steinitz, 12th Match Game 1896.

Black moves. Win something.

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4. Steinitz – Lasker, 13th Match Game 1896.

White moves. Take the knight?

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5. Lasker – Steinitz, 16th Match Game 1896.

White moves. Cut to the chase.

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6. Steinitz – Lasker, 17th Match Game 1896.

Black moves. Win something.

GM Nick de Firmian

New World Chess

The US Chess Federation is starting to advertise live chess tournaments. They write “There are several in-person, over the board events coming up that are filling out fast!” One of these is the Texas Golden Open played April 9-11 in Dallas and a second is the Missouri Grand Championship in Columbia Missouri on May 5-9. Certainly we are all looking forward to the live Candidates Tournament in Russia starting April 18. In June, we will likely see the classic National Open in Las Vegas as well as the 2021 US Women’s Open there. August will bring the 121st US Open Chess Championship live to Cherry Hill New Jersey.

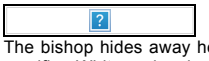
Thus, chess players, owning a millennium-old tradition, may think the world will return quite to normal as we enter the late stages of the pandemic. We are not at the end yet, though judging by the late events of the chess world, we may not return to normal as before, even when the pandemic is completely over. Right now we have the online “Magnus Carlsen Invitational.” This is a rapid-play, super-elite event which has become an easier thing to do in the required state of online tournaments. Players don’t have to travel halfway around the world to participate and expenses for the organizers are drastically reduced. Therefore, chess fans get to see more tournaments to entertain themselves. It is true that the events seem to have less gravitas as the players have less time and energy invested in their participation. Also, the time controls are rapid rather than classical and this leads to more mistakes. Yet, the games are still great battles and very entertaining. I predict in the future we will have a new kind of tournament circuit in the world. Half the tournaments will be the classic live events of the last century, and the other half will be the new rapid, online events more like rest of the e-sports world.

We give a couple of entertaining games below from current big online event, the Magnus Carlsen Invitational.

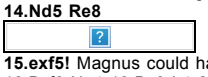
(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Firouzja,Alireza [B23]

Magnus Invitational, 15.03.2021

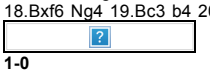
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 This is the Grand Prix Attack against the Sicilian. It was made popular by British players in the 1980s. Their idea was to avoid the complications of the open Sicilian and get into less charted territory (which they had analyzed). This variation is not something Magnus would play in classical time control, but in quick play an opponent can easily go wrong against it. **3...g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 Nc6 6.a3 e6** Yound Firouzja plays the classical response to the Grand Prix. Objectively Black is completely equal. **7.0-0 Nge7 8.d3 0-0 9.Ba2**



The bishop hides away here on a2. Magnus has created a little twist in the variation. The idea is not that powerful, but it is a bit confusing. **9...Rb8 10.Qe1 b5 11.f5!?** The typical pawn sacrifice White makes in the Grand Prix which open the lines for White. Still, a pawn is a pawn. **11...exf5 12.Qh4 Ne5?** Firouzja makes a critical mistake, trying to trade off the attacking knight on f3. He was afraid of [12...fxe4 13.Ng5! when White has good attacking chances. Best was to play; 12...c4 13.dxc4 bxc4 14.Bxc4 h5 with a very solid position for Black.] **13.Bg5! Rb7 14.Nd5 Re8**



15.exf5! Magnus could have won the exchange, but rightfully presses the attack. **15...Bxf5 16.Rae1** All the white pieces are in play. Black is in deep trouble. **16...h6 17.Nf6+ Kf8?!** [17...Bxf6 18.Bxf6 Ng4 19.Bc3 b4 20.h3! bxc3 21.hxg4 is some improvement , but still lost for Black] **18.Bxh6 Ng8** ending the misery **19.Nh7#**

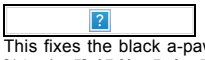


1-0

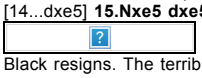
(2) Giri,Anish - Vachier-Lagrave,Maxim [B06]

Magnus Invitational, 15.03.2021

Anish Giri has been playing great chess since the start of 2021. He used to be considered a very solid player who would draw most of his games, yet he is winning a lot lately. **1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Be3 a6 5.Nc3** MVL plays the Robatsch Defense. Black has a very flexible position, though White controls more of the center and is objectively better. **5...b5 6.Bd3 Nd7 7.0-0 Bb7 8.a4!** Forcing action on the queen side claifys the position **8...b4 9.Nb1 Ngf6 10.Nbd2 c5 11.c3 0-0 12.a5**



This fixes the black a-pawn on a6 where it cannot help the rest of the black pawn chain. White is winning the opening battle. **12...cxd4?!** [12...bxc3 13.bxc3 Qc7] **13.cxd4 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5** [14...dxe5] **15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.Qb3 Qe7 17.Ra4 Rfb8?** getting into a terrible pin. [17...Rfd8 18.Rd1 Bf8 holds on] **18.Rxb4 Bf8 19.Rb6 Ng4 20.Bc4!**

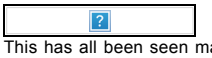


Black resigns. The terrible pin on the b-file and the pressure on f7 win more material. 20...Nxe3 21. fxe3 lets the white rook come to f7. **1-0**

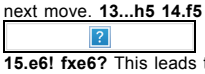
(3) Nepomniachtchi,Ian - Nakamura,Hikaru [C67]

Magnus Invitational, 14.03.2021

The favorite now to win the Candidates Tournamnet is Ian Nepomniachtichi. Here he plays very sharply against the solid Berlin Defense to the Ruy Lopez. **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 9.Nc3 Ke8 10.h3 Be6**



This has all been seen many times in grandmaster play. **11.g4 Ne7 12.Nd4 Bd7 13.f4!?** White aggressively advances the king side pawns. This was thought to be suspect because of Naka's next move. **13...h5 14.f5 hxg4**



15.e6! fxe6? This leads to big trouble as it opens the f-file. Black would be ok after the careful retreat 15...Bc8 **16.fxe6 Bc8 17.Bg5! gxh3 18.Kh2** White is two pawns down in the endgame but is attacking. Most of the black pieces are on their original squares. **18...Ng6 19.Ne4 Rh5 20.Rg1 a6?** This move is too slow. White is able to get the last rook developed with threats. **21.Rad1!** looking to get to d8 to deliver mate **21...Ne7 22.Rdf1 c5 23.Rxf8+!** Naka resigned, seeing he is destroyed after **23...Kxf8 24.Bxe7+ Kxe7 25.Rxg7+ Kf8 26.Rf7+ Kg8 27.Nf6+ 1-0**

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Lasker – Steinitz, 2nd Match Game 1896.

1.Nec5+! Pulls the black king out from safety like a strong magnet. **1…dxc5 2.Nxc5+ Kd6 3.Bf4+ Kd5 4.Re5+ Kc4** (And **4…Kd6 5.Rxe7+** is also unacceptable.) **5.Rc1+ Kxd4 6.Re4+ Kd5 7.Rd1+! 1-0**. It is checkmate after **7…Kxc5 8.Be3#.**

---

2. Lasker – Steinitz, 6th Match Game 1896.

1.Rxf6! is the decisive breakthrough. After **1…Rxf6 2.Rxf6 Qxf6 3.Qxc7** black is helpless, and can only wait for the axe to fall: **3…Qh8 4.Qc6+ Rb7 5.Nb5 Kb8 6.Qxd6+ Kc8 7.Qc6+ 1-0.** Which it has. If **7…Kb8 9.Nc5** and mate in a few moves.

---

3. Lasker – Steinitz, 12th Match Game 1896.

1…Nxe4! wins a pawn in the middle of the board. **2.Bb2** (Not **2.fxe4? Rf2#!**) Steinitz wound it up with vigor: **2…Nd6 3.Rf1 Nc4 4.Bc1 Ne7 5.Bg5 Nd5!** Black switches to attack**. 6.Bxd8 Nf4+ 7.Kd1 Rd7+ 8.Kc2 Ne3+ 9.Kb2 Nxf1 10.Bg5 Ne3 11.Bxf4 exf4 12.Rc1 e5 0-1.** It's hopeless, but Lasker might have played on a move or two here.

---

4. Steinitz - Lasker, 13th Match Game 1896.

1.Rxc5! called black's bluff. Lasker gave it the old schoolboy try, but was rebuffed at every turn: **1…Qh4 2.Ne4 f5 3.Ng3 Rxf2+!?** Throwing more fuel on the fire. **4.Kxf2 Qh2+ 5.Kf1 Qxg3 6.Rxc3 Qxf3+ 7.Ke1 f4 8.Qd3 Qg3+ 9.Kd2 f3 10.Kc1! f2 11.Qc4+ Kh8 12.Qf4!** A nice finish puts Lasker out of his misery. **1-0.**

---

5. Lasker – Steinitz, 16th Match Game 1896.

1.Nbc3! was the move that tripped black up. He loses the exchange, and Lasker's technique is merciless: **1…bxc3 2.Nxc3 Qxb2 3.Nxe4 Qxc2 4.Nf6+ Kh8 5.Nxd7 dxc5 6.Qf3 Rc8 7.Ne5 Nxe5 8.fxe5 c4 9.bxc4 Qxc4 10.Kh1 a5 11. Rd7 a4 12.Rxf7 Bb4 13.Rf4 Qc5 14. Qg4 Ba3 15.Rxa4 Re8 16. Qf3 Bb2 17.Ra8 1-0.**

---

6. Steinitz – Lasker, 17th Match Game 1896.

1…Bxg2! Wins a pawn and effectively ended the match. Steinitz puzzled the spectators by later playing on a whole rook down before resigning: **2. Kxg2 Qc6+ 3.Re4** (**3.Qf3** is hardly better. White plays on with 2 bishops vs Rook + Knight, but it's not good.) **3…Rxe4 4.Rxe4 Qxe4+ 5.Kg1 Qb7 6.Bc5 Rd8 7.Be2 e4 8.b4 Ne5 9.Be3 Nd3 10.Bb6 Rc8 11.Qd4 h6 12.Kh2 Ne5 13.Qd1 Rc3 14.Qd6 Nf3+ 15.Kg2 Qf7 16.g4 Qa2 17.Bf1 Nh4+ 18.Kg1 Rc1 19.Be3 Nf3+ 20.Kg2 Rxf1!** Decisive. If now **21.Kxf1 Qb1+** leads to mate. **21.Qxa6 Rg1+ 22.Kh3 Qd5 23.Qc8+ Kh7 24.a6 Rh1+ 25.Kg2 Rg1+ 26.Kh3 Rh1+ 27.Kg2 Nh4+!** Black is tired of fooling around. **28.Kxh1 Qd1+ 29.Kh2 Qf1 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 #961

March 27, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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Mechanics' Institute Organizing Spring/Summer Club Matches Against World's Historic Clubs!

The Mechanics' Institute is the oldest continuously-operating chess club in the United States, and it appears one of the five oldest running clubs in the world. We thought we would take advantage of the ability to engage chess communities online and organize a series of club matches against the worlds historic clubs. What better way to kick things off than against the world's oldest and most historic club, the Zurich Chess Club! The match will be held on Saturday May 1, 2021 on Chess.com. The Zurich Chess Society was founded in 1809, and its rich history was chronicled by Richard Forster in his book, *The History of the Zurich Chess Club: 1809-2009* (https://www.amazon.com/Zurich-Chess-Club-1809-2009/dp/0786460644 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.amazon.com/Zurich-Chess-Club-1809-2009/dp/0786460644)).

We are planning other matches over the next few months with other clubs, so please stay tuned as we finalize the schedule. We want to thank Allyson Wong, who helped us get connected with these clubs and gives her time in support of the Mechanics' Institute. We look forward to some entertaining and exciting matches, and the opportunity for the oldest clubs in the world to bring their communities together through chess so we can learn more about our histories and connect virtually.

2021 San Francisco Scholastic Championship Attracts Record 341 Players for Free Scholastic Event!

Our annual San Francisco Scholastic Championship was held online again this year, with a record 341 kids participating! We had four non-rated sections by grade level played on Chesskid.com and three USCF rated sections played on Chess.com. This flagship Mechanics' Institute scholastic event is normally held annually at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, and is entirely free for all participants. This years event was sponsored by the AO Dragge Foundation, and we thank them for their generous support for this event and for scholastic chess.

This event holds a very special place for the Mechanics' Institute as it represents our commitment in making tournament chess available to everyone. We had players of many different skill levels - from new players who recently learned how to play to experienced tournament players. Being able to divide the non-rated and rated sections by platform really helped streamline the event, as the two sections had different start times, time controls and structures. The non-rated grade level sections were run automatically on Chesskid while the rated sections were manually paired on Chess.com. The rated sections required a Zoom camera, and it was fun having the kids interact and socialize in between rounds.

The co-champions of this years event were Roger Shi and Aiden Leong, who both tied for first in the 1600+ rated section with 4/5. Shi won on tiebreaks despite a final round loss to Leong, due to the tierbreak rules for this event, scholastic rules as prescribed by US Chess.

Tie-break - using US Chess Scholastic regulations (20.3)

When individual scores are equal, the following order of tie-break systems will be used to determine individual awards:

1. Modified Median
2. Median
3. Solkoff
4. Sonneborn-Berger
5. Cumulative
6. Coin flip

Their final round battle made for some amazing entertainment, on our broadcast caught all the action. Their game is annotated below. Congrats to both players for their exceptional perfomance.

In the u/1600 section, Vrishank Peddireddi tied for first, both with 5/5, and in the 134 player u/1000 section, Liam Luna and Yang Yu tied for first with 5/5.

In the Chesskid sections, Rishin Jehin won the K-1 section as the only perfect 5/5 score. In the Grade 2-3 section, Prithiv Arokiadass won the section also with 4.5/5. In the Grade 4-5 section, James Moore wins with 4.5/5 and in the Grade 6-12 section, Leonard Sweeney-Barret wins with a perfect 5/5.

The event was broadcast on our Twitch channel, and it was fun to see the engagement through the chat and viewers for our scholastic community. We were proud to organize this event and keep the scholastic chess community together and engaged through chess. Thank you to all the players, parents, staff, and volunteers for their tireless work and support of this free event for all the kids, as well as our sponsor this year, the AO Dragge Foundation. We would also like to thank the Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute and our Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Scrafanc for their support of this event every year and their commitment to scholastic chess. I would also like to thank Chief TD and Organizer Dr, Judit Sztaray for a smoothly run event, managing the TS staff and the Zoom rooms, John McCumiskey for managing the tournament computer and my commentators, and colleagues at Mechanics' GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead.

Here are some games from the tournament, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(2) Aiden Leong (dragonite700) - Roger Shi (Roger436) [E72]

Live Chess Chess.com

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.e3 d6 6.Nge2 c6 7.d4 Nbd7 8.0-0 e5 9.d5 c5 10.e4

Both players lose a move to reach this big blocked position in the King's Indian. White has pawn breaks almost ready to go: f2-f4 might require h2-h3 for preparation, and the same on the queenside with b2-b4 (a2-a3 or Ra1-b1 sets that up), and coupled with the space advantage has to give the edge to White. **10...Ne8** But it's Black's move, and after this there's no stopping ...f5. [10...Nh5 11.g4!? Nf4!? gives up a pawn for insufficient dark-square compensation, since White retains that bishop as well.] **11.Bd2**

[A couple of masters have happened through this neck of the woods, without seeing the forest for the trees: 11.Be3 a6 12.a4 Nc7 13.Nc1 and now the all-too-common "artificial repetition": 13...Ne8 14.N1e2 Nc7 15.Nc1 Ne8 16.N1e2 ½-½ (15) Borhy,M (2382)-Czebe,A (2413) Balatonlelle 2019. Note that this was drawn on move 15; they didn't play e3 and ...c6.] **11...Nb6N** [That piece might be needed on the kingside: 11...f5 12.f3 *(12.f4 Ndf6!?)* 12...Ndf6 13.h3 Bd7 *(13...f4!? 14.gxf4 Nh5)* 14.Qc2 Nc7 15.Rab1?! b5 however sees Black with the high ground on both sides of the board. 16.cxb5 Nxb5 17.Nxb5 Bxb5 18.Be3 Qa5 19.b3 Qa6 20.Rbe1 fxe4 21.fxe4 Bd3 0-1 (31) Belz,C-Andersen,H Binz 1995] **12.b3 f5 13.Rc1 g5?!**

14.f4 Wild! And quite dangerous for Black. [14.exf5 The computer also notes the prosaic but at least as good 14...Bxf5 15.h3 with a lock on e4.] **14...exf4 15.gxf4 g4 16.Ng3 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 Qh4**

18.Re1? Suddenly Black has a big opportunity! [18.Be1+-; 18.exf5+-] **18...Bf2 19.Nce2** White has great compensation for the exchange -- but a moment ago it was just winning! **19...Bxe1 20.Bxe1 Qf6 21.Bc3 Qg6 22.e5** GREAT compensation! **22...h5** [22...dxe5!? 23.fxe5! f4 24.Be4 Qg5 25.Bd2! Qxe5 26.Qc2!+/- zeroes in on Black's king a bit.] **23.h4! Qf7**

24.Qe1 [24.e6! Cuts the board in two, with half of Black's army cut out of the game.] **24...dxe5 25.Bxe5?!** [25.fxe5! f4 26.e6+- is a massacre.] **25...Nd7 26.Qd2?** [26.d6! seems the only way to show any advantage still.] **26...Qe7?** [Now 26...Nxe5! 27.fxe5 f4-/+ is a rout -- for Black! White sorely misses his bishop.] **27.d6?** [27.Ba1! keeps the bishop with good compensation.] **27...Qxh4+ 28.Kg1**

28...Ng7? From this point on the game changes hands as fast as the players can move! [28...Nxe5! 29.fxe5 f4 keeps some little plus.] **29.Qc3?**

White was winning! Any bishop retreat (c3, b2, a1) or 29.Qd5+ first. **29...Nxe5** The winning advantage is back to Black. **30.Qxe5 Re8** [30...Qd8!] **31.Qd5+ Be6** [31...Kh8!? 32.Qxc5 Qf6 and march that h-pawn.] **32.Qxc5 b6?** [32...Rab8!-+ guards the pawn that matters.] **33.Qc7?!** [33.Qd4] **33...Rec8 34.Qb7**

34...Qd8? [34...Qf6!-+] **35.Rd1?-/+** [35.Nd4!+-] **35...a5?** [35...Rab8 36.Qxa7 Qd7-/+] **36.Nd4**

White gets the idea and locks into target. The f5-pawn is the door to the castle. **36...Bd7 37.Qd5+ Kh8 38.Ngxf5 Bxf5 39.Nxf5 Nxf5 40.Qxf5 Rc5 41.Qe6 Ra7** That passed pawn is a monster **42.d7 Rxd7 43.Rxd7 Qf8 44.Rf7** A fierce battle, eventually falling White's way when the smoke cleared. **1-0**

(1) Kyle Zheng (PumpkinEnergy) (1566) - Luke Widjaja (lukewidjaja) (1869) [D02]

Live Chess Chess.com, 20.03.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 The ever-popular London System. **2...Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.Ne5** [Carlsen, quite a fan of the London, has always played 7.Bg3 0-0 8.Bb5 against this Black deployment. In seven games he's "only" +2 with one draw. Against 2700+ opposition. That's a selling point.] **7...Bxe5?!** [Better to keep up the pressure with 7...Qc7 8.Ndf3 when push (...c4), trade (...cxd4), and castle (0-0) are all pretty solid.] **8.dxe5!** [8.Bxe5!? so to have f2-f4 available] **8...Nd7**

9.Nf3?! [9.Qg4! forces Black to concede something on the kingside, a la many lines of the French Defense.; Relevant: 9.Qg4 Ncxe5 10.Qxg7 Ng6 11.h4 Qf6 12.Qxf6 Nxf6 13.Bg5 Ne4 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.h5 sees White getting the jump on an undeveloped Black; 1-0 38, Garcia Ramos,D (2380)-Aulin Jansson,J (2215) Chess.com 2020.] **9...c4!?N** [In a recent game Black tried to take over the center, 9...f6 10.exf6 gxf6 but 11.e4! dxe4 12.Nd2 took it back and then some; 1-0 (22) Tokman,A (2316)-Kett,T (2178) Chess.com INT 2021; Or 9...0-0 first has an excellent score, as does; Or further, 9...Qc7 forcing 10.Bb5 and giving up the light-squared bishop.] **10.Qc2 Nc5 11.Nd4 Bd7** Black lets White head off on a knight's tour to d6, which turns out to be just bad. **12.Nb5?!** [12.b4!? is complicated, but White comes out no worse.] **12...0-0**

13.Nd6? And now it should be over! The knight can't stay supported. [Typical computer claims 13.Nd4 is best. Go back!] **13...Qc7?** Gives White a moment to support the knight. [13...f6! on the other hand, knocks that support out, with a big advantage, just a win. 14.b4 cxb3 15.axb3 fxe5 *(*Even better is *15...a5!)* 16.Bg3 Qe7 17.b4 Qxd6 18.bxc5 Qxc5 19.Rb1 Be8 20.Bd3 e4] **14.Bg3** [14.b4!] **14...a6?!**

[14...f6 15.exf6 e5 16.Nb5 Qa5 17.fxg7 Kxg7 18.Nd6 Rf6-/+ and it's time to see how many pawns you can get.] **15.b4!** Desperation, the mother of invention. **15...cxb3 16.axb3 b5?** [The computer comes up with a cryptic 16...Be8 to equalize...] **17.Bd3?!** [17.b4! again of course!] **17...Nxd3+ 18.Qxd3 Na5** Back to even, maybe even an edge for Black. **19.Rb1 Nb7** It will be hard to hold a pawn on d6, what with ...f6 and ...e5. **20.0-0 Nxd6 21.exd6 Qb7** [21...Qc6] **22.c4!?** A creative pawn break -- leading to a lot of passed pawns! [But playing for e4 was more circumspect. 22.f3] **22...Bc6?** Black doesn't appreciate the opportunity: [22...dxc4! 23.bxc4 b4 is in Black's favor! White's pawns are totally stymied, while Black's are unstoppable. Compare the bishops!] **23.cxd5 Bxd5** [23...exd5 24.Qd4! is also good for White.] **24.f3**

Quite a different picture. It's going to be a lot harder to keep that d-pawn under the Nimzovichian lock and key. **24...a5 25.e4 Bc6 26.Rfc1 f6 27.Rc2 e5?** Opens the door to a little tactic. [27...Rfc8 28.h3 h6 29.Kh2 and now 29...e5 30.Rbc1 Kh7 steps aside.] **28.Rbc1 Rac8?!** Walks right into it.

[But 28...Be8 29.Rc7 is no fun, either. 29...Qa6 30.d7 Rd8 31.dxe8Q Rfxe8 32.Qc2 a4 33.Bf2 Kh8 34.bxa4 bxa4 35.Ra7 Qe6 36.Qxa4 Rc8 37.Rcc7 Rxc7 38.Rxc7 Rd8] **29.Rxc6! Rxc6 30.Qd5+ Kh8 31.Qxc6 Qa7+ 32.Bf2** White's passed pawn still hasn't taken another step, but its influence brought about the win. **1-0**

(3) Matthew Matsumura (MatthewMatsumura) - Liam Luna (lm_Linn) [B25]

Live Chess Chess.com

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.d3 g6 6.Bg5 Bg7

An unusual Closed Sicilian. **7.Bxf6N** Unprovoked, and probably bad. [Look at the company they were keeping for a while: 7.Nge2 Rb8 8.0-0 b5 9.a3 Bd7 10.h3 0-0 11.Kh2 a5 12.Qd2 b4 13.axb4 axb4 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Nd4 16.Nxd4 Bxd4 17.c3 bxc3 18.bxc3 Bf6 19.Bxf6 exf6 20.Ra7 Re8 21.Rfa1 Bf5 22.g4 Bc8 23.c4 Kg7 24.d4 cxd4 25.Qxd4 Re2 26.Bf1 Rc2 27.Re1 Rb7 28.Kg1 Rxa7 29.Qxa7 Bd7 30.Kg2 h6 31.Qd4 Ra2 32.Re3 Kg8 33.Bd3 Kg7 34.h4 g5 35.h5 Ra3 36.Kg3 Rb3 ½-½. Short,N (2687)-Carlsen,M (2581) Hoogeveen 2004. Back at the early stage of his meteoric rise. Magnus that is!] **7...Bxf6 8.Nge2 0-0 9.0-0 Bg7 10.Nf4 Bd7 11.Qe2-/+ Nd4** Black has the two bishop and a pretty good knight, too. But the outpost jump might be a bit early. [Black could move on the queenside right away. 11...Rb8 12.Nd1 b5 13.c3 a5; 11...b5!?] **12.Qd2 e5?!** with both White knights aiming at d5 it makes sense to keep ...e6 available. [Black can harass White from either side: 12...Qa5; and 12...Bh6] **13.Nfe2**

[13.Nfd5] **13...Bh3?!** Black can't resist this little tactic! But White's blocked bishop is no prize, and there were other things to do, like control d5. [13...Qa5=/+ prepares queenside expansion.; 13...Bc6; 13...Be6] **14.Nxd4** [14.Bxh3?? Nf3+ nabs the queen.] **14...Bxg2?** The whole concept was off; maybe Black could still change his mind! [14...exd4! 15.Nd5 *(15.Bxh3 dxc3 16.bxc3 Qa5* 15...Be6! prepares to trade for the better enemy combatant.] **15.Kxg2 exd4**

[15...cxd4 doesn't do quite as much for the bishop, but the half open file has a value. In any case, White is on top -- if he plants his knight there at d5!] **16.Ne2?** It does happen in some positions that a centralized outpost knight, unassailable by the opponent's lame bad bishop, doesn't have anywhere to go. That is not this position. [16.Nd5!] **16...Rc8** [Not to mention that now Black has 16...d5! 17.f3 dxe4 18.fxe4 Qd7 and ...Rae8, slight favor Black.] **17.c3 dxc3 18.bxc3 c4** [18...d5!? 19.Qc2 c4! 20.d4 Or else Black's bishop is shining. 20...dxe4 21.Qxe4 Qd7] **19.Rab1 cxd3 20.Qxd3 b6=** The pawn weaknesses shouldn't balance out, but Stockfish thinks they do. Almost. **21.c4 Re8 22.Rfd1?!** Steps into an awkward situation. [22.Nf4] **22...Qe7**

And White is in trouble! **23.Nc3?** [23.Nf4 is a better try. After the sequence 23...Qxe4+ 24.Qxe4 Rxe4 25.Rxd6 Rexc4 26.Nd5 Re8 27.Rd7 Rc2-/+ Black is already a pawn ahead, and has the jump on getting his rooks going.] **23...Bxc3 24.Qxc3 Qxe4+**

25.Kf1?? [25.Qf3 Qxf3+ 26.Kxf3 Rxc4 27.Rxd6 *(27.Rb2 Rd8)* 27...Rc2 gives White some hope, but again, Black's up one and looking for another. 28.a4 Ra2 29.Rd4 Ree2 30.Rf1 Re5!; 25.Kg1 d5! solves the problem of the d-pawn very nicely.] **25...Qh1# 0-1**

Tentative results along with individual and team scores and be found here. All results are tentative pending final fair play review:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online)

Watch the broadcast of the event here:

Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYNPpip8e7g&t=414s (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYNPpip8e7g&t=414s)

Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aItP-bOXrso&t=177s (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aItP-bOXrso&t=177s)

March 2021 TNM Report

Rounds 5 & 6 of the Tuesday Night Marathon showcased why GM Gadir Guseinov is a cut above the field and revealed the strong play of a player we had previously been sleeping on, but no longer. FM Max "The Axe" Gedajlovic, the 19-year-old Canadian showed some impresive play in defeating Nathan Fong in round 5 and then IM Josiah Stearman in round 6. His only loss thus far was against GM Guseinov in round 3, we will be keeping an eye on this young talented player. Guseinov had a sharp win in round 5 against IM Brian Escalante and then a draw against FM Kyron Griffith in a game where Guseinov was better out of the opeining but then gave the advantage back allowing Kyron to exchange pieces and equalize. Guseinov is the sole eader at 5.5/6, with Escalante, Griffith, and Gedajlovic roght behind at 5/6. Many strong players lurking at 4.5/6, including GM Jim Tarjan, IM Elliott Winslow, FM Eric Li, NM Mike Walder, Pranav Sairam, Alan Finkelstein, Daniel Lin and Jonah Busch.

The final two rounds will be on Tuesday, tune in to watch and see if Guseinov will hang on to his half point advantage and take down another TNM!

Watch the broadcast from Tuesday here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VltOdu5hkH8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VltOdu5hkH8)

Here are some games from the rounds, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(4) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2631) - IM Brian Escalante (BrianEscalante) (2387) [C07]

MI March TNMo Chess.com (5.1), 23.03.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 [3.Nc3 dares Black to play 3...Bb4 leading to very unbalanced and tense positions. If that's your cup of tea! *(3...Nf6)*] **3...c5** The Tarrasch reply to the Tarrasch 3.Nd2, taking advantage of the lack of threat against d5. [3...Nf6 is the move most often seen at the club level. After 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.0-0 Bd6 Black has the excitement he often looks for with the French. White's d-pawn is no less weak than Black's e-pawn, and White always has to look out for ...e5 with a free game, not to mention various buildups towards White's king.] **4.Ngf3** [4.exd5 Qxd5 *(4...exd5!?* would certainly be Tarrasch's move*!)* 5.Ngf3 cxd4 is the same thing] **4...cxd4 5.exd5 Qxd5** With this Black avoids the IQP but develops fairly smoothly. Note there is no knight harassment, while White's bishop will give a tempo as well as get one. [5...exd5 again leads to Siegbert's favorite isolated queen pawn.] **6.Bc4 Qd7** This is the modern retreat! Like in the Center Counter (after 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3) Black has tried every which square, but here this has become the main move -- it almost doesn't matter, the queen usually goes to c7 anyway, so it doesn't matter if from d6, d8 (yes, that's sensible) or d7. [That said, 6...Qd6 is ten times more popular still.] **7.0-0 Nc6 8.Nb3 a6** [Or simply 8...Nf6 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 transposing.] **9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qc7** Back to a lot of games. [10...Nf6 Black could play ...Bc5 when the queen on d7 makes sense, but it isn't a seismic difference.] **11.Bd3 Bd6**

This lets White develop the queen to an aggressive post, but it's what everyone does! [11...Nf6 12.Re1 Bd6 13.h3 0-0 14.Bg5 Be5 15.c3 h6 16.Nf3 Bxc3 17.Rc1 gave White good compensation for a pawn in a blitz game: 1-0 (51) Mamedov, R (2709)-Le,Q (2737) Huaian 2017] **12.Qh5!?** Rather discouraging Black from castling kingside! [12.h3 has been the most common, but the text move is gaining on it both in frequency and score.] **12...Nf6 13.Qh4 Bd7** So Black prepares to castle queenside! **14.Rb1!** And White prepares to storm the king there, too

[14.c4 has been played, successfully; Even 14.b4!? has been launched a couple times, although Stockfish is skeptical.; 14.Bg5 doesn't convince: 14...0-0-0! carries out the intention.] **14...h5!? N** A new approach. Was it prepared!? First off, it was played instantly. Second, if Escalante had looked at Guseinov's games he'd have seen *two* occasions where he had played 14.Rb1! It turns out that if you let Stockfish run for a long time, this becomes its preferred move. [In one, Black had prevailed with 14…h6 15.b4 Be5 16.Nf3 Bc6 17.Nxe5 Qxe5 18.Bb2 Qg5 19.Qxg5 hxg5 20.f4 Ng4 21.h3 Ne3 22.fxg5!? Nxf1 23.Rxf1 0-1 (69) Guseinov,G (2667) -Predojevic,B (2616) 34th EU-Cup (team match), Porto Carras 2018 -- but surely he expected an improvement.; And indeed Guseinov repeated this line last year with success, with a weaker Black playing into White's attack: 14...0-0-0? 15.b4! Nd5 16.b5! axb5 17.Nxb5 Bxb5 18.Rxb5 Nc3 19.Rb3 Be5 20.Be3 Rd5 21.g3 Qc6 22.Re1 Rhd8 23.Bb6 Rxd3 24.cxd3 Rxd3 25.Qh5 f5 26.Rxe5 Rd1+ 27.Qxd1 Nxd1 28.Rc5 1-0 (28) Guseinov,G (2666)-Roberson,P (2435) chess.com INT 2020] **15.Re1?!** Of course this was Guseinov's first think of the game, costing him four minutes (of his 34!). [15.Bg5 Ng4 16.h3 f6! 17.hxg4 0-0-0! 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.gxh5 Rh6+/= is hard to believe, but Black could well survive.] **15...Ng4?** This cost him 11 out of 30 minutes, but it's not at all good, probably a miscalculation. [Black should grab the moment now to get away, even if nowhere is totally safe: 15...0-0-0! 16.Bg5 *(16.b4 Ng4 17.h3 f6 18.hxg4 g5 19.Qh3 hxg4)* 16...Rde8! sees Black developing an initiative of his own.] **16.h3+/-** Now Black is pushed back, when it's a classic King in the Center attack. **16...Be7?!** [16...Ne5 17.Be2 Black can't make his pieces coordinate. *(*or *17.Be4)*] **17.Bg5! f6?!**

[Escalante might have thought surely 17...Qh2+ leads to something, but after 18.Kf1 he gets caught on e7 or g7 or g4.] **18.Bg6+!** The key move, cementing Black's king between his rooks. **18...Kf8** [18...Kd8 is similar] **19.hxg4 fxg5 20.Qh3 Qb6 21.Rbd1!** It's not about the b-file any more! [28.03 vs. 9:11] **21...e5** Another big clump of time, three minutes here. **22.Bf5** White tries to play the trickiest move in Black's dwindling time. [22.Nf5 is just as nasty.] **22...Bc5 23.Bxd7 Bxd4 24.Re2 Rd8 25.c3** [25.gxh5] **25...Rxd7 26.cxd4 Rxd4** [25:24 vs. 4:23] **27.Rde1** At this point frustration must have overtaken Black, as he uses most of his time. [27.Qf3+ is more forcing, but makes Black find moves. 27...Rf4 28.Qe3 Qxe3 29.fxe3 if it's not one rook then it's the other.] **27...Rxg4** [1:24] **28.Rxe5 Rh6** Black finally gets his rook going! But it's way too late. **29.Qd3** White had various winners, but he again shows the practical technique of tossing the move to Black when the clock is running out. **29...Rf4** Another minute burned, leaving 0:27!

30.R1e2? Sometimes Guseinov doesn't bring himself to use the time to find the finish, and it comes close to costing him! [30.Re8+ Kf7 31.R1e7+ Kf6 32.Qc3+ Qd4 33.Re6+ Kf5 34.Qc2+ Kg4 35.Re4 Qb6 when White has various ways to be completely winning. Instead,] **30...Rd6!** Suddenly Black "completes his development" -- and the game is equal! Except for the clock of course.... **31.Qc2 Qc6!** So far so good. **32.Rc5**

32...Rd1+?? Black had gained time to 17.2 seconds, but this just doesn't do it. [He needed 32...Qa4! 33.Rf5+ Kg8!= when there's no knockout.] **33.Qxd1 Qxc5 34.Qd8+ Kf7 35.Qe8+** [The mate after 35.Qe8+ An exciting game from start to finish, from theoretical advance to master class in keeping the king in the center and attacking it, to the dangers of time mismanagement by both players. And the Man From Baku takes it down. 35...Kf6 36.Qe6# is pretty and efficient.] **1-0**

(5) IM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2564) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2353) [E54]

MI March TNMo Chess.com (5.2), 23.03.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

A great battle between two of our MI's top players. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 c5 6.Nf3 d5 7.0-0** Classic Nimzo-Indian. This line of the Rubinstein Variation has been played for almost one hundred years. **7...cxd4 8.exd4 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b6 10.Qb3 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Nc6 12.Bd3 Bb7 13.Bg5** White has the bishop pair and tries for a small edge. Black's pieces have good squares and work well together. An alternative for White is [13.Qb1 h6 14.Re1 Rc8 15.Bd2 Na5 16.Ne5 Nd7 17.Ng4!? Qh4 18.f3 Nc4 with chances for both sides. 1/2 (36)-1/2 (36) Korobov,A (2656)-Wojtaszek,R (2733) Poikovsky 2016] **13...h6 14.Bh4**

14...Rc8N [14...e5 15.Rad1!] **15.Rac1 Ne7 16.Ne5 Nf5?!** This hurts Black's pawn structure. The game would remain equal after [16...Nfd5] **17.Bxf5 exf5 18.f3!** Blunting the scope of the bishop on b7. **18...g5 19.Bf2 Kg7** [19...Nd5 would restrain White a little more] **20.Qc2** [The opening has gone well for White and Josiah could get a clear edge here with 20.c4! Re8 21.Rfd1] **20...f4** ± [20...Nd5! 21.c4 f6] **21.c4 Nd7 22.Nxd7 Qxd7 23.d5 Ba6 24.Qd3 f6 25.Rfe1 Rfe8 26.Qa3?!** This gives up much of White's advantage. Black would be suffering after [26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.h4] **26...Bxc4 27.Rxe8 Qxe8 28.Re1** [28.Qxa7+ Kg6 29.d6 Bxa2! holds for Black] **28...Qd8 29.Qxa7+ Rc7 30.Qxb6 Bxd5 31.Bc5** Josiah starts to play for tricks. Instead he would keep a small edge with [31.a4!] **31...Qc8 32.Bf8+**

32...Kg6! [32...Kxf8? 33.Qxf6+ Bf7 34.Qh8+ Bg8 35.Qxh6+ Kf7 36.Qxg5 is a clear edge to White] **33.Qb1+ Qf5 34.Qb6?** Josiah keeps chasing the win and gets in trouble. Trading queens would be a draw. **34...Rc2!** Kyron starts to go on the offensive. The black king is safer with an extra pawn for protection. **35.Rf1?!** [best was to tie Black down somewhat with 35.Qa7 Bf7; not 35.a4 Bxf3! 36.gxf3 Qh3 and wins] **35...Rxa2?!** [35...g4! 36.Qa7?! Rxg2+! 37.Kxg2 gxf3+ 38.Rxf3 Qg4+ 39.Kf1 Qxf3+ 40.Qf2 Qd1+ should win for Black] **36.Qc7 Bf7 37.Be7?** [37.Qb7! Qc2 38.Qb1 trades the queens] **37...Qe6?** [37...g4! 38.Qc5 Bd5 is a winning attack] **38.Bc5?**

[38.Qd6! Qe3+ 39.Kh1 Be6 40.Rg1 may hold the game] **38...Qe2! 39.Bf2** [39.Rf2 Ra1+] **39...Bc4** KyronGriffith won by resignation. Cool defense and good counterattack by Kyron. **0-1**

(6) Nathan Fong (nathanf314) (2015) - FM Max Gedajlovic (MMSanchez) (2141) [C00]

MI March TNMo Chess.com (5.7), 23.03.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e5 c5 4.b4!?

an interesting gambit. Many players like to play odd lines against the French Defense and nathanf314 chooses central play and attacking chances for the pawn. **4...b6** [Declining the pawn is safe, but 4...cxb4 5.a3 bxa3 6.d4 Nc6 would be more testing of this line] **5.c3 Nh6 6.a3 Be7** [6...a5 challenges the queenside] **7.d4 Nf5 8.Bd3 Nc6** [8...0-0 9.0-0 Ba6 10.b5 Bc8 11.g4 Nh4 12.Nxh4 Bxh4 13.f4 brought White some advantage in (18) Van Foreest, L (2531)-Edouard,R (2641) chess24.com INT 2019] **9.0-0 0-0**

[9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Nfxd4?! 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qg4] **10.Re1N** [10.g4 Nh4 11.Nxh4 Bxh4 12.Be3 f6 13.f4 fxe5 14.fxe5 Rxf1+ 15.Qxf1 Bg5! is equal for Black] **10...Bd7 11.Bxf5 exf5 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.Qxd5 Qc7** The light square play and extra development give Black enough for the pawn. **14.Bf4 Be6 15.Qd3 Rfd8 16.Qe2 cxb4?!** The exchange lets the white pieces get better squares. **17.axb4 a5?! 18.b5 Na7 19.Be3 Bc4**

20.b6! Qc6 21.Qb2 Nb5 22.Nbd2 a4 23.Nxc4 Qxc4 24.Nd2 [24.e6! fxe6 25.Ne5 Qb3 26.Qxb3 axb3 27.Rab1 Nxc3 28.Rxb3 is terrific for White] **24...Qd3 25.c4 Nc3 26.Kh1** [26.b7!] **26...Rdb8?!** [26...Rab8] **27.c5 f4**

28.c6? [28.b7! Ra7 29.c6 fxe3 30.c7! wins] **28...fxe3 29.Rxe3 Qb5 30.Qxc3 Qxb6** The game is back to level chances. **31.Ne4?!** [31.e6!] **31...Rc8 32.e6 Qxc6** [32...f6!] **33.exf7+ Kf8 34.Qe5 a3 35.Ng5??** Oh no! A blunder after a fascinating struggle. **35...Bxg5 36.Qxg5 Qc1+! 37.Re1** [37.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 38.Re1 Rxe1#] **37...Qxg5** That's it. **38.h3 a2 39.Kh2 Qf4+ 40.g3 Qxf2+ 41.Kh1 Qxe1+ 42.Rxe1 a1Q 43.Kg2 Qxe1 44.Kf3 Rc3+ 45.Kg4 Ra4+ 46.Kh5 Qe5# 0-1**

(7) Chelsea Zhou (mwncklmann) (1875) - Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (1934) [A57]

MI March TNMo Chess.com (6.9), 23.03.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.e3 One of many reasonable lines against the Benko Gambit. **5...Bb7 6.Nc3 e6 7.e4 exd5** [7...Qa5 is an alternative] **8.exd5 Qe7+!?**

[Also tried has been 8...Bd6 9.Nf3 0-0 10.Be2 h6 11.0-0 Re8 12.Bc4 with a clear edge to White (1-0 (28) Sjugirov,S (2675) -Kislinsky,A (2452) Chess.com INT 2020)] **9.Be3N** [also good is 9.Be2 axb5 10.Nxb5 Nxd5 11.Nf3 Na6 12.0-0] **9...d6 10.bxa6 Bxa6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Nf3 Qb7 13.0-0! Be7** [13...Qxb2 14.Qa4+ Nd7 15.Rfe1 Be7 16.Bg5 f6 17.Ne4! would be winning for White] **14.Qd2 0-0** Black has objectively not enough for the pawn. Still there are practical chances with play against the d5 pawn and on the b-file. **15.a3!?** [15.Rfd1 Rfb8 16.Rab1 Nc7 17.b3 is a bit more solid] **15...Rfb8 16.Rab1 Nc7 17.Rfd1 Ng4** [17...Nb5 is typical Benko Gambit like play] **18.Bf4 f6?! 19.Qe2 Ne5 20.Bxe5 fxe5 21.Nxe5?**

[21.Nd2! is a pawn up with terrific play on the white squares] **21...Bf6!** Konsdaga starts the tactics! Black has equal chances now in this messy position. **22.Nd7 Bxc3 23.Nxb8 Rxb8 24.g3?!** Black begins to take over the initiative [24.bxc3? Qxb1!; 24.Qe4 Bd4 25.b4 Qxd5 26.Qxd5+ Nxd5 27.bxc5 Rxb1 28.Rxb1 dxc5 is about equal in the ending] **24...Bd4! 25.Qe7 Nxd5 26.Qxd6 Rf8 27.Qe6+ Kh8 28.Rd2 Nf6 29.Re2?** [29.Re1 gets the other rook helping on the kingside. Black is still clearly better after 29...h6] **29...h5 30.Qf5 Qf7?!** [30...g6! 31.Qxg6 Qf3 32.Rbe1 h4 is a winning attack. White would be forced to give material for the defense with 33. Re3] **31.h3** [31.b4!] **31...g6 32.Qc2?!** [32.Qf4] **32...Qc7?!** [32...h4! 33.g4 Nd5 is very powerful] **33.Rbe1?** overlooking the threat. The game is about equal after [33.Qxg6 Rg8 34.Qh6+ Nh7] **33...Qxg3+! 34.Kh1 Qxh3+ 35.Kg1 Ng4 36.Re8 Qh2+ 37.Kf1 Qh1+ 0-1**

Full standings can be found here:

SwissSys Standings. March 2021 TNM: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2738	W57	W55	W4
2	IM Brian Escalante (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16836558)	BrianEscalante	16836558	2544	W29	W22	W9
3	FM Kyron Wa Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	KyronGriffith	12860484	2500	H---	W47	W1
4	FM Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	MMSanchez	14947382	2141	W39	W34	L1
5	GM James Edwa Tarjan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10991820)	tirantes	10991820	2469	W67	W24	W1
6	FM Eric Yuhan Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	kingandqueen2017	15688436	2344	W31	W33	W2
7	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W49	W18	W1
8	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2127	W40	D26	W2
9	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	chesspilot01	15424820	2084	X41	W36	L2
10	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	stratus_junior	14958842	2054	D42	W59	D2
11	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	SmilyFace4	15176393	2000	W61	W60	L7
12	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W45	W48	L3
13	IM Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)	josiwales	14006506	2505	W30	W23	W2
14	Austin R Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	TitanChess666	16090452	2149	W58	W35	W1
15	Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	Qing29	15467440	2082	X68	W27	L5

	15467440)						
16	David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)	David_Askin	13776967	2023	L60	W61	W
17	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	nathanf314	13001390	2015	W43	W54	L1
18	Ranen A Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	dashrndrx	12614986	1815	W64	L7	L6
19	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	LightningDragon8	16761994	1726	W73	L20	W
20	Nicholas Ruo Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	ninjaforce	15499404	2055	W50	W19	L1
21	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	artliou	12906142	2037	W69	W62	L6
22	Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	W51	L2	W
23	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	twangbio	16291100	1878	W70	L13	D4
24	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	mwncklmann	15239016	1875	W63	L5	W
25	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	A-boy415	16571026	1831	H---	W42	L8
26	Pranav Sathish (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16464655)	championps	16464655	1770	W66	D8	D1
27	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1753	W76	L15	W
28	Roman Gurovich (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14173406)	heyitsroman	14173406	1716	L54	D46	W
29	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	serverbusy	16408266	1644	L2	W51	W
30	Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)	thedarkbishop	12716964	1635	L13	D52	W
31	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	MechAnjin	12931024	1622	L6	W71	L1
32	Cailen J Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	L62	W69	W
33	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W52	L6	W
34	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	16083648	1785	W75	L4	W
35	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	W71	L14	D5
36	Sos Hakobyan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14452712)	SacrificeandCrush	14452712	1771	W72	L9	W
37	John R Hartmann (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12552251)	john_hartmann	12552251	1765	H---	H---	L4
38	Cal McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	DoctorBanner	14948275	1700	H---	H---	W
39	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1484	L4	W75	L3
40	Ethan R Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	erm999	16090467	1482	L8	W76	L2
	Jahaan Ansari						

41	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?21004356)	jah23	21004356	1446	F9	W72	W
42	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1417	D10	L25	L3
43	Prescott Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16009618)	prescott00000	16009618	1296	L17	X74	W
44	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1293	H---	H---	X7
45	Leon Diaz Herrera (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17355661)	Aeqetes	17355661	1175	L12	W56	L3
46	Michael Jannetta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15172933)	GM_Fobby_Bischer	15172933	1165	L55	D28	L5
47	Adam For Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1014	W74	L3	L2
48	Tyler Wong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30135235)	tdubchess	30135235	unr.	W56	L12	L3
49	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	bigchampionofchess	16600505	1610	L7	W64	D2
50	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	ppra06	15871762	1445	L20	W73	D3
51	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	dribbler23	30032729	1102	L22	L29	X7
52	Sean Han Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020arEEEWS	16802870	952	L33	D30	L5
53	Aidan Cumbo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118987)	worsepot	30118987	unr.	H---	H---	H-
54	Rajtilak Indrajit (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109752)	rtindru	30109752	unr.	W28	L17	W5
55	Kapil Karunakaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15495877)	kapilank	15495877	1907	W46	L1	L2
56	Bryan Lynch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15493651)	nycsheep	15493651	1769	L48	L45	W5
57	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	GiorgosTsolias	17266862	1679	L1	W70	L5
58	Nursulta Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	L14	W66	L2
59	Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	nmbrown2	12446259	1495	H---	L10	W4
60	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	Sebbymeister	16875347	1343	W16	L11	W
61	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	andrewaballantyne	17079795	1206	L11	L16	W
62	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1205	W32	L21	L3
63	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	1020	L24	L67	L6
64	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	966	L18	L49	L6
65	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	night_breeze	30055583	933	H---	H---	L1
66	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	unr.	L26	L58	W

67	Kenneth S Wells (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14960218)	shoshonte	14960218	1626	L5	W63	L3
68	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	Echecsmike	12279170	1446	F15	H---	L2
69	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L21	L32	W(
70	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1032	L23	L57	W7
71	Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	ComfyQueso	16380615	739	L35	L31	L6
72	Aaron Peredia (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16443747)	GoodKnightmyQueens	16443747	486	L36	L41	F5
73	Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)	MrRap9	30118209	unr.	L19	L50	L7
74	Christian Jensen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12780890)	Christianjensen23	12780890	1844	L47	F43	F4
75	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	Vincitore51745	12814843	826	L34	L39	L4
76	Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)	austin809	30032406	unr.	L27	L40	U-

SwissSys Standings. March 2021 TNM: Extra Games

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2
1	Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)	JuditSztaray	14708926	827	W6	W7
2	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	chesspilot01	15424820	2084	W4	U---
3	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1293	W5	U---
4	Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	Qing29	15467440	2082	L2	U---
5	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	dribbler23	30032729	1102	L3	U---
6	Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	ComfyQueso	16380615	739	L1	U---
7	Aaron Peredia (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16443747)	GoodKnightmyQueens	16443747	486	U---	L1

Thursday Night Marathon Report

GM Gadir Guseinov dominated yet another Thursday Night Marathon, winning a nice rook and bishop v rook and knight endgame against IM Elliott Winslow to take sole first with 5/5. NM Michael Walder took sole 2nd place with 4.5/5, and congratulations to Kristian Clemens and Kagan Uz, who share 3rd place with 4/5. Full standings are below.

If you would like to register for the April Thursday Night Marathon, it starts next week April 1, and you can register here:

https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605April2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605April2021)

SwissSys Standings. Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2680	W19	W12	W

2	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2107	W29	W13	W
3	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	W14	L32	W
4	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	uzkuzk	16434922	1812	W39	L6	W
5	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W27	W17	W
6	Theo Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	tabiyiasas	13989054	2175	W33	W4	W
7	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	A-boy415	16571026	1831	H---	W40	W
8	David Flores (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14799653)	playercreate1	14799653	1812	H---	W36	L7
9	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	W35	X15	L6
10	Arthur Liou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906142)	artliou	12906142	2034	W34	W18	L1
11	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	ako_h	15206848	1980	W38	L23	W
12	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W30	L1	L2
13	Aaron Mic Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W31	L2	L2
14	Yali Dancig-Perlman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16280288)	noydan100	16280288	1442	L3	W42	W
15	Brandon Xie (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14961610)	swift_breeze	14961610	2130	W28	F9	H-
16	NM Thomas F Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	D21	L20	W
17	Robert Smith III (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	W22	L5	D1
18	Roger V V Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16191192)	1-h4-1-0	16191192	1776	W41	L10	L2
19	Jeff C Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	L1	W38	D1
20	Rama Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17350313)	draidus	17350313	1475	H---	W16	L1
21	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	Loltheawesomedude	16497860	1392	D16	D25	W
22	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1356	L17	W26	L1
23	Adam For Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	831	W25	W11	L5
24	Leo Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061785)	mu3tang	16061785	1765	H---	H---	L1
25	McCarty-Snead-Cal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	L23	D21	D3
26	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	ludimagisterjosephus	13742111	1700	L32	L22	L3

27	**Patrick Donnelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12716964)**	**thedarkbishop**	12716964	1635	L5	W35	W
28	**Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)**	**fiddleleaf**	12839763	1574	L15	W41	L4
29	**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	**rimus11**	17137317	1513	L2	W39	W
30	**Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	**programmingmax**	16380642	1511	L12	D31	W
31	**Katherine Sunn Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)**	**2Nf31-0**	16425316	938	L13	D30	D2
32	**Austin Bourdier (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032406)**	**austin809**	30032406	unr.	W26	W3	L2
33	**Jacob S Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)**	**jacobchess857**	17083655	1629	L6	D34	W
34	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	**swimgrass**	16380636	1363	L10	D33	D4
35	**Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)**	**Charvii**	16816706	944	L9	L27	L3
36	**Tyler Wong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30135235)**	**tdubchess**	30135235	unr.	H---	L8	L3
37	**Jason Romsak (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12841181)**	**zer0chills**	12841181	1681	H---	H---	L3
38	**Nicholas Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)**	**NXBex**	16154827	1416	L11	L19	W
39	**Kevin M Chui (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16998580)**	**Kchui999**	16998580	1290	L4	L29	W
40	**Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)**	**caodanny**	16939797	895	H---	L7	D3
41	**Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)**	**jakech1123**	17144246	866	L18	L28	L3
42	**Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	**juditsztaray**	14708926	827	U---	L14	H-
43	**Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	**vincitore51745**	12814843	619	H---	U---	U-

March Madness

It is March Madness - the season of the big college basketball tournament to determine the national champion. This event is special and unique in collegiate sports as it gives all the conference champions, even those from smaller conferences, an opportunity to compete with the traditionally elite teams to play for the national title. Every year fans watch in anticipation, looking to see which teams will upset these bigger programs, and show that on any given day, even the underdog can be the big dog. The same can happen in chess. Since it is often not considered a game of chance where luck plays a prominent role, the stronger players have a distinct advanatage over weaker players. Sometimes the right set of circumstances come together however, to give an underdog the opportunity to pull off an upset to remember. As chess players, many of us have stories like this, and many of us have stories we would rather like to forget; of being the victim rather than the David slaying Goliath. For instance, one player in the 'arena' portion of the Thompson Family Foundation event last Saturday pulled out a draw against one of the stronger players in the field. He was the only player not to lose to eventual winner, NM Sriram Kishnakumar, and although he was for a good part of the game worse off, he stayed alert and found the right moves when the opportunity came. Congratulations to Robyn Nakhimovsky, rated 714 who drew against NM Krishnakumar, rated 2192. Here is the game, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian. Hopefully this can serve as an inspiration to all us amateurs, as IM John Donaldson says, "every dog has their day."

(9) NM Sriram Krishnakumar (2008king) (2288) - Robyn Nakhimovsky (RobynoDude) (1165) [C45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 14.03.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nxd4 This exchange trades a developed knight for each side, but benefits White more as the white queen takes up a good central spot. **5.Qxd4 Qf6 6.e5 Qe6?**

[If Black plays this variation he/she should play 6...Qb6 when 7.Qf4 d5 8.Nc3 Be6 9.Bd3 0-0-0 is fine for Black. 7. Qxb6 is a small edge] **7.Bc4! d5** gives up a pawn, but not at least gets developed **8.Qxd5 Qxd5 9.Bxd5 c6**

10.Bf3?!N [somewhat better is 10.Bb3 so the white f-pawn is free to move up for support:] **10...Bc5** [10...Bf5!] **11.0-0** [11.Nd2! with the idea of 12. Ne4 would be very good] **11...Ne7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Bf4 Nf5** Black is a pawn down and looks for counterplay. [13...Ng6 14.Bg3 Bf5 may be slightly better] **14.Rad1 Nh4 15.Be4 f5?!** trying for active play, but it allows the white pieces to invade. **16.exf6 gxf6 17.Bd6! Bxd6 18.Rxd6 Rf7 19.Rd8+ Kg7 20.Rfd1 f5 21.Bf3** [21.Bd3 Rf8 22.Bc4 should be a winning pawn up endgame] **21...Nxf3+ 22.gxf3 f4 23.Ne2 Rf6 24.Nd4?**

[this allows Black a great escape 24.R1d4 will win another pawn] **24...Bh3! 25.Rxa8 Rg6+ 26.Kh1 Bg2+ 27.Kg1 Bh3+ 28.Kh1 Bg2+ 29.Kg1 Bh3+** Game drawn by repetition. A great opportunity siezed by RobynoDude. Black against an opponent 1100 points higher rated and a draw scored! **1/2-1/2**

Reciprocity Partnership With Marshall Chess Club

The Mechanics' Institute and the Marshall Chess Club entered into a partnership last year in which we agreed to recognize each organization's members so that our players can enjoy the benefits our respective clubs. Now that there are so many course offerings and USCF online-rated events, we wanted to let our chess community know again that if you are a member of the Mechanics' Institute (meaning you have a membership card and paid the annual fee), you may enjoy playing at Marshall or taking one of their courses at the Marshall member rate. Marshall has also promoted this reciprocity agreement with Mechanics' Institute in their newsletter the Marshall Spectator. To subscribe to their newsletter, please follow this link: https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f).

To see their list of events, click this link: https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming)

If you are a member and wish to be added to the list of members to participate in Marshall events, please send an email to chessroom@milibrary.org and list your USCF number. We will verify membership and place you on the list.

We look forward to this partnership between our two historic clubs in an effort to continue bringing communities together through chess!

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 3/30: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1066281 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1066281)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:00-7:00PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: Modern Chess Openings (MCO) with GM Nick de Firmian with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: April 5 - May 10, 2021

   Modern Chess Openings was a revolutionary text, and it has come back to life as it was featured in The Queen's Gambit. Mechanics' Institute Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian was the editor of several editions of that book and now it will come to life as a class! This will be club players of various strengths and will focus on about 5 key openings. He will cover open game openings that reinforce fundamentals such as piece development, control of the center and king safety, and he will also cover more complex openings that need deeper understanding such as the Sicilian, Queen's Gambit, and Ruy Lopez. The purpose of this class is to gain a better understanding of the ideas behind playing these openings and what to look for. The class will be interactive and engaging. FM Paul Whitehead will also be on to facilitate the class. The class will be fluid and interaction in the class is encouraged. We hope to enlighten the student on what it means to play openings and hpw they can lay the foundation for the course of the entire game. More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**
   New session starts on April 7, 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/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: The Art of Attack! with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: March 3 through April 7 (6 classes)
   We all want to attack, but to be comfortable and skillful at defense is just as important.
   Learn how to safeguard your king and drum up counter play using chapters and examples taken from The Art of Defense in Chess, by Polugaevsky and Damsky (1988).
   Stalemate, Blockade, Trench Warfare, Counterattack, Traps: these are just a few of the concepts we will take up in this six-week course.
   Be prepared for a little homework - and become a chess player who's hard to beat!
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead)

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:

4/13 Tuesday - April 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/april-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/april-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Join Now! Starts April 1, 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-april-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-april-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129004349/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/20220129004349/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/20220129004349/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Spring Classes started week of March 22
Spring Camps
Upcoming Tournament Schedule
Scholastic Game of the Week

Spring Session of our Virtual Chess Classes are starting
March 22 through May 31
Not too late to join - Prorating is available!

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Tuesdays 3-4PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTUESDAYS34PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andy – Thursdays 4-5PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring)
- Advanced Class with Coach Andy – Thursdays 5-6PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS56PM2021Spring)
- Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) – Friday 3-4PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring)

Spring Break Virtual Chess Camp

STARTING THIS coming WEEK - Sign your child up for some fun virtual chess camp during their spring break!

Monday through Friday,
Two weeks offered: Mar 29 - Apr 2 and Apr 5 - Apr 9
9AM - 12PM
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/SpringBreakChessCamp)

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)
Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Saturday, Mar 27: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406747
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=406747)
- Monday, Mar 29: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408649
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408649)
- Tuesday, Mar 30: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408652
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408652)
- Wednesday, Mar 31: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408654
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408654)
- Thursday, Apr 1: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408657
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408657)
- Friday, Apr 2: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408659
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408659)
- Sunday, Apr 4: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408660
  (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=408660)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments

3/28 Sunday - Fun, Fast & Furious Blitz: 8SS G/5+2 affecting USCF Online blitz rating.
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMAR28SUN
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMAR28SUN)

4/2 - Friday 6:30PM PT: 8SS G/5+2: Monthly Scholastic Blitz Online Championships
Run on Chess.com
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-scholastic-blitz-championship-chesscom)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsMonthlyOnlineSCHOLASTICBlitzChampionshipApr2021)

Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(8) LastYoungChapter (1408) - AndrewCBAC (1411) [B01]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 This is the classic square for the black queen in this opening and in my opinion the best. From the side of the board the queen is developed yet away from the attacks of the white minor pieces. **4.Nf3 Bg4 5.d4 Nc6** A sharp, risky vatiation instead of the solid 5...c6 (most common move among grandmasters). **6.Bb5 0-0-0 7.0-0?** Losing the centeral d-pawn and getting in serious trouble. [Better to follow the masters: 7.Bxc6! bxc6 8.h3 Qh5 9.Be3 Nf6 10.Qe2 Bxf3 11.gxf3! e6 12.0-0-0 Kb7 13.Rhg1 White has the advantage here. The game continued 13...h6 14.Rd3 Rg8? 15.Ne4! Be7 16.Rb3+ Kc8 17.Qa6+ Kd7 18.Rd1 Qxf3 19.Nd2 Qxh3 20.Nc4 Ke8 21.Ne5 Bd6 22.Nxc6 Ra8 23.Qb7 Kd7 24.Ne5+ Ke7 25.Bf4 Qf5 26.Nc6+ Kd7 27.Bxd6 Kxd6 28.Ne5 Qf4+ 29.Kb1 Rgf8 1-0 (29) Ding,L (2791)-Carlsen,M (2863) chess24.com INT 2020] **7...Nxd4**

ouch. White has lost a key pawn and is in bad trouble **8.Qd3?!N** [8.Bd3 Qh5 is also very bad news] **8...Nxf3+ 9.gxf3 Rxd3 10.cxd3 Bxf3**

11.Bf4 White has lost a queen and pawn for just a rook. Courageously LastYoungChapter plays on and develops the pieces where they aim at the black king. **11...Qb6** [11...c6] **12.Rac1 Qg6+ 13.Bg3 f5?!** Looking to gain more material with ...f4. Yet this neglects development and gives White chances. Just 13...e5 and bringing the black pieces out would win without much trouble. **14.Nd5!**

14...Bxd5? [14...c6!] **15.Rxc7+ Kd8 16.Rd7+**

White has both bishops and both rooks in the attack while only the black queen is out. 16...Kc8? [16...Ke8! would still be big edge - 17.Rxd5+ *(17.Rd6+ Kf7 18.Rxg6 hxg6* is a piece and pawn up endgame*)* 17...Kf7 18.Bc4 e6 and the black king can be defended] 17.Rc7+?! [17.Rxd5!] 17...Kd8 18.Rd7+ Kc8?! [18...Ke8!] 19.Rxd5! White gets it right the second time around! 19...Nf6? [19...Qh6 20.Rc5+ Kd8 21.Bc7+ Kc8 22.Bf4+ would be winning for White anyway now] 20.Rc1# LastYoungChapter won by checkmate. What a wild game! 1-0

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 7: Lasker – Marshall 1907.

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Despite playing very little chess between this match and the return match with Steinitz, Lasker was far too strong for his American challenger. Lasker raced out to a 3-0 lead, and in the end crushed Marshall +8 -0 =7 for the most lop-sided victory in any World Championship match. To play a match for the title seems like a crowning achievement, but Marshall's humiliation was such that he almost never mentioned it. He described Lasker's play as "tedious, aimed at wearing down his opponent." By contrast Marshall's play was anything but boring, yet frequently unsound:

Lasker – Marshall, 14th Match Game 1907.

Here Marshall, out of frustration at the match score, if nothing else, uncorked the ridiculous **1...Bxh2+? 2.Kxh2 h5**. Black's "attack" was easily brushed off, and he lost in short order: **3.Bf4 Ng4+ 4.Kg1 g5 5.Be5 Rh7 6.Bxg4 hxg4 7.Ne4.** Now it is white who is on the offensive. **7...Nd7 8.Qxg4 Nxe5 9.dxe5 Kf8 10.Rad1 Qc7 11.Nf6 1-0.**

Nevertheless, Marshall deserves some credit for being the only American challenger for the World Championship after Morphy, until Fischer, 65 years later.

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1. Lasker – Marshall, 2nd Match Game 1907

White moves. Repel the attack and stay a pawn ahead – but be careful!

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2. Marshall – Lasker, 3rd Match Game 1907.

Black moves. An accurate finish dooms white.

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3. Lasker – Marshall, 4th Match Game 1907.

Black moves. Under pressure, find a way to bail out.

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4. Lasker – Marshall, 12th Match Game 1907.

White moves. Destroy black's chances.

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5. Marshall – Lasker, 15th Match Game 1907.

Black moves. Find the move that gives an advantage.

GM Nick de Firmian

Either Very Good or Very Bad

I was able to show a game in our wonderful Mechanics' online Chess Café on Monday (4:00-5:30pm every week). I asked our café participants what rating they thought the players of the game had (particularly the player of White who had very unusual moves). Most thought the first player had a rating around 700, like the kids (or adults) that are learning to play and have learned some of the basics but often play some strange, illogical moves. Yet wily IM Elliott Winslow (perhaps suspected the trick I was playing) answered "This player is either very good or very bad." In fact the player of the white pieces was Magnus Carlsen, and I cannot resist showing you the strange game below. Once Nimzovich was criticized by Tarrasch and the orthodox school of chess who said his moves were "ugly." Nimzovich, with his "hypermodern" theory claimed that it was not the appearance of the move which counts, but the thought behind it. Please keep that in mind as you see the first game below.

The other way a game will be very good or very bad will depend on the form a chess player is in. The reader likely shares my experience that some tournaments I would play many lemons with my mind not sharp, while other tournaments my mind felt clear and good moves seemed to come naturally. So it is with the return of the Candidates Tournament in a few weeks we will see which players are in good form for the second half. Ian Nempomniachtchi is tied for the lead (with MVL) and also in fine form. He just finished second in the "Magnus Carlsen Invitational" and more importantly beat Magnus himself in the semi-finals. The player in the very best form however could be Holland's Anish Giri, who tied for first in Wijk aan Zee two months ago and now took first in the "Magnus Carlsen Invitational" by beating Nepomniachtchi in the finals. We give the decisive game from this match below. Giri is a point behind in the Candidates at the halfway point and so has a tougher road in these last 7 games. Soon we'll get to see who's play among the challengers is very good or very bad.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - So,Wesley [C47]

Magnus Carlsen Invitational, 21.03.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.a4!?

There are at least a dozen moves White could play that make as much sense as this. It doesn't develop anything and seems to invite Black to play the classic Four Knights move (4...Bb4) as the b4 square is weakned. **4...Bb4 5.Bd3**

I always tell my young students not to do this move. The light-squared bishop prevents the d-pawn from advancing and so slows development of the dark-squared bishop. It was at this point I asked our Chess Cafe participants what they thought White's rating was. This surely looks like real beginner chess. **5...d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nd5 Bc5 8.c3** Now the strange looking White moves begin to make some sense, as we start to see harmony in the white position. White threatens 9. b4 and 10. a5 to trap the black bishop. **8...a5** and now things start to look very normal and logical for White. This position could arise from a Guico Piano or a Ruy Lopez where the light-squared bishop takes a longer journey to arrive at the c2 square. **9.Bc2 Nxd5!** Wesley has

played all logical moves thus far and now forces White to take doubled pawns. There is still a little White has to answer for because of the strange beginning. **10.exd5 Ne7 11.Ng5!** Much more interesting (and risky) that the normal looking 11. d4. **11...h6 12.d4 Bb6** [12...exd4 13.cxd4 Bb4 14.Nh7 would have similar themes to the game] **13.Nh7 Re8**

14.Nf6+! White needed to do something with the knight trapped on h7. This sacrifice quickly brings the game to a critical point. **14...gxf6 15.Qh5 e4 16.Re1** [16.Bxe4? f5 repulses the attack and leaves Black a winning material advantage] **16...f5?** This natural move to hold the center and keep out the white bishop and rook is So's big mistake. He needed to get pieces out to the kingside - [16...Bf5 17.Re3 Bg6 18.Rg3 Qd7 19.Bxe4 Nf5 20.Rxg6+ fxg6 21.Qxg6+ Ng7 22.Qh7+ Kf8 23.Bxh6 Rxe4! 24.Qxe4 f5 is equal] **17.Bxh6 Nxd5 18.Bg5 f6 19.Bb3!**

The white pieces quickly arrive to attack the black king. There is no defense here. **19...c6** [19...fxg5 20.Qg6+ Kf8 21.Bxd5] **20.Re3 Kf8 21.Qg6! f4 22.Bh6+ Ke7 23.Qh7+** So resigned at 23...Ke6 24. Rxe4 is mate. A very orignial and impressive game from the World Champion! **1-0**

(2) Nempomniachtchi,Ian - Giri,Anish [A01]

Magnus Carlsen Invitatinal, 21.03.2021

This was the decisive game of a closely fought match. It came down to blitz games to decide the winner of the tournament. **1.b3** Nepo also tries a somewhat unusual opening to get Giri into an unexpected position. The great Bent Larsen used this opening frequently and it bears his name. **1...d5 2.Bb2 Bf5 3.d3 c5 4.Nd2 Nf6 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 e5** Black graps the central space and achieves easy equality in the opening. **7.e4 dxe4 8.dxe4 Be6 9.Ngf3 Qc7 10.0-0 Be7 11.Nc4 Rd8 12.Qb1?!** This is too original. Keeping the queen centralized with 12. Qe2 would keep chances level. **12...Bxc4 13.bxc4 0-0 14.Re1 Nd7 15.Bf1 Nd4 16.Nd2?**

White needed to capature on d4. Black gains a big edge now with a tactical sequence. **16...Bg5! 17.Bxd4 Bxd2 18.Rd1 cxd4 19.Rxd2 Nc5**

This wonderful knight on a dark square is vastly superior to the white bishop. That along with the bad white pawn structure gives Black a decisive edge. **20.Bd3 Rd6 21.Re2 Ra6 22.Qc1 Ra4!** The queenside invation hits the weak points there. **23.Qg5 f6 24.Qh5 Ra3 25.Rd2 Qa5** winning material **26.Rdd1 Rxa2 27.Rab1 Qc7 28.Rf1 Ra5 29.Qg4 Ra3 30.f4** a bid for counterplay. This is better than going down without a fight. **30...exf4 31.gxf4 Nxd3 32.cxd3 Rxd3 33.e5 Re3** Black keeps control with this move. The two extra pawns decide. **34.Qg2 Qc6 35.Qd5+** [no better is 35.Rxb7 Qxg2+ 36.Kxg2 fxe5 37.fxe5 Re2+ 38.Kg1 d3] **35...Qxd5 36.cxd5 fxe5 37.Rxb7 exf4 38.Rc1!** When you are lost you must play actively and hope. **38...f3 39.Kf2 Re2+ 40.Kf1 Re5 41.Rcc7** White has doubled rooks on the seventh and a passed d-pawn. This would confuse most opponents. **41...Rg5! 42.h4 Rg4 43.Kf2** How can Black make progress? **43...Rg2+ 44.Kf1**

44...f2! Nepo resigned. The match was a great battle. In the upcoming Candidates finish I believe Nepo has the best chances (because of his score), while MVL, Caruana and Giri are the other serious contenders. **0-1**

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Lasker – Marshall, 2nd Match Game 1907.

1.g3! Squelched black's attack. But not 1.Nf4?? Rxg2+! and black wins. After 1… h5 2.Qf4 Qd5 3.Rfe1 Rde8 4.Rxe8+ Rxe8 5.Re1 (This is what Marshall was complaining about!) 5…Re4

6.Qg5 Nb4 7.Rxe4 fxe4 8.Qxd5 Nxd5. White has simplified into a won ending, and Lasker's technique was second to none: 9.Nc5 e3 10.Nd3 h4 11.gxh4 Kd7 12.Kf1 Ke6 13.Ke2 exf2 14.Kxf2 Kf5 15.Kf3 Nf6 16.Nc5 b6 17.Nd3 Nh5 18.Nc1 Nf6 19.Ne2 Ke5 20.Ng3 Nd5 21.h5 Ne3 22.h6 Kf6 23.c3 Nd1 24.cxd4 Nxb2 25.Nf5 Kg6 26.d5 Nc4 27.Ke4 Na5 28.d6 Nb7 29.Kd5 Nd8 30.d7 a5 31.Ne7+ 1-0

---

2. Marshall – Lasker, 3rd Match Game 1907.

1…Rf5! Closes it out. The hasty 1…Rh4+? allows 2.Qxh4 with a probable draw. 2.Qe8 Qh4+ 0-1. It is mate next move.

---

3. Lasker – Marshall, 4th Match Game 1907.

1…Nd3+ Simplifies into a drawn ending: 2.Bxd3 Rxd3 3.Rxd3 Rxd3 4.cxb5 axb5 5.a4 Rd5 6.f4 Ka5 7.Rxb5+ Rxb5 8.axb5 Kxb5 9.Ke2 Kc4 10.Ke3 Kd5 11.h4 Kc4 12.Ke4 h5 13.g3 Kc3 14.Ke3 ½ - ½.

---

4. Lasker – Marshall, 12th Match Game 1907.

1.Bf5! is absolutely crushing, and another ill-conceived attack goes down the drain. Of course not 1.Kxh2?? Ng4+ winning the queen. 1…Rh5. There is no defense. If 1…exf5 2.Rxe5+ and 3.Kxh2. Marshall played a full piece down for many moves before resigning: 2.Rxe5 Qd8 3.Qxd8+ Kxd8 4.g4 Rg5 5.Nf3 Rg7 6.Bd3 Rxg4 7.Kf2 Ke7 8.Rae1 Rcg8 9.Bf1 Bc6 10.b3 Rh8 11.R5e3 Rhg8 12.a4 a5 13.Ne5 Rf4+ 14.Kg1 Be8 15.Nc4 b5 16.axb5 Bxb5 17.Nxa5 Bd7 18.b4 f5 19.Nb3 Rfg4 20.Nd4 f4 21.Re4 R8g6 22.c4 Kd6 23.c5+ Kd5 24.Nf3 Rf6 25.Rd4+ Kc6 26.Ne5+ 1-0. Sour grapes?

---

5. Marshall – Lasker, 15th Match Game 1907.

```
1…Ng3! wins the exchange. Marshall still had some chances, but was steadily outplayed from here: 2.Rxf5 Nxf5 3.e4 Ne7 4.a3 Rc8 5.d6 Ng6 6.Nc
    4 Qg5 7.Bf1 b5 8.Na5 Nf4 9.Qg3 Qf6 10.Qe3 Qxd6 11.Bxb5 Qb6 12.Bc4 Ne6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Nb3 e5 15.Kf1 Rb8 16.Nc5 exd4 17.Qxd4 Rc8 0-1.
```

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Newsletter #963

April 10, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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Mechanics' Institute Organizing Spring Club Matches Against World's Historic Clubs!

The field is set and so are the dates for the Mechanics' Institute's 2021 Spring Club Match Tour, in which we will play four of the most historic chess clubs in the world an online matchs on Chess.com. We set out to organize these matches so our clubs could not only compete against one another, but also so our communities can learn about each other and promote our rich histories. These matches will be held on Saturdays and will start at 10am PT unless otherwise noted. We will match up a fixed number of players on each side, with matchups being predetemrined and games started manually by Chief TD Judit Sztaray. Each player will play two games against the same opponent, once as white, once as black, with a time control of G/15+2. We will stream all the matches live on our Twitch channel, with live commentary by GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead, and MI Chess Director Abel Talamantez. Here are the match dates:

Saturday April 24: Edinburgh Chess Club: Edinburgh, Scotland. This is a rematch of a match we won in early March. Founded in 1822, it is the second oldest continually-running chess club in the world. They own their own building, contributing to their longevity and history.

Saturday May 1: Zurich Chess Club: Zurich, Switzerland. The Zurich Chess Club, founded in 1809, is the oldest chess club in the world still in existence. Its history was chronicled by Richard Forster in his book *The History of the Zurich Chess Club: 1809-2009*.

Saturday May 8: Royal Dutch Chess Club (Discendo Discimus): The Hague, Netherlands. Founded just two years before the Mechanics' Institute in 1852, Discendo Discimus is housed ir the National Chess Building in The Hague and has a very active club which includes regular tournaments, youth programs and classes.

Saturday May 15: Hamburger Schachklub: Hamburg, Germany. Founded in 1830, This brick and mortar chess club in Hamburg, Germany recently competed in the European Club Cup online, placing 6th in the finals: http://chess-results.com/tnr555042.aspx?lan=1&art=0&turdet=YES&flag=30 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://chess-results.com/tnr555042.aspx?lan=1&art=0&turdet=YES&flag=30)

We will recruit teams to participate and compete in these matches, as they will generally be limited to 15-20 players. Some of these matches will include a scholastic component as well. If you are interested in playing, please reach out to us: chessroom@milibrary.org

April 2021 TNM Begins April 13th!

The April 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon begins on the 13th and registration is open! We had 76 players in our last marathon and even had some brand new players light up the leaderboard and deliver some exciting games, as IM Brian Escalante defeated FM Max Gedajlovic in the final round in the game of the tourney to tie for 1st place with GM Gadir Guseinov with 7/8. Click here to see the results from the March TNM: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/march-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online).

This months TNM will be 6 rounds, 2 rounds per evening with round times 6:30pm PT and 8:00pm PT. Time control is G/35+2 and is USCF rated, with games paired manually on Chess.com. Dr. Judit Sztaray is the Chief TD. We will stream the event live with commentary from 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead and Mechanics' Institute Chess Director Abel Talamantez on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess).

To register, please follow this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Apr2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/Apr2021TNMOnline)

Full tournament information is here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/april-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/april-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Thursday Night Marathon

Two rounds are completed in the Thursday Night Marathon, and 9 players remain perfect with 2/2 and quite a few strong players at 1.5/2. There are three rounds left, here are the current standings.

SwissSys Standings. Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	**gguseinov**	17343590	2700	W25	W19	
2	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	**ecwinslow**	10363365	2278	W27	W20	
3	**NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	**flightsoffancy**	10345120	2135	W40	W21	
4	**Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)**	**mangonel**	14006141	1940	W29	W22	
5	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	**a-boy415**	16571026	1831	W31	W23	
6	**Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)**	**kingsmasher35**	12797931	1822	W41	W30	
7	**Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)**	**uzkuzk**	16434922	1809	W42	W33	
8	**Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)**	**zenwabi**	11296106	1643	W46	X16	
9	**Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)**	**night_breeze**	30055583	unr.	W24	W18	
10	**FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	**kyrongriffith**	12860484	2490	W26	H---	
11	**NM Richard Koepcke (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10493269)**	**rkoepcke**	10493269	2200	H---	W35	

12	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	D38	W36	
13	NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	H---	W37	
14	Zachi Baharav (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13464604)	fastzachi	13464604	1813	H---	W38	
15	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	H---	W39	
16	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	chesspilot01	15424820	2084	W28	F8	
17	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	L30	W41	
18	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	W43	L9	
19	Bryan Lynch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15493651)	nycsheep	15493651	1769	W44	L1	
20	Leo Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061785)	mu3tang	16061785	1765	W45	L2	
21	Callaghan McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	W32	L3	
22	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	bigchampionofchess	16600505	1610	W47	L4	
23	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	W48	L5	
24	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1512	L9	W42	
25	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	loltheawesomedude	16497860	1455	L1	W43	
26	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1443	L10	W44	
27	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L2	W45	
28	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	bruce_hedman	17344551	1035	L16	W46	
29	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	figsnoring	16551291	999	L4	W47	
30	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	charvii	16816706	984	W17	L6	
31	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2nf31-0	16425316	978	L5	W48	
32	Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)	greenninja2019	30015889	unr.	L21	W40	
33	Jaryd Saevitzon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30144616)	thejuicerisloose	30144616	unr.	B---	L7	
34	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	serverbusy	16408266	1644	H---	U---	
35	Jacob Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	jacobchess857	17083655	1623	H---	L11	
36	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	rimus11	17137317	1513	D39	L12	

	17137317)						
37	**Nick Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)**	**nxbex**	16154827	1433	H---	L13	
38	**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	**aanval22**	14257838	1014	D12	L14	
39	**Joshua Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30127073)**	**probablyjosh**	30127073	unr.	D36	L15	H---
40	**Darren Yin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12846430)**	**dareonion**	12846430	1323	L3	L32	
41	**Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)**	**jakech1123**	17144246	946	L6	L17	
42	**Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)**	**caodanny**	16939797	887	L7	L24	
43	**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	**andrejsg**	16741331	826	L18	L25	
44	**Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	**vincitore51745**	12814843	619	L19	L26	
45	**Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)**	**ivanzong**	30131397	unr.	L20	L27	
46	**Sean Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30149285)**	**seanyliu**	30149285	unr.	L8	L28	
47	**Jeff Rosengarden (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105422)**	**jrosengarden**	30105422	unr.	L22	L29	
48	**Kaori Nguyen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30156281)**	**sillybunnyy**	30156281	unr.	L23	L31	

Reciprocity Partnership With Marshall Chess Club

The Mechanics' Institute and the Marshall Chess Club entered into a partnership last year in which we agreed to recognize each organization's members so that our players can enjoy the benefits our respective clubs. Now that there are so many course offerings and USCF online-rated events, we wanted to let our chess community know again that if you are a member of the Mechanics' Institute (meaning you have a membership card and paid the annual fee), you may enjoy playing at Marshall or taking one of their courses at the Marshall member rate. Marshall has also promoted this reciprocity agreement with Mechanics' Institute in their newsletter the Marshall Spectator. To subscribe to their newsletter, please follow this link: https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f).

To see their list of events, click this link: https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming)

If you are a member and wish to be added to the list of members to participate in Marshall events, please send an email to chessroom@milibrary.org and list your USCF number. We will verify membership and place you on the list.

We look forward to this partnership between our two historic clubs in an effort to continue bringing communities together through chess!

The GM Nick de Firmian / FM Paul Whitehead Arena Live on Twitch

The GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena every Tuesday at 5pm PT (right before the start of our TNM) has become a great way for our Mechanics' staff to play casual games with our members. Entry is free, and lasts 60 minutes with a time control of G/5+2. In this arena format, players register and participate in openly paired club games online. When a game ends, players are paired with the next available person ready to play, regardless of rating or past results. With Nick and Paul in the arena, anyone registered will have a shot at playing a 3-time US Champion, or the legendary FM Paul Whitehead. Our arena has also attracted other popular players, such as Michael "fpawn" Aigner, IM Josiah Stearman, and even FM Kyron Griffith has played. These games make it so that any player, regardless of strength, may have an opportunity to play some strong players. More importantly, the arenas become a very fun and engaging atmosphere for our Mechanics' club players, as Nick and Paul banter on camera about their games with a lively interaction in the Twitch chat.

Here are two games from the arena, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) GM Nick de Firmian (NicholasDeFirmian) (2455) - Callaghan McCarty-Snead (DoctorBanner) (2039) [E73]

Live Chess Chess.com, 07.04.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 The Hulk plays a fighting King's Indian Defense **5.Be2 0-0 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.g4** It is a little unusual for White to expand on the kingside like this. Probably White won't castle kingside after this but at least it gains space. **7...e5 8.g5 Ne8** [8...Nh5!? 9.Bxh5 gxh5 10.d5 f5 is a messy alternative that may be worth a try] **9.Nf3 f5 10.gxf6 Bxf6** This is a little passive and gives White the opening edge. Interesting was [10...Nexf6 11.dxe5 Ng4 12.Bg5 Qe8 13.exd6 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qxe4 with a wild open game] **11.d5 a5 12.h4 Ng7 13.Ng5 Nb6?!** This is a passive square for the knight and allows the White initiative to grow. Preferable was [13...Be7 14.Qd2 Nf6 Though White still holds an edge.] **14.Qd2 h5 15.0-0-0 Bxg5?!** White will have an easy game to play with the dark-squared bishop unopposed. [15...Bd7 16.c5 Na4 at least tries to confuse matters] **16.Bxg5 Qe8 17.f3 Bd7 18.Rhg1**

White has control and an easy game to play. Black needs to get angry here to have a chance. **18...Kh7 19.Rg3 Na4 20.Rdg1 Nxc3 21.Qxc3 Qc8 22.Kb1 Be8 23.c5 b6?** quietly caving in to the pressure and giving away a key pawn [23...Qd7 would maintain material equality in a difficult position] **24.cxd6 cxd6 25.Qxc8 Rxc8 26.Be7 Rf4!** The best fighting chance in this bad endgame. Black loses the center pawns but gets a passed h-pawn. **27.Bxd6 Rxh4 28.Bxe5 Bf7 29.Bd4 Rb8 30.Rc1 Rb7** [30...Nf5!? 31.Be5 Re8 32.exf5 Rxe5 33.Bd3 is also tough for Black] **31.Rc8 Bxd5!? 32.Rg5?** [32.Bxg7! Bxe4+ 33.fxe4 Rxg7 34.Bd3 wins a piece] **32...Bf7?!** [The clock is running down and the errors come. Black is worse but even material after 32...Rh1+ 33.Rg1 Rxg1+ 34.Bxg1 Be6] **33.b3?!** [33.Rg1 Rh2 34.Bb5] **33...Rh1+ 34.Kc2?!** [34.Rg1] **34...Rh2 35.Kd3**

35...Ne6?? A blunder with the clock running out. The Hulk had gotten right back in the game and would have even chances after [35...Rd7! 36.Re5 h4] **36.Rh8#** NicholasDeFirmian won by checkmate. A lucky turn of events for me just as the game was getting messy again. **1-0**

(2) FM Paul Whitehead (chessmonster666) (2270) - NM Sriram Krishnakumar (2008king) (2176) [C77]

Live Chess Chess.com, 07.04.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 [One still occasionally sees 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 when Black has played everything under the sun. It's surprising that the most natural looking move in general, 5...Nf6?? , is here a blunder! 6.Nxe5 and White is up a solid pawn. It's worth a moment to see how so many of those other moves stop White from getting away with that!] **4...Nf6** [The fairly old 4...d6 still lives,; as does the modern attempt to get out first: 4...Bc5; and 4...Nge7 is the only move with a plus score here, over couple thousand instances.] **5.Bxc6** [White could wait a move and maybe get a slightly better version of exchange variation: 5.0-0 "Commital" (just joking, maybe) 5...Be7 **a)** There are various modern lines, popular at the highest level (i.e. Carlsen & Others): 5...Bc5; **b)** or 5...b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 *(or 6...Bb7)* ; **c)** and the Open Variation, 5...Nxe4 , remains an enigma to Ruy Lopez players looking for some theoretical advantage.; 6.Bxc6 *(6.Re1* is of course the massively analyzed and played Main Line*.; 6.d3* is the big thing lately but has a long way to go to replace 6.Re1 as most played*)* 6...dxc6 7.d3 So now White's knight *and* bishop are on suboptimal squares, and may require repositioning. In short, the time lost to White's Bb5-a4xc6 is recovered.] **5...dxc6 6.d3 Bd6** (in one move) **7.Nbd2** Favored by Naka and Ding. **7...Be6 8.h3** [Relevant: 8.0-0 0-0 *(8...Nd7 9.b3 Qe7 10.Nc4 f6 11.Bd2 0-0 12.Nh4 g6 13.g3 b5 14.Ne3 f5* Black got in the f-file pawn break before White, but it just led to some weaknesses. *15.exf5 gxf5 16.Qh5 Qf7 17.Qxf7+ Rxf7 18.Nf3 h6 19.Ng2 Kh7 20.Rfe1 Bd5 21.Nfh4 c5 22.c4 Bc6 23.f4 e4 24.Ne3 Raf8 25.Nexf5* 1-0 (37), Nakamura,H (2736) -Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2021*)* 9.b3 Nd7 10.Bb2 b5 11.d4 The other pawn break at White's disposal, but the highest rated player of all time held the line. 11...f6 12.h3 c5 13.d5 Bf7 14.a4 Nb6 15.c4 c6 16.Nh4 Re8 17.Nf5 Bf8 18.Qg4 Kh8 19.f4 exf4 20.Qxf4 bxc4 21.bxc4 cxd5 22.cxd5 Qb8 23.Qh4 *(23.d6!? Be6 24.Nxg7! Bxg7 25.Bxf6* is difficult for Black*)* 23...Nxd5 24.Rab1 Qb4 25.Bc1 Qxa4 26.exd5 Qxh4 27.Nxh4 Bxd5 1/2-1/2 (59) Nakamura,H (2708)-Carlsen,M (2810) Wijk aan Zee 2010] **8...Qe7** Keeping an eye on castling queenside

[8...Nd7 is the orthodox sort of move.] **9.Ng5N** [Only one other game: 9.Qe2 Nd7 10.Nc4 f6 11.Bd2 0-0-0 12.a4 g5 13.Nh2 Bc5 14.Ne3 Nf8 15.Nhf1 Ng6 16.g3 Qd7 17.Qf3 Rhf8 18.Nf5 Bd4 and White probably wished he had castled somewhere (he never did): 0-1 (38), Pranav,V (2315)-Pranesh,M (2333) Visakhapatnam 2019] **9...Bd7 10.Nc4 Bc5?!** Stay! [10...b5 keeps the balance.] **11.Nf3 Bd6** A redfaced return. **12.Qe2** White also decided to head West with his king. **12...0-0-0 13.Be3**

13...Ng8?! Black is confused and runs toward his own goal. [13...h6] **14.0-0-0!?** [Engines like 14.0-0] **14...f6**

15.Nxd6+! A clearheaded assessment of the chances. Superficially this helps Black, but Whitehead sees that now there are attacking avenues. Note the opposite colored bishops ("favor the attacker"). **15...cxd6** [15...Qxd6 16.d4] **16.d4?!**

[16.Bb6 Re8 17.Nd2 Be6 18.Qe3 does bring the wood around to the queenside, but there isn't necessarily a way in.] **16...Kc7?** [16...exd4 17.Bxd4 c5 18.Bc3 Bb5 puts out the fire and activates his pieces, when it's starting to be White's that look a bit off.] **17.dxe5?!** [17.Qc4!+- exd4 18.Nxd4 when of course the pawn is poisoned to a discovered attack.] **17...dxe5?!** giving White a free hand on the queenside dark squares. [17...fxe5! , followed by ...c5 on most moves, patches things up pretty well, although White still holds a solid edge.] **18.Qd2** [18.Qc4 is a better way in: 18...Be6 19.Qc3 Rxd1+ 20.Rxd1 b6 21.b4 intending a4-a5, and the dark squares crumble.; 18.Ba7!? followed by Qe3 is another way to proceed.] **18...g5??** Black folds. [18...b6 The a-pawn isn't hanging like that other line 19.a4 *(19.b4 Nh6)* 19...a5 probably won't hold either, but puts up a better fight.] **19.Qa5+! Kc8 20.Bc5 Qf7 21.Bd6** ouch. The dark squares are hurting. **21...Be6**

22.Bxe5! Ne7?! Losing immediately, but it was hard to find a move with mate threatened on d8. **23.Qc7#** Very forceful finish by Paul. **1-0**

(3) Nathan Fong (nathanf314) (2211) - Shaashwath Sivakumar (Dontmesswithme_2) (2297) [B90]

Live Chess Chess.com, 06.04.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 What to call this? Commonly known as the Byrne Variation after Robert Byrne, it was played earlier by Lombardy and even Fischer, but also decades before by the creative if offbeat Weaver Adams. Still the modern interpretation is light-years away from those beginnings. **6...e5** These days people play the Boleslavsky pawn advance against almost everything, except 6.Bg5 and 6.Bc4. **7.Nde2 h5**

Black cuts across one of the main points of 6.h3, to advance the g-pawn two squares in one move.But the move comes with a price of course. **8.Bg5** A very popular positional approach, playing to conquer square d5. **8...Be6 9.Bxf6** Before Black can get ...Nbd7 in, to recapture with the knight. But it is funny how Black couldn't play ...h6 if he wanted to challenge the bishop -- and White exchanges anyway! **9...Qxf6 10.Nd5 Qd8 11.Nec3** [The finesse 11.Qd3!? (from Anand's home preparation) with 0-0-0 quickly available is more of a problem according to D.Vigorito's recent Najdorf book, although it appears he keeps Black afloat.] **11...g6** Black delays bringing out his knight, and takes advantage of the knight on d5 blocking the d-file to head elsewhere with the dark squared bishop, plus guarding h5 for now and supporting a later ...f5; exf5 gxf5. But there's another reason...

12.Qf3!? extremely rare, but sensible -- f6 after all has been weakened. But maybe Black shouldn't be bothered by that. [12.Bc4 is almost always played, when 12...Bh6!? is the big choice as well. 13.0-0 0-0 14.Bb3 and even here, where to put that knight isn't clear; Vigorito heads for d7, although 14...Nc6 seems to be winning out in late ballots.] **12...Bg7** [The only other games saw Black unconcerned about the f6 square (perhaps more concerned about White castling): 12...Bh6!? is probably the move an MVL or Giri would play. 13.Bc4 0-0 14.Rd1 Nc6 15.Bb3 Nd4 16.Qd3 Rc8 17.0-0 Kh7 18.Ne3 Qh4 19.Ncd5 f5 and the higher rated player only drew: ½-½ (61) Munoz,L (1953)-Oliynyk,V (2345) ICCF email 2017; 12...Nd7 first is plausible, but allows White to castle: 13.Be2 *(13.0-0-0!* as per the above discussion.*)* 13...Bh6 14.g4?! h4!=/+ 15.Rg1?! Bg5-/+ Black is doing fine, but as so often, the rating system proved its predictive value again. 16.Rd1 Rc8 17.Ne3? Rc6 *(17...Qb6!-+)* 18.Bf1?! Qb6 19.Ncd5 Qxb2 20.Nc4 Qxa2 21.Qc3 Qa4 *(21...b5! 22.Nb4 Rxc4 23.Nxa2 Rxc3 24.Nxc3 Ke7-+)* 22.Ra1 Rxc4 23.Bxc4 Qc6 24.Qd3 Nc5 25.Qe2 b5?? Black was still winning but now, 26.Rxa6!+- and White didn't stumble: 1-0 (36) Brandt,C (2066)-Moenster,M (1730) Germany 2018] **13.0-0-0** The engines are completely uninterested in castling queenside and even put Black having some advantage. **13...Nc6 14.Kb1 Nd4** An empty gesture -- in a few moves the knight would prefer to be aiming at e5. [14...b5!?]

15.Qg3 Rc8 [15...h4!] **16.Bd3 b5 17.f4 exf4 18.Nxf4**

18...Rxc3?! We must remember this is a 5m2s game, but still, both players know their opening and had barely spent any time (White less than a minute, Black just over half a minute). [18...Be5! first, *then* you can get clever and give up the exchange if you must: 19.Qf2 *(19.Qe3 Qg5 20.Rhf1 0-0* leans in Black's favor, what with the dark squares so under control*)* 19...Rxc3 A completely different story! 20.bxc3 Nc6! The game seems to be equal, similar to early Yugoslav Dragons where both sides launch their attacks, and one or the other sets up a perpetual. 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Rdf1 Qa5!? 23.Qf7+ Kd8 24.Kc1 Qxc3 25.Kd1 Every move is "0.00", so there doesn't seem to be much more for it.] **19.bxc3**

19...Nc6? Black must have been more concerned with not using any time than with what was about to happen. This just loses. [He had the fascinating 19...Bxa2+! 20.Kxa2 (forced) 20...Qa5+ 21.Kb1 *(21.Kb2?? b4!* is a disaster for White.*)* 21...Nf5! when White gets a lot for the queen after 22.exf5 Bxc3 23.Qe1+! Kd8 24.Qxc3 Qxc3 25.Nd5! with a fair chance of still coming out on top] **20.Nxe6 fxe6** There were no tricks now **21.Qxg6+ Kf8 22.Rhf1+ Kg8 23.Qf7+ Kh7 24.Qxh5+** all the pawns go **24...Kg8 25.Qf7+ Kh7 26.e5+!** As always, it's dangerous waters in the Najdorf, and this game was an example of the latest species of poisionous jellyfish. A wild battle! **1-0**

Watch an Arena by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW1qAuoY6dw (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW1qAuoY6dw)

Read below to join next week's arena!

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 4/13: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1092358 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1092358)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:00-7:00PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: Modern Chess Openings (MCO) with GM Nick de Firmian with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: April 5 - May 10, 2021

   Modern Chess Openings was a revolutionary text, and it has come back to life as it was featured in The Queen's Gambit. Mechanics' Institute Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian was the editor of several editions of that book and now it will come to life as a class! This will be club players of various strengths and will focus on about 5 key openings. He will cover open game openings that reinforce fundamentals such as piece development, control of the center and king safety, and he will also cover more complex openings that need deeper understanding such as the Sicilian, Queen's Gambit, and Ruy Lopez. The purpose of this class is to gain a better understanding of the ideas behind playing these openings and what to look for. The class will be interactive and engaging. FM Paul Whitehead will also be on to facilitate the class. The class will be fluid and interaction in the class is encouraged. We hope to enlighten the student on what it means to play openings and hpw they can lay the foundation for the course of the entire game. More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**
   Next session starts on
   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: Next class starts June. Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021)
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **Last week of: The Art of Defense! with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: March 3 through April 7 (6 classes)
   We all want to attack, but to be comfortable and skillful at defense is just as important.
   Learn how to safeguard your king and drum up counter play using chapters and examples taken from The Art of Defense in Chess, by Polugaevsky and Damsky (1988).
   Stalemate, Blockade, Trench Warfare, Counterattack, Traps: these are just a few of the concepts we will take up in this six-week course.
   Be prepared for a little homework - and become a chess player who's hard to beat!
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead)

   New course will set to **start April 21 and go until May 26** - **The Art of Attack with FM Paul Whitehead**
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead-2021-spring (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead-2021-spring)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead)

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:

4/13 Tuesday - April 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/april-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-

tournaments/april-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Join Now! Started April 1, 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-april-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-april-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129003356/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/20220129003356/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/20220129003356/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Spring Classes started week of March 22
Upcoming Tournament Schedule
Scholastic Game of the Week

Spring Session of our Virtual Chess Classes are starting
March 22 through May 31
Not too late to join - Prorating is available!

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring) - 2 spots left
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Tuesdays 3-4PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTUESDAYS34PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Thursdays 4-5PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring) - 1 spot left
- Advanced Class with Coach Andy – Thursdays 5-6PM - FULL
- Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) – Friday 3-4PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring) - 3 spots left!

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Monday, Apr 12: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412091 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412091)
- Tuesday, Apr 13: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412092 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412092)
- Wednesday, Apr 14: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412093 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412093)
- Thursday, Apr 15: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412095 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412095)
- Friday, Apr 16: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412096 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412096)
- Saturday, Apr 17: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412313 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=412313)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments on the weekends

4/11 Sunday - 5SS G/15+5 affecting USCF Online Rapid rating: 2021 US Junior Chess Congress Booster Side Event
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/juniorchesscongress
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://www.milibrary.org/juniorchesscongress)
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021JuniorChessCongressBoosterSideEventonChessKid
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003356/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/2021JuniorChessCongressBoosterSideEventonChessKid)

4/18 Sunday - 8SS G/5+2 affecting USCF Online Blitz rating.
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom
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Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(4) AwesomeHat (1311) - tcm89 (1589) [C30]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.f4 The King's Gambit! A brave opening even if it is considered a bit suspect these days. **2...d6** This is passive but not too bad. tcm89 declines the gambit and the crazy complications that go along with it. **3.d3 h6?!** This doesn't help much. Better to use the move to develop one of the knights or get more control of the center. **4.Nf3 Nf6!?**

5.f5?! This takes the pressure off Black's center. A developing move or [5.fxe5 dxe5 6.Nxe5 is better, though 6...Bc5! would be some play for the pawn.] **5...b6 6.Be3 Bb7 7.Be2 Nbd7** This is reasonable development. Black gets the pieces out harmoniously and eyes the center. **8.Qd2?! Ng4** [8...d5! would take control of the center] **9.Nc3** [9.Bg1!] **9...Nxe3 10.Qxe3 c6 11.0-0-0 Be7 12.g3 Qc7 13.Nh4?** Oh no! AwesomeHat needed to play 13. Kb1 first to keep everything safe. **13...0-0-0? 14.Bh5? Bg5!**

Now tcm89 sees it! Pinning the queen wins the game. **15.Qxg5** [15.Qd2 would at least get a piece for the queen. Now one of the white minors gets lost.] **15...hxg5 16.Nf3 Rxh5 17.g4 Rh6 18.Nxg5** Down a queen for a pawn, AwesomeHat needs to play like Kyron Griffith. **18...Rf8 19.h4 f6 20.Nf3 Qd8 21.h5 b5 22.a3 Nb6 23.d4 exd4 24.Rxd4 c5 25.Rd3 a6 26.Ne1 Re8 27.Re3 d5!** opening up the game is the quickest route to victory **28.Ng2 d4 29.Rd3 Bxe4 30.Nxe4 Rxe4 31.Rh4 c4 32.Rd1 d3 33.cxd3 cxd3 34.Ne1 d2+!** tcm89 won by resignation **0-1**

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 9: Lasker – Schlechter 1910.

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Lasker kept his title in this tied match (+1 -1 =8), holding off a powerful performance by the Austrian defensive master Carl Schlechter. A real mystery hangs over this contest: did Schlechter push so hard in the 10th and final game because the challenger needed +2 to take the match? Unlikely, as no hard evidence exists. Perhaps, as has been suggested, he wanted to prove his win in the 5th game was no fluke. What remains is a World Championship as closely contested as any, with Lasker's characteristic grit and pluck saving an almost hopeless situation right at the very end.

This match featured hardly any tactical 'bolts from the blue'. The players were careful. Both had missed opportunities. The problems presented below are perhaps a bit different than what we've seen before.

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1. Schlechter – Lasker, 1st Match Game 1910.

Black moves. White threatens c2-c4, followed by Kf4, and things look very tough for black. What did Lasker do to save the game?

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2. Lasker – Schlechter, 2nd Match Game 1910.

Black moves. Is 1…Rxb5 playable?

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3. Schlechter – Lasker, 5th Match Game 1910.

White moves. Seize the chance to knock the World Champion out.

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4. Schlechter – Lasker, 9th Match Game 1910.

Black moves. Lasker is on the verge of winning the c4 pawn (and the game). His king is in check. Where should he go?

---

5. Lasker – Schlechter, 10th Match Game 1910.

Black moves. Again black is in check, and a move must be played…

GM Nick de Firmian

Nick's column will resume next week.

Solutions

1. Schlechter – Lasker, 1st Match Game 1910.

1…Re4!! sacrificing yet another pawn, was Lasker's powerful idea. After **2.Rc5 Kf6 3.Rxa5 Rc4!** the activity of black's king and rook was fully maximized. Schlechter tried the passive approach with **4.Ra6+ Ke5 5.Ra2**, but after **5…Ke5 6.Rb2 Rc3+ 7.Kg2 Kf6 8.Kh3 Rc6!** preventing **9.Ra6**+, there was no way forward. Schlechter pitched the c-pawn to free his rook, but the game is then totally drawn**: 9.Rb8 Rxc2 10.Rb6+ Kg7 11.h5 Rc4 12.h6+ Kh7 13.Rf6 Ra4 ½ - ½.**

---

2. Lasker – Schlechter, 2nd Match Game 1910.

At first sight it seems that **1…Rxb5** nets 2 pieces for a rook: if **2.Ra8+ Kd7! 3.Rxh8 Rxb3**, and black should win. The fly in the ointment is **2.Ba4!** After **2…Bd7 3.Bxb5 Bxb5 4.Re1**, Capablanca asserted that black must lose a piece. However, this does not seem to be the case, as **4…Kf8!** (Stockfish) allows black to hold by a whisker. Schlechter, however avoided all of this by simply castling, and after **1…0-0 2.Ba4 c4** (If **2…Bd7** then **3.c4! dxc4 4.Nc3** and white is OK) **3.Ra2 Bc5+ 4.Kh1 Bd7** Lasker uncorked another tricky move with **5.Bd6!** Now **5… Rxb5!? 6.Bxf8 Bxf8 7.Bxb5 Bxb5** (Capablanca) would have led to a fascinating struggle of 3 minor pieces vs 2 rooks. But the 'Drawing Master' (as Schlechter was known) chose peace instead: **5…Bxd6 6.Nxd6 Rb6 7.Bxd7 Nxd7 8.Nf5 Re8 9.Ra7 Nf6 10.Ra2 g6 11.Nd4 Rfb8 12.Rf2 Nd7 13.h3 Nc5 14.Rd2 Nd3 15.b4 cxb3 16.Nxb3 Rxb3 17.Rxd3 Rc8 18.Rxd5 Rbxc3 ½ - ½.**

---

3. Schlechter – Lasker, 5th Match Game 1910.

Lasker has had all the chances, but under pressure from a vicious counterattack has overplayed his hand. The challenger drew first blood with **1.Qa6!** Infiltration, and with the deadly threat of **2.Rc8+**. Black could have tried **1…Qb6 2.Qc8+ Kd6 3.Ra6 Qxa6 4.Qxa6+ Kc5**, to make a fight of it with rook and 2 passed pawns vs the queen (Capablanca), but black is lost in any case. Lasker tried another way: **1…Rb8 2.Ra7+ Kd8**, but white is attacking from all sides, and it was over after **3.Rxg7 Qb6 4.Qa3 Kc8** and **1-0**. It is mate in 3 starting with **5.Qc8+**.

---

4. Schlechter – Lasker, 9th Match Game 1910.

Lasker slipped up with **1…Kc7?** and was unable to escape the dance of the white knight: **2.Ne6+ Kc6 3.Nd8+!** Now black avoids the repetition, but in doing so must drop a pawn. The game was soon drawn: **3…Kd7 4.Nxg7!** A classic 'desperado' sacrifice. **4…Ke7 5.Nh5 Rxc4 6.Re3+ Kf7 7.Rf3+ Kg6 8.Rf6+ Kxh5 9.Rxd6 ½ - ½.** Instead, **1…Kb6!** would have won the pawn cleanly, and Lasker's formidable technique would certainly have brought the point home.

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5. Lasker – Schlechter, 10th Match Game 1910.

In one of the most dramatic showdowns in chess history, Schlechter blew it with **1…Kc7?** allowing the World Champion to exchange queens and a technical win: **2.Qc2+! Qxc2 3.Rxc2+ Kb7 4.Re2 Nc8 5.Kb3 Kc6 6.Rc2+ Kb7 7.Kb4 Na7 8.Kc5 1-0.** Avoiding the exchange of queens was correct, and 1…Kd8! or 1…Ke8! would have made the win for white all but impossible.

Submit your piece or feedback

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Newsletter #964

April 17, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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April 2021 TNM

The April 2021 TNM completed rounds 1 and 2 this past Tuesday, and if you watched it, you got to see a great show. There were many exciting games to follow, but definitely the game of the round was between Jonah Busch and IM Josiah Stearman in round 2. Stearman is well known for his inclination for very aggressive play, and quite often produces some of the most exciting games. As a consequence, his looseness with the pieces can get him into some trouble, and it did so on Tuesday against a very solid and patient player. In a completely lost position, Stearman played on, patiently waiting to create chaos and opportunities, like a wolf patiently waiting in the night to pounce on its prey. Jonah fell into time pressure, and Stearman continued to press, and then the opportunity came in a stunning tactical shot that seemd to turn the tide, though later analysis showed the position could still be held. But in serious time trouble against a top master would be too much and Stearman pulled out the win. The moments were captured on the broadcast, and was certainly must see TV.

In honor of this epic game and the drama that played out, Lex Huberts was inspired to produce this poem:

TNM-Underdogs

Josiah lashes out, willing white's King on his tush.

But Jonah judiciously refutes the 'amBusch'.

The attacker's strength and initiative dwindle,

Now Rxb3! – the Master's sensational swindle.

A loss in the books, the game still a gem.

Only heart-broken till Tuesday, when we try again.

No doubt one of the exciting parts about watching events like the TNM on the stream is the ability to watch in real time underdogs get their shot at glory. As most of us reading are underdogs relative to the top players, we know the feeling of excitement and disappointment all too well. But the underdogs always come back to fight another day, improving their game, and waiting for another opportunity to produce the game of their lives. Even these losses inspire memoroes and stories that live on for the underdogs and favorites alike, and the poem captures that feeling very well.

The coverage of this match and the feeling of the opportunity of a major upset was caught here starting at the 1:30:00 mark: https://www.twitch.tv/videos/986752163 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.twitch.tv/videos/986752163)

At 2:05:30, we see the beginning of the turnaround. Enjoy!

In another exciting game in the top section, IM Brian Escalante and NM Michael Wang played to a draw, and Chelsea Zhou took advantage of a time pressure blunder ny IM Elliott Winslow to score the upset of the round. Top seed GM Gadir Guseinov rolled through his forst two games to also stay perfect, and NM Ruiyang Yan's counter punch style of play came through for her in remaining perfect after 2 rounds.

In the under 1800 section, Mechanics' veteran Sos Hakobyan (SacrificeAndCrush) is among the perfect scores, along with Sebby Suarez, Rajtilak Jagannathan, Michael Xiao, Aryan Renjith, and Ivan Zong. It is exciting for us to see many new names participating in the TNM, particularly in the bottom section. We always welcome new players to take part in our flagship event.

Here are some games from the first two rounds, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(13) Jonah Busch (Kondsaga) (2014) - IM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2525) [D10]

MI April TNMo Chess.com (2.3), 13.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.f3 An unusual move in the Exchange Slav. It does have the point that the game becomes much more dynamic that the usual boring lines. **5...Nc6 6.e4 e6** [probably better theoretically is 6...dxe4 7.d5 Ne5 8.fxe4 e6] **7.e5 Nd7 8.f4 Qb6 9.Nf3** Now we have a position like a French Defense. **9...Be7**

10.Be2 h6N [previously seen was 10...f6 11.Na4 Qd8 12.0-0 0-0 13.Be3 Nb6 14.Bf2 Nxa4 15.Qxa4 Bd7 16.Qb3 Na5 17.Qd3 f5 18.Rac1 Qb6 19.b3 Rac8 20.Be3 a6 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Rc1 Rxc1+ 23.Bxc1 Bb5 24.Qd1 Bxe2 25.Qxe2 Nc6 26.Be3 Qb4 27.Qb2 h6 28.Kf2 a5 29.Bd2 Qb6 30.Bc3 g5 31.fxg5 hxg5 32.h3 g4 33.hxg4 fxg4 34.Nh2 Nxe5 35.Kg3 Ng6 36.Nxg4 Qc7+ 37.Ne5 Bd6 38.Qd2 Bxe5+ 39.dxe5 Qf7 40.Qg5 Romanchuk,V (2258) -Kovalev,D (2487) Lichess.org INT 2021 1/2-1/2] **11.0-0 g5?** This is too aggressive. Safer is [11...a6] **12.Na4! Qc7 13.fxg5 hxg5 14.Bxg5** White is just a pawn ahead with better development. **14...f6 15.exf6 Nxf6 16.Rc1 Ng4 17.Bxe7 Rxh2!?**

Josiah is objectively lost so he tries to mix it up. Jonah keeps his cool. **18.Ne5 Ngxe5 19.dxe5 Qxe5 20.Bf6 Qg3 21.Bh5+ Kd7 22.Qf3!** forcing the queen trade into a won ending. We say "won" since it's bishop for a pawn. Josiah isn't close to giving up yet. **22...Qxf3 23.Bxf3 Rh7 24.Nc5+ Kc7 25.Nd3 Bd7 26.Ne5 Kd6 27.Rfe1 Rf8 28.Nxd7 Rxd7 29.Bh4 e5 30.Rcd1 Nd4 31.Rxd4** Giving back the exchange is good here. The position becomes simpler and is still completely winning. **31...exd4 32.Rd1 Rg7 33.Kf1 Rf4 34.Bf2 Kc5 35.Ke2 a5 36.Kd3 Rxg2** This is a good practical chance. If White gets to play Rc1+ and Bxd4 there is little Black could do. **37.Bxg2 Rxf2 38.Rd2 Rf4 39.Re2 Rg4 40.Kd2 Rg3 41.Rf2 a4 42.Bf1?!** 42. Bf3 would cut the path of the black rook and be a fairly straight forward technical win. **42...a3! 43.b3?**

[(+1.88) The best move was 43.Rf7! b5 44.b3] **43...Rxb3!** Josiah does it again! If 44. axb3 a2 queens. The game is even now. **44.Kc1 Re3 45.Re2 Rf3 46.Bg2 Rg3 47.Rf2 b5 48.Bf1 d3 49.Kd2 b4 50.Bxd3 b3! 51.axb3 a2 52.Rf1 Kb4 53.Bc2 Ka3 54.b4 Kb2 55.b5?** a time induced blunder, The game would still be a draw after [55.Bd3 Rg2+ 56.Be2 a1Q 57.Rxa1 Kxa1 58.Kd3 Ka2 59.b5 Kb3 60.b6 Rg8 61.Kd4 Rb8 62.Kxd5] **55...Rg2+** ouch **56.Kd3 Rxc2 57.b6 Rc3+ 58.Kd4 Rb3 59.Rf2+ Ka3 60.Rxa2+ Kxa2 61.Kc5 Rxb6 62.Kxb6 d4** White resigned. Another miracle comeback by Josiah.

(10) IM Brian Escalante (BrianEscalante) (2431) - NM Michael Wang (coalescenet) (2100) [B12]

MI April TNMo Chess.com (2.2), 13.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 This Fantasy Variation against the Caro-Kann is getting attention these days. **3...dxe4 4.fxe4 e5 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.c3** [Theorists may be interested in this game: 6.Bc4 Nd7 7.c3 Bd6 8.0-0 Ngf6 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Nbd2 b5 11.Bb3 c5 12.dxc5 Bxc5+ 13.Kh1 h6 14.Bh4 Be3 15.h3 Bh5 16.Qe1 Bf4 17.g3 Bxd2 18.Nxd2 Qb6 19.Bc2 Rac8 20.a3 a5 21.g4 Bg6 22.Qe2 Rfe8 23.Kh2 Nd5 24.Bf2 Qb7 25.Rad1 Nf4 26.Qe3 Nc5 27.Bg3 Nce6 28.Nf3 Nc5 29.Nxe5 Rxe5 30.Rxf4 Ree8 31.Re1 b4 32.axb4 axb4 33.cxb4 Qxb4 34.Qc3 Qb7 35.Qe3 Qxb2 Wei,Y (2732)-Ding,L (2791) Chess. com INT 2020 0-1 (68)] **6...Nf6 7.Bc4 Nbd7?!** [Stockfish suggests 7...Bh5 8.0-0 Bd6 9.Bg5 Nbd7 10.Nbd2 with a small edge to White; 7...Nxe4? 8.Bxf7+!] **8.0-0?!** [8.Qb3! Bh5 9.Ng5 Qe7 10.Qxb7 wins a pawn] **8...b5 9.Be2N Bd6 10.Bg5 Qc7 11.h3 Bh5 12.Nbd2 0-0 13.a4 a6 14.Nh4 Bg6 15.Nf5 Rae8 16.axb5 axb5 17.Bd3 Nh5 18.g4?!**

18...Bxf5! 19.Rxf5 f6 20.gxh5 [20.Bh4 Nf4; 20.Be3 exd4 21.cxd4 Bh2+ wins] **20...fxg5 21.Qb3+?!** [21.Qg4 exd4 22.cxd4 Rxf5 23.Qxf5 Bc5 24.Kg2 Bxd4 25.e5 Nf8 is only slightlty better for Black] **21...Kh8 22.Raf1 Rxf5** [22...exd4! 23.cxd4 Bf4 leaves Black in control] **23.Rxf5 exd4 24.cxd4 Bf4 25.Qf7 Rg8** [25...Qd8! 26.h6 Be3+ 27.Kh1 Bxd4] **26.Nf3 Qa7? 27.Kg2?** [27.Kf2! has the difference that on 27...Qa1 28.Qxd7 Qxb2+ 29.Be2] **27...Qa1!**

28.Qxd7 Qxb2+ 29.Kf1 coalescenets active play has resulted in enough counterplay for a draw **29...Qc1+ 30.Ne1 Bd2 31.h6 Qxe1+ 32.Kg2 □ 32...Bf4!** now White has to force a draw as his own king is unsafe **33.hxg7+ Rxg7 □ 34.Rf8+ Rg8 □ 35.Rxg8+ Kxg8 □ 36.Qe8+ Kg7 □ 37.Qe7+ Kg8 38.Qe6+ Kg7 39.Qd7+ Kg8 40.Qg4 Qd2+ 41.Be2 Qxd4 42.Qe6+ Kg7 43.Qe7+ Kg6 44.Qe8+ Kg7 45.Qe7+ Kg6 46.Qe8+ Kg7 47.Qe7+** Game drawn by repetition. A great battle and a great result for coalescent to draw Escalante. **1/2-1/2**

(11) FM Max Gedajlovic (MMSANCHEZ) (2211) - Kevin Fong (chessappeals) (1561) [E71]

MI April TNMo Chess.com (1.7), 13.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 Na6 8.g4 Nc5 9.f3 a5 10.Qd2 [Players of the blacks side should wish to see the following game by the winner of Wijk aan Zee this year: 10.Nge2 Nfd7 11.h4 f5 12.g5 fxe4 13.fxe4 Nb6 14.Ng3 Rf4 15.Be2 a4 16.Qd2 Bd7 17.0-0-0 Qe7 18.Kc2 Bg4 19.Rdf1 Rxf1 20.Rxf1 Qd7 21.Bxc5 dxc5 22.Nd1 Bxe2 23.Qxe2 Qh3 24.Rf3 Qxh4 25.Qf2 Rf8 26.Rxf8+ Bxf8 27.Qf6 Qf4 28.Ne3 Qxf6 29.gxf6 Kf7 30.Ng4 Nd7 0-1 (30) Bartel, M (2648)-Van Foreest,J (2682) chess.com INT 2020] **10...b6 11.Nge2 Ne8N 12.Ng3** White has gotten the edge in the opening. Black needs to open the kingside where White is prepared for the ...f5 break **12...Kh8 13.h4 f5 14.Bg5 Bf6 15.gxf5 Bxg5?** This leads to big trouble, opening the h-file. [15...gxf5 16.exf5 Bxf5! 17.Nxf5 Bxg5 18.hxg5 Rxf5 19.g6 Nf6 is only slightly better for White] **16.hxg5 gxf5**

[16...Rg8 17.Rh6 Rg7 *(17...gxf5 18.Qh2 Rg7 19.g6)* 18.f6 is also very bad] **17.g6! Nf6 18.exf5 Qe7 19.Qg5 Qg7 20.Nce4 Ncxe4 21.fxe4**

21...h5?! This loses quickly, but there was nothing to do against the wall of white kingside pawns **22.Nxh5 Nxh5 23.Rxh5+ Kg8 24.Rh7 Qf6 25.Qh5** MMSANCHEZ won on time **1-0**

(12) Chelsea Zhou (mwncklmann) (1966) - IM Elliott Winslow (ecwinslow) (2240) [A76]

MI April TNMo Chess.com (2.5), 13.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.e4 Bg7 8.Be2 Classical development. [8.h3 0-0 9.Bd3 is the Modern System.] **8...0-0 9.0-0 Re8** [More relaxed is 9...Bg4 Black has some over-concentration of forces so forces and exchange.; or first 9...a6 10.a4 Bg4] **10.Qc2** The older line, keeping open hopes of an effective Bf4. [10.Nd2 has taken over as the most popular move.] **10...Na6** [10...Qe7!? is recommended in J.Doknjas' 2020 Benoni repertoire, with some sharp justifications. The text move was seen back in the amazing (but not entirely sound) Averbakh-Tal game in 1958.] **11.a3** [That game went famously 11.Bf4 Nb4 12.Qb1 and now 12...Nxe4?! Tal admitted later that this should have been a problem, but he couldn't resist. 13.Nxe4 Bf5 14.Nfd2 Nxd5 15.Bxd6? *(15.Bg3* avoids problems and remains on top *15...Bh6 16.Bb5)* 15...Nf6 and Black won brilliantly.] **11...Nc7 12.h3 b5** If Black gets this in without paying a price, then his opening was a success.

13.Re1!N [A previous game was odd: 13.Nxb5 Rxe4 14.Ng5 Re7 15.Nxc7 Qxc7 16.Rd1 Rb8 17.Rb1 a5 18.b3 Bb7 19.Bc4 Rbe8 20.Bb5 Rb8 21.Bc4 Rbe8 22.Bb5 Ra8 and White resigned? You can't trust databases. Vingris,M (1641)-Sarauskas,A (1900) Plateliai 2020] **13...a6?!** [13...Rb8 and ...a5 has more kick to it.] **14.Bf1** Still, White has consolidated the center, and Black might need a plan forward, else White just brings the remaining forces into the game and eventually breaks with e5. **14...Bb7** trying to stop the advance by pressuring d5 **15.Bf4 Rc8 16.Rad1**

16...b4?! Probably not at all good, as now White has the c4 square. [16...Qd7 with, again, ... a5; but later doubling on the e-file will again run into e5!] **17.Nb1** Critical move. **17...Nb5** Black tries to apply pressure on the queenside. **18.Bxb5** Making a mess of Black's nice majority but allowing dynamic counterplay. [The computer points out 18.a4!? Nd4 19.Nxd4 cxd4 20.Qd3 and carefully return the knight to the center; Black's d-pawn is ultimately doomed.] **18...axb5 19.axb4 cxb4** Black here starts to burn his clock time: White: 9:07 Black: 6:46. **20.Qd3 Qd7!?** The bes move, but here Black used a huge chunk of time trying to make other moves work. Panic must have set in. [20...Rc4?!; 20...Qb6?!] **21.b3** [21.Bh2] **21...Re7**

[21...Nh5 22.Bh2 Rc5!?] **22.Nd4?!** White pursues the b-pawn, but there was more housekeeping to do. [Here 22.Nbd2 Rc3 *(22...Rce8 23.Rc1)* 23.Qb1 stays in touch, when Black doesn't have anything.] **22...Rce8** The game is lit afire, typical of the Benoni. **23.Qxb5?** Black has his chance now, but he messes it up. [Best was 23.f3 in spite of 23...Nxd5 24.Bg3 when one or the other b-pawn goes again, and White has the better structure. But still, Black has succeeded in opening up a bit for his bishops, and can play for more 24...Nf6 25.Qxb5 Nh5=/+] **23...Bxd5?** White: 3:42, Black: 1:04 Short on time, Black loses his way. [23...Rxe4! is a clear advantage after the exchanges die down: 24.Rxe4 Rxe4 25.Qxd7 Nxd7 26.Be3 Bxd4 27.Bxd4 Bxd5 28.Be3 Bxb3 29.Rxd6 Be6] **24.Qxd7 Nxd7 25.Bxd6?!** [25.f3 is solid, and a slight advantage.] **25...Rxe4 26.Rxe4 Rxe4 27.Nf3 Bxb3 28.Rc1**

28...Nb6 Around here Black had to admit it's not working, and let the b-pawn go for an even position. **29.Rc6 Nd7?** And the thread snaps. [Black could hold on with some tactics: 29...Bd4 30.Nxd4 Rxd4 31.Rxb6 Rd1+ 32.Kh2 Rxb1 33.Bxb4 Ba2 But with seconds remaining he just didn't find it.] **30.Nbd2 Re6 31.Nxb3?** White missteps as well! [31.Rc8++- provides an "intermezzo' trade on f8, and White is just up a piece.] **31...Bc3?** And here Black had a tactic: [31...Bf8! 32.Bxf8 Rxc6 33.Bxb4 Rb6 34.Nc5 Rxb4 35.Nxd7 Kg7 when White has a nominal advantage: while knights are supposed to play well when just on one side of the board, here there just isn't enough.] **32.Nbd4 Re4 33.Nb5** mwncklmann won on time **1-0**

(9) Phillip Gerstoft (pgstar3) (1861) - NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2118) [B22]

MI April TNMo Chess.com (1.6), 13.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.exd6 [more usual is 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4] **5...e6 6.g3 Bxd6 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 Nd7 9.d4 N7f6** This is a little passive. Black could get immediate queenside play with [9...b5] **10.Qe2N** [Previously seen was 10.c4 Ne7 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Nc3 Nc6 13.a3 a5 14.Na4 Be7 15.Be3 e5 16.Nb6 Rb8 17.Nxc8 Qxc8 18.Qe2 Re8 19.Qc2 Qc7 20.Rad1 Rbd8 21.h3 b6 22.Ng5 Bc5 23.Ne4 Nxe4 24.Bxe4 g6 25.Bd5 Ne7 26.Bg5 Rd6 27.Bxe7 Qxe7 28.Kg2 Kg7 29.Rde1 Qg5 30.f4 Qh5 31.g4 Qh4 32.fxe5 Rd7 33.Qc3 Rc7 34.b4 axb4 35.axb4 Bf8 36.Re3 h5 37.Ref3 hxg4 38.Rxf7+ Rxf7 39.Rxf7+ Kh6 Trbojevic,M (2373)-Szabo,B (2414) Bol 2014 1-0] **10...h6 11.Rd1 Qe7** [11...cxd4!] **12.Nbd2?!** [more aggressive is 12.c4 Nb4 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.a3 Nc6 15.Nc3] **12...Bd7 13.Nb3 cxd4 14.c4 Nb6 15.Nfxd4**

15...e5 16.Nb5 Bxb5 17.cxb5 Rad8 18.Be3 Rfe8 [better to block the long diagonal right away with 18...e4 19.a4 Nbd5] **19.a4 e4** now the timing is off **20.a5! Nc8 21.Bh3 Bb8 22.Bc5 Nd6 23.Nd4** [23.a6 would nicely fix the a7 pawn as a long term target] **23...Qe5 24.b4 Nd5 25.Rac1 f5?** [It was time to break out with 25...e3 26.fxe3 Ne4 to get active play right away.] **26.a6!**

Now White takes over the queenside and has a decisive edge **26...Ne7** [26...b6 27.Nc6] **27.axb7 Nxb7 28.Bxe7 Rxd4** [28...Qxe7 29.Nxf5] **29.Rxd4 Qxd4**

30.Bc5? [30.Qa2+ Kh8 31.Qf7! would finish the game quickly. Now Black gets chances.] **30...Qe5?!** [30...Nxc5 31.bxc5 e3!] **31.Be3 Nd6 32.Bf1 Qe7 33.Bc5 Qf6 34.Qa2+ Kh8 35.Bxa7 Bxa7 36.Qxa7 f4 37.Rc6?** [Black is getting activity but White could keep a big advantage with the accurate 37.Qa1! Qf7 38.Qd4] **37...e3!**

jij2018 won on time [The game is messy now and White needs to be accurate to keep equality 37...e3 38.Qa2! would hold, but not *(38.fxe3 fxg3 39.hxg3 Qf3!)*] **0-1**

To watch the broadcast from Tuesday night, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98ixTzV-em8 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98ixTzV-em8)

SwissSys Standings. April 2021 TNM: 1800+

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2674	W34	W14	
2	Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)	josiwales	14006506	2494	W26	W17	
3	Eric Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	kingandqueen2017	15688436	2344	W27	W16	
4	Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)	jij2018	15462690	2242	W20	W18	
5	Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	MMSanchez	14947382	2141	W28	W24	
6	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2135	W21	W22	
7	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	mwncklmann	15239016	1870	W33	W13	
8	Brian Escalante (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16836558)	BrianEscalante	16836558	2542	W19	D10	
9	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	microbear	13778105	2203	H---	W25	
10	Michael Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13605850)	coalescenet	13605850	2098	W36	D8	
11	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	SmilyFace4	15176393	2027	D31	W29	
12	Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	KyronGriffith	12860484	2490	H---	H---	

	12860484)						
13	Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W35	L7	
14	David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)	David_Askin	13776967	2041	W30	L1	
15	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	L22	W31	
16	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	ashikuzzaman	13178575	1940	W32	L3	
17	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W23	L2	
18	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	twangbio	16291100	1871	W37	L4	
19	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	3Ke31-0	16380312	1832	L8	W36	
20	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	pgstar3	12913356	1788	L4	W37	
21	Pranav Sathish (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16464655)	championps	16464655	1768	L6	X34	
22	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	GiorgosTsolias	17266862	1679	W15	L6	
23	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	serverbusy	16408266	1644	L17	W35	
24	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	B---	L5	
25	Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	H---	L9	
26	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	16083648	1812	L2	D30	
27	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	uzkuzk	16434922	1809	L3	D32	
28	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	L5	D33	
29	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1766	H---	L11	
30	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	LightningDragon8	16761994	1745	L14	D26	
31	Callaghan McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	DoctorBanner	14948275	1700	D11	L15	
32	Shravan Sriram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15894655)	Ragingbeast360	15894655	1655	L16	D27	
33	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1512	L7	D28	
34	Samir Alazawi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14690016)	samiralazawi	14690016	1866	L1	F21	
35	Philip Warton (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12541460)	hypermod	12541460	1800	L13	L23	
36	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	Barok44	12440572	1759	L10	L19	
37	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	MechAnjin	12931024	1622	L18	L20	

SwissSys Standings. April 2021 TNM: u1800

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	Sos Hakobyan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14452712)	SacrificeandCrush	14452712	1771	W28	W13		
2	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	Sebbymeister	16875347	1414	W19	W16		
3	Rajtilak Indrajit Jagannathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109752)	rtindru	30109752	1369	W20	W17		
4	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	W21	W23		
5	Aryan Renjith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15027127)	SavageAryan	15027127	1274	W31	W9		
6	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	unr.	W14	W12		
7	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1456	D8	W18		
8	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1014	D7	W24		
9	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	ahyanzaman	15035222	1699	W15	L5		
10	Joshua Lamstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15487526)	aveevu	15487526	1632	L16	W29		
11	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	W29	U---		
12	Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)	boozerrip	13553308	1350	W30	L6		
13	Prescott Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16009618)	prescott00000	16009618	1309	W22	L1		
14	Massimo Jackson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17251318)	Mateojackson	17251318	1305	L6	W30		
15	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	SunnyCountry	16380657	1197	L9	W31		
16	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1180	W10	L2		
17	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020arEEEWS	16802870	1015	W25	L3		
18	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	984	W26	L7		
19	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	night_breeze	30055583	963	L2	W25		
20	Anton Bobkov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30162536)	texfan	30162536	unr.	L3	W26		
21	Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)	MrRap9	30118209	unr.	L4	W27		
22	Rayna Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30157975)	ihaveyourcat	30157975	unr.	L13	W28		
23	Andra Babigian (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30152085)	QueenGma	30152085	unr.	W27	L4		
24	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	unr.	H---	L8		

25	Daniel Marcus (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12905558)	radio_on	12905558	1458	L17	L19		
26	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	Echecsmike	12279170	1446	L18	L20		
27	Rodney Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16401545)	Bonaparte1984	16401545	1280	L23	L21		
28	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	andrewaballantyne	17079795	1227	L1	L22		
29	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1035	L11	L10		
30	Jordan Orpia (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30158430)	Jorpia42	30158430	unr.	L12	L14		
31	Victor Beauchamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30154650)	Greatboomer	30154650	unr.	L5	L15		

Thursday Night Marathon

Three rounds of 5 are complete in the April 2021 Thursday Night Marathon, and 4 players remain with perfect scores, including GM Gadir Guseinov, IM Elliott Winslow, NM Michael Walder, and Adam Mercado. There are some strong players right behind at 2.5 inclusing FM Kyron Griffith, FM Richar Koepcke, Kristian Clemens and Cailen Melville. Here are the current standings as we head into round 4 next week.

SwissSys Standings. TempTnmt: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2700	W30	W27	W11
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W19	W13	W12
3	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	flightsoffancy	10345120	2135	W32	W14	W15
4	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	a-boy415	16571026	1831	W20	W17	W21
5	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	kyrongriffith	12860484	2490	W18	H---	W23
6	FM Richard Koepcke (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10493269)	rkoepcke	10493269	2200	H---	W43	W22
7	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	D44	W28	W24
8	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	mangonel	14006141	1940	W34	W16	H---
9	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	chesspilot01	15424820	2084	W33	F15	W29
10	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	L35	W46	W30
11	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	kingsmasher35	12797931	1822	W46	W35	L1
12	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	uzkuzk	16434922	1809	W45	W25	L2
13	Leo Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061785)	mu3tang	16061785	1765	W37	L2	W33
14	Callaghan McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	W38	L3	W34
15	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	zenwabi	11296106	1643	W39	X9	L3

	11296106)						
16	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	bigchampionofchess	16600505	1610	W40	L8	W35
17	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	W48	L4	W38
18	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1443	L5	W36	W26
19	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L2	W37	W27
20	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2nf31-0	16425316	978	L4	W48	W43
21	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	night_breeze	30055583	unr.	W29	W26	L4
22	NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	H---	W31	L6
23	Zachi Baharav (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13464604)	fastzachi	13464604	1813	H---	W44	L5
24	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	H---	W41	L7
25	Jaryd Saevitzon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30144616)	thejuicerisloose	30144616	unr.	B---	L12	H---
26	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	W47	L21	L18
27	Bryan Lynch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15493651)	nycsheep	15493651	1769	W36	L1	L19
28	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	D41	L7	D31
29	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1512	L21	W45	L9
30	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	loltheawesomedude	16497860	1455	L1	W47	L10
31	Nick Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	nxbex	16154827	1433	H---	L22	D28
32	Darren Yin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12846430)	dareonion	12846430	1323	L3	L38	W44
33	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	bruce_hedman	17344551	1035	L9	W39	L13
34	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	figsnoring	16551291	999	L8	W40	L14
35	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	charvii	16816706	984	W10	L11	L16
36	Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	vincitore51745	12814843	619	L27	L18	B---
37	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	unr.	L13	L19	W48
38	Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)	greenninja2019	30015889	unr.	L14	W32	L17
39	Sean Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30149285)	seanyliu	30149285	unr.	L15	L33	W46
40	Jeff Rosengarden (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105422)	jrosengarden	30105422	unr.	L16	L34	W47
	Joshua Lu						

41	**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30127073)**	**probablyjosh**	30127073	unr.	D28	L24	H---
42	**Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)**	**serverbusy**	16408266	1644	H---	U---	U---
43	**Jacob Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)**	**jacobchess857**	17083655	1623	H---	L6	L20
44	**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	**aanval22**	14257838	1014	D7	L23	L32
45	**Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)**	**caodanny**	16939797	887	L12	L29	H---
46	**Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)**	**jakech1123**	17144246	946	L11	L10	L39
47	**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	**andrejsg**	16741331	826	L26	L30	L40
48	**Kaori Nguyen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30156281)**	**sillybunnyy**	30156281	unr.	L17	L20	L37

Reciprocity Partnership With Marshall Chess Club

The Mechanics' Institute and the Marshall Chess Club entered into a partnership last year in which we agreed to recognize each organization's members so that our players can enjoy the benefits our respective clubs. Now that there are so many course offerings and USCF online-rated events, we wanted to let our chess community know again that if you are a member of the Mechanics' Institute (meaning you have a membership card and paid the annual fee), you may enjoy playing at Marshall or taking one of their courses at the Marshall member rate. Marshall has also promoted this reciprocity agreement with Mechanics' Institute in their newsletter the Marshall Spectator. To subscribe to their newsletter, please follow this link: https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f).

To see their list of events, click this link: https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming)

If you are a member and wish to be added to the list of members to participate in Marshall events, please send an email to chessroom@milibrary.org and list your USCF number. We will verify membership and place you on the list.

We look forward to this partnership between our two historic clubs in an effort to continue bringing communities together through chess!

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 4/20: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1105510 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1105510)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20220129013131/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:00-7:00PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: Modern Chess Openings (MCO) with GM Nick de Firmian with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: April 5 - May 10, 2021

   Modern Chess Openings was a revolutionary text, and it has come back to life as it was featured in The Queen's Gambit. Mechanics' Institute Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian was the editor of several editions of that book and now it will come to life as a class! This will be club players of various strengths and will focus on about 5 key openings. He will cover open game openings that reinforce fundamentals such as piece development, control of the center and king safety, and he will also cover more complex openings that need deeper understanding such as the Sicilian, Queen's Gambit, and Ruy Lopez. The purpose of this class is to gain a better understanding of the ideas behind playing these openings and what to look for. The class will be interactive and engaging. FM Paul Whitehead will also be on to facilitate the class. The class will be fluid and interaction in the class is encouraged. We hope to enlighten the student on what it means to play openings and hpw they can lay the foundation for the course of the entire game. More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**
   Next session starts on
   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: Next class starts June. Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021)
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **Last week of: The Art of Defense! with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: March 3 through April 7 (6 classes)
   We all want to attack, but to be comfortable and skillful at defense is just as important.
   Learn how to safeguard your king and drum up counter play using chapters and examples taken from The Art of Defense in Chess, by Polugaevsky and Damsky (1988).
   Stalemate, Blockade, Trench Warfare, Counterattack, Traps: these are just a few of the concepts we will take up in this six-week course.
   Be prepared for a little homework - and become a chess player who's hard to beat!
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-defense-fm-paul-whitehead)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofDefensebyFMPaulWhitehead)

   New course will set to **start April 21 and go until May 26** - **The Art of Attack with FM Paul Whitehead**
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead-2021-spring (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/art-attack-chess-fm-paul-whitehead-2021-spring)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TheArtofAttackinChessbyFMPaulWhitehead)

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:

4/20 Tuesday - April 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/april-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/april-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Join Now! Started April 1, 2021 Thursday Night Marathon
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-april-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-april-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129013131/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/20220129013131/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/20220129013131/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Upcoming Tournament Schedule
Scholastic Game of the Week

Spring Session of our Virtual Chess Classes are starting
March 22 through May 31
Not too late to join - Prorating is available!

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring) - 2 spots left
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Tuesdays 3-4PM

- Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTUESDAYS34PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Thursdays 4-5PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring) - 1 spot left
- Advanced Class with Coach Andy – Thursdays 5-6PM - FULL
- Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) – Friday 3-4PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring) - 3 spots left!

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129013131/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Monday, Apr 19: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423862 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423862)
- Tuesday, Apr 20: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423863 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423863)
- Wednesday, Apr 21: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423865 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423865)
- Thursday, Apr 22: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423866 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423866)
- Friday, Apr 23: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423868 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423868)
- Sunday, Apr 25: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423870 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=423870)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments on the weekends

4/18 Sunday - 8SS G/5+2 affecting USCF Online Blitz rating.
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentApr18SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013131/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentApr18SUN)

Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(3) zzng (1463) - NextWhiteFirebird (1066) [B04]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nf3 Woops! That pawn is hanging! [The move you usually see is 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 *(3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6)* 3...d6 4.Nf3 (More aggressive is 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 *(5.exd6* is the "middle road"))] **2...Nxe4 3.Qe2 Nf6**

4.Ng5N [Usually Black quietly mobilizes but sometimes there is a drastic and sudden end: 4.d4 g6 5.Bg5 Bg7 6.c3 0-0 7.Qe3 Ng4 8.Qe4 d5 9.Qxe7? Re8 10.Bd3 Rxe7+ 11.Bxe7 Qxe7+ 0-1 (11) Burbano Garcia,J-Montano Velasco,M (1354) Chess.com INT 2020] **4...h6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Nc3 Nb4 7.Qd1 d6 8.a3 Nbd5 9.Nxd5 Nxd5 10.Bc4 Nf4 11.0-0**

11...e5? How can this be wrong? **12.c3** [12.d4! is an ongoing shot, playing on the knight on f4.] **12...e4** [12...d5! 13.Ba2 e4 puts the extra pawn to good use] **13.Re1 f5** [13...d5!] **14.Qb3 Be7**

[14...d5! snuffs out any danger.] **15.Bf7+??** [15.d3! Nxd3 16.Bxd3 exf3 17.Bc4 back to the diagonal – with some advantage!] **15...Kf8 16.Nd4 c5** [16...d5! would have taught that bishop a lesson.] **17.Ne6+ Bxe6 18.Bxe6**

Black has done well with his big extra center pawn, but now starts to fumble. **18...Nd3** [18...d5! 19.Bxf5 Nd3 20.Rf1 *(or 20.Re3 c4* as well*)* 20...c4! About White's permanently entombed rook and bishop.. .] **19.Re3 Nf4?!** [19...g6! guards the f-pawn and gives the king g7.] **20.Bxf5 Qe8?** and that finishes it. [20...d5 puts up a better fight, although 21.c4 g6 22.Bg4 and what should have been a proud pawn center will soon be ruins.] **21.Bxe4 Qh5 22.Rf3 Qe5 23.d3 Bf6 24.h3** Perhaps White didn't notice that 23.d3 was also a discovered attack!? **24...Ne2+ 25.Kf1 Nxc1 26.Rxc1 Qh2**

27.Bg6 White remembers f7, and it's over! **27...Qh1+ 28.Ke2 Qxc1 29.Qf7#** zzng won by checkmate **1-0**

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 10: Lasker – Janowski 1910

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Lasker's next title defense was against the Polish born David Janowski, now a Frenchman and a strong player with a wealthy patron, Leo Nardus. Lasker had already played two exhibition matches with his challenger: the first held in early 1909 drawn at +2 -2 =0, and the second later that year won by Lasker +7 -1 = 2. Now the optimistic challenger had another shot – third time lucky? Janowski had great confidence in his play, and had said of the World Champion: "Lasker's game was not chess, but dominoes." But it was not to be. With a large purse in hand donated by Nardus, Lasker crushed Janowski in a one-sided brawl +8 -0 =3.

Lasker's play was a bit shaky sometimes, and he extricated himself out of some lost positions. Perhaps he was 'playing down' to his opponent's skill level. Nevertheless, it was often Janowski himself who overreached, and in the very first game made an atrocious blunder:

Lasker – Janowski, 1st Match Game 1910. [01]

Black played **1...Rd6??** and the vulnerability of the back rank was clearly felt after the simple **2.Rxd5 Rxd5 3.Qxd5!** Janowski played one more move **3...Qxb4** and resigned after **4.Rxc6 1-0.**

Not an auspicious start!

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1. Janowski – Lasker, 4th Match Game 1910.

Black moves. How did Lasker deal with the looming kingside threats?

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2. Lasker – Janowski, 5th Match Game 1910.

White moves. Black threatens the knight on d4, therefore…

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3. Janowski – Lasker, 8th Match Game 1910.

Black moves. Can you boil it down?

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4. Lasker – Janowski, 9th Match Game 1910.

White moves. **1.gxh5 Bxf5** and black can fight. Does white have better?

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5. Janowski – Lasker, 10th Match Game 1910.

White moves. **1…Rd7** is threatened. Can he find a way to survive?

GM Nick de Firmian

Vegas Baby! US Chess returns live in June

The National Open in Las Vegas has always been one of the biggest annual tournaments on the US chess calendar, often drawing over a thousand participants. It is scheduled this year June 16-20 and the organizers are preparing for the triumphant return of over-the-board tournament play. Many of our Mechanics' Institute players are planning to play, including former MI President Vince McCambridge. The $100,000 prize fund and showtime atmosphere are enticing many chess players to finally venture out from the pandemic lockdown. Of course you must decide if the world is safe enough for the travel and hotel venue (the Westgate, where Elvis used to stay). The tournament organizers and hotel staff are implementing safety measures, such as spraying the room between rounds, but everyone has their own individual measure of what is risky these days.

Of the tens of thousands of chess players who have played in the National Open chess festivals over the years there is one player that springs to mind who completely embodied the spirit of Las Vegas chess and gaming: Walter Browne. Browne was a six-time US Chess Champion who dominated US chess in the 1970s and was also a professional poker player. He was born in Australia but came to the US as a teenager and settled in the Bay Area in his twenties. His frenetic activity would see him playing intense time scrambles in the classical games, followed by scores of his beloved blitz chess and topped off by late night poker sessions. Walter died in Las Vegas in June 2015 at the age of 66 after completing the National Open and a poker tournament. We give below a couple of his games these Las Vegas events.

(1) Browne,Walter S (2450) - Georgiev,Vladimir (2560) [B07]

Las Vegas National op Las Vegas (5), 10.03.2002

In 2002 Browne was past his prime as a chess player, but still a force to be rekoned with even by the top seeds of the tournament. **1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5!? 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Bc4 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6**

This opening was a popular defense for a time. The black e-pawns cover important central squares so it is difficult for White to achieve much advantage. **8.Be3! Bb4 9.0-0-0+ Nbd7 10.Nge2 Ke7?!** [Georgiev sees that 10...Ng4 11.Bg5+ Be7 12.Bxe7+ Kxe7 13.f3! Nf2? 14.Rxd7+ Kxd7 15.Rf1 wins material for White. Still, this line would be an improvemnet for Black if he would just retreat on move 13 with ...Nf6.] **11.f3 a6 12.Rd3** Walter has a solid setup and now proceeds to slowly build on his edge. **12...c5 13.a3 Ba5 14.Rhd1 Rhc8 15.g4! c4 16.R3d2 Rc7 17.h3 h6 18.f4!** To break through White must allow Black to undouble the pawns. Yet White gets more squares after the pawn exchange. **18...exf4 19.Bxf4 e5**

20.g5! hxg5 [20...exf4 21.gxf6+ Nxf6 22.e5! wins due to the knight fork on d5] **21.Bxg5 Kf7 22.Rd6 Nc5?** [22...Rh8 would keep Black in the game. Now Browne gets through to the black king,] **23.Bxf6 gxf6 24.Rf1 Rh8 25.Rfxf6+ Ke8 26.Rd5 Bxc3 27.Nxc3 Nd7 28.Re6+ Kf7 29.Rdd6 Rxh3 30.Nd5**

material is even, but the white forces work beautifully together to attack **30...Rh1+ 31.Kd2 c3+ 32.bxc3 Nc5 33.Rf6+ Kg7 34.Rg6+ Kh7 35.Nxc7 Nxe4+ 36.Ke3 Re1+ 37.Kf3 Nxd6 38.Rxd6 Ra1 39.Rb6 Rxa3 40.Nd5** The piece up ending is an easy win. **40...Ra2 41.Rxb7+ Kg6 42.Ke4** Georgiev resigned. **1-0**

(2) Browne,Walter S - Grefe,John A [B46]

Las Vegas op Las Vegas (6), 15.03.1973

This is a meeting of these two icons of Bay Area chess John Grefe was US Champion in 1973, yet Browne was even more of a force in the 1970s. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.g3 Nge7** Grefe's favorite line in his Taimanov Sicilian **7.Nb3!** avoiding exchanges to keep Black cramped **7...Na5 8.Qh5 Nec6 9.Bg2 Be7 10.0-0 d6 11.Nxa5 Nxa5 12.e5 d5 13.Qg4 Kf8 14.Bf4 Bd7 15.Rad1 Rc8 16.Qh5**

16...Rxc3?! The exchange sacrifice looks excellent in the short term as the white pawn structure is crippled on the queenside. Yet in the long term Black will have to pay a price for a lower valued piece. **17.bxc3 Bb5 18.Rfe1 Bc4 19.Rd4 Kg8?!**

20.Bh6! g6 [20...gxh6? 21.Qxh6 simply wins since the white rook attacks from the fourth rank] **21.Qg4 b5 22.Bh3 Qd7** [22...Qc7? 23.Qxe6! fxe6?! 24.Bxe6#] **23.Rf4 Nc6 24.Qf3 Nd8 25.Rb1 Qc7 26.Re1 a5 27.a3 a4 28.Bg4** White has a big advantage but it's not easy to break through. Grefe loses patience and finally grabs the "loose" white a-pawn. **28...Bxa3?**

29.Rxc4! bxc4 30.Qf6 Bf8 This avoids mate, but at the cost of a rook. **31.Bxf8 Kxf8 32.Qxh8+ Ke7 33.Qf6+ Ke8 34.Ra1 1-0**

Solutions

1. Janowski – Lasker, 4th Match Game 1910.

The World Champion found the stunning **1…h5!!** and white's position fell apart like a house of cards: **2.Qxh5 Nf4!** The point: black wins the exchange. **3.Qg4 Nxe2+ 4.Qxe2 exf5 5.Qh5 Bd5 6.Rd3 f6 7.Rh3 fxe5 8.Qh7+ Kf7 9.Qxf5+ Ke8.** Cool as a cucumber. **10.Qh5+ Bf7 11.Qxe5+** and **0-1.** After **11…Qe7** or **11…Re7** white has run out of gas.

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2. Lasker – Janowski, 5th Match Game 1910.

The challenger had a won game just a few moves earlier, but you can't let the Big Fish off the hook. Lasker delivered a roundhouse blow with the exchange sacrifice **1.Rxf6! gxf6** and then muscled his way into the c6 square with **2.Bf3! Qe5 3.Nxa7+ Kc7 4.Naxc6** for a crushing knockout: **4…bxc6 5.Rxc6+ Kb8 6.Rb6+! Kc8 7.Qc1+ Kd7 8.Nxe6 fxe6 9.Rb7+ Ke8 10.Bc6+ 1-0.** If now **10…Kf8 11.Qh6+** and mate next move.

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3. Janowski – Lasker, 8th Match Game 1910.

Lasker forced the queens off with **1…Qe3!** into a winning knight ending. White could not resist, for example: **2.Qf7 Nf3+ 3.Kg2 Qe2+ 4.Kh3 Ng5#.** White decided to go with the program: **2.Qxe3 Nf1+! 3.Kh3 Nxe3 4.Nd4 Kg5 5.Nb3 Nc4 6.g4 Kf4 7.Kh4 Ke3 8.Kg5 Ke3 9.Kxg6 Kc3.** Black's knight easily deals with the g-pawn by itself. **10.Kf6** There is nothing better. **10…Kxb3 11.g5 Kc3 12.g6 Nd6.** If now **13.Ke6 (13.g7 Ne8+** and **14…Nxg7) Ne8 14.Kf7 b3! 15.Kxe8 b2 16.g7 b1(Q) 17.g8(Q) Qb8+** wins, so Janowski resigned. **0-1.**

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4. Lasker – Janowski, 9th Match Game 1910.

Lasker interposed the pawn-fracturing desperado **1.Nxg7!** and black's 2 bishops were not enough: **1…Bxg4 2.Nxh5 Bxh5 3.R1d2 h6 4.Rd7!** Forces the exchange of queens, after which black's many weaknesses will tell against him. **4…Qb6 5.Qxb6 Rxb6 6.Rd8 c5 7.f5!** Lasker goes straight for the attack, in this case the surest way to win. **7…cxb4 8.Rg2+ Kh7 9.Rxf8 b3 10.Rgg8! 1-0.** Black can avoid mate only by terrible loss of material.

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5. Janowski – Lasker, 10th Match Game 1910.

Under a bit of pressure, Janowski played the pointless **1.h4??** weakening the kingside and recklessly disregarding black's threat. He stood little chance after **1…Rd7!** with the clean win of the e4 pawn. As usual, Lasker's technique is superb, ruthless: **2.Nb5 (2.Nc8+ Kd8 3.Nd6? Kc7 -+) 2…Nxe4 3.Kb3 Nf6 4.Rc6 Rd3+ 5.Rc3 Rxc3+ 6.Nxc3 Ke6.** Knight endings are as Pawn endings. So the saying goes. **7.Kc2 Kf5 8.Kd3 Kg4 9.Ke3 Kg3! 10.h5 gxh5** Leaving white without a glimmer of hope. **11.Nb5 h4 12.Nd6 Kxg2 13.Nf5 h3 14.Nh4+ Kg3 15.Nf5+ Kg4 0-1.**

With a little more grit, Janowski could have saved himself with the stubborn **1.Ra6!** marking time. Now after **1…Rd7 2.Nc8+!** gives white just enough counterplay against the black e-pawn to hold the balance. There are many possibilities. For example: **2…Kd8 3.Na7! Nxe4 4.Nc6+ Kc7 5.Nxe5 Rd2+ 6.Kb3 Rxg2 7.Ra7+ Kd6 8.Nc4+** and **9.Rxh7.** White's knight works miracles.

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Newsletter #965

April 24, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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2021 US Junior Chess Congress Draws Record 962 Participants!

The 2021 US Junior Chess Congress was held last weekend, with a record 962 participants taking part in the weekend's festivities! The tournament included the two-day main event, a one-day blitz side event on Chess.com, and a one-day booster event on Chesskid. This USCF national scholastic championship event had sections based on age level, so the ratings of players within a section could vary considerably. The sections of this event were age 6/u, 8/u, 10/u, 12/u, 14/u, and age 16 and 18/u. All the sections were 5-round, one-day events, except for the 16 and 18/u section, which was a 2-day 6-round event with a time control of G/60+5. Many of the stronger players played up to the two-day event, as they were not restricted to playing in their age specific section. This was a joint collaboration between the Mechanics' Institute and Chess Weekend.

What really stood out throughout the weekend was the strength of many players. The age 6/u section saw 6 players rated over 1000, and the age 8/u section had a player rated 1870. The online nature of this event gave more opportunity for inclusion for many kids, allowing them to participate in a national event that may otherwise been a challenge due to costs of travel. This just shows when barriers to participation are removed, kids play tournament chess in great numbers. It was a pleasure to follow the competitiveness of the kids throughout the weekend, and to see the social interaction and fun in the Zoom rooms amongst the kids.

Players from all across the country participated in this online event, which had a staff of 20 TD's, organizers, and commentators. NTD/FA Glenn Panner was the Chief TD of this event with USCF Senior TD/FA Judit Sztaray managing the TD staff in the virtual backroom. NTD Maret Thorpe was in charge of the tournament computer and pairings with NTD John McCumiskey assisting. We want to thank all the TD's who helped manage the Zoom rooms for kids throughout the weekend. It was an all-star cast of experienced TD's which included Danny Rohde, Martha Underwood, Sam Shoykhet, Tom Brownscombe, Jiten Patel, Aaron Thompson, Jonathan Martinez, Christina Schweiss, Al Losoff, Reka Sztaray, Jared Ruiz, and Eric Czerwin and Allyson Wong. Thanks also to my amazing partners in commentary GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead, and the special guests who joined us this weekend, which included IM John Donaldson, FM Kyron Griffith and FM Sunil Weeramantry.

To watch the broadcast of the all the weekend's action, please find the videos on our YouTube channel HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos)

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/juniorchesscongress#standings) for the full results. Congratulations to all the participants! All results are tentative, pending the completion of the fair play review.

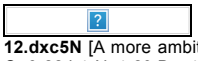
Here are some games from the championship event, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(8) NM Terry Luo (AGW2016) (2277) - Elijah Platnick (ElijahPlatnick) (2015) [E04] Age 16 and 18 and under

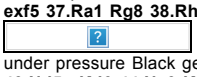
Live Chess Chess.com, 11.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Qa4 Bd7 7.Qxc4 The Open Catalan lets both sides have active piece play right from the start. **7...Na5 8.Qd3** [A good alternative is 8.Qc3] **8...c5 9.0-0 Bc6 10.Nc3 Be7 11.Rd1 0-0**



12.dxc5N [A more ambitious plan was seen in the following game 12.e4 Qb6 13.Be3 Rfd8 14.Ne5 cxd4 15.Bxd4 Qc7 16.Rac1 Bc5 17.Nd5 exd5 18.Rxc5 Nxe4 19.Rcc1 Qe7 20.Ng4 b6 21.Ne3 Qe6 22.b4 Nc4 23.Bxe4 Nxe3 24.Bxh7+ 1-0 (24) Eljanov,P (2723)-Goloshchapov,A (2586) Dubai 2014] **12...Qxd3 13.Rxd3 Bxc5 14.Ne5 Bxg2 15.Kxg2** The endgame is equal here. **15...Rfd8 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Rxd8+ Rxd8 19.Nd3 Bb6** [19...Be7] **20.Na4 Bd4 21.Rc1 b5 22.Nac5 Nc4 23.b3 Ne5 24.f4!? Ng4?!** [24...Nxd3 25.Nxd3 Bb6] **25.h3 Ne3+ 26.Kf3 f5 27.g4 Kg7 28.b4 Kf6?!** [28...Nc4] **29.Nb3** [29.Ne5! jumps in and causes trouble since Black cannot capture on e5] **29...Bb6 30.Nbc5 Nc4 31.a4 a6?!** [This puts the pawn on a target square. The game is about equal after 31...Nd2+ 32.Kg2 bxa4 33.Nxa4 Be3] **32.axb5?!** [32.a5! Bxc5 33.Nxc5 leaves Black suffering having to defend a6] **32...axb5 33.Ra1 Ke7 34.Ra2 fxg4+ 35.hxg4 f5 36.gxf5 exf5 37.Ra1 Rg8 38.Rh1 Rg6 39.Rh5 Nd6?!** [39...Nd2+ 40.Kf2 Ne4+ 41.Ke3 Ng3 42.Rh3 Ne4 keeps it level] **40.Ne5!** ± **40...Rf6?**



under pressure Black gets forked. Necessary was to move away with [40...Rg1 even though White wins a pawn] **41.Ncd7! Re6** its either a piece or the exchange and a pawn **42.Nxb6 Ne4 43.Nd5+ Kd6 44.Ne3 Kc7 45.Nxf5 Nd2+ 46.Ke3 Nf1+ 47.Kd4 Ra6 48.Rxh6 Ra4 49.Kc5 Ra2 50.Rh7+ Kb8 51.Nc6+ Ka8 52.Rh8+ Kb7** □ **53.Nd6+ Kc7 54.Rh7# 1-0**

(4) Brejesh Chakrabarti (Kochi222) (2023) - NM Sheena Zeng (stunningarbage) (2201) [A07] Age 16 and 18 and under

Live Chess Chess.com, 11.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c6 4.0-0 Bf5 5.d4 [Much more keeping in the spirit of the position is 5.d3] **5...e6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bg5 Nbd7**

8.Nfd2N White is going to try mightily to get e2-e4 in! **8...Qc7** A battery to nowhere -- g3 is too solid! **9.f3 e5 10.e4!** Certainly sensible, with Black not yet having castled. **10...dxe4 11.fxe4 Be6 12.Nb3?! h6 13.Bxf6 Nxf6** Black is doing well, having held the center and with the two bishops. **14.d5 cxd5 15.exd5 Bd7 16.Qe2 0-0 17.N1d2 Rad8** [17...a5!? to dislodge the knight with ...a4 **18.Rac1 Bc5+?** Counterproductive. [18...a5 is still available.] **19.Kh1** [19.Nxc5 Qxc5+ 20.Qf2] **19...Bg4** It'd be hard to admit that the bishop was worth keeping: [19...Bd6!] **20.Qc4 Bb6 21.Qxc7 Bxc7 22.c4 b6 23.h3 Bh5?!** In any other direction was better (e2, d7, c8) and keeps some advantage. **24.Ne4 Nd7 25.g4 Bg6 26.Nbd2 Nc5?!** White could get his pawns going now. [26...a5 first might do a better job of holding those pawns back.] **27.Nxc5 bxc5**

28.Nb3? But White has to know the idea! [28.b4! cxb4 *(28...Bd6 29.Be4!* clears the way on e4 for the knight, with a won game*.)* 29.c5+/- is the classic "Sealer-Sweeper" and the pawns are worth more than a piece.] **28...Bd6** Now Black is fine. **29.Rfe1** [29.Nd2! Maybe try again!] **29...f5** Black makes a break for it. **30.gxf5 Bxf5 31.Na5?!** [31.Nd2 -- e4 is the key square!] **31...Rf7** Black could bide his time more effectively: [31...Rb8 is a good stopper for now. 32.b3 e4!? offering to trade distant pawns, after which Black would have a couple passed pawns.] **32.Rc3?!** [32.b4!?] **32...Re8 33.Rce3 Bg6?** Neither player appreciates the dynamic possibilities in this sor of position. [33...e4! again, would be in Black's favor.] **34.Nc6 Rf2 35.Nxe5?!** [35.Be4 is a way to head for a draw, which Black gets by doubling rooks on the 7th.] **35...Bxe5?** [Black has chances after 35...Bf5 to get an advantage still.] **36.Rxe5 Rxe5?!** [36...Rd8 although White still sets up the precious connected passed pawns after 37.Re6 Bf5 38.Rc6 Rb8 39.Rf1! breaking up the danger on the 7th rank.] **37.Rxe5 Rd2 38.Re7** [38.b4! cxb4 39.c5 and there they are again.] **38...Bf5 39.Rxa7 Rd1+** Rather giving up. [Although admittedly 39...Rxb2 40.Rc7 Rxa2 41.d6! Rd2 42.Bd5+ Kh8 43.d7 is fairly prospectless as well.] **40.Kh2 Rd2 41.Kg3 Rxb2 42.a4 Rb4**

43.d6! Rb8 44.Bd5+ Kh7 45.d7 Rd8 46.Bc6 Kg6 47.a5 Kf6 48.a6 Ke7 49.Rb7 Kd6 50.a7 Kxc6 51.Rb8 Rxd7?! 52.a8Q+ Kd6 53.Qd5+ Ke7 54.Qxf5 Kochi222 won by resignation. Interesting and instructive from start to finish! **1-0**

(5) Anagha Dhurjati (amdink) (1269) - Jocelyn Chen (treehouseplant123) (1799) [B95] Age 10 and under

Live Chess Chess.com, 10.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qf3 A very old line in the Najdorf Sicilian, it has to be taken seriously, so seems a worthy surprise weapon. Nepomniachtchi has played it more than a couple times, as has Christopher Yoo. [7.f4 still remains the overwhelmingly Main Line.] **7...Be7** [7...Nbd7!? is recommended by Vigorito in his Playing the Najdorf book (2019), and is the most popular and best-scoring move.] **8.h4!?**

[Oh just play 8.0-0-0 like 85% of the games...] **8...e5?!N** [8...Nbd7 9.0-0-0 Qc7 like most games in the 6.Bg5 Najdorf, when h2-h4 will have to work to fit in.] **9.Nf5!+/-** with the standard light-square bind **9...Bxf5 10.Qxf5** [10.exf5!? is more troublesome for Black. d5 is still under control (since Bxf6 is always available).] **10...0-0?!** The modern trend in many sharp Najdorf lines is to castle in the face of White's kingside pawn storm! But here it's just not helping shake White's positional advantage (d5!). **11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.0-0-0 h6** As quietly as possibly, Black sets up... **13.g4??** [13.g3! padlocks the kingside, followed by Bh3 and trouble on that diagonal.] **13...Bxh4** Suddenly White is down a pawn. There is some compensation with the light squares and d5 in particular, but it's not enough. **14.f3??** [14.Bc4 Bg5+ *(14...g6?? 15.Qxg6++-)* 15.Kb1 Nc6-/+] **14...g6!**

Now it is, or should be, a slam dunk... **15.g5** [15.Qxe5 dxe5 16.Rxd8 Bxd8] **15...Bxg5+** [15...gxf5!] **16.Qxg5 Qxg5+ 17.Kb1 Nc6 18.Rxd6 Rad8 19.Rxd8 Rxd8 20.Bc4 b5 21.Bb3 a5?! 22.Nxb5 Qd2** [22...Qg2 23.Rc1 h5] **23.Nc3 Qg2 24.Rc1 Qxf3 25.a4 Nd4 26.Bc4 h5 27.Rf1 Qxf1+** Black blanches at the sight of a little blood. [27...Qg2 28.Rxf7 Qxc2+ 29.Ka2 Kh8 followed by another queen...] **28.Bxf1 h4 29.Nd5 Rxd5** And again! It's hard to say "blunder" when Black is still winning, and the technique of trading into an easily winning ending is often an excellent practical approach, but this doesn't really make it easier, does it? **30.exd5**

30...Kf8? But now it gets too close for comfort. And for the record, neither player was short on time. [30...e4 gets on with getting those FOUR passed pawns going (and should win); 30...Kg7 somehow also wins, according to the cryptic computer.] **31.c4?** [31.b4! creates the dreaded rook pawn vs. knight situation, and it might well be drawn. 31...axb4 32.a5 If Black doesn't want to lose (!) he must divert the bishop with 32...h3 33.Bxh3 Nb5 34.Kb2 Ke7 35.Kb3 Kd6 36.Kxb4 Nc7 37.c4! and both players must tread carefully for the draw. 37...f5! 38.Bg2 e4 39.Bh3! when all (or at least four) roads just lead to 0.00.] **31...Ke7?** [31...e4! 32.Kc1 e3 33.Kd1 Ke7 34.c5 g5 Black is swarming!] **32.Kc1?** [32.b4! still draws!] **32...g5** There are other moves, but this is now good enough. **33.c5** [33.b4 e4! (33...axb4 34.Kb2 Kd8! *(34...Kd6? 35.a5 Kc7 36.a6)* 35.a5 Kc8 36.a6 e4)] **33...g4 34.d6+ Kd7 35.Bb5+ Nc6 36.Kd1 g3** [36...h3 would require White unpin the knight, but Black is in control regardless.] **37.Ke1 h3 38.Kf1 h2 39.Kg2 f5 40.b4** Way too late! **40...axb4 41.a5 b3 42.Bxc6+** Not that it mattered -- it's raining passed pawns. **42...Kxc6 43.a6 b2 44.a7**

44...h1Q+ The standard trick. **45.Kxh1 b1Q+ 46.Kg2 Qa2+ 47.Kxg3 Qxa7 48.d7 Qxd7 49.Kf2 Kxc5 50.Kf1 Qd1+ 51.Kf2 e4 52.Ke3 Qf3+ 53.Kd2 Kc4 54.Ke1 Qg2 55.Kd1 Kc3 56.Ke1 Kd3 57.Kd1 Qd2#** All's well that ends well, but it could have been a disaster, after having one a queen for a bishop! **0-1**

(6) Henry Li (TeamLiquids1mple) (1635) - NM Sriram Krishnakumar (2008king) (2192) [C53] Age 16 and 18 and under

Live Chess Chess.com, 10.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Bg5 There are many other moves here, but this has certainly been run through by many of the absolute best. **6...h6** Most common. [6...a6 has done well as well.] **7.Bh4 g5** [Or 7...a6 here also has been seen a lot.] **8.Bg3 Qe7 9.Qc2**

[9.Nbd2 is more flexible and retains the possibility of the bishop retreating that way.] **9...Be6N** [And they're on their own. The only previous occasion for this position was another mismatch (but not as extreme!): 9...Bd7 10.h3 Bb6 11.Nbd2 Na5 12.0-0-0 Nh5 13.Nh2 Nf4 14.Bxf4 gxf4 15.b4 Nxc4 16.Nxc4 0-0-0 0-1 (40) Rojas,M (1689)-Chaves,J (2065) Dresden GER 2008] **10.Nbd2 Bb6 11.h3 0-0-0 12.Bxe6+ Qxe6 13.Nc4 Kb8 14.Nxb6 axb6 15.0-0** Not the safest place for White's king, what with those pawns already halfway to contact. [The best move was 15.a4 getting his own pawns going.] **15...Nh5** [If 15...Rdg8 16.Nd2 White could dodge the file opening with; But 15...g4! 16.hxg4 Rdg8! 17.Nh4! Rxg4 18.Nf5 at least gets to a nice outpost, even if Black opposes it with ...Ne7 (now or soon).] **16.Nh2** [16.d4!?] **16...Rhg8** [16...f5!] **17.Qe2** [17.Ng4! and 18.Ne3, but obviously Black is still ahead when it comes to the attack.] **17...Nf4 18.Bxf4 gxf4-/+**

Black has an easy initiative down the g-file. **19.Kh1 Rg7** [Opening further fronts is best here: 19...f5! 20.Nf3 d5!-/+] **20.Rg1 Rdg8?!** [20...f5] **21.b4** White's problems have abated, and the game is, at least momentarily, even. **21...Ne7 22.Qh5?!** [22.Nf3+/= and if anybody has anything it could well be White.] **22...Rg5** [22...f5!] **23.Qh4?** [(-0.62) The best move was 23.Qe2 Qg6 24.Qf1 f5=/+ with an actionable advantage still.] **23...f5 24.f3 Qg6 25.Qf2 d5** Finally Black gets the idea, to put maximum pressure on White. **26.Rae1 fxe4 27.dxe4 d4?!** [27...dxe4 28.fxe4 *(28.Rxe4 b5* and ...Nd5 or . ..Nf5 as it goes.*)* 28...Rg3 29.Nf3 Qf6 when ...Ng6 and ...Nh4 tightens the screws.] **28.cxd4 exd4 29.Rd1 c5?!** [29...Nc6] **30.b5?** [30.Qd2!] **30...Qe6 31.Qc2?!** [31.Qd2 Qd6 with ...h5 to keep White out of g4ff] **31...Ng6 32.Rd2? Nh4** Too much -- now Black's winning. **33.Rf2?**

Overlooking the point. [White could hope against hope with 33.Qc1 h5] **33...Qxh3 34.g3 fxg3 35.Re2 gxh2 36.Rxh2 Rxg1#** White succumbed to persistent pressure, starting way back with ...h6 and ...g5. **0-1**

(7) Jerry Zhang (jerry65321) (unr) - Harvey Hanke (Chess4Pumpkin) (1366) [C50] Age 8 and under

Live Chess Chess.com, 10.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.Nc3 [5.d3 d6 6.c3] **5...d6 6.d3 Bg4**

White has castled and Black hasn't; this provides the second player with attacking thoughts. **7.h3 Bh5** [7...Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nd4 9.Qd1=] **8.Bg5** White has tried everything under the sun, but Black keeps doing well. [8.g4?! dares Black to sacrifice, and in fact Black has scored 19-1 after 8...Nxg4! 9.hxg4 Bxg4] **8...Nd4 9.Re1** [9.g4 Bg6 10.Nd5 c6] **9...Nxf3+ 10.gxf3**

10...h6! [10...Qd7!?] **11.Bh4 g5** [11...Qd7 12.Kg2 0-0-0!] **12.Bg3 Qd7 13.Kh2 Bg6** [13...0-0-0!] **14.Rg1** [14.Ne2 0-0-0 Clear plus Black: the placement of the kings makes all the difference.] **14...h5 15.h4 g4?! 16.fxg4?** [16.Kg2!=/+ c6!-/+] **16...Nxg4+ 17.Kh1?** [17.Kg2 f5 should win as well.] **17...Nxf2+ 18.Bxf2 Qh3#** Stiff lesson: "castle early" is not a panacea. **0-1**

(1) Ariv Debmisra (arivdebmisra) (761) - Andrew Zou (anicestep) (1235) [E90] Age 6 and under

Live Chess Chess.com, 10.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bd3!? Much less played than the usual 6. Be2. This at least takes a King's Indian player to little know ground. **6...Nc6** [6...Bg4 is a good alternative] **7.0-0** [kicking the knight with 7.d5 Nb4 8.Bb1 e6 9.a3 Na6 10.0-0 Re8 11.h3 gives White a little edge] **7...Nb4** [7...Bg4!] **8.Be3 Nxd3N** [Previously seen was 8...Ng4 9.Bg5 c5 when 10.Be2 would be very good for White] **9.Qxd3 Nd7 10.Rad1 b6 11.e5!**

11...dxe5? This opens the d-file and White's lead in development causes a lot of trouble. **12.dxe5 Qe8 13.e6?!** [13.Nd5! Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Qe4 Bd6 16.Nxc7 wins the exchange] **13...Nf6 14.exf7+ Qxf7 15.Ng5 Qe8 16.Nd5! Qd7?** [16...Bf5!] **17.Nxf6+ exf6 18.Qxd7 Bxd7**

19.Nxh7? After playing a great opening arivdebmisra goes from winning to losing in one move, This desperado tries to get a pawn for the knight but it just gets trapped. [19.Rxd7 fxg5 20.b3 c5 21.Bxg5 is a terrific pawn up ending] **19...Rf7!** now Black wins a piece **20.Nxf6+ Bxf6 21.Bf4 Bxb2 22.Bxc7 Ba4 23.Rd8+ Rxd8 24.Bxd8 Rd7 25.Bg5 Rc7 26.Bc1 Bxc1 27.Rxc1 Bb5!** now it will only be one pawn for the bishop **28.c5 Rxc5 29.Rxc5 bxc5 30.f3 c4 31.Kf2 c3 32.Ke1 Bc4 33.a3 Bb3 34.Ke2 c2 35.Kd2 Kf7 36.g3 Kf6 37.h4 Kf5 38.g4+ Kf4 39.Kc1 Kxf3 40.h5**

40...g5! keeping the g-pawn takes the point **41.h6 Bg8 42.Kxc2 Kxg4 43.Kd3 Kh3 44.Ke2 g4 45.Kf2 Kh2 46.Kf1 g3 47.h7 Bxh7 48.a4 g2+ 0-1**

(2) CM Nitish Nathan (BreatheChessAlways) (1941) - Sanjay Selvam (SanjaySelvam) (1931) [A45] Age 14 and under

Live Chess Chess.com, 11.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 e6 4.Nd2 Bd6 5.Bg3 This is also the way Carlsen plays the London System **5...0-0 6.c3** [Opening theorists may find Black's plan in the following game interesting: 6.Ngf3 b6! 7.Bd3 Ba6 8.0-0 c5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Qe2 Bxd3 11.cxd3 Nc6 12.Rac1 Rc8 13.d4 Bd6 14.Qb5 Qd7 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Rc3 Qb4 17.Qxb4 Nxb4 18.Rfc1 Rxc3 19.Rxc3 Nxa2 20.Ra3 Nb4 21.Rxa7 Nd3 22.Rb7 Nxb2 23.Rxb6 Na4 24.Rc6 Rb8 25.h3 Nb6 26.Ne5 Nfd7 27.Ndf3 Nxe5 28.Nxe5 h6 29.g4 Rb7 30.Kg2 g6 31.Rd6 Kg7 32.Rd8 Rc7 33.h4 Nc4 34.Rd7 Rxd7 35.Nxd7 1/2-1/2 (35) Nihal,S (2620) -Vachier Lagrave,M (2784) Chess.com INT 2020] **6...c6 7.Ngf3 b6 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0-0 c5 10.Ne5 Nc6 11.Re1N** [Previously seen was 11.f4 Ne7 12.Qe2 Nf5 13.Bf2 1/2 (24)-1/2 (24) Krizsany,L (2264)-Hajdu,I (2033) Hungary 2007] **11...a6 12.a4 Qc7 13.f4 Rfd8?!** [13...Ne7 14.Qf3 Nf5 would be a good plan] **14.Bh4! Be7 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Rf1**

White has the strong e5 point, which is so often seen in the London System. **16...g6 17.Ndf3 a5 18.Bb5 Ne7?!** [18...Be7 would defend better] **19.Ng5! Bxe5 20.fxe5** The dark squares on Black's kingside are weak. **20...Nf5 21.Qe2 Qe7 22.Nf3 h5 23.Bd3 Rdb8 24.Rfe1 Rd8 25.Qf2 Bc6 26.Bxf5** This gets good knight vs (semi) bad bishop. 26. h3 would be a good alternative **26...exf5 27.h4 Rab8 28.Qg3 b5?!** This takes away the a4 pawn as a target **29.axb5 Rxb5 30.Reb1** [30.dxc5! Rxc5 31.Nd4 is a great place for the white knight] **30...Rdb8 31.Qf4 c4 32.Ng5 Ra8 33.Qg3 a4 34.e6!? f6 35.Nh3 Kg7?** The wrong square for the king, losing a pawn. The game was about equal after [35...Kh7] **36.Nf4!**

[36.Ra2] **36...Be8 37.Nxh5+ Kh7 38.Nf4 Rba5 39.Qh3 Kh6 40.h5?** Better to keep the pawn on h4 so the knight has the good f4 post **40...g5 41.Ne2 Qxe6 42.Rf1 Bd7 43.Rae1?!**

[43.Ng3] **43...Qd6?** This lets the white attack come through. Black would have the advantage with keeping the queen on e6 to help the defense [43...Rb5 44.Ng3 Rxb2 45.Nxf5+ Kh7] **44.Ng3**

f4? [44...Kh7 45.Nxf5 Qe6 is unpleasant but would hold on] **45.Nf5+ Bxf5 46.Qxf5 fxe3?!** [46...Kg7 47.exf4 is hopeless anyway] **47.Qg6#** BreatheChessAlways won by checkmate. **1-0**

April 2021 TNM

Rounds 3&4 of the April 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon saw some fierce resistance to the tournament favorite GM Gadir Guseinov, but the Grandmaster showed his class yet again in keeping his cool and getting the wins. NM Ruiyang Yan fought back from a very difficult position out of the opening to reach a queen and pawn endgame that appeared drawn, but time pressure and the need for precision proved too much in a critical moment, as a blunder allowed the trade of queens, which would lead to an eventual pawn promotion and the win for Guseinov. IM Josiah Stearman, a former student of Guseinov's, had a clear advantage out of the opening in a very complex looking game. However, Guseinov chipped away and found his opportunity with Stearman under time pressure to get the win. This is one of the first times we saw Guseinov pushed hard in two consecutive games, and while we were all rooting for our Mechanics' underdogs, it was instructive to see how the top players get it done. IM Brian Escalante also came through in both of his games, which including another thrilling win against FM Max Gedajlovic. NM Eric Hon showed he appears to be taking his chess to the next level, declining a draw offer from FM Kyron Griffith and grinding down a win. GM Gadir Guseinov is in sole first going into the final 2 rounds next week, with IM Brian Escalante and NM Eric Hon at 3.5.

In the under 1800 section, Sos Hakobyan and Ivan Zong are on top of the leaderboard at 3.5/4, with their only draws coming against each other. Joshua Lamstein picked up a big win against Sebby Suarez to go to 3/4 along with 5 other players including Nicholas Brown, Ethan Sun, Sebby Suarez, Rajtilak Jagannathan, and Anton Bobkov.

Here are some games from rounds 3&4, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) IM Josiah Stearman (josiwales) (2513) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2633) [E73]

Live Chess Chess.com, 21.04.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Be3 Nc6!? 7.Nf3 [7.d5 Ne5 8.f4 Neg4 9.Bd2 also seems to give White an opening edge.] **7...Ng4 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 e5 11.d5** Preferable was **11...Nd4 12.Nxd4** [12.h4 f5 13.hxg5 hxg5 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Bd3 with an edge] **12...exd4 13.Nb5 Nf6 14.f3 Nh5 15.Bf2?!** [15.Qd2 Nxg3 16.hxg3 c5 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.Nxd4 Qb6 19.Rd1 d5 would be a sharp position with equal chances] **15...d3?!** [Black could have taken the opening advantage with 15...c5! 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.Nxd4 c5 18.Nb5 Bxb2 19.Rb1 Be5] **16.Bxd3 Bxb2 17.Rb1 Bg7 18.h4 c5?+/-** This gets into trouble [much safer is 18...Nf4 19.g3 Nxd3+ 20.Qxd3 f5 21.hxg5 fxe4 22.fxe4 Qxg5 23.Nxc7 Rb8 24.Bxa7 Bg4 with about even chances. White should not take the exchange here as 25.Bxb8? Rf3! wins for Black] **19.hxg5 Qxg5**

20.g4?! [20.Qd2! would really cause Black trouble. The queen exchange would be lost and 20...Nf4 *(20...Qxg2 21.Rxh5)* 21.Nxd6 Nxg2+ 22.Kd1 would also win for White] **20...Nf4 21.Nxd6 Bd7?!** [21...Be5! 22.Nxc8 Rfxc8 is just a pawn down for Black] **22.Kf1 b6 23.Nf5 Bxf5 24.exf5 Be5 25.Bh4** With an extra pawn and strong pawn structure White is objectively winning here. **25...Qg7 26.Be4 f6 27.Qd2 Rae8**

28.Bf2? [White has two bishops, a strong extra pawn and the black knight unable to move from the f4 square. With 28.Bg3 Qg5 29.d6! Rd8 30.d7 Rf7 31.Bc6 Black would be tied up and the win would be easy.] **28...Qc7 29.Be3 Kg7 30.Rd1 Qd6 31.a4 Rh8 32.Rh4 h5 33.Kf2?!** Putting the king on the same diagonal as the rook on h4 gives Black a tactic [33.a5 is still much better for White] **33...Nd3+! 34.Ke2** [34.Qxd3 Bg3+] **34...Nf4+ 35.Kf2 Nd3+ 36.Ke2 Nb2!?** Such fighting spirit! Guseinov plays for the win even though objectively Black should take the draw. With Josiah low on time this was a good practical decision. **37.Rc1 hxg4 38.Bh6+ Kf7 39.Rxg4 Ke7 40.a5 Kd8 41.axb6 axb6 42.Ra1?!** Josiah was very low on time and can't find the best moves anymore. [42.Kf1 Rh7 43.Rg6 keeps the advantage for White] **42...Qb8 43.d6?-/+**

[43.Rc1 is equal] **43...Nxc4!** suddenly Black is winning. **44.Ra8** This doesn't work, but nothing else does. **44...Qxa8 45.Bxa8 Nxd2 46.Bxd2 Bf4+** GGuseinov won by resignation. A great battle Josiah was winning for much of the game. It should't be too long now before the student starts to take some points from his teacher. **0-1**

(2) GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov)(2620) - NM Ruiyang Yan (jij2018) (2127) [B23]

MI April TNMo Chess.com (3.1), 20.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 One of Guseinov's pet lines -- he's played it at least a dozen times. **6...Nc6 7.Qd3**

7...e6 [Plans with a fianchetto are more common. The only player to nick Gadir for a whole point has been Kyron, admittedly in a blitz game though. 7...g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0 Nf6 10.Nd5 0-0 11.Bg5 Guseinov plays this way without wasting a minute. 11...Nxd5 12.exd5 Ne5 13.Nxe5 dxe5!? Trying to mix it up somehow. *(13...Bxe5 14.c3* has shown up a few times as well; White combines the half-open e-file and f4 to get some light pressure. Mostly these have been blitz games, but Guseinov will play this in longer games as well*.)* 14.c4 Rac8 15.Rac1 h6 16.Be3 b6 17.b4 Rfd8 18.Rfd1 f5 19.f3 White has met Black move for move, and now as so often Guseinov's opponents overplay 19...e6?! 20.Qb3?! *(20.d6+-* would be extremely troublesome for Black. Major pieces have a hard time with passed pawn blockading*.)* 20...exd5 21.Rxd5 Qf7 22.Rcd1 Rxd5 23.Rxd5 Kh7 24.Qd3 Rc7 25.a3 Qe6 26.c5 bxc5 27.Bxc5 e4 28.fxe4 fxe4 29.Qd2 Bc3!? and in a flurry of blitz chess, Black got the better of it (although White was doing fine), 0-1 (54) Guseinov,G (2858)-KyronGriffith (2356) Chess.com 30 May 2020; 7...Nf6 8.Nf3 e6 9.Bf4 Be7 10.0-0-0 Rd8 11.h4 was similar to this game, except White has been enticed into Nf3. Still, 1-0 (36) Guseinov,G (2915)-1e41-O (2525) Chess.com 2020] **8.Bf4 Nf6 9.0-0-0 Rd8 10.h4!?** Keeping options like f2-f3, or even some f2-f4 at some point. **10...Be7 11.h5 h6 12.Qg3!**

And here Black defends too heavily. **12...Kf8?** Now she will have her hands full just getting her pieces in order. Castling (not here, not now!) should not be underestimated for its value in putting the king and the rook where they should be. [12...Qc7!+/= when 13.Nb5? backfires: *(13.Nf3 a6 14.Kb1 b5 15.a3 Rd7* Black still might have to resort to ...Kf8 and ...Kg8, but progress has been made on the queenside*.)* 13...Qa5 14.Nxd6+ *(14.Nc3 Nxh5! 15.Rxh5 Qxh5 16.Qxg7 Kd7-+)* 14...Rxd6! 15.Bxd6 Nxe4 16.Qxg7 Bf6 17.Qg4 Nxf2-+] **13.e5! Nd5 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.exd6?!** [It was time: 15.Nf3! dxe5 16.Bxe5! when unusually knight vs. bishop will make Black's life more difficult.] **15...Bxd6 16.Nf3 Bxf4+ 17.Qxf4**

A typical middlegame position: the combination of the isolated queen pawn and the misplaced king (well, it's the rook that's all wrong) give White a working edge. But also Guseinov's long-earned experience is a factor, as is the clock: so far both players have all but blitzed the opening out, and at 25:46-28:06 Ruiyang has even used less time, but in a few moves she will start to eat away at her bank. **17...Qd6 18.Qa4** White keeps the queens on (oh does he!) **18...Kg8 19.Rd2 Kh7 20.Rhd1 Rhe8** Finally! **21.Qb3** But the d-pawn is a goner. **21...Ne7?!** Ruiyang almost

imperceptably slips into a passive position, and this move is a culprit. Coincidentally this is where Gadir goes ahead on the clock (21:39-20:27). [21...Kg8!? finds, maybe, adequate counterplay by giving up the pawn right away: 22.a3!? **a)** 22.Rxd5?! Qf4+ 23.Kb1 (23.R5d2?! Rxd2 24.Nxd2 *(24.Rxd2 Nd4!-+)* 24...Qxf2 25.Qxb7?? Nd4-+) ; **b)** 22.Qxd5 Qf4 23.Qb5 Rxd2 24.Rxd2 Re7+/=; 22...Qc7 23.Rxd5 Rxd5 24.Qxd5 Qf4+ 25.Qd2+/- /+/=] **22.Kb1** Standard caution. [But jumping on the e-file is fine, better even. 22.Re1; or 22.Re2] **22...Qc7 23.Nd4 a6** [23...Nc6!?] **24.a3 Kg8 25.Qf3!?** Now White transfers over to see if the kingside will give a little. **25...Qb6 26.Re2 Nc6**

[The computer is fond of 26...Nc8+/- but humans can't see any point to it.] **27.Nf5!** White targets a new weakness, g7, before Black can do the same on the queenside (...Na5-c4). **27...Rxe2 28.Qxe2 Kh8 29.Qg4 Rg8 30.Qf4** guards f2, and the d-pawn is finally coming off. **30...Nd8 31.Rxd5** Solidly enough for a win, but: [31.Ne7! Re8 32.Re1! is almost impossible to appreciate, but Stockfish's needle goes crazy: +6 and climbing.] **31...Ne6 32.Qd2 Rd8 33.c4** [33.Rxd8+ Qxd8 34.Qxd8+ Nxd8 35.Ka2 when the Arrival of the King will herald victory.] **33...Qc7 34.Nd6 Kg8?!**

[34...Rf8] **35.Nxb7!** Hardly necessary but demoralizing. Guseinov might seem to be almost sleeping but he's very awake. **35...Rxd5 36.cxd5?** Or maybe not! [36.Qxd5 just wins.] **36...Qxb7 37.dxe6 fxe6?!** One second? [But 37...Qe4+ 38.Ka1 Qxe6+/- is a difficult technical task for White.] **38.f3** (14:30 5:27) **38...Qb5 39.Qe3 Qf1+ 40.Ka2 Qxg2 41.Qxe6+ Kh7 42.Qf5+ Kh8 43.a4**

White looks to win. But one thing in Black's favor is the fort for her king. It could shield her from cross-checks on the 2nd rank at a critical time. **43...Qe2 44.Qc8+ Kh7 45.Qf5+** [Comp likes 45.Qc6] **45...Kh8 46.a5 Qc4+ 47.Ka3 Qc6 48.Kb3 Qb7+ 49.Kc3** 8:33 vs. 2:32 **49...Qc6+ 50.Kd2 Qd6+ 51.Ke3 Qe7+ 52.Kf2** Stockfish thought the king was fine on the queenside, but the path forward wasn't clear still. **52...Qb4?! 53.Qc8+** [53.Qe5!] **53...Kh7**

54.Qxa6?! Qxb2+?! [54...Qd2+! appears to draw. If the a-pawn goes, the b-pawn is far enough back that Black can organize ongoing harassment.] **55.Qe2** 6:55 vs.1:56 **55...Qd4+ 56.Kg2 Qc5 57.Qe4+ Kh8 58.Qe8+ Kh7 59.Qg6+ Kh8 60.a6 Qe3 61.Qe4 Qg5+ 62.Qg4! Qd2+ 63.Kh3 Qe3 64.Qe4 Qf2 65.Qe8+ Kh7 66.Qc6 Qf1+ 67.Kg3 Qg1+ 68.Kf4 Qh2+ 69.Ke4 Qh4+?!** [69...Qe2+ 70.Kf5 Qa2 is still difficult. 71.Qb7?! Qc4 72.a7 Qc5+ and the first occasion of "0.00" appears.] **70.Kd3 Qd8+?!** [70...Qf2] **71.Kc4 Qa5 72.Qb5 Qa2+ 73.Kc5** 1:46-0:43 **73...Qc2+** [73...Qf2+!+/=] **74.Kd6 Qd2+ 75.Kc6 Qc2+ 76.Kb7+- Qc3?** Saving White quite a bit of work. [76...Qa2 77.Qf5+ Kg8 78.a7 Qb3+; or 76...Qd1] **77.Qf5+ Kh8 78.Qc8+** What a struggle! Ruiyang eventually went under but only after giving Gadir quite a run for his rating. A lot of interesting positions and of course, the queen ending, provided a lot of nail biting for the spectators. **1-0**

(3) FM Max Gedajlovic (MMSANCHEZ) (2222) - IM Brian Escalante (BrianEscalante) (2447) [A58]

MI April TNMo Chess.com (4.2), 20.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 The Benko Gambit Accepted. **5...g6** [5...Bxa6 6.Nc3 d6 *(6...g6)* 7.e4 Bxf1 was the classic idea, preventing castling by White, but *(7...g6* lets White get castled: *8.Bxa6 Nxa6 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.0-0)* 8.Kxf1 g6 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.g3 0-0 11.Kg2 tucks the king away after all -- and sometimes White gets an attack rolling with h2-h4-h5 (rook on h1!).] **6.Nc3 Bg7** [Whatever the theoretical status of the Benko, it's good enough for blitz at the highest possible level: 6...Bxa6 7.Nf3 *(7.e4!?)* 7...Bg7 8.e4 Qa5 9.Bd2 Bxf1 10.Kxf1 0-0 11.g3 d6 12.Kg2 Nbd7 13.Re1 Rfb8 14.Qc2 Ng4 ½-½ 45, Firouzja,A (2749)-Carlsen,M (2862) Lichess.org match (9), 27 Feb 2021] **7.Nf3** [7.e4] **7...0-0 8.a7!** This has been the forefront idea, to disrupt Black's smooth queenside ideas by drawing the rook to a7, where a knight can later gain time against it with Nb5. **8...Rxa7 9.e4 e6** And this is the cutting edge as well, sharpening the play. [The other moves are fairly well handled; best source is, as often, Avrukh's 1.d4 repertoire books. 9...d6; or 9...Qa5; or 9...Qb6] **10.Be2 exd5 11.exd5 d6 12.0-0 Na6** Keeping opening a useful ...Bf5.

White 32:33, Black 33:26 The two players have all but blitzed out their moves to reach this position, which appears to be the latest battleground for the Benko, with sixty or so games in the last few years, mostly master-strength competition. [12...Ba6 13.Re1 Bxe2 14.Rxe2 Nbd7 15.Bf4 is Avrukh's improvement on Perunovic's "Modernized Benko Gambit" book, when White moves queen, plays rook to d1 and keeps Black's counterplay and compensation to a minimum.] **13.h3** It appears Max's knowledge of this line wears thin. [13.Nb5!? is "book vs. book" -- and it always helps to be the later one (Perunovic 2018, Avrukh 2019)! The former's "18...Bg7 with compensation" found the latter tacking on a few more moves with "23.h4! ... White's chances are clearly higher." Worth a look if you're wondering what the furthest work on the Benko is: 13...Rd7 *(13...Re7?! 14.Bf4; 13...Rb7!? 14.Bc4)* 14.Bc4 Bb7 15.Bg5 Both authors are staying with it. *(*Here's a previous game by the current player of Black: *15.Qb3 Qa8 16.Rd1 Nb4 17.Bf4 Rfd8 18.Nc3* (both sides give everything they've got to d5) *18...Ba6 19.a3 Nc2 20.Rac1 Rb7 21.Nb5 Qb8 22.a4 Nb4 23.Bd2 Bxb5 24.axb5* 1-0 (40) Cardoso Cardoso,J (2401)-Escalante Ramirez,B (2456) Medellin 2020. He might have had something new in mind.*)* 15...h6 16.Bh4 *(16.Bxf6!?* could well be the point of future investigations*)* 16...Qa8 *(16...g5!?* also might be timely.*)* 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Qd2 Bg7 first book 19.Rfe1 Nb4 20.Rad1 Rb8 21.Nc3 Ba6 22.Bxa6 Nxa6 23.h4 second book. Was Alpha-Zero already influencing humans at the time of Avurkh's writing this?] **13...Re7N** [Previously played was 13...Nc7 14.Bf4 Re8 *(14...Ba6 15.Bh2 Re8 16.Bd3!?* 1-0 (36) Keymer,V (2432)-Macovei,A (2370), European U18 Teams op, Rymanow-Zdroj POL 2017*)* 15.Bc4 Ne4 16.Nxe4 Rxe4 17.Bg5 f6 18.Bd3 Rb4 19.Bc1 Bb7 20.a3 Rb6 -- quite a trip for that rook! -- ½-½ (30) Batsiashvili,N (2466)-Cordova,E (2620) Benasque 2016] **14.Bg5** And sure enough, White starts to think. **14...h6 15.Bh4** [15.Bxf6!? Bxf6 16.Qd2 Bg7 17.Bc4 is similar to Avrukh's line, although if White pushes the h-pawn again it will be an obvious loss of time.] **15...Nc7 16.Re1**

16...g5! Black plays actively, not too concerned with his king cover. **17.Bg3 Ne4! 18.Nxe4 Rxe4** White is having trouble with his b- and d-pawns, often the case in the Benko. **19.Nd2** [19.Qc2 f5! looking for a chance to shut the bishop out with ...f4 (after doing something about the rook on e4 of course!) 20.Rad1 Rfe8 That's something.] **19...Rd4** There goes the d-pawn, but if White can get the a-pawn going it will be an advantage in position still. **20.Qc2** [20.a4 Nxd5 21.a5 is a dynamic situation, where Black can contain the a-pawn.] **20...Nxd5 21.a3 Nf4 22.Bf1?!** [lets the bishop go. One computer line goes 22.Nf3 Nxe2+ 23.Qxe2 Rd5 24.Rad1 Be6 25.h4 gxh4 26.Rxd5 Bxd5 27.Nxh4 Be6 28.b4 c4 29.a4 Qb6 30.b5 Qc5 31.Bf4 c3 32.Qd3 Rd8 with Black's pawn the farthest advanced, but White might be more likely to continue their journey to coronation.] **22...Qf6 23.Nb3 Bf5 24.Qc3 Re4** Black sees that the coming exchanges won't solve White's problems. **25.Qxf6 Bxf6 26.Rxe4 Bxe4 27.Bxf4 gxf4** The kingside might look "ruined" but it doesn't matter. Black has two healthy pawns on the c- and d-files, and should the b-pawn go they'll be free to march. **28.Nd2 Bc6 29.Rd1 d5!**

Classic Steinitz Principle: keep the knight away from good squares. **30.b4?** [A better try to hold was 30.Ne4!? dxe4 31.Rd6 Bxb2 32.Rxc6 but 32...Rd8! *(32...Bxa3 33.Rf6 Bc1 34.Bc4 Kg7 35.Rf5 e3 36.Kf1=/+ /-/+; 32...Bd4 33.Bb5 Rd8 34.a4=/+)* 33.Rxc5 Rd1-+ and White can't untangle.] **30...Ba4 31.Rc1 c4 32.Nxc4!?**

32...dxc4?! White now gets a lot of pawns, even if it eventually isn't sufficient. [32...Rc8 avoids even that, with a sure win.] **33.Rxc4 Be5 34.Rc5 Bd6 35.Rd5 Rd8 36.Bc4 Bc7 37.Kf1 Rxd5 38.Bxd5 Be5 39.Ke2 Bb2 40.Kd3 Bxa3 41.Kc4 Kf8 42.b5 Ke7 43.b6 f6 44.Be4 Kd6 45.Bf3 Bc5 46.Kd3 Bxb6 47.Ke4 Bxf2 48.Kxf4 Bd7**

Black is winning, but does have to take care not to slip into some dark-squared bishop plus h-pawn ending with White's king on or near h1 -- a famous, quixotic drawing resource. But he deftly avoids any hint of trouble. **49.Be4 Be1 50.Bd3 Bd2+ 51.Kf3 Bc6+ 52.Kf2 Ke5 53.g3 Kd4 54.Bf5 Be4 55.Bd7 Ke5 56.Ke2 Bb4 57.h4 Bf5 58.Bc6 Bg4+ 59.Kf2 Bc5+ 60.Kg2 Kd4 61.Bb7 Ke3 62.Bc6 Bd6 63.Bb7 Bf5 64.Ba6 Be4+ 65.Kh3 Kf2 66.g4?! Bg2#** BrianEscalante won by checkmate **0-1**

(4) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2340) - NM Eric Hon (microbear) (2298) [B61]

MI April TNMo Chess.com (4.3), 20.04.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Bg5 Bd7 Less played than 6...e6. The late great Bent Larsen used this move a lot, **7.Qd2 Rc8 8.0-0-0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Qa5 10.Bd2 a6** No need to fear the discovered attack from the bishop yet. **11.Kb1 Qc5 12.Qxc5 Rxc5 13.Be3 Rc8 14.f3 g6 15.g4**

So we have an endgame that looks like a Dragon without the queens, White holds a small edge hear, but problably both players were satisfied with their opening. **15...Bg7 16.Bd4** [Perhaps 16.h4 anyway is the best move. White can't play for checkmate without the queens but can still take space on the kingside.] **16...0-0 17.g5 Nh5 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.e5?** This aggressive move just gets into trouble. It doesn't win a pawn (as the game continuation shows) while it weakens many squares in the center **19...Bc6! 20.exd6 Bxf3 21.dxe7 Rfe8 22.Bh3**

22...Rxc3! 23.bxc3 Bxh1 24.Rxh1 Rxe7 The weak white pawns make this endgame hard to hold. **25.Rf1 Re5 26.c4!?** Kyron is doing his best to complicte matters by going for acdtivity **26...Rc5** [26...b6!] **27.Rd1** [27.Bg2! Rxc4?! 28.Rxf7+! Kxf7 29.Bd5+] **27...Nf4 28.Bg4 Rxc4 29.Rd7 b5 30.Ra7 Rc6?!** [30...Rb4+] **31.Bd7! Rd6 32.Be8** The master of swindles has generated chances in this difficult ending. **32...Nh3 33.Rxf7+ Kg8 34.Rd7 Rxd7 35.Bxd7 Nxg5** White is a pawn down yet the bishop is better than the knight in this open board. Now the kings need to come up to help. **36.Kb2 Kf7 37.Kb3 Ke7 38.Bc8 a5 39.Ba6?!** [39.c4! bxc4+ 40.Kxc4 Nf3 41.h3 would be the most direct way to draw] **39...Nf3 40.h3?!** [40.Bxb5] **40...Ng5?!** [40...Nd2+! 41.Kc3 Ne4+ 42.Kd4 Nd6 43.Kc5 g5! 44.Bxb5 Nxb5 45.Kxb5 h5 wins] **41.Bxb5 Nxh3**

42.Kc4?! [42.Ka4 Nf4 43.Kxa5 would make it much more difficult in the time pressure. Black would have to find 43...g5 44.Kb6 g4 45.a4 g3 46.Bf1 g2 47.Bxg2 Nxg2 48.a5 Kd6 49.a6 Ne3! 50.a7 Nd5+ 51.Kb7 Nc7] **42...Kd6 43.Kd4 Nf4 44.c4 Ne6+** Now it's easy and mircobear reals in the point. **45.Ke4 Kc5 46.Ke5 Nc7 47.Bd7 Kxc4 48.Kf6 Nd5+ 49.Kg7 Kd4 50.Be6 Nf4 51.Bf7 h5! 0-1**

To watch the broadcast, follow this link to our YouTube channel of videos: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw3dh9SwMBEg2zBb6AHMT9A/videos)

SwissSys Standings. April 2021 TNM: 1800+

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2674	W36	W8	W
2	Brian Escalante (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16836558)	BrianEscalante	16836558	2542	W21	D11	W
3	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	microbear	13778105	2203	H---	W25	W
4	Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)	josiwales	14006506	2494	W22	W19	W
5	Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W37	L20	W
6	Ruiyang Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15462690)	jij2018	15462690	2242	W23	W12	L1
7	Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	MMSanchez	14947382	2141	W34	W24	W
8	David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)	David_Askin	13776967	2041	W14	L1	W
9	Eric Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	kingandqueen2017	15688436	2344	W26	W18	L7
10	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2135	W13	W31	L4
11	Michael Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13605850)	coalescenet	13605850	2098	W30	D2	L3
12	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	twangbio	16291100	1871	W33	L6	W
13	Pranav Sathish (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16464655)	championps	16464655	1768	L10	X36	W
14	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	LightningDragon8	16761994	1745	L8	D22	W
15	Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	KyronGriffith	12860484	2490	H---	H---	W
16	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	SmilyFace4	15176393	2027	D27	W35	L1
17	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	L31	W27	L1
18	Ashik Uzzaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13178575)	ashikuzzaman	13178575	1940	W28	L9	W
19	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W32	L4	W
20	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	mwncklmann	15239016	1870	W29	W5	L2
21	Vishva Nanugonda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380312)	3Ke31-0	16380312	1832	L2	W30	L5
22	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	16083648	1812	L4	D14	W
23	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	pgstar3	12913356	1788	L6	W33	L8
	Nursultan Uzakbaev						

24	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	B---	L7	L1
25	Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	H---	L3	W
26	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	uzkuzk	16434922	1809	L9	D28	L2
27	Callaghan McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	DoctorBanner	14948275	1700	D16	L17	W
28	Shravan Sriram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15894655)	Ragingbeast360	15894655	1655	L18	D26	L2
29	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1512	L20	D34	W
30	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	Barok44	12440572	1759	L11	L21	W
31	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	GiorgosTsolias	17266862	1679	W17	L10	L1
32	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	serverbusy	16408266	1644	L19	W37	L1
33	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	MechAnjin	12931024	1622	L12	L23	L3
34	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	L7	D29	L1
35	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1766	H---	L16	L2
36	Samir Alazawi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14690016)	samiralazawi	14690016	1866	L1	F13	U-
37	Philip Warton (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12541460)	hypermod	12541460	1800	L5	L32	L2

SwissSys Standings. April 2021 TNM: u1800

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	Sos Hakobyan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14452712)	SacrificeandCrush	14452712	1771	W23	W15	W9	D
2	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	unr.	W26	W14	W7	D
3	Joshua Lamstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15487526)	aveevu	15487526	1632	L17	W28	W11	W
4	Nicholas M Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	nmbrown2	12446259	1495	H---	H---	W19	W
5	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1456	D11	W19	D22	W
6	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	Sebbymeister	16875347	1414	W20	W17	W16	L3
7	Rajtilak Indrajit Jagannathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109752)	rtindru	30109752	1369	W8	W18	L2	W
8	Anton Bobkov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30162536)	texfan	30162536	unr.	L7	W13	W26	W
9	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	W21	W31	L1	D
10	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	SunnyCountry	16380657	1197	L22	W33	W21	D
	Adam Stafford							

11	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1014	D5	W12	L3	W
12	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	unr.	H---	L11	W32	W
13	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	Echecsmike	12279170	1446	L19	L8	W28	W
14	Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)	boozerrip	13553308	1350	W24	L2	W20	L8
15	Prescott Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16009618)	prescott00000	16009618	1309	W30	L1	W29	L4
16	Aryan Renjith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15027127)	SavageAryan	15027127	1274	W33	W22	L6	L5
17	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1180	W3	L6	W30	L7
18	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020arEEEWS	16802870	1015	W32	L7	W31	L1
19	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	984	W13	L5	L4	W
20	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	night_breeze	30055583	963	L6	W32	L14	W
21	Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)	MrRap9	30118209	unr.	L9	W27	L10	W
22	Ahyan Zaman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15035222)	ahyanzaman	15035222	1699	W10	L16	D5	L1
23	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	andrewaballantyne	17079795	1227	L1	L30	W33	D2
24	Jordan Orpia (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30158430)	Jorpia42	30158430	unr.	L14	L26	W27	D2
25	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	W28	U---	U---	U-
26	Massimo Jackson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17251318)	Mateojackson	17251318	1305	L2	W24	L8	L2
27	Rodney Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16401545)	Bonaparte1984	16401545	1280	L31	L21	L24	W
28	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1035	L25	L3	L13	W
29	Samuel Tsen Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	comfyqueso	16380615	811	H---	H---	L15	L1
30	Rayna Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30157975)	ihaveyourcat	30157975	unr.	L15	W23	L17	L2
31	Andra Babigian (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30152085)	QueenGma	30152085	unr.	W27	L9	L18	L1
32	Daniel Marcus (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12905558)	radio_on	12905558	1458	L18	L20	L12	L2
33	Victor Beauchamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30154650)	Greatboomer	30154650	unr.	L16	L10	L23	L2

Thursday Night Marathon

After 4 rounds, GM Gadir Guseinov and IM Elliott Winslow remain the only perfect scores at 4/4 heading into the final round next week. FM Kyron Griffith and FM Richard Koepcke are close behind at 3.5/4 with 8 players at 3/4. Here are the complete standings after 4 rounds.

SwissSys Standings. Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2700	W24	W37	W1
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W25	W8	W1
3	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	kyrongriffith	12860484	2490	W12	H---	W3
4	FM Richard Koepcke (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10493269)	rkoepcke	10493269	2200	H---	W32	W1
5	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	flightsoffancy	10345120	2135	W38	W9	W1
6	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	chesspilot01	15424820	2084	W39	F10	W2
7	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	a-boy415	16571026	1831	W26	W21	W2
8	Leo Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061785)	mu3tang	16061785	1765	W27	L2	W3
9	Callaghan McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	W35	L5	W4
10	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	W45	X6	L5
11	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	bigchampionofchess	16600505	1610	W36	L14	W4
12	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1443	L3	W44	W2
13	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	D34	W22	W3
14	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	mangonel	14006141	1940	W40	W11	H--
15	NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	H---	W33	L4
16	Jaryd Saevitzon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30144616)	thejuicerisloose	30144616	unr.	B---	L19	H--
17	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	L41	W42	W2
18	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	kingsmasher35	12797931	1822	W42	W41	L1
19	Kagan Uz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16434922)	uzkuzk	16434922	1809	W43	W16	L2
20	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	W47	L29	L12
21	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	W48	L7	W3
22	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	D28	L13	D3
23	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1512	L29	W43	L6
24	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	loltheawesomedude	16497860	1455	L1	W47	L17

25	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L2	W27	W3
26	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2nf31-0	16425316	978	L7	W48	W3
27	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	unr.	L8	L25	W4
28	Joshua Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30127073)	probablyjosh	30127073	unr.	D22	L31	H--
29	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	night_breeze	30055583	unr.	W23	W20	L7
30	Zachi Baharav (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13464604)	fastzachi	13464604	1813	H---	W34	L3
31	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	H---	W28	L1
32	Jacob Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	jacobchess857	17083655	1623	H---	L4	L2
33	Nick Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	nxbex	16154827	1433	H---	L15	D2
34	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1014	D13	L30	L3
35	Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)	greenninja2019	30015889	unr.	L9	W38	L2
36	Jeff Rosengarden (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105422)	jrosengarden	30105422	unr.	L11	L40	W4
37	Bryan Lynch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15493651)	nycsheep	15493651	1769	W44	L1	L2
38	Darren Yin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12846430)	dareonion	12846430	1323	L5	L35	W3
39	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	bruce_hedman	17344551	1035	L6	W45	L8
40	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	figsnoring	16551291	999	L14	W36	L9
41	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	charvii	16816706	984	W17	L18	L1
42	Jake Chi Hang Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144246)	jakech1123	17144246	946	L18	L17	L4
43	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	caodanny	16939797	887	L19	L23	H--
44	Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	vincitore51745	12814843	619	L37	L12	B--
45	Sean Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30149285)	seanyliu	30149285	unr.	L10	L39	W4
46	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	serverbusy	16408266	1644	H---	U---	U--
47	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	andrejsg	16741331	826	L20	L24	L3
48	Kaori Nguyen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30156281)	sillybunnyy	30156281	unr.	L21	L26	L2

Club Match Tour Begins Saturday Against Edinburgh Chess Club

The first our our Spring Club Match Tour matches begins Saturday as we take on Edinburgh Chess Club of Scotland. The match will begin at 11am PT and we will stream the match on our Twitch channel starting at 11am PT, with commentary by GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead, WCM Allyson Wong, and Chess Director Abel Talamantez. Dr. Judit Sztaray will be the Chie TD pairing and starting the games. Click here to follow on Saturday morning: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

Dr. Alexey Root

Our good friend WIM Dr. Alexey Root just released an article in ChessBase about the ratings gap and gender, analyzed through the lens of US Championships. It is an interestinf read, and can be found by following this link: https://en.chessbase.com/post/the-ratings-gap-and-gender-analyzing-u-s-chess-championships-part-ii (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://en.chessbase.com/post/the-ratings-gap-and-gender-analyzing-u-s-chess-championships-part-ii).

Of additional interest is the photo used along with the article, which can be seen above. It is from Chess Life magazine March 1996 and in it is our very own Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian along with Chair of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Committee GM Patrick Wolff.

IM John Donaldson Interview

Listen to an interview by IM John Donaldson regarding his newly released book *Bobby Fischer and His World* on The Chess Circuit podcast by following this link: https://anchor.fm/thechesscircuit/episodes/Podcast-20-IM-John-Donaldson-about-Bobby-Fischer-and-His-World-eugg59 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://anchor.fm/thechesscircuit/episodes/Podcast-20-IM-John-Donaldson-about-Bobby-Fischer-and-His-World-eugg59)

Reciprocity Partnership With Marshall Chess Club

The Mechanics' Institute and the Marshall Chess Club entered into a partnership last year in which we agreed to recognize each organization's members so that our players can enjoy the benefits our respective clubs. Now that there are so many course offerings and USCF online-rated events, we wanted to let our chess community know again that if you are a member of the Mechanics' Institute (meaning you have a membership card and paid the annual fee), you may enjoy playing at Marshall or taking one of their courses at the Marshall member rate. Marshall has also promoted this reciprocity agreement with Mechanics' Institute in their newsletter the Marshall Spectator. To subscribe to their newsletter, please follow this link: https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://marshallchessclub.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8d1c41bb7086f1137fd9939ba&id=3a3fc8e77f).

To see their list of events, click this link: https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.marshallchessclub.org/tournaments/upcoming)

If you are a member and wish to be added to the list of members to participate in Marshall events, please send an email to chessroom@milibrary.org and list your USCF number. We will verify membership and place you on the list.

We look forward to this partnership between our two historic clubs in an effort to continue bringing communities together through chess!

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 4/27: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1119340
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1119340)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:00-7:00PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: Modern Chess Openings (MCO) with GM Nick de Firmian with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: April 5 - May 10, 2021

   Modern Chess Openings was a revolutionary text, and it has come back to life as it was featured in The Queen's Gambit. Mechanics' Institute Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian was the editor of several editions of that book and now it will come to life as a class! This will be club players of various strengths and will focus on about 5 key openings. He will cover open game openings that reinforce fundamentals such as piece development, control of the center and king safety, and he will also cover more complex openings that need deeper understanding such as the Sicilian, Queen's Gambit, and Ruy Lopez. The purpose of this class is to gain a better understanding of the ideas behind playing these openings and what to look for. The class will be interactive and engaging. FM Paul Whitehead will also be on to facilitate the class. The class will be fluid and interaction in the class is encouraged. We hope to enlighten the student on what it means to play openings and hpw they can lay the foundation for the course of the entire game. More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**

   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: Current class is full.
   Next class starts June. Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021)
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **New offerings start next week: Advanced Attacking Techniques by FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: April 28 through June 2 (6 classes)

   Special class for players with 1800+ USCF rating to learn, discuss and improve on their attacking skills.
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information:
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/AdvancedAttackingTechniquesbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/AdvancedAttackingTechniquesbyFMPaulWhitehead)

5. **Wednesdays 7-8PM - Tactics for the Developing Players**
   Course Dates: March 31 through June 2 (10 classes)

   I am IM (International Master) Elliott Winslow, and I'll be teaching this course! I will go over one of the greatest players (world champions, groundbreakers, players who advanced chess theory and practice) per week, including some of the history of the player and the time period in which they made their mark, and use their games to instill basic tactical and positional thinking to those in the class. I will do weekly game analysis of at least one game from the star of the week, and show how to find tactics in that game and through puzzles, and at the end of class either leave time open to go over games sent by the participants ahead of class, or for the students to play some games.

   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tactics-developing-players (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tactics-developing-players)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM)

6. **Sundays 10AM - 12PM -- Free Women's Online Chess Class by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams**

   Come join us on Sundays as we are offering a free class for women from 10am-12pm(noon) online.
   Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected. Registration is required so we may send the links for players to join. Zoom will be required to participate, and we will include optional links to participate in online platforms like chess.com if players would like to play with each other online.

   Be sure to be a part of the Mechanics' Women's Chess Club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-womens-club

   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class)
   Class is free, but must register to receive class information: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012
   (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012)

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:

4/27 Tuesday - April 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/april-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/april-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Join Now! May/June 2021 Thursday Night Marathon (May 13-June 10)
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129022013/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/20220129022013/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/20220129022013/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Spring Session of our Virtual Chess Classes are starting
March 22 through May 31
Not too late to join - Prorating is available!

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Thursdays 4-5PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring)
- Advanced Class with Coach Andy – Thursdays 5-6PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS56PM2021Spring)
- Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) – Friday 3-4PM
  - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring)

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Monday, Apr 26: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435647 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435647)
- Tuesday, Apr 27: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435648 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435648)
- Wednesday, Apr 28: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435649 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435649)
- Thursday, Apr 29: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435650 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435650)
- Friday, Apr 30: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435651 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435651)
- Saturday, May 1: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435652 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=435652)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments on the weekends

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)

4/24 Saturday - 6SS G/10+2 affecting USCF Online Quick rating.
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentApr24SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentApr24SAT)

5/2 Sunday - 6SS G/15+2 affecting USCF Online Quick rating.
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay2SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay2SUN)

5/8 Saturday - 4SS G/20+10 affecting USCF Online Regular rating.
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay8SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129022013/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay8SAT)

Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(5) ThinOvalPaw (1511) - chunky_tofu_icecream (1503) [B22]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 The delayed 2.c3 Sicilian. Black does best to respond with a move hitting the center - 3...d5 or 3...Nf6. **3...g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Bg7 6.Bc4** [6.Nc3 is the most flexible move, so the bishop can develop to another square defending on Black's move.] **6...Nf6 7.Nc3?!**

Allowing the fork trick. *7.* d5 or *7.* e5 would cause more trouble. **7...Nxe4! 8.Nxe4** [8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Nxe4 would be somewhat better. Material is even, Black has two bishops but needs a move or two to get the king to safety.] **8...d5 9.Bxd5 Qxd5 10.Nc3 Qd6** [10...Qc4 stopping castling could make some trouble for White.] **11.Be3 0-0 12.Qd2?!** [12.h3] **12...e5?!** [12...Bg4! Threatens to take the knight on f3, doubling the pawns and taking support from the d4 pawn. Black would have a big advantage.] **13.0-0 exd4 14.Bh6?!** tricky, but objectively not as good as [14.Nb5 Qe7 15.Nbxd4 getting the pawn back] **14...Bxh6?!** This lets the white queen come to a dangerous spot. Black keeps a good edge with development - [14...Bg4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Ne4 Qd5] **15.Qxh6 dxc3??**

Oh no! Too eager to take the knight. **16.Ng5! Rd8** There is no way out of mate. **17.Qxh7+ Kf8 18.Qxf7# 1-0**

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 11: Lasker – Capablanca 1921

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Emanuel Lasker's 27 year-reign as World Champion ended in Havana, 1921. His challenger, Jose Raoul Capablanca, had basically twisted Lasker's arm with the offer of a large fee - he ever refused Lasker's offer to resign the match before it started. Everyone was happy, and even though Lasker had the excuses of age and a hostile climate, the inevitable outcome was not really in doubt. The "Invincible Cuban" finally wrested the title from his old rival, +4 -0 =10. The games are languorous: carefully played and a bit tired – especially on Lasker's part - as though the players were just going through the motions.

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1. Capablanca – Lasker, 5th Match Game 1921.

Black moves. Pick your king move carefully…

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2. Lasker - Capablanca, 10th Match Game 1921.

Black moves. A little one-two punch.

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3. Capablanca - Lasker, 11th Match Game 1921.

White moves. Yet another classic combination.

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4. Lasker – Capablanca, 14th Match Game 1921.

White moves. Why not **1.Kh2**, as played by Lasker?

GM Nick de Firmian

The Return of the Candidates Tournament

The long awaited resumption of the Candidates Tournament began on April 19th for the second half of the double round robin. The best thing about this was the absolutely superb level of chess that is being played there. After a year of online rapid play events, it is a great pleasure to see deeply thought out strategies and very few errors. These quality games are works of art that will be saved in books for future generations to enjoy. I recommend the reader to spend your time viewing many of the games of this event as they are so unlike the chess that has been played in the last year. We all have gotten used to managing life in the pandemic times, but there are many things that will simply be much better when life returns to normal. The high intensity of over the board chess games is one of those, and right now you can enjoy it's return.

The resumption after a year continued with the scores from the pre-pandemic half, with Nepomniachtchi and Vachier-Lagrave in the lead, Caruana and Giri 1 point behind. Ding Liren has returned, but he needed a miracle to overtake the leaders and that doesn't seem to be happening. The race for first took a twist in the first round of resumption when Caruana played co-leader Vachier-Lagrave (MVL). Caruana had saved his best opening preparation for months to surprise MVL, who nonetheless responded with incredible resourcefulness. We give this epic encounter below – a game I consider to be the best of the last year. The other tournament games are also incredible battles. As a second choice we give the encounter between the two Chinese players, world #3 Ding Liren and underrated Wang Hao (who is a favorite of MI staff).

(1) Caruana,Fabiano - Vachier-Lagrave,Maxim [B97]

Candidates Tournament, 19.04.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 This game was destined to be a real fight. Fabiano Caruano is the best prepared opening player in the world. Maxim Vachier-Lagrave is the best Najdorf player in the world and he plays the opening religiously like Bobby Fischer years ago. While many players are reluctant to play the Sicilian in the computer age Maxim feels he can survive any complications the opponent (with deep computer preparation) can throw at him. **6...e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2**

The famous Poisened Pawn Variation of the Najdorf. This is fighting chess at it's maximum. The white player believes in development and piece play, while the black side player must believe in pawn structure and control of key squares to hold off the attack. This epic battle of ideas is usually determined by violent sacrifices. **9.Rb1 Qa3 10.e5 h6 11.Bh4 dxe5 12.fxe5 Nfd7 13.Ne4 Qxa2 14.Rd1 Qd5 15.Qe3 Qxe5 16.c3 Bc5 17.Bg3 Qd5 18.Bc4!**

Caruana had already sacrificed 3 pawns and now adds a piece to to deficiency. This amazing move is his opening preparation which his seconds and the computers helped him find. There is an interesting aspect that Caruana had this novelty ready for the classic Wijk aan Zee tournament in January, but chose not to use it there and save it for this event. This shows the gravity and quality of play in this most important of all tournaments. **18...Qxc4 19.Bd6 Nf6!** Vachier-Lagrave is on is own against the computer preparation but finds an excellent defense by giving back the piece. On [19...Bxd4 20.Rxd4 Qb3 21.Qg3 gives White a very dangerous attack against the uncastled black king - quite worth the material. e.g. 21...Qb1+ 22.Kf2 Qxh1? 23.Qxg7 Rf8 24.Nf6+ Kd8 25.Bxb8 and nothing works for Black.] **20.Nxc5 Nd5 21.Qe5 Rg8 22.Ndxe6!**

The spectator must just enjoy the following pyrotechnics. **22...fxe6 23.Nxe6 Qxc3+!** An accomplishment by MVL - he has forced an endgame, though the tactics continue. **24.Qxc3 Nxc3 25.Nc7+ Kf7 26.Rd3**

MVL deserves great credit for surviving the storm (more like a hurricane). He now makes a small inaccuracy which leaves him a tad worse. **26...Ne4?!** [with 26...Ra7! 27.Rxc3 Kg6 Black would in no way be worse.] **27.0-0+!** How often do you castle this late in the game? **27...Kg6 28.Nxa8 Nc6 29.Nb6 Rd8 30.Nxc8 Rxc8 31.Ba3 Rc7** material is even in the endgame but the black pawns on both edges of the board make White's rooks more potent than usual and Black's knights needing to be defensive on two sides. **32.Rf4 Nf6 33.Bb2 Ne7 34.Bxf6 gxf6 35.h4 h5 36.Rg3+ Kf7 37.Rg5** Now White will end up winning a pawn. We see Caruana fighting like a World Champion - in all phases of the game from opening to ending. **37...Rc1+ 38.Kh2 Ng6 39.Rf2 Nxh4 40.Rxh5 Ng6 41.Rh7+ Ke6 42.Rxb7 Ne5 43.Rb6+ Rc6 44.Rxc6+ Nxc6** If Black's pawns were together it would be an easy draw. Here there is no way to defend the far distant a-pawn. **45.Kg3 Kf7 46.Rc2 Nb4 47.Rd2 Nc6 48.Kf4 Kg6 49.Rd6 Ne5 50.Rxa6 Nf7 51.Ke4 Nh6 52.Ra5 Nf7 53.Ra3 Nd6+ 54.Kf4 Nf5 55.Rd3 Nh6?** This ending can be played perfectly by consulting Table Base, where positions of 6 or less pieces are analyzed to perfection by computers. For a human that is imposssible and the players go back and forth in the next moves. We should note that MVL could reach a draw with [55...Ng7!

with a kind of fortress where the knight covers the white kings entry squares around the black pawn.] **56.Rg3+ Kf7 57.Ke4 Ng8 58.Kf5 Ne7+ 59.Kf4 Nd5+ 60.Kg4 Kg6 61.Kf3+ Kf7 62.Ke4 Ne7 63.Kf4 Nd5+ 64.Kf5 Ne7+ 65.Ke4 Ng8 66.Rh3 Kg6 67.Ra3 Kf7 68.Kf4 Nh6 69.Rg3 Ng8 70.Kg4 Ne7 71.Kh5!** Caruana finds the way! The white king infiltrates into the black defenses via the h-file. **71...Nd5 72.Rf3 Ke6 73.g4 Ke5 74.Kg6** MVL resigns as there is no way to hold on now. e.g. 74...Ke6 75. Rf1 Ke5 76. Rf5+ Ke6 77. Rxd5 Kxd5 78. Kxf6. An epic battle. **1-0**

(2) Wang,Hao - Ding,Liren [C45]

Candidates Tournament, 19.04.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 The Scotch Opening was very popular in the 1990's when Kasparov revived it. Nowadays it's seen once in a while. **3...exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5** Wang Hao chooses the sharpest variation instead of the classic 6. Nc3 Bb4 7 Bd3 **6...Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Ba6 9.b3 g6 10.Ba3 Nb4 11.Bb2** White has provoked the black knight to the b4 square. There are a lot of nuances in this variation, so now the white bishop comes back to the important b2 square with the different placement of Black's knight. **11...Bg7 12.a3 Nd5 13.Nd2 0-0 14.0-0-0!** Clearly prepared for all out battle. The kings are on opposite wings and the struggle for central squares is heating up. **14...Rfe8 15.Qf3 Nb6** The black knight's only retreat. Now what can White do about the loose e-pawn? **16.Ne4**

16...Bxe5! 17.Bxe5 Qxe5 18.Nf6+ Winning the exchange, but clearly there is more going on here. **18...Kf8 19.Nxe8 Qa1+** This is necessary. [19...Rxe8? 20.Kc2 would be simply up material] **20.Kc2 Qa2+ 21.Kc1 Qxa3+** Ding could repeat moves but tries to see if he can get more. **22.Kb1**

22...Na4! 23.Qf6! The only move to hold the game. On [23.bxa4? Rb8+ 24.Kc2 Rb2+ 25.Kc1 Qa1#] **23...Qxb3+ 24.Kc1 Qa3+ 25.Kc2 Qa2+ 26.Kc1 Qa3+ 27.Kc2 Qa2+ 28.Kc1**

The players agreed a draw by repetiton. Ding could not take the white knight since 28...Rxe8 29. Qh8+ Ke7 30. Re1+ Kd6 31. Qd4 is mate. **1/2-1/2**

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The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/966

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Chess Room Newsletter #966

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Newsletter #966

May 1, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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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 migh be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 5/4

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
   Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20220129012200/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:00-7:00PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: Modern Chess Openings (MCO) with GM Nick de Firmian with FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: April 5 - May 10, 2021

   Modern Chess Openings was a revolutionary text, and it has come back to life as it was featured in The Queen's Gambit. Mechanics' Institute Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian was the editor of several editions of that book and now it will come to life as a class! This will be club players of various strengths and will focus on about 5 key openings. He will cover open game openings that reinforce fundamentals such as piece development, control of the center and king safety, and he will also cover more complex openings that need deeper understanding such as the Sicilian, Queen's Gambit, and Ruy Lopez. The purpose of this class is to gain a better understanding of the ideas behind playing these openings and what to look for. The class will be interactive and engaging. FM Paul Whitehead will also be on to facilitate the class. The class will be fluid and interaction in the class is encouraged. We hope to enlighten the student on what it means to play openings and hpw they can lay the foundation for the course of the entire game. More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**

   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: Current class is full.
   Next class starts June. Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021)
   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **New offerings start next week: Advanced Attacking Techniques by FM Paul Whitehead**
   Course Dates: April 28 through June 2 (6 classes)

   Special class for players with 1800+ USCF rating to learn, discuss and improve on their attacking skills.
   $150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
   More information:
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/AdvancedAttackingTechniquesbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/AdvancedAttackingTechniquesbyFMPaulWhitehead)

5. **Wednesdays 7-8PM - Tactics for the Developing Players**
   Course Dates: March 31 through June 2 (10 classes)

   I am IM (International Master) Elliott Winslow, and I'll be teaching this course! I will go over one of the greatest players (world champions, groundbreakers, players who advanced chess theory and practice) per week, including some of the history of the player and the time period in which they made their mark, and use their games to instill basic tactical and positional thinking to those in the class. I will do weekly game analysis of at least one game from the star of the week, and show how to find tactics in that game and through puzzles, and at the end of class either leave time open to go over games sent by the participants ahead of class, or for the students to play some games.

   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tactics-developing-players (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tactics-developing-players)
   Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM)

6. **Sundays 10AM - 12PM -- Free Women's Online Chess Class by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams**

   Come join us on Sundays as we are offering a free class for women from 10am-12pm(noon) online.
   Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected. Registration is required so we may send the links for players to join. Zoom will be required to participate, and we will include optional links to participate in online platforms like chess.com if players would like to play with each other online.

   Be sure to be a part of the Mechanics' Women's Chess Club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-womens-club

   More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class)
   Class is free, but must register to receive class information: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012)

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:

5/11 Tuesday - May 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/May2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/May2021TNMOnline)

Join Now! May/June 2021 Thursday Night Marathon (May 13-June 10)
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129012200/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129012200/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/20220129012200/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/20220129012200/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)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 12: Capablanca - Alekhine 1927

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Alexander Alekhine had never won a single game off the 'Invincible Cuban' prior to their duel in Buenos Aires. But hard preparatory work on his part, coupled with a somewhat lackluster performance on Capablanca's, enabled the challenger to persevere +6 -3 =25. The opening game was a French, and the 3rd game a sort of Queen's Indian / Owen Defense, but the rest of the games were fought in the territory of Her Majesty, the Queen's Gambit Declined. Alekhine was a fierce, determined competitor – he practically won this match through sheer will-power. He also knew he'd hit the jackpot: despite some serious negotiations down the road, he successfully dodged a rematch with Capablanca, where anything was possible…

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1. Capablanca – Alekhine, 1st Match Game 1927.

Black moves. Win something.

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2. Capablanca – Alekhine, 3rd Match Game 1927.

White moves. Tear black apart.

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3. Alekhine – Capablanca, 12th Match Game 1927.

White moves. Exploit the pin.

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4. Capablanca – Alekhine, 21st Match Game 1927.

Black moves. This is a one-two shot.

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5. Alekhine – Capablanca, 34th Match Game 1927 (1).

White moves. Win a little something.

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6. Alekhine – Capablanca, 34th Match Game 1927 (2).

White moves. Win the World Championship.

GM Nick de Firmian

The Challenger to the Crown Emerges

Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia won the Candidates Tournament which finished on April 27. It was a deserved victory as he played fine, fighting chess and was in the lead for most of the event Maxim Vachier-Lagrave and Caruana were in the race, but it was the Dutchman, Anish Giri, who chased Nepo at the end. The unlucky 13th round ended Giri's hope when he lost to the other Russian contender, Alexander Grischuck. (No doubt Putin was pleased with Grischuck's show of patriotism.)

We now look forward to the World Championship match which will start late November in Dubai. Magnus has been a great world champion, and #1 rated in the world for the last 11 years. This is already a historic achievement to place him along with the all time great champions such as Capablanca and Alekhine. At 30 years old, Magnus is hardly over the hill but the question remains, how long can he continue at the top? We would normally dub Magnus the great favorite in a match, but we have gotten a very worthy challenger. In fact Nepo is one of the very few players with a plus score against Magnus in classical chess – 4 victories against 1 loss. This is slightly misleading as 2 of these victories date back 20 years when they were boys playing in the under 12 and then under 14 championships. Magnus has done well in their rapid chess encounters the last decade, but their recent rapid/blitz knockout match last month ended with victory for Nepo in the Armageddon game. We hope the upcoming match will be as close and thrilling. One thing we can probably count on is more open, entertaining battles than the last two world championship matches.

We give below the first classical chess encounter of the champion and the challenger. This is 19 years ago when they were just boys, yet one still sees their style of play emerging. The other game we present below is the deciding game of the Candidates Tournament. This game does not involve Nepomniachtchi, but his closest rival down the stretch. One must remember that the opponents are great players and one cannot count on a victory against them. This brings to mind the finish of the classic 1962 Candidates Tournament when Petrosian with White offered an early draw against the relatively low rated Filip, when everyone expected he would try for the victory so that Keres couldn't catch him. Petrosian counted on the very young American opponent in that game not to lose – and Bobby Fischer didn't disappoint him.

(1) Nepomniachtchi,Ian (2306) - Carlsen,Magnus (2214) [B04]

EU-ch U12 Peniscola (5), 03.10.2002

This was the first encounter between these two players 19 years ago when they were 11 years old playing in the under 12 world championship. **1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 dxe5** This was a frequent choice of the previous great Scandinavian chess great, Bent Larsen. **5.Nxe5 g6 6.Bc4 c6 7.Nc3 Be6 8.0-0 Nd7 9.Qf3 Bg7 10.Re1 0-0 11.Qg3?!** This lets Black have a free hand. Better was to develop with [11.Bg5] **11...Nxe5 12.dxe5**

12...Nxc3! 13.Qxc3 [13.Bxe6?? loses to 13...Ne2+!] **13...Bxc4 14.Qxc4 Qd5!** Magnus always liked endgames even from an early age. **15.Qe2 Rad8 16.Bg5 Qe6** Black has no worries and is slightly better. This shows Magnus' positional sense even at a very early age. **17.Qe3 b6 18.a4 Rd5 19.Bf4 Qf5 20.Qe4 Qd7 21.c3 Rd8 22.h3 Qe6 23.Qe2 Rd3 24.a5 b5 25.a6!** This insures White will have some active chances later on with the a-pawns. Nepo shows his dynamic instinct at this early age. **25...c5 26.Qe4 Qd5?!** [Seeking the endgame too much. Black would maintain some edge with 26...R8d5!] **27.Qxd5 R3xd5 28.Ra5 c4 29.Kf1 e6 30.Be3!** Typical active Nepo play. If he gets the a-pawn he will have a monster passer. **30...R8d7 31.Bd4 Bf8 32.Rb1 Be7 33.b3!**

33...Bd8? This passive move hands the endgame initiative over to White. Magnus needed to play actively to keep the balance. [33...Bb4! 34.cxb4 *(34.Raa1 cxb3 35.Rxb3 Bc5* is also fine for Black*)* 34...Rxd4 35.Rxb5 c3 36.Rc5 Rxb4 37.Rxc3 Kf8 is an equal endgam as the white queenside pawns are targets] **34.Ra2 Rxd4?!** [34...cxb3 35.Rxb3 Rc7 36.Rab2 is very difficult for Black, but now it's just lost] **35.cxd4 c3 36.b4 Bg5** [36...Bb6 37.Rd1 Bxd4 38.Rc2 Rd5 39.f4 Kg7 40.g4 f6 41.exf6+ Kxf6 42.Rd3 g5 43.f5 exf5 44.Rcxc3] **37.Rd1! Rc7** [37...Bd2 38.Raxd2 cxd2 39.Rxd2 Rc7 40.d5 is a winning rook ending] **38.Rc2 Be7**

39.d5! Bxb4 40.d6 Rc8 41.Rb1 1-0

(2) Grischuck,Alexander - Giri,Anish [E16]

Candidates Tournament, 26.04.2021

Sometimes the most important game isn't your's bur your rival's. At round 13 Anish Giri was half a point behind Nepo. He had Black though against Grischuck. One must remember that all these players in the Candidates are incredibly good. In this game Grischuck does a favor for his countryman. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Bb4+** The solid Bogo-Indian. **6.Bd2 c5!?** Yasser Seirawan used to play this line with Black a lot. The pawns get doubled but Black gets squares. **7.Bxb4 cxb4 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nbd2 d6 10.Qb3 a5 11.a3 Na6 12.Rfd1 Qe7 13.Ne1! Bxg2 14.Kxg2 h5?!** [14...Rfc8] **15.Nc2! bxa3 16.bxa3**

White has somewhat better pawn structure here as the b6 pawn is weak. **16...Rab8 17.e4 e5 18.Qd3 Nc7 19.Rab1 Ne6 20.Rb5 Rfe8 21.h4 g6** [21...exd4 22.f3!] **22.f3!** Keeping the e4 pawn as a solid mark in the center. **22...Nd7 23.Nf1 exd4 24.Nxd4 Ne5 25.Qe2** Both Black and White have good squares for the knights, but Black has weak pawns at both d6 and b6. With the fine d5 square under control White has a clear edge. **25...Nxd4 26.Rxd4 Nc6 27.Rd1 Qe6 28.Ne3 Ne7?!** [28...Ne5] **29.Qd2 f5** [This loses, but Black was in trouble in any case, e.g. 29...Red8 30.g4 hxg4 31.Nxg4 Qxc4?! 32.Nf6+ Kg7 33.Qb2! Kf8 34.Rc1 Qe6 35.Rc7 Rbc8 36.Nh7+ Kg8 37.Ng5 wins] **30.Qxd6 Nc6**

31.exf5! gxf5 [31...Qxe3 32.Qxg6+ Kf8 33.f6 Is decisive. Black has a couple checks that run out.] **32.Qxe6+ Rxe6 33.Nxf5** Two pawns up is enough for a super-grandmaster like Grischuck. The rest is just technique. **33...Ne5 34.Rd6 Ree8 35.Rd4 Nc6 36.Rd2 Rbd8 37.Rxd8 Rxd8 38.Rd5 Rxd5 39.cxd5 Ne5 40.Nd6 Kf8 41.Kf2 Ke7 42.Nb5 Kf6 43.Ke3 Kf5 44.Nd6+ Kf6 45.Ke4 Nd7 46.Kd4 Ke7 47.Nb5 Kf6 48.Nc3 Kf5 49.Ne4 Kg6 50.g4 b5 51.Nc5 1-0**

Solutions to Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Capablanca – Alekhine, 1st Match Game 1927.

The challenger landed the 1st blow of the match with **1…Nxc2!** exploiting white's weak back rank. After **2.Rxc2** (**2.Qxc2 Qxc2 3.Rxc2 Bxf4** amounts to basically the same thing) **2…Qxf4!** And black has won a clear pawn. After further drama, Alekhine eventually got through to Capablanca's king: **3.g3 Qf5 4.Rce2 b6 5.Qb5 h5 6.h4 Re4 7.Bd2 Rxd4 8.Bc3 Rd3 9.Be5 Rd8 10.Bxd6 Rxd6 11.Re5 Qf3 12.Rxh5 Qxh5 13.Re8+ Kh7 14.Qxd3+ Qg6 15.Qd1 Re6 16.Ra8 Re5 17.Rxa7 c5 18.Rd7?** (**18.Qf3!** probably holds) **18…Qe6!** Now black controls the key points: the e-file and the a8-h1 diagonal. **19.Qd3+ g6 20.Rd8 d4 21.a4 Re1+ 22.Kg2 Qc6+ 23.f3 Re3 24.Qd1 Qe6 25.g4 Re2+ 26.Kh3 Qe3 27.Qh1 Qf4 28.h5 Rf2 0-1.**

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2. Capablanca – Alekhine, 3rd Match Game 1927.

The World Champion ripped open the black kingside with **1.Nxg7! Qg6.** Capturing the knight loses after both **1…Kxg7 2.Qxf6+ Kh7 3.Qf7+ Rg7 4.Qxg7#** and **1…Rxg7 2.Qxf6 Qe4+ 3.Kg1 Qb7 4.Qxh6+ Kg8 5.Qxg7+** with a winning king and pawn ending. **2.h5.** The rest is the proverbial walk in the park for Capablanca: **2…Qf7 3.Nf5 Kh7 4.Qe4 Re8 5.Qf4 Qf8 6.Nd6 Re7 7.Bxf6 Qa8+ 8.e4 Rg7 9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.Nf5+ Kf7 11.Qc7+ 1-0.**

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3. Alekhine – Capablanca, 12th Match Game 1927.

Black had no resource after the straightforward **1.f4! Qg7 2.Bxe4 fxe4 3.Kf2!** calmly aiming to pick up black's rook. There is no defense, and Capablanca soon resigned: **3…Qf6 4.g3** (preventing **…Qh4+**) **4…g5 5.Rc1! 1-0.**

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4. Capablanca – Alekhine, 21st Match Game 1927.

1…e4! set in motion a powerful sequence of events: **2.Nd4** (Capablanca tries a little tactic that backfires, but there's little hope after either **2.Nh2** or **2.Ne1**) **2…Bxd4 3.Rd1.** Also hopeless is **3.exd4 Qxd4** with black dominating the board and a clear pawn ahead. **3…Nxe3!!** Obviously overlooked by white. **0-1.** Black is winning in every variation, as the reader can work out for themselves.

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5. Alekhine – Capablanca, 34th Match Game 1927 (1).

This was the final game of the match. **1.Qa5!** attacks a7 and e5. White wins a pawn after a few intricacies: **1…Nc4 2.Qxa7 Nxb2 3.Rxc8 Rxc8 4.Qxb7.** Can white convert his advantage? See the next diagram, with Alekhine still a pawn ahead 44 moves later.

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6. Alekhine – Capablanca, 34th Match Game 1927 (2).

The challenger achieved his life's ambitions with the shot **1.f5!** breaking up the black pawn structure. Capablanca fought on with: **1…gxf5 2.Kh6 f4**! trying to erect another barricade. **3.gxf4 Rd5 4.Kg7 Rf5 5.Ra4!** White is redeploying his rook. **5…Kb5 6.Re4 Ka6**. He must, as **6…Kxa5 7.Re5+** is curtains. **7.Kh6.** Zugzwang. **7…Rxa5 8.Re5 Ra1.** Black's king is much too far away. The game concluded with **9.Kxh5 Rg1 10.Rg5 Rh1 11.Rf5 Kb6 12.Rxf7 Kc6 13.Re7 1-0.** A classic endgame.

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Newsletter #967

May 8, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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Mechanics' Institute vs. Royal Dutch Chess Club Saturday May 8 9:00am PT

The Mechanics' Institute plays its 3rd match this Saturday morning in its Spring Club Match Series against the Royal Dutch Chess Club from The Hague, Netherlands. We will have more than 20 players for Mechanics' Institute, led by the top board matchup of GM Patrick Wolff playing for Mechanics' against GM John Van der Wiel for the Royal Dutch Club. We will also have some of the players from our scholastic programs participate against their scholastic players, so the competition will be from grandmaster to novice. Join us this Saturday morning starting at 9am PT with live coverage on our Twitch channel HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess). We will have live commentary with GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead, WCM Allyson Wong, and Abel Talamantez. Judit Sztaray will be the Chief TD, pairing the games on Chess.com. See you all Saturday - Go Mechanics'!

Mechanics' Institute and SG Zurich Split Club Match

The Mechanics' Institute split a club match last Saturday against the oldest continuously running chess club in the world: SG Zurich. Mechanics' won the matchup of scholastic players 14.5-5.5 and Zurich won the main event 16-12. GM Jim Tarjan led the charge for the Mechanics' Institute, in a match the had players from grandmasters to scholastic beginners. It was a great to see our scholastic players, many of whom compete in our weekend scholastic events on Chesskid.com, participate in a club match like this, with an opportunity to compete against other scholastic players from Zurich. Although Mechanics' lost the main event, we did have a very spirited comeback in the 2nd round of the match, highlighted by an incredible comeback upset by Clarence Lehman and Ethan Boldi delivering a checkmate with king, bishop, and knight in the final game of the match with seconds left on his clock. Congratulations to all the participants, and we would like to thank SG Zurich for helping organize this historic event. Full results for the match can be found by clicking HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1u8tHv0Yk0DKsmifTew6eBsiXDyT6LDmcRNmCqwJDgLY/edit#gid=1879253905). To watch the broadcast of the match, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azpT-oEs6Hs (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azpT-oEs6Hs)

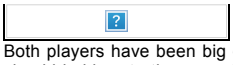
Here are some games from the match, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Ambroise Labelle [Frambi] Zurich (2340) - Clarence Lehmann [FrankJamesMarshall] Mechanics' (1866) [C55]

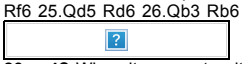
Mechanics' vs. Zurich Chess.com (2.10), 01.05.2021

[de Firmian, Nick]

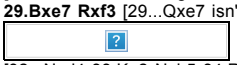
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Re1 d6 7.a4 Na5 8.Ba2 c5 Expansion common in Italian and Spanish circles (the openings, not the countries). **9.Bg5 Nd7 10.Be3 Nc6 11.Nc3 Nb4 12.Bc4 Nb6 13.Bb3 Bg4 14.a5 Nd7 15.h3 Be6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Ne2 d5 18.c3 Nc6 19.a6+/=**



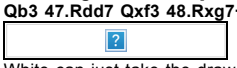
Both players have been big on one-move threats, but now it gets more complicated. **19...d4?** Ignoring the threat to b7 isn't a good idea! [19...b6; 19...Rb8] **20.axb7 Rb8+/- 21.Bd2?** [White should hold on to the pawn for a bit with 21.Qb3! dxe3 (21...Rf6 22.Bg5! Rg6 *(22...Qb6 23.Qxb6 Nxb6 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Ra6 Rxb7 26.Rea1+-)* 23.Qb5!+-) 22.Qxe6+ Kh8 23.Qxc6 exf2+ 24.Kxf2 Rf6 25.Qd5 Rd6 26.Qb3 Rb6 27.Qc4 when even if Black wins both b-pawns, White has a positional advantage.] **21...Rxb7 22.Qa4** [22.Ra6 Ndb8 23.Ra2; 22.Bc1] **22...Qb6 23.Reb1+/=**



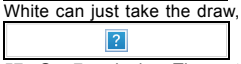
23...c4? When it comes to either solid positional play or setting a trap, well, Clarence goes for the latter! [23...Qb5; 23...Rfb8] **24.dxc4?** [24.Qxc4! Na5 25.Rxa5! Qxa5 26.Qxe6+ Rf7 27.cxd4 and White has a big, even winning advantage.] **24...Nc5 25.Qb5??** [25.Qa3 Nb3! wins a fairly healthy rook for knight.; 25.Qd1! was the only move to stay out of trouble. 25...Nxe4 26.Be1=] **25...Qc7!** There goes the queen. **26.cxd4 Rxb5 27.cxb5** Then again, when the choice is complications or just winning, the familiar Bay Area player keeps the game "fun"... **27...Nb4??** [Clarence must have gotten dizzy from the jungle of lines: 27...Nxd4-+ is just a queen for a rook.; Also good: 27...Nxe4 28.bxc6 Rxf3-+; Or even 27...Nb3 28.bxc6 Qxc6-+] **28.Bxb4 Nb3 29.Bxe7 Rxf3** [29...Qxe7 isn't really anything either.] **30.gxf3= Qxe7** [30...Nxa1 31.Rxa1 Qxe7 32.d5 when White has enough going for him to avoid defeat.] **31.Ra3 Qg5+ 32.Ng3 Nd2?**



[32...Nxd4 33.Kg2 Nxb5 34.Ra5 a6 35.Rxa6 Nd4 is still something for White, but this...] **33.Rd1+- h5 34.h4! Qh6** [34...Qxh4 35.d5!] **35.dxe5 Kh7 36.Kg2 Qf4 37.b4?! Nc4 38.Rxa7 Nxe5 39.Ra3 Ng6 40.Nxh5?!** [40.b6] **40...Nxh4+ 41.Kh3 Qg5 42.Ng3 Ng6 43.Kg2= Nf4+ 44.Kf1 Qxb5+ 45.Kg1 Qxb4** The queen and knight coordinate well, well enough to find a perpetual. **46.Ra7 Qb3 47.Rdd7 Qxf3 48.Rxg7+ Kh8 49.Rh7+ Kg8 50.Rag7+ Kf8**



White can just take the draw, but instead overlooks... **51.Nf1?? Ne2+** and Black finds a winning ending! **52.Kh2 Qxf2+ 53.Kh3 Qxf1+ 54.Kh2 Qf2+ 55.Kh3 Ng1+! 56.Kg4 Qg2+ 57.Kf4**



57...Qxg7 and wins. The rest is probably a time scramble, but Clarence isn't letting go now. **58.Rxg7 Kxg7 59.Ke5 Kf7 60.Kf4 Ne2+ 61.Ke3 Ng3 62.Kf4 Nh5+ 63.Ke5 Ng7 64.Kf4 Kf6 65.e5+ Kg6 66.Kg4 Ne8 67.Kf4 Nc7 68.Ke4 Nd5 69.Kd4 Kf5 70.Kd3 Kxe5 71.Kc4 Ke4 72.Kc5 e5 73.Kc4 Nf4 74.Kc3 Ke3 75.Kc4 e4 76.Kc5 Nd3+ 77.Kd5 Nf2 78.Ke5 Kd3 79.Kf4 e3 80.Kg3 Kd2 81.Kf3 Nd3 82.Ke4 e2 83.Kf5 e1Q 84.Kf6 Qe5+ 85.Kg6 Qf4 86.Kg7 Ne5 87.Kh8 Qg3 88.Kh7 Nd7 89.Kh8 Ke3 90.Kh7 Ke4 91.Kh8 Kf5 92.Kh7 Kf6 93.Kh8 Qg7#** Mr. Lehmann enjoys hanging on cliffs -- for the spectators' enjoyment as well! **0-1**

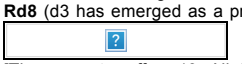
(2) GM James Tarjan [Tirantes] Mechanics' (2348) - GM Christian Bauer [crazyboy26] Zurich (2476) [A20]

Mechanics' vs. Zurich Chess.com (2.1), 01.05.2021

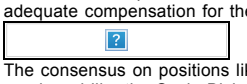
[de Firmian, Nick]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 Bc5 4.Nc3 a6!? Yes, Carlsen has played it. Right away Black secures a retreat for the bishop. **5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 Ba7** The waiting game continues. Will Black put his pawn to f5 before developing his knight, White must ask himself. **7.e3 Nf6 8.h3** White continues a restraining strategy and is slightly better. **8...0-0 9.d4 h6 10.dxe5** GM David Howell's concept endorsed in the recently published "Iron English" by Simon Williams and Richard Palliser. It clarifies the pawn structure and the black bishop's plight on a7, but White isn't without weaknesses as well. [10.b3 keeps the center open to various transformations.] **10...dxe5**

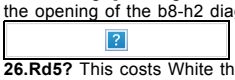
[10...Nxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.b3 c6 14.Ba3 Bf5 *(*A game that missed the book, by a former (but still very impressive) superstar: *14...Be6 15.Rfd1 Rac8 16.Be7 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Ne8 18.Na4 Rc7 19.Bc5 Bxc5 20.Nxc5 Bc8 21.f4 exf4 22.exf4 Kf8 23.Kf2 h5 24.b4 Ke7 25.Re1+ Kf8 26.Rd1 Ke7 27.Re1+ Kf8 28.Rd1* 1/2-1/2 (28) Hambleton,A (2484)-Bareev,E (2642) Kingston 2019*)* 15.g4 Bd3 16.Rfd1 Bc2 17.Rdc1 Bg6 18.Rd1 Bc2 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Be7 and White headed for a favorable minor piece imbalance in the ending: 1-0 (51) Fressinet,L (2702)-Grandelius,N (2647) Douglas 2015] **11.b3N** [11.Qxd8 was the original idea by David Howell, seen in a couple games. 11...Rxd8 12.g4!? This later game had White's containment strategy working out rather well *(*In the first all the major pieces came off quickly. But not the kings -- the game went on for quite a while. *12.b3 Be6 13.Ba3 Rd7 14.Rfd1 Rad8 15.Rxd7 Rxd7 16.Rd1 Rxd1+ 17.Nxd1* 1/2-1/2 (41) Howell,D (2676)-Ponomariov,R (2694) Riadh 2017*)* 12...Rd3 13.Ne1 Rd8 14.b3 Ne7 15.Ba3 Ng6 16.Nd5 Ne8 17.Ne7+ Nxe7 18.Bxe7 Rd7 19.Ba3 c6 20.Nf3 Bb8 21.Nh4 Bd6 22.Bb2 Rd8 23.f4 Be7 24.Nf3 e4 25.Nd4 c5 26.Ba3 Bf8 27.Ne2 f5 28.gxf5 Rd3 29.Rad1 Rxe3 30.Kf2 Rd3 31.Ng3 Rb8 32.Bxe4 Rxd1 33.Rxd1 Nf6 34.Rd8 b6 35.Bb2 Nxe4+ 36.Nxe4 Kf7 37.f6 gxf6 38.Bxf6 Ra8 39.Bh4 Rb8 40.f5 Ra8 41.f6 b5 42.Bg3 bxc4 43.bxc4 a5 44.Bd6 Bb7 45.Rd7+ 1-0 (45) Howell,D (2682)-Dzagnidze,N (2522) Caleta 2018] **11...Qe7 12.Bb2 Rd8** (d3 has emerged as a problem square.) **13.Qc2** Inviting a knight entry? [13.Qb1!?=] **13...e4**



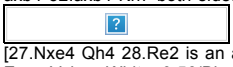
[The computer offers 13...Nb4!=/+ 14.Ba3 and after a while 14...Bc5 *(*at first preferring *14...c5 15.Bxb4 cxb4 16.Ne4 Ne8 17.g4 f5=)*] **14.Nh2** Not a happy placement. [The precarious 14.Nh4!? = heads for complications 14...Nb4 *(14...g5 15.Nd5! Nxd5 16.cxd5 Rxd5 17.Bxe4 Rc5 18.Bh7+ Kf8 19.Ng6+!!)* 15.Ba3! g5 16.Nxe4 a5!? 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Bxb4 axb4 19.Nf3 Bf5 with more than adequate compensation for the pawn.] **14...Bf5**



The consensus on positions like this has softened. It used to be throught that, as Black is plagued with a paperweight of a bishop on a7, he must be worse. But otherwise everything is pretty good, and like the Sozin Bishop on b3 or the Slav Bishop on g6/h7, it's not death, just hibernation. In fact, Stockfish gives Black the edge. [14...Nb4!? 15.Ba3 Nxc2 16.Bxe7 Rd7 17.Bxf6 Nxa1 and now it is White with not quite enough for the Exchange.] **15.g4?!** [Trading h-pawn for e-pawn with 15.Ng4=/+ doesn't quite happen: 15...Nb4! 16.Ba3 a5 17.Bxb4 axb4 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Nb5 *(19.Nxe4?! Qe7* is too much of an obligation, dealing with the pin.*)* 19...Qe5 20.Nxa7 Rxa7 21.Rfd1 dries up the play and holds a draw.] **15...Bg6** So now Black has two "bad" bishops, but as before, only temporarily -- and d3 remains a tender spot. **16.Rad1?!** [16.a3 Ne5 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Nf3+ 19.Nxf3 Bxe4 is, again, certain compensation, this time in the weakened light squares around White's king.] **16...Nb4-/+ 17.Ba3 Bc5** The Return of the Bishop. [Not 17...Nxc2 18.Bxe7 Re8 19.Bxf6+/-] **18.Bxb4 Bxb4 19.Ne2 Bd6 20.Rfe1 h5** Black gets right on softening up the kingside, but provides the knight on h2 a square. [The computer goes for piece play with 20...Nd7 21.Nf4 Bh7] **21.Nf4 Qe5|^** Black is more active, with latent threats on White's king. [21...hxg4 22.Nxg4 Bxf4 23.exf4 has to favor Black, but the Swiss grandmaster prefers to play more directly.] **22.Nf1 hxg4 23.Nxg6 fxg6** So both bishops didn't make it out, but the opening of the b8-h2 diagonal is the price. **24.hxg4 Rf8 25.Ng3!** With counterpressure on e4 and g6. **25...Nxg4**



26.Rd5? This costs White the game. [26.Qxe4=/+ is still a clear advantage for Black but there are still chances to hold. 26...Rxf2 27.Qxg4 Qxg3 28.Qxg3 Bxg3 29.Bxb7 Raf8 30.a3 a5 31.b4 axb4 32.axb4 Kh7 both sides play around the possibility of Rf1 (but not 33.Rf1?? Bh2+-+ winning)] **26...Qe7** [Or even 26...Rxf2!? 27.Qxf2 Qe7] **27.Qxe4?!**

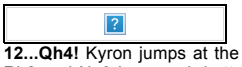


[27.Nxe4 Qh4 28.Re2 is an attempt to hold the fort, when 28...Bh2+ 29.Kf1 Rae8 looks a good try to bring White to the brink.] **27...Qh4-+** And it's over. **28.Qe6+ Kh8 29.Re2 Bxg3** Weighted Error Value: White=0.56/Black=0.18 **0-1**

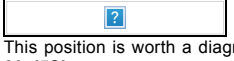
(5) FM Jonathan Rosenthal (OneLastBreath) Zurich (2410) - FM Kyron Griffith (kyrongriffith) Mechanics' (2371) [E27]

Live Chess Chess.com, 01.05.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Nh5 As usual Kyron plays an active, entertaining move. He threatens 7...Qh4+ **7.Nh3 f5 8.e3 c5 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.0-0 d6 11.Rb1 b6** [11...e5!] **12.g4?**



12...Qh4! Kyron jumps at the opportunity to make use of the weakened white kingside. **13.Nf2** [13.gxh5 Qxh3 loses at least a pawn] **13...Nf6 14.gxf5 exf5 15.Kh1?!-/+** [15.Nh1 with ideas of Rb2 and Ng3 is a much better defense] **15...Nh5 16.Kg2 Rf6 17.Rh1 Ba6 18.f4 Na5**



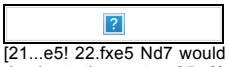
This position is worth a diagram. Black's pieces attack from both sides of the board. On the queenside they pressure the c-pawm and on the kingside they attack the white king. **19.Qf1 Re8 20.d5?!**

[The only chance was to fight the exchange down after 20.Rg1 Rg6+ 21.Kh1 Ng3+ 22.Rxg3 Rxg3] **20...Nxf4+! 21.exf4 Rg6+ 22.Ng4 Rxg4+ 23.Kf3 □ 23...Bxc4! 24.Bxc4 Nxc4 25.Qxc4** There was no defense anyway. **25...Qh3+** White resigned. It's mate after [25...Qh3+ 26.Kf2 Qg2#] **0-1**

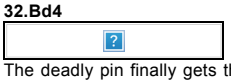
(7) Mike Hilliard (echecsmike) Mechanics' (1280) - Karl Dulli (oharot) Zurich (1056) [D02]

Live Chess Chess.com, 01.05.2021

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bf5 oharet plays the London System reversed! **3.e3 e6 4.Be2 Bd6 5.Nbd2 Nd7 6.b3 Ngf6 7.Bb2 0-0 8.0-0 c5** 8...c6 is the soldi "London" style move. 8...c5 is equaly good and more aggressive. **9.Rc1 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Bg6 11.c4 a6 12.cxd5 Nxd5** So far this has been excellent opening play by both players. The game is even here. **13.e4!?** aggressive yet somewhat loosening **13...N5b6?!** [13...Nf4 would be at least equal for Black] **14.Bd3** [14.f4!] **14...Ne5 15.N2f3 Rc8** [15...Qf6!] **16.Rxc8 Qxc8 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.f4 Bxd4+?+/-** This gives up the bishop for knight and causes tactical problems. The game would still be equal after 18...Bf6 **19.Bxd4 Qd8 20.Bb1?** [20.Bc5 Re8 21.f5! would win a piece. 21...Nd7 *(21...Bh5 22.Qxh5 Qxd3 23.fxe6)* 22.fxg6] **20...h6?!+/-** [Material stays even after 20...Bh5!] **21.Rf2?** [White wins an exchange after 21.Bc5 since the queen trade would remove the defender of the b6 knight] **21...Qc7?+/-**



[21...e5! 22.fxe5 Nd7 would be about even] **22.f5! exf5 23.exf5 Bh7 24.Rc2 Qd8 25.Rd2** Well played by echecsmike! Black's bishop on h7 is completely out of play and the white pieces dominate the center. **25...Nd5?!** [Even best play leaves White a huge endgame edge after 25...Qc7 26.Qc2 Qxc2 27.Bxc2 Rd8 28.Be4 a5 29.g4] **26.g3?!** [26.Bf2 wins a knight with the pin] **26...Nf6?!+/- 27.g4?!** [27.Bc5! wins material] **27...Re8 28.h3 g5?+/-** This leaves the knight on f6 without support, which ends up costing the piece. **29.Bc5 Qc8 30.b4 Kg7 31.Rd6 Bg8** [(+5.40) The best move was 31...Qc7 32.Qd4 Qe7 33.Bd3 h5 34.Kg2 hxg4 35.hxg4 Bg8 36.a4 Bh7 37.Rb6 Qd8 38.Qxd8 Rxd8 39.Be7 Nxg4 40.Bxd8 Bxf5 41.Bxf5 Ne3+ 42.Kh3 Nxf5 43.Bf6+ Kh7] **32.Bd4**



The deadly pin finally gets the knight. **32...Kf8 33.Bxf6** echecsmike won by resignation **1-0**

2021 Schutt/Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz Online Report

The annual Ray Schutt/Steve Brandwein/Jay Whitehead Memorial was played on Chess.com this year, with a talent rich field and a local legend taking a share of first place. NM Michael "fpawn" Aigner drew his final round game to score 9.5/12 and a share for first with NM Linden Lee from Minnesota. IM Elliott Winslow finished in clear 3rd place with 8.5/12, and NM Jules Jelinick and Austin Mei round out the top 5 with 8/12. 50 players participated in all, full results can be found on Chess.com event page here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/2021-schutt--brandwein--jay-whitehead-memorial-blitz-2287367 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/2021-schutt--brandwein--jay-whitehead-memorial-blitz-2287367)

Free Tuesday Night Online Results

We organized a free blitz tournament during the TNM off week on Tuesday March 4th. Christophe Bambou (HasDisconnected) won the event with an impressive 5/6 in a tough field. There was one particularly epic and exciting game between Kevin Zimmerman (chefkez) and Sos Hakobyan (sacrificeandcrush) that is well worth a look. Full results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-free-blitz---live-on-twitch-2288594 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-free-blitz---live-on-twitch-2288594) You can watch the replay of the broadcast for some fun lighthearted entertainment by clicking here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKoKRcIDq94 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKoKRcIDq94)

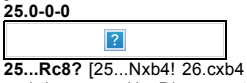
Here are some games from the tournament, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(4) Christophe Bambou (HasDisconnected) (2243) - FM Eric Li (kingandqueen2017) (2316) [B22]

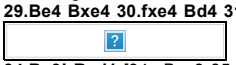
Live Chess Chess.com, 04.05.2021

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.exd6 Qxd6?! [5...e6 is safer] **6.d4 cxd4 7.Na3! Nc6 8.Nb5 Qd8 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4** This is simple but just better for White. **10...e6 11.Bc4 Nb6 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.Bb3 f6 14.Be3** The endgame is simply better for White with a lead in development and the uncastled black king. **14...Kc7 15.Nd4** [15.a4!] **15...e5 16.Nb5+** [16.Ne6+! Bxe6 17.Bxe6 Is a clear edge due to the bishop pair] **16...Kc6!**

That is a fighting king, leading the army on the battlefield. Here it is risky but best. **17.a4 a6 18.Na3 Bf5 19.a5 Nd5?!** [19...Bxa3! 20.Rxa3 Nd5 is only slightly worse for Black] **20.Ba4+?!** [20.Nc4! Nxe3 21.Nxe3 is a big edge for White] **20...Kc7 21.Bd2?!** retreating gives Black the initiative. Again Nc4 was called for. **21...Rd8 22.Nc4 Bc5 23.b4 Ba7 24.f3?!** [24.Bb3] **24...Kb8 25.0-0-0**



25...Rc8? [25...Nxb4! 26.cxb4 Rc8 27.Bb3 Be6 wins a very nice pawn] **26.Bb3?** [26.Nd6! would win material] **26...Bd3?** [26...Nxb4! 27.cxb4 Be6] **27.Nb2! Bg6?** oops. This just away the knight and the game. HasDisconnected needs nothing more after this gift. Black was in trouble but [27...Rxc3+ 28.Bxc3 Be3+ 29.Rd2 Nxc3 30.Nxd3 Rc8 gives Black some hope] **28.Bxd5 Rhd8 29.Be4 Bxe4 30.fxe4 Bd4 31.Kc2 Ba7 32.Kb3 Rd7 33.Rhe1 Rcd8**



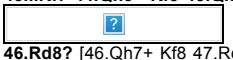
34.Be3! Rxd1 [34...Bxe3 35.Rxd7 Rxd7 36.Rxe3] **35.Bxa7+ Kxa7 36.Rxd1 Rg8 37.Rd7** It's completely over now with the dominant rook plus the extra knight. **37...Kb8 38.Nc4 Kc8 39.Nb6+ Kb8 40.c4 h5 41.c5 h4 42.h3 g5 43.Kc4 g4 44.Rh7 gxh3 45.gxh3 Ka7 46.Rxh4 Rd8 47.Rh7 Kb8 48.Rf7 Ka7 49.Rxf6 Rd1 50.Re6 Rh1 51.Rxe5 Rxh3 52.Re7** [52.Re8? would give stalemate tries] **52...Rh4 53.Nc8+ Kb8 54.Nd6 Ka8 55.Nxb7 Rh8 56.Nd6 Rh1 57.Kd5 Kb8 58.Kc6 Rh8 59.Re8+ Rxe8 60.Nxe8 Kc8 61.Nd6+ Kd8 62.Kb6 1-0**

(6) Kevin Zimmerman (chefkez) (1441) - Sos Hakobyan (SacrificeandCrush) (1734) [C02]

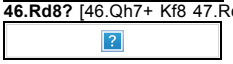
Live Chess Chess.com, 04.05.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nc3?! This doesn't deal with the strategic threat to the white central pawn chain. Once the d4 pawn is removed the e5 pawn becomes weak. **4...Nc6 5.Nge2?! Qb6** [5...cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nxe5 is simply a pawn to the good] **6.Na4 Qa5+ 7.c3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4** [8...Bd7 causes a lot of problems also] **9.Qxd4 f6?!** [9...Ne7! comes out effectively to the c6 square] **10.Bf4?!** [10.b3] **10...Bd7! 11.b3 Bxa4?!** This is too soon as it gives up the light squares [11...Rc8] **12.bxa4 Bc5**

13.Bb5+! Kf7? [13...Qxb5 14.axb5 Bxd4 15.cxd4 is equal material. The game move gives away the bishop.] **14.Qxc5 a6?! 15.0-0??** [15.Be8+! wins the queen on a5. Now Black gets right back in the game.] **15...axb5 16.axb5 Ne7 17.exf6 gxf6 18.Bd6?!** [18.Rfe1] **18...Rhe8** [18...Nf5] **19.a4 Rac8 20.Qe3 Qxc3?!** [20...Nf5! 21.Qf4 Qxc3] **21.Qh6 Rh8?!** [21...Nf5 22.Qxh7+ Ng7] **22.Rac1 Qd3 23.Rxc8?!** [23.Bxe7! Kxe7 24.Qg7+ Kd6 25.Qxb7 would be a winning position with two passed pawns and the safer king] **23...Nxc8 24.Bc7 Qg6 25.Qd2 Rg8 26.g3 Qe4 27.b6?!** [27.a5! is still good for White with a strong passed a=pawn to come] **27...h5?!** [27...Qxa4] **28.Re1?! Qxa4 29.Qh6 Qg4!** Back for defense **30.Qh7+ Rg7 31.Qh8 Rg8 32.Qh7+ Rg7 33.Qc2?!** Brave to play on instead of repeating moves, but this hands the advantage to Black. **33...Qb4** [33...Ne7! 34.Bd6 Nc6 is very good for Black] **34.Rb1 Qe7 35.Bb8 Nxb6?** Giving away the knight **36.Rxb6 h4 37.Bd6 Qd7 38.Qb2 Kg6 39.Bf4 hxg3 40.fxg3 d4 41.Rd6 Qa4 42.Qe2 Re7 43.Qg4+** Completely winning for White, but it can be difficult to finish with little time on the clock. **43...Kf7 44.Qh5+ Kf8 45.Qh8+ Kf7**



46.Rd8? [46.Qh7+ Kf8 47.Rd8+ Re8 48.Bh6#] **46...Qd1+ 47.Kg2 Qe2+ 48.Kh3 Kg6 49.Rg8+ Kf5 50.Qh6 Qf1+ 51.Kh4 Ke4!**



The best try in the position, **52.Qxf6??** [52.Qg6+ Kf3 53.Rc8 A time induced blunder going from won to lost. White is still easily winning after.] **52...Rh7+ 53.Kg4?!** [53.Kg5 Qb5+! 54.Be5 Qxe5+ 55.Qxe5+ Kxe5 is a winning ending] **53...Qh3+ 54.Kg5 Qh5#** Some mistakes, but an epic battle. **0-1**

May 2021 TNM Begins Tuesday May 11

The May 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon begins next Tuesday May 11 with a 6SS G/35+2 in 2 sections, 1800+ and u/1800. Two games per evening starting at 6:30pm PT, games will be manually paired on Chess.com and will be USCF online rated. We will broadcast all rounds of the tournament with live commentary. Register NOW by following this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/May2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/May2021TNMOnline)

Full tournament information can be found by clicking here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/may-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/may-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Thursday Night Marathon Begins Thursday May 13

For those wanting the challenge of a longer time control, our Thursday Night Marathon will begin its May-June edition this Thursday May 13th. This is a 5SS G/60+5 with one game per evening. Round starts at 6:30pm PT on Chess.com. Register for the ThNM HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605MayJune2021).

Full tournament information can be found by clicking here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021)

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 5/11: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1146076 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1146076)

See you in the arena!

Mechanics' Institute Regular Online Classes

1. **Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe**
Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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 fo 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/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

2. **Monday's 6:00-7:00PM** -- **NEW 6-week Specialty Class: Modern Chess Openings (MCO) with GM Nick de Firmian with FM Paul Whitehead**
Course Dates: April 5 - May 10, 2021

Modern Chess Openings was a revolutionary text, and it has come back to life as it was featured in The Queen's Gambit. Mechanics' Institute Grandmaster in Residence GM Nick de Firmian was the editor of several editions of that book and now it will come to life as a class! This will be club players of various strengths and will focus on about 5 key openings. He will cover open game openings that reinforce fundamentals such as piece development, control of the center and king safety, and he will also cover more complex openings that need deeper understanding such as the Sicilian, Queen's Gambit, and Ruy Lopez. The purpose of this class is to gain a better understanding of the ideas behind playing these openings and what to look for. The class will be interactive and engaging. FM Paul Whitehead will also be on to facilitate the class. The class will be fluid and interaction in the class is encouraged. We hope to enlighten the student on what it means to play openings and hpw they can lay the foundation for the course of the entire game. More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/modern-chess-openings)

3. **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members**

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: Current class is full.
Next class starts June. Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021)
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

4. **Wednesdays 6:30-8PM** -- **New offerings start next week: Advanced Attacking Techniques by FM Paul Whitehead**
Course Dates: April 28 through June 2 (6 classes)

Special class for players with 1800+ USCF rating to learn, discuss and improve on their attacking skills.
$150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
More information:
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/AdvancedAttackingTechniquesbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/AdvancedAttackingTechniquesbyFMPaulWhitehead)

5. **Wednesdays 7-8PM - Tactics for the Developing Players**
Course Dates: March 31 through June 2 (10 classes)

I am IM (International Master) Elliott Winslow, and I'll be teaching this course! I will go over one of the greatest players (world champions, groundbreakers, players who advanced chess theory and practice) per week, including some of the history of the player and the time period in which they made their mark, and use their games to instill basic tactical and positional thinking to those in the class. I will do weekly game analysis of at least one game from the star of the week, and show how to find tactics in that game and through puzzles, and at the end of class either leave time open to go over games sent by the participants ahead of class, or for the students to play some games.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tactics-developing-players (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tactics-developing-players)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM)

6. **Sundays 10AM - 12PM -- Free Women's Online Chess Class by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams**

Come join us on Sundays as we are offering a free class for women from 10am-12pm(noon) online.
Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected. Registration is required so we may send the links for players to join. Zoom will be required to participate, and we will include optional links to participate in online platforms like chess.com if players would like to play with each other online.

Be sure to be a part of the Mechanics' Women's Chess Club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-womens-club

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class)
Class is free, but must register to receive class information: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012)

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:

5/11 Tuesday - May 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/May2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/May2021TNMOnline)

Join Now! May/June 2021 Thursday Night Marathon (May 13-June 10)
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129021110/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/20220129021110/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/20220129021110/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Spring Session of our Virtual Chess Classes are starting
March 22 through May 31
Not too late to join - Prorating is available!

- All Girls Class with Coach Colin – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring)
- Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Thursdays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring)
- Advanced Class with Coach Andy – Thursdays 5-6PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS56PM2021Spring)
- Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) – Friday 3-4PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring)

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Monday, May 10: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459440 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459440)
- Tuesday, May 11: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459441 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459441)
- Wednesday, May 12: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459442 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459442)
- Thursday, May 13: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459443 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459443)
- Friday, May 14: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459444 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459444)
- Saturday, May 15: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459456 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=459456)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments on the weekends

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)

5/8 Saturday - 4SS G/20+10 affecting USCF Online Regular rating.
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay8SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay8SAT)

5/16 Sunday - 8SS G/5+2 affecting USCF Online Blitz rating.
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay16SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021110/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay16SUN)

Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

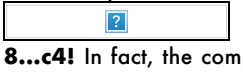
(3) RichTenderClove (1475) - ArcherTBayAreaChess (1622) [A00]

Live Chess ChessKid.com

[de Firmian, Nick]

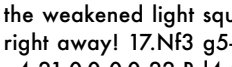
1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 e5 3.d4 White doesn't forget the center, but this is going to put his queen where it can get hit around. [Other ways to pick on the center are 3.c4; and 3.d3 (intending maybe e2-e4 after getting castled)] **3...exd4 4.Qxd4 Nf6 5.Bg5**

5...c5? [5...Be7 is much more sensible, since 6.Bxf6?! Bxf6 7.Qxd5?? Qxd5 8.Bxd5 Bxb2] **6.Qh4??** [6.Bxf6!+/- wins one pawn right away, with the res of Black's pawns in disarray.] **6...Be7** And now Black's on top. **7.Qa4+** This is not going well. **7...Bd7 8.Qb3**



8...c4! In fact, the computer thinks this is second best! [8...0-0! 9.Qxb7? Nc6 10.Qb3 c4-+ gives Black a winning development advantage, which will lead to dividends shortly.] **9.Qc3** [9.Qxb7? Bc6 wins the queen] **9...Nc6** That's a nasty threat to the queen! **10.a3 h6** [10...Qb6!?] **11.Bf4-+**

11...d4?! Even losing a pawn Black is better – but why give it up at all? **12.Qxc4 Be6 13.Bxc6+** The best move, but now White walks a tightrope with the weakened light squares. **13...bxc6 14.Qxc6+ Bd7 15.Qg2?** [15.Qa6!] **15...Rc8! 16.c3 dxc3?!** This just develops White's queenside. [16...Bc6 right away! 17.Nf3 g5-+] **17.Nxc3 Bc6 18.Nf3?** White doesn't see what's coming. [18.f3] **18...g5 19.Rd1 Qb6 20.Bc1?!** Undeveloping. [20.Be5!? g4 21.0-0 0-0 22.Bd4 Qb7 23.Rfe1 looks for compensation] **20...g4 21.0-0 gxf3** Premature – it's not going anywhere. [21...Qb7!; 21...0-0!] **22.exf3**



Black is a piece up, until you start counting pawns. And where is that king going to go? After a bumpy start White now goes into attack gear and plays very well for a C-player, or any player for that matter! **22...Rg8** [22...Kf8; 22...Qb7! 23.Rd3 0-0 24.Bxh6 Rfd8] **23.Rfe1 h5?** [23...Rg6!? saves the h-pawn so that a RxR on d8 can be met with ...Qxd8.] **24.Be3 Qxb2?** Indeed this poisoned pawn is just that. Black had to think about defense. [24...Qb7 25.Bc5 Rc7 26.Bd6 Rd7 27.Bc5 is a perpetual out of nowhere, and even 27...Rxd1 28.Nxd1 Bxf3 29.Rxe7+! Qxe7 30.Qxf3 Qxc5 31.Qxf6 Rg6 32.Qf4= should be okay for White.] **25.Bc5** [even better is 25.Bd4!] **25...Rc7 26.Qh3 Bd7** [26...Ng4; 26...Kf8 27.Bxe7+ Rxe7 28.Qc8+ Kg7 29.Qxc6] **27.Rxe7+** [27.Bxe7!! Bxh3 28.Rd8#] **27...Kd8 28.Bb4!** White just keeps it together, but Black is not going to be able to do the same with his king like this. **28...Kc8 29.Qh4 Rg6 30.Rb1** [Better is just 30.Rxf7 Qb3 31.Rxf6 Rxc3 32.Rf8+ Kb7 33.Rxd7+ Ka6 34.Rxa7+! Kxa7 35.Qe7+ Ka6 36.Ra8+] **30...Qd2** [30...Qc2 might be better, keeping an eye on the rook.] **31.Ba5 Rxc3 32.Bxc3 Qxc3 33.Qf4** with one of those threats... **33...Qxa3?! 34.Qb8#** Despite the mistakes this was quite an excellent attacking game. The main thing was Black's king caught in the center, with no way to take precautions. **1-0**

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 13: Alekhine – Bogoljubov 1929

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Alekhine decided to give his old friend Efim Bogoljubov a shot at the title rather than risk a rematch with Capablanca - even though the money wasn't as good. Bogoljubov was no pushover, however: he had won the great Moscow tournament of 1925 ahead of Lasker and Capablanca, and was the newly formed 1928 F.I.D.E. Champion after winning two matches against Max Euwe. Nevertheless, the only top player who thought Bogoljubov had a chance was… Bogoljubov.

The games were interesting, and despite the challenger's reputation for tactics he had absolutely nothing over Alekhine in that department. The final score of +11 -5 =9 for Alekhine indicates the fight it was: loose and entertaining.

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1. Alekhine - Bogoljubov, 1st Match Game 1929.

White moves. This should be easy.

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2. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 8th Match Game 1929.

Black moves. Time to crash the party.

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3. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 10th Match Game 1929.

Black moves. A calculated finish.

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4. Alekhine – Bogoljubov, 13th Match Game 1929.

Black moves. One move and it's over.

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5. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 18th Match Game 1929.

White moves. A nifty little combo.

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6. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 22nd Match Game 1929.

Black moves. Shut the door.

GM Nick de Firmian

Victory for the Old Guys

Mechanics' Institute Trustee GM Patrick Wolff played in the US Senior Invitational last year, which is for players aged 50 and up. Elliott Winslow remarked, " Over 50 is a senior?" It's not that long ago that the World Champions would be in their 50's – Lasker, Alekhine, Botvinnik. Other players were great late in their life, e.g. Keres, Korchnoi and Smyslov (who made it to the finals of the Candidates at 63). This questions the notion that players over 50 needs a separate tournament to make up for their age.

The flip side has a compelling argument – youth will be served, and anyone past 30 is over the hill. It was only a few years ago that the world's top players were in their teens and twenties. We all looked for the future challenger by watching the World Cadet Championship and the 13 year old grandmasters. We gave up hope on former Chinese prodigy Wei Yi. He was such a talent four years ago when he passed the 2700 rating mark, but his rating hasn't improved in four years and he's reached the venerable age of 21 years. Time for the Chinese to develop someone else!

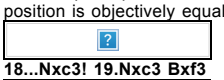
The last week has brought hope to the old guys. The most recent major world tournament was the New in Chess Classic, with most of the top players. The final featured two old combatants past the age of 30 (the time when people would be "renewed" (i.e. recycled) in the classic movie Logan's Run. One of these players was the world champion, Magnus, who had not been able to win any event since he passed his critical 30th birthday. The other was our old American, Hikaru Nakamura. Naka seems to have given up on classical chess at his ripe old age of 33, but he remains a potent force in blitz and rapid chess. His career seems to be focused on streaming and blitz chess, making him a notable e-sports figure. The final between these two old guys was great entertainment and we give two of their critical games below.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Nakamura,Hikaru [C54]

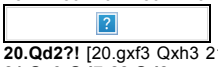
New in Chess Classic, 01.05.2021

We give this third to last gameof the match particularly for its psychological points. The match was two four game rapid sets and Magnus won the first of those. Hikaru struck back in the first game of the second set and so only needed to draw out to win the second set. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3** This Guico Piano is all the rage these days, more popular than the Ruy Lopez. **5...0-0 6.0-0 d5** The aggressive way to play. Black takes central space, even if it means his e-pawn becomes a target. **7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Re1 Bg4! 9.h3 Bh5 10.b4 Be7 11.b5 Na5 12.Rxe5 Nf6**

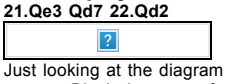
A highly interesting pawn sacrifice. It is exactly in the spirit of the position since the 6...d5 move. How much compensation does Black have? **13.Nbd2 Bd6 14.Re1 Re8 15.Bb3 Qd7 16.Rxe8+** The computer prefers 16. c4, but that is a strange move to play particlarly in rapid chess where one counts on intuition. **16...Rxe8 17.Bc2 Nd5** All the Black pieces are active. While the position is objectively equal it is much for fun to have the Black side. **18.Ne4**



18...Nxc3! 19.Nxc3 Bxf3



20.Qd2?! [20.gxf3 Qxh3 21.f4 Re6 22.Ne4 Rg6+ 23.Ng3 Rxg3+ 24.fxg3 Qxg3+ is only a perpetual check for Black. Magnus should have chosen this variation.; 20.Qxf3? Re1#] **20...Qe6 21.Qe3 Qd7 22.Qd2**



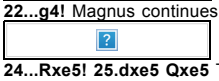
Just looking at the diagram you know things are wrong with White's position. Material is even and White is in disarray. A move like 22...Bh5 or 22.b6 would leave Black a clear advantage. So if you are Black do you go for the win or repeat the moves? **22...Qe6?! 23.Qe3 Qd7 24.Qd2** Game drawn by repetiion. This left Nakamura ahead in the second mini-match needing only to draw the next two games to win it. I must call his decision to repeat the choice of an old man. He should have played on and put it away. *

(2) Nakamura,Hikaru - Carlsen,Magnus [D31]

New in Chess Classic, 01.05.2021

Two games to go in the mini-match. Naka wants to draw both to even the set score and head to an armaggeddon final. If Magnus ties this second mini-match he wins the touranment. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.e3 Bd6 7.Bxd6 Qxd6 8.Bd3 Bg4 9.Qb3 Nc6 10.h3** [Risky but probably good is 10.Qxb7 0-0 11.Qb3 Rfb8 12.Qa3 Nb4 13.Bb1] **10...Bh5 11.Nge2 Bxe2 12.Nxe2 0-0 13.Rc1 Nd8 14.Qa3 Qd7 15.0-0 g6 16.Nf4 Re8 17.Bc2 c6 18.Nd3 Ne6** Thus far Naka has gotten what he should be looking for. A small edge in a solid position. Yet all the blitz and entertaining streaming he does leads him to choose a sharp continuation. **19.f4!? Ng7 20.f5?! g5!** [20...Nxf5 21.Nc5 Qc8 22.Bxf5] **21.Ne5 Qc7 22.h4?!**

22...g4! Magnus continues to keep the game solid and static where the knights do better than bishops. Here he starts to take over the initiative. **23.Qc3 Ngh5 24.Qe1**



24...Rxe5! 25.dxe5 Qxe5 The powerful exchange sacrifice leaves Black in control. The white bishop and rooks cannot find anything to target while the black knights move smoothly around the board. **26.Qc3 Qg3 27.Qe1 Qd6 28.Qf2 Re8 29.Rcd1 Qe5 30.Rd4 c5 31.Rd2 Ng3 32.Rfd1 Kf8 33.Rd3 Nfe4 34.Qe1 Qf6!** The black queen finds a way to the kingside to get to the white king White is busted. **35.Rxd5 Qxh4 36.Bxe4 Qh1+ 37.Kf2 Nxe4+ 38.Ke2 Qxg2+ 39.Kd3** Nakamura resigned. There are many ways to win for Black, e.g. 39...b5, 39...Qxb2 or 39...c4+. Magnus easily drew the final game to win the tournament. He felt great relief at finally winning an event in his now old age. *

Solutions to Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Alekhine - Bogoljubov, 1st Match Game 1929.

The challenger started the match off terribly, and Alekhine put him out of his misery with **1.Ne5+! 1-0.** If **1…Nxe5 2.Ra7+ Kc6** (or **2…Kd8/c8 3.Rxa8+** winning) **3.Qe4#**.

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2. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 8th Match Game 1929.

Another brutal finish: **1…Ng3+! 2.hxg3** (if instead **2.Kg1** then **2…Bg4!** wins the queen) **2…hxg3+ 3.Nxh3 Bxh3 4.gxh3** (there's nothing else) **4…Rxh3+ 5.Kg2 Rh2#. 0-1.**

---

3. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 10th Match Game 1929.

1…Rh5+ seals white's fate. Bogojubov tried **2.Kg4**, as **2.Rh4 Rxh4+ 3.gxh4 Qf3#** is a quick mate. But the inevitable occurred anyway after **2…Qe2+ 3.f3** (if **3.Rf3 Rf5** and either **…c2 or … h5+** coming is hopeless for white as well) **3…Rg5+ 4.Kh3** (**4.Kh4 Qxh2#**) **4…Qf1+ 0-1.** Bogoljubov resigned as **5.Kh4 Rh5+! 6.Kxh5** (**6.Kg4 Qh3#**) **6…Qh3+ 7.Rh4 Qf5#** would have been the pretty finish.

---

4. Alekhine – Bogoljubov, 13th Match Game 1929.

1…Qe4! is a tactic worth remembering. Black exploits the weak back rank and wins a piece. Alekhine capitulated after a few short moves: **2.Qd2** (**2.Rxe4 Rc1+ 3.Re1 Rxe1#**) **2…Qxa4 3.d6 Qd4 4.Qxd4 exd4 0-1.**

---

5. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 18th Match Game 1929.

It all comes together for white after the 'petit combination' **1.Rxc7+! Qxc7 2.Nc5+ Kb6 3.Qxc7+!** transposing into a winning king and pawn ending: **3…Kxc7 4.Nxe6+ Kd7 5.Nxd8 Kxd8 6.b4 (**also winning was **6.Kc2) 6…Kd7 7.Kc2 Kc6 8.Kb3 Kb5 9.Kxa3 Kc4 10.b5! Kxb5 11.Kb3 Ka5 12.a4 Ka6 13.Kb4 Kb6 14.a5+ Kc6 15.Ka4 1-0.**

---

6. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 22nd Match Game 1929.

Black kept the white king in custody with the straightforward **1…Nxf3+ 2.gxf3 Ree1!** threatening **3…Rh1+ 4.Kg2 Rdg1#.** White tried to escape out to **g4** with **3.Kh3**, but **3…h5!** turned the key. **0-1.** Mate cannot be stopped.

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 #968

May 15, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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Mechanics' Institute Will Reopen For Live Chess Starting in June

It has been a long year, and we are excited to announce plans to reopen live chess at the Mechanics' Institute next month with the Tuesday Night Marathon (TNM). Scheduled to start on June 1st, the TNM will have limited capacity, based on City and County of San Francisco regulations, so please sign up early. We will post event details and COVID precautions soon, along with registration information. The event will be a five-round open section TNM that will be FIDE-rated, as well as USCF-rated. Stay tuned for more details in the coming days, we will announce when registration is open via our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.facebook.com/mechanicschess) and via our email list, which you can join HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001livxg3X0Z0UU23D8HU-DJWZCQIa0fit2ve0_nG81Gkdxt0NYbzNq1nWYDYynJfEsCJbaK_vMxgDxqxgZrl9lpxqc9EknM5lIVnYt5e4mpNJWEKuEVT6rjuPLapili11MGtiOeyCwT-MdEVN8vXMGHPO9W2rB0eyE).

Mechanics' Institute vs. Hamburg Chess Club Saturday 10am PT

The Mechanics' Institute will face off against the Hamburg Chess Club from Germany in the final match of the Spring Club Match Series. It will be held on Saturday, May 15 at 10am PST on Chess.com and we will broadcast the match live on our Twitch channel here: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess). The match will be 20 players each side, each player playing 2 games against the same opponent, G/15 +2 with each player playing white and black. Here is the lineup for Mechanics'

1	Kyron Griffith	FM 2480	kyrongriffith
2	Jim Tarjan	GM 2469	tirantes
3	Josiah Stearman	IM 2467	josiwales
4	Andy Lee	FM 2337	falsenarwhal
5	Elliott Winslow	IM 2278	ecwinslow
6	Ruiyang Yan	NM 2242	jij2018
7	Arun Dixit	NM 2199	limelight2727
8	Mike Walder	NM 2075	flightsoffancy
9	Nicholas Weng	2013	ninjaforce
10	Kristian Clemens	2000	kclemens
11	Jonah Busch	1934	kondsaga
12	Clarence Lehman	1904	frankjamesmarshall
13	Chelsea Zhou	1866	mwncklmann
14	Adam Mercado	1831	a-boy415
15	Barbara Goodkind	1800	eatdiner

16	Allyson Wong	WCM 1779	fascimate
17	David Rakonitz	1622	mechanjin
18	Mike Hilliard	1446	echecsmike
19	Sebby Suarez	1400	sebbymeister
20	Andrew J Ballantyne	1200	andrewballantyne

Good luck to the team for this historic club match. Go Mechanics'!

Mechanics' Institute vs. Royal Dutch Chess Club

The Mechanics' Institute was just edged out in a very close match against the Royal Dutch Chess Club 17-16. The Mechanics' had three trustees representing the team, including GM Patrick Wolff, FM Mark Pinto, and Mike Hilliard, along with many club regulars. This was the third event in our Spring Series Club Matches with the world's historic clubs. We would like to thank Gosse Romkes, Stefan, and all the players from the Royal Dutch Club for helping organize this very entertaining match.

You can watch the broadcast by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXp1Q8Cm0mU (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXp1Q8Cm0mU)

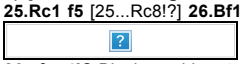
Here are some games from the match, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(5) Gosse Romkes (GosseRomkes) DD1852 (1917) - FM Mark Pinto (bondtrader) Mechanics' (2218) [A40]

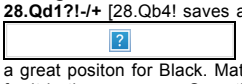
Live Chess Chess.com, 08.05.2021

1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 d5 James Bond(trader), a.k.a. Mark Pinto plays the sharp Gruenfeld Defense. His opponent decides not to capture on d5 and transpose into a kind of Catalan Opening. **5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 c6** and now we are in a Neo-Gruenfeld. This is a solid defense which offers equal prospects. **7.cxd5 cxd5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Bf4 Bf5 10.Qb3**

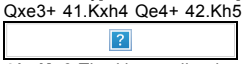
10...Na5 Mark breaks the symmetry with an attack on the white queen. The plan of taking queenside space is aggressive and good. **11.Qa4 a6 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.g4?!** [Simpler and safer was the devloping move 13.Rfc1] **13...Be6** [13...Nxg4 14.Nxd5 e6 is also favorable for Black] **14.h3 b5 15.Qb4?!-/+** allowing a tactical opportunity [15.Qa3] **15...Nc6?!** [15...Nxg4! 16.hxg4 Bxe5 17.Bxe5 Rc4 18.Qa3 b4 19.Qa4 bxc3 would put White in a hole] **16.Nxc6 Rxc6 17.Rad1 Rc4** Nonetheless Black has an excellent position with the advanced queenside pawns taking territory. **18.Qb3 Qd7 19.Be5 Rd8 20.e3 h6 21.f4** GrosseRomkes charges forward with the kingside pawns. It takes space, but can leave weaknesses. **21...Qc6?!** [It seems Black could keep some edge with 21...h5 putting the question to the white pawn front immediately. e.g. 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.gxh5 Bxh3 with good play] **22.Rfe1?!-/+** [22.f5 gxf5 23.gxf5 Bc8 24.Rf2 would have been a logical follow-up.] **22...Ne4! 23.Bxg7 Nxc3! 24.bxc3 Kxg7** This nice simplification has left Black with a clear positional edge. White's c3 pawn is weak and the kingside is more loose than threatening. **25.Rc1 f5** [25...Rc8!?] **26.Bf1**



26...fxg4!? Black would certainly be better after the simple [26...Ra4 but the exchange sacrifice is also promising] **27.Bxc4 bxc4** [27...dxc4 opens the long diagonal for the black queen] **28.Qd1?!-/+** [28.Qb4! saves a tempo by hitting the black pawn on e7] **28...gxh3 29.Qf3 Bf5**



a great positon for Black. Material is even but the bishop on f5 is as strong as a rook. **30.Kh2 Rb8 31.Qf2 Qe6 32.Re2 Qe4 33.Rg1 a5 34.Rg3 a4 35.Rb2 Rxb2 36.Qxb2 h5 37.Qb8?** going for it in time pressure. Sometimes you take a risk by playing actively and hope your opponent doesn't see how to put you away. **37...h4** [37...Qc2+ 38.Kh1 Be4+ 39.Kg1 h2+ would have won immediately] **38.Rxh3 Bxh3** [38...Qc2+! 39.Kg1 Bxh3 40.Qe5+ Kf7 41.Qxd5+ Be6] **39.Kxh3 g5?** [39...Qh1+ 40.Kg4 Kf7 would be the best way to win the queen ending] **40.Qe5+?-/+** [40.fxg5! Qxe3+ 41.Kxh4 Qe4+ 42.Kh5 should allow White to hold the draw] **40...Qxe5 41.dxe5**



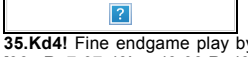
41...Kg6 The king ending is winning and Mark securely wraps up the point for the team. **42.Kg4 e6 43.fxg5 h3 44.Kxh3 Kxg5 45.Kg3 Kf5 46.Kf3 a3 47.e4+ dxe4+ 48.Ke3 Kxe5 49.Ke2 Kf4 50.Kf2 e3+ 51.Ke2 e5 52.Ke1 Kf3 53.Kf1 e2+** bondtrader won on time, though it's completely over anyway. **0-1**

(6) FM Andy Lee (falsenarwhal) Mechanics' (1887) - DD1852 (1714) [C34]

Live Chess Chess.com, 08.05.2021

1.e4 e5 The brave (yet risky) King's Gambit. **2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 g5 5.g3 g4 6.Nh4 f3 7.d4 Be7**

You must admire falsenarwhal's courage. It looks suspect for White, but in fact chances are close to even and the crazy position is probably to his liking. **8.Be3 Bxh4 9.gxh4 Qxh4+ 10.Bf2 Qg5 11.Nd5 Kd8 12.h4?!** This gives Black two protected passed pawns. It is still a wild position, but it doesn't seem necessary to give away a decisive endgame advantage (should we get there). **12...Qg7 13.Rg1 h5?** [13...Qh6 holds onto the the extra pawns with the advantage] **14.Qxf3!** Now White is only one pawn down and the activity more than compensates for that. **14...Nc6** [14...gxf3? 15.Rxg7 Be6 16.Nf4 is a winning endgame for White] **15.Qd3 Nge7 16.Nxe7 Nxe7 17.0-0-0 Bd7 18.Qb3 Kc8 19.Bg2 a5!** This takes a bit of queenside space and puts the rook on a8 to use. **20.a3 a4 21.Qc3 Bc6 22.Qd3 d5?** This opens up the game and has a tactical flaw that White can win a pawn by capuring on d5 since there is a queen check on f5. **23.Bg3?!** [23.exd5! Nxd5? 24.Qf5+] **23...dxe4 24.Bxe4 Ra5 25.Rgf1 f6?!** White takes a clear plus after this passive move. There was the oppottunity to play [25...f5 26.Bxc6 Qh6+ 27.Kb1 Qxc6 and Black is only slightly worse] **26.c4 Bxe4 27.Qxe4 Rd8 28.d5 Ng6?** This loses the f-pawn. ...f5 would have continued the battle with more chances **29.Qf5+ Kb8 30.Qxf6 Qxf6 31.Rxf6 Rg8 32.Kc2 Rc5 33.Kd3 b5 34.Rc1 bxc4+**

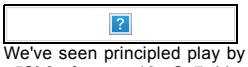


35.Kd4! Fine endgame play by falsenarwhal! The king can often be a strong force at the finish and it certainly is here. **35...Rb5 36.Rxc4 Rc8?** a blunder, guarding c7 but losing the knight [36...Rg7 37.d6! cxd6 38.Rxd6 Kb7 39.Rd8 would be a winning ending anyway] **37.Rxg6** Black resigned **1-0**

(8) Blokje (1911) - FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) Mechanics' (2379) [B13]

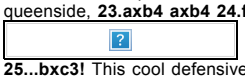
Live Chess Chess.com, 08.05.2021

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Here we see sn Exchange Caro-Kann with advanced opening play. **4...Nc6 5.c3 g6 6.Bf4 Bh6 7.Bg3** [7.Qd2 Bxf4 8.Qxf4 Qb6 would be an interesting alternative] **7...Nf6 8.Nf3 Nh5 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Qb3 Nxg3 12.hxg3 Rb8 13.Rfe1 e6 14.Nf1 Bxf3 15.gxf3**

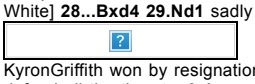


We've seen principled play by both side. Kyron pursues the minority attack with Black while Blokje has the half open e-file and solid pawn structure. **15...b5 16.a3 Na5 17.Qc2 Nc4 18.Kg2 a5?!** [safer was 18...Qc7 this allows White an opportunity] **19.f4?!** [White had an opportunity on the queenside (where he probably was not looking). 19.a4! bxa4 20.Bxc4 dxc4 21.Rxa4 leaves

White with solid pawns and Black with a couple weak ones.] **19...Qc7 20.Nh2 Rfc8 21.Ng4 Bg7 22.Rh1 b4!** The thematic minority attack is powerful here. Black takes the initiative on the queenside, **23.axb4 axb4 24.f5?-/+** Looking for counterplay Blokje charges ahead to uncertain complications. Objectively better was [24.Rhc1 with only a slight disadvantage] **24...exf5 25.Bxf5**



25...bxc3! This cool defensive move takes all the positional trumps and gives Black a big advantage. [25...gxf5? 26.Qxf5 would give White serious attacking chances, worth the sacrificed piece.] **26.b3** [26.Bxc8 cxb2! 27.Rab1 Qxc8 would be simply winning for Black] **26...Nd2 27.Bxc8 Qxc8** The white knight is attacked, the b-pawn and the d-pawn. Black has won the battle on the queenside and center and that is far more important than the exchange. **28.Ne3?!** losing the d-pawn dooms Blokje [28.Nh6+ Bxh6 29.Rxh6 Rxb3 30.Rh4 would give more chances for White] **28...Bxd4 29.Nd1** sadly for White [29.Nxd5 Qb7 30.Ra5 Rd8 loses the knight] **29...Qb7 30.Ra4 Bg7 31.Qd3 d4+ 32.f3 Re8**



KyronGriffith won by resignation. White could try to play on with 33. b4 but everything works so harmoniously for Black. **33.b4 Re3 34.Nxe3 Qxf3+ 35.Kh2 Be5 36.Rg1 dxe3** and White can't defend all the threats. **0-1**

May 2021 TNM Report

Everyone at Mechanics' Institute is excited that our traditional of in-person chess is returning, albeit gradually given local and state regulations, with our next TNM. While we are glad we were able to continue chess during the closures during a time of turmoil and uncertainty and will continue some virtual tournaments, nothing beats the feeling of being inside the Mechanics' Institute building and chess room with its wooden tables, historic pictures, and memories of games and people. Our online events served as a way for all of us to stay connected during the closures, while welcoming new players to our community. We look forward to seeing old friends and new players in person as we reopen.

Mechanics' Institute is grateful for the partnerships developed with other clubs in this country and around the world, which we plan to sustain and continue utilizing to stay connected to the larger, global chess community as well. Online play will continue to be a part of the Mechanics' Institute. The Thursday Night Marathon Online will continue, as well as some scholastic and regular events online in addition to live. We will also continue online classes.

At this writing, 70 players are entered in this two section TNM. We always enjoy watching the first two rounds of the TNM in search of upsets, and the first round certainly delivered. Max Hao upset IM Elliott Winslow in the top section and Pranav Pradeep was upset by Adithya Chitta. GM Gadir Guseinov crusied through his first round, but was engaged in a very complex position in round 2 against NM Michael Wang that captivated almost the entire round 2 broadcast. FM Kyron Griffith, FM Eric Li, FM Max Gedajlovic, NM Eric Hon, and Austin Mei also remained perfect in the top section, making for some exciting rounds 3 & 4 matchups next week.

In the under 1800 section, top seed Aaron Nocoski took advantage of a critical blunder by Paul Krezanoski in a king and rook vs. king and pawn on 7th rank endgame to finish with 2/2. Also perfect after two rounds are Joshua Lamstein, Ethan Sun, Mike Hilliard, Sebby Suarez, Adithya Chitta and William Kelly.

Full tournament information can be found here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/may-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/may-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

To watch the broadcast of rounds 1&2, please click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKoxQhVQBbo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKoxQhVQBbo)

Here are some games from the rounds, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) NM Michael Wang (coalescenet) (2108) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2638) [E71]

MI May TNMo Chess.com (2.1), 11.05.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Bg5 Kotronias in the final volume of his five-book repertoire series on the King's Indian credits this to John Watson's own repertoire book, but it has been seen sporadically for years before. It is a sort of hybrid, akin to the Makagonov Variation (Nf3/h3) as compared to the Classical line (Be2/Nf3). [6.Nf3; and 6.Be3 are more common but not necessarily better.] **6...c5** Heading for some sort of Benoni. [Like in the Averbakh, 6...e5 is suspect: 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Nd5 Nbd7 10.Rd1! Rf8 11.Nxc7 Rb8 12.f3 is close to winning; there really is no compensation for the pawn, not to mention the troubled development.; 6...Na6 on the other hand is a fair preparation: 7.Bd3 e5 8.d5 c6 9.Nge2 Nc5 10.Bc2 cxd5 11.cxd5 a5 led to a quick draw a very high-level game: ½-½ (19) Kasparov,G (2785) -Kramnik,V (2765) Las Palmas 1996.] **7.d5 a6** [Kotronias goes with 7...e6 when after 8.Bd3 exd5 both of White's pawn recaptures require precise play: 9.cxd5 *(9.exd5)* ; The immediate Benko Gambit style 7...b5 8.cxb5 a6 allows 9.a4 with good results for White.] **8.Nf3** Hard to give this a question mark, but it's the next move that misses the point. [8.a4 puts ...b5 to rest for a long time, when it's back to 8...e6 A recent and curious game went 9.Bd3 h6 10.Be3 Nbd7 11.Nf3 Re8 12.0-0 a5 13.Qd2 Kh7 14.Nb5 Ra6 15.Rae1 e5 16.Nh2 Nf8 0-1 (37) 81, Ivanisevic,I (2606)-Kovalenko,I (2643) Lichess.org INT 2021.; Even 8.Bd3 makes more sense.] **8...b5 9.cxb5?!** [9.Bd3!? bxc4 10.Bxc4+/- actually rates rather high, and has done a lot better.] **9...axb5 10.Bxb5?**

[10.Bxf6 is the sort of move White should feel sick making, but it's probably the way to go.] **10...Nxe4!** A stock combination in similar positions, leading to a clear advantage. Here the bishop on g5 threatening e7 is an unusual feature, but that capture will always be just too dangerous. **11.Nxe4 Qa5+ 12.Nc3 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Qxb5 14.Qe2** White isn't castling in any case. **14...Qxe2+ 15.Kxe2 Nd7**

Black wants to go after the d-pawn. **16.Kd3N** [This has all happened before! Then White even won, but the fact is Black is well on top now. 16.Kd2 Nb6 *(16...Re8-+; 16...f6-+)* 17.Bxe7 Re8 18.Rhe1 Bf5?! *(18...Bb7!)* 19.Kc1?-/+ 1-0 (68), Reis,T (2209)-Gendler,J Bayern 2014] **16...Ba6+ 17.c4 Nb6 18.Bxe7** [18.Nd2 Nxd5] **18...Bxc4+ 19.Kc2 Rfe8 20.Rhe1 Bxd5 21.Bxd6 Be4+-+** Material is even but Black has a lot of trumps: dangerous c-pawn, and especially ongoing attack on White's king. **22.Kb3 c4+ 23.Kb4 Nd5+** Black has various excellent continuations [The computer notices 23...Rec8! when 24.Rxe4? loses to 24...Nd5+ 25.Kb5 Nc3+] **24.Kc5 Nc3** This could get away from the GM in Baku. [24...Rac8+ 25.Kd4 Red8] **25.Be5**

[25.a4!?] **25...Na4+! 26.Kxc4 Bc2** [26...f5! is better, but regardless, the king's exposed state will be the death of him.] **27.Nd4 Rec8+ 28.Kb4 Ra7**

Black sets up a "rook-roller" just like in chess school, first lesson. **29.Rac1 Rb7+** [29...Nc3!] **30.Nb5 Nc5 31.Re3**

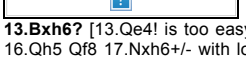
31...Nd3+! A nice flurry of tactics ends the game. **32.Rxd3 Rxb5+! 33.Kxb5 Bxd3+ 34.Kb4 Rxc1 35.a4 Bf1 36.g3 Bxh3 37.a5 Bf1** Michael's opening choice could have worked out very well, but right away he fell into a shot and never recovered. **0-1**

(2) Ako Heidari (Ako_H) (1872) - FM Eric Li (kingandqueen2017) (2169) [C11]

MI May TNMo Chess.com (1.3), 11.05.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Ng3 passive [6.Bxf6 is standard.] **6...0-0 7.Nf3 b6 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.Ne5** [9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Be4 keeps an even keel.] **9...Nbd7 10.Qe2 h6**

[10...Bxg2?! 11.Rg1 just asks for trouble] **11.h4?! Nxe5?** [11...hxg5? 12.hxg5 is even worse trouble; Black should classically meet the "attack" with a counter in the center: 11...c5!=/+] **12.dxe5+/-** Now the attack is real. **12...Nd5**



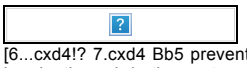
13.Bxh6? [13.Qe4! is too easy. White is just winning. 13...f5 14.exf6 Bb4+ 15.Kf1 Nxf6 16.Qxb7 hxg5 17.hxg5 Qd5 18.Qxd5 Nxd5 19.Ne4+-] **13...gxh6 14.Qe4** [14.Qg4+!? Kh8 15.Nf5 Rg8! 16.Qh5 Qf8 17.Nxh6+/- with lots of pawn and a king target.] **14...f5 15.exf6 Rxf6** This also feels desperate, but somehow Black hangs on **16.Qh7+ Kf8 17.Bg6?** [17.Nh5! is some plus] **17...Rxg6 18.Qxg6 Bf6?** [18...Nf6 19.Qxh6+ Kf7 sets up a winning defense.] **19.Qxh6+ Kf7 20.Qh5+ Ke7 21.Qh7+ Kf8** White has a perpetual but tries for more... **22.0-0-0?! Qe7 23.Qxe7+** White used half his remaining ten minutes in a fruitless attempt to find an attack, finally conceding the exchange. For the rest of the game it's an up and down unbalanced mess, with Eric Li coming out on top. **23...Kxe7** [23...Bxe7 keeps the bishop safe] **24.Ne4** [24.Nh5! Bh8 25.Rhe1 is still good for Black but not that much so.] **24...Rg8?** [24...Nf4! 25.Nxf6 Kxf6-/+ and White's

pawns lose out to Black's minor piece pressure.] **25.g3! Bg7 26.Rhe1 Bh6+ 27.Kb1 Rf8** [27...Rg4!] **28.c4? Nf6?** [28...Ne3! when again, the "extra" piece is working: 29.Rd4 c5 30.fxe3 cxd4 31.exd4 Kd7-+] **29.Ng5** [29.Nxf6 Rxf6 30.f4 Bf3 31.Rd3 Bg4 stymies the pawns.] **29...Bc8?** [29...Bxg5 30.hxg5 Ne4-/+] **30.f4 Nh5 31.Re3+/-** Now White looks good **31...Ng7 32.Rde1 Bd7 33.Kc2** [33.c5! and White is pressing] **33...Rh8 34.Re5 Rf8 35.Kb3 Rf6 36.R1e3 Nf5 37.Rd3 Nd6 38.Ne4 Nxe4 39.Rxe4 Be8 40.Rde3 c5 41.Re5?** [Last chance to mobilize those pawns: 41.g4! Bxf4 42.g5 Rf8 43.Rxe6+ Kd7 44.R3e4 and even the bishops won't save White.] **41...Bg6** Now it's even, but Black wears White down in time pressure. **42.Kc3?** [42.Ka4=] **42...Bg7** [42...Bf5! with the blockade: Black better.] **43.Kd2 Bf5** Got it. **44.Ke1? Kf7 45.Kf2? Rg6** winning the Exchange, and it's all but over. The rest is just time trouble, no time to find the "resign" button. **46.h5 Rg4 47.Rxf5+ exf5 48.Kf3 Bxb2 49.Re2 Bd4 50.Rh2 Rg8 51.h6 Rh8 52.Rh5 Kg6 53.Rg5+ Kf6 54.Rh5 a6 55.g4 fxg4+ 56.Kxg4 Kg6 57.f5+ Kh7 58.Kf4 b5 59.cxb5 axb5 60.Rh3 Ra8 61.Rg3 Kxh6 62.Rg6+ Kh7 63.Kg5 Rg8 64.Rxg8 Kxg8 65.Kf4 b4 66.Ke4 Kf7 67.Kd3 Kf6 68.Kc2 Kxf5 69.Kb3 Ke4 70.a4 bxa3 71.Kxa3 Kd3 72.Ka2 Bf2 73.Kb1 Kd2 74.Kb2 c4** A dangerous attack that got away from Ako, followed by a complicated and unbalanced queenless middlegame. **0-1**

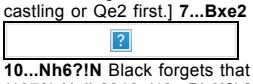
(3) Giorgios Tsolias (GiorgiosTsolias) (1679) - FM Max Gedajlovic (MMSANCHEZ) (2195) [C02]

MI May TNMo Chess.com (2.4), 11.05.2021

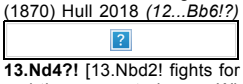
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Bd7 5.Nf3 Qb6 French Defense, Advance Variation, Wade Defense. Black solves the problem of his bad bishop before anything else. The problem is that it takes time away from developing the other pieces. **6.Be2** [6.a3!? at least doesn't have to worry about a quick . ..c4 and ...Nc6-a5-b3 (or does he?)] **6...Bb5**



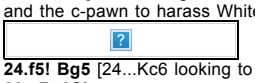
[6...cxd4!? 7.cxd4 Bb5 prevents the possibility on the next move, at the cost of clarifying the center and giving White c3 for a knight.] **7.0-0** [7.c4!? Bxc4 *(7...dxc4 8.d5!* is the idea -- White breaks through in the center and hopes to catch Black's king there. It's been fairly successful.*)* 8.Bxc4 Qb4+ 9.Nbd2 dxc4 10.a3 Qb5 Black can't really hold onto his ill-gotten gains, with White castling or Qe2 first.] **7...Bxe2 8.Qxe2 Qa6!** And this is the rest of the point. Black fights for the light squares. **9.Re1 Qxe2 10.Rxe2**



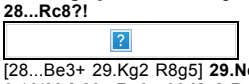
10...Nh6?!N Black forgets that two can play at that bad-bishop-elimination game! [Just development and setting up ...Rc8: 10...Nc6 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.b4 Be7 0-1 (38) Lewis,D (1583)-Gamble,R (1870) Hull 2018 *(12...Bb6!?)*] **11.Bxh6! gxh6 12.dxc5! Bxc5**



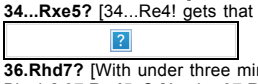
13.Nd4?! [13.Nbd2! fights for a piece on d4, with an advantage.] **13...Nc6 14.Nxc6** [When the computer prefers 14.Nf3 then something is off.] **14...bxc6** Now Black has another half-open file and the c-pawn to harass White. **15.Nd2 Rb8 16.b4 Be7 17.Nb3 Kd7 18.a3 Rhg8 19.Rd1 Kc7 20.Re3 Rg7 21.f4 Rg4 22.Rf1 Rbg8 23.g3 c5**



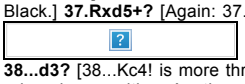
24.f5! Bg5 [24...Kc6 looking to invade on the light squares] **25.Ref3** [25.Re2! holds up e5] **25...cxb4 26.fxe6 fxe6 27.Rf7+** [27.axb4!] **27...Kb6** Black is doing fine now. **28.cxb4?!** [28.axb4] **28...Rc8?!**



[28...Be3+ 29.Kg2 R8g5] **29.Nc5?!** Shorter on time (four minutes to fourteen) White loses the way. [29.Kg2 Be3 30.R1f6; Or even 29.Kh1 is a better try. 29...Be3 30.Re7 Rc3 Stockfish 8 64 0.16/28] **29...Be3+ 30.Kg2 Bxc5 31.bxc5+** Double rook endings are hard to orient, and often head to a draw if there are wholesale exchanges. **31...Rxc5** [31...Kxc5!? 32.Rxa7 Kd4 33.Rxh7 Kxe5 34.Rxh6 is even.] **32.Rb1+ Ka6 33.Rxh7 d4?** [33...Rc2+ 34.Kf3 Re4 secures a path for the Black king] **34.Rbb7?** [34.Re1! hangs on to the e-pawn, with some advantage for White.] **34...Rxe5?** [34...Re4! gets that rook back into the game right away 35.Rxa7+ Kb5 just nudges Black's king to support the central pawns] **35.Rxa7+ Kb5**



36.Rhd7? [With under three minutes White doesn't quite go far enough. 36.Rhc7! draws, cutting off the king.] **36...Rd5?** [36...Kc4! when the extra support of the king makes it winning for Black.] **37.Rxd5+?** [Again: 37.Rdc7!=] **37...exd5** Doubled or not those pawns are a problem for White. **38.Rd7**

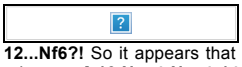


38...d3? [38...Kc4! is more threatening: 39.Kf3 Re4 40.Rc7+ Kd3] **39.Rxd5+?** [39.Kf2! Re4 40.Rxd5+ Kc4 41.Rd6 is adequate to hold.] **39...Kc4 40.Rd8 Rd4 41.Rc8+ Kb3** White lost on time in a hopeless position. Another difficult ending, highlighting that so many points can be won or saved by developing a feel for these simplified but hardly simple positions. **0-1**

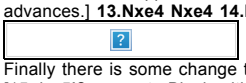
(4) Aaron Nicoski (KingSmasher35) (1737) - Paul Krezanoski (pjkrizzle) (1594) [D00]

MI May TNMo u1800 Chess.com (2.1), 11.05.2021

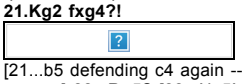
1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 c6 3.c3 Qb6 4.Qb3 Bf5 In the popular London System, Black decides on the very same moves. Neither side wants to trade queens and give the other player the rook file and a nice pawn to advance. **5.e3 Nf6 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.h3 e6 8.Nf3 Ne4** Black is the first to cross the frontier line, but it means nothing. **9.0-0 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Nxe4 Bxe4 12.Nd2**



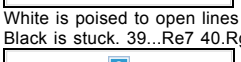
12...Nf6?! So it appears that Black doesn't accept that bishops might be worth a bit more than knights after all. [12...Bg6 stays calm; or 12...g5 13.Bh2 Bg6 with possible further kingside pawn advances.] **13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.Rfd1 c5?!**



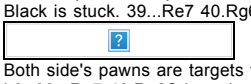
Finally there is some change to the pawns! But it might not work out so well for Black. [Trading off one of the two might not be a bad idea here: 14...Bd6 is close to equality.] **15.Qxb6** [15.dxc5!? presents Black with a difficult choice of recapture.] **15...axb6 16.f3 Nf6 17.g4** Played a la Steinitz, restricting the knight to accentuate the value of the bishops. **17...c4** Dreaming of queenside expansion **18.a3** White stops things before they even get started. **18...h6 19.Kf2 Nh7 20.Bg3 f5** Looking for some activity (not to mention thoughts of White's king on the f-file) **21.Kg2 fxg4?!**



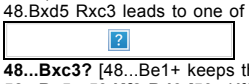
[21...b5 defending c4 again -- that d-pawn might be needed elsewhere.] **22.fxg4?** [22.hxg4! Capturing towards the center, keeping the pawns in one mass, maintaining control of e4 with a pawn...] **22...Bg5?** [22...Ng5!= returning to e4 is fine.] **23.e4!** The pawns get targeted. **23...b5? 24.e5?** [24.exd5 exd5 25.Bf3 Rfd8 *(25...Nf6?? 26.h4; 25...Rad8 26.Re1 Bf6 27.h4* Again, containment! *27...Kf7 28.a4!* Finally switching back to the queenside, with a win*)* 26.Re1 Bf6 27.h4 Kf7 and even here, White can play to open up the queenside with b2-b3.] **24...Rf7 25.Rf1** White trades the rooks before Black's doubling becomes annoying. **25...Nf8?!** [25...Rxf1 26.Rxf1 Rf8] **26.Rxf7 Kxf7 27.Rf1+ Kg6?! 28.h4 Be7 29.h5+** Giving Black's bishop a square (g5). [29.Be1 sets up 29...Kh7 30.g5!? hxg5 31.h5! looking for open lines (the pawn is easily recovered on the way).] **29...Kh7 30.Bd1 Kg8 31.Bc2 Bg5 32.Bf4 Be7 33.Bc1 b6?!** This could be a useful tempo lost in some later ending. **34.Kh3 Ra7 35.Rg1**



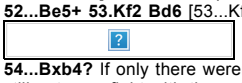
White is poised to open lines everywhere, g4-g5, a3-a4, b2-b3. Black has his hands full keeping an eye on them all. **35...Nh7 36.Bg6** [36.Bxh7+!? Kxh7 37.g5 hxg5 38.Bxg5 Bxg5 39.Rxg5 Black is stuck. 39...Re7 40.Rg6 White can run his king over to a2 and play a3-a4!] **36...Ng5+?!** [36...Bg5!? 37.Bxh7+?! Kxh7 38.Bxg5 hxg5 when Black can hold.] **37.Bxg5! Bxg5 38.Rf1**



Both side's pawns are targets for the other player's bishop, but White can get to them faster. **38...Re7 39.Ra1** It's White's king that should be setting up the pawn breaks, it's doing nothing on h3. **39...Ra7 40.Be8?** Impatient, a crime in the endgame! And Black is alert: **40...b4! 41.cxb4** [41.Rf1 is the road to complete equality.] **41...Be3** Now Black is very much in the game. **42.Rd1 c3?** Played in a few seconds when Black had over 14 minutes on the clock. [42...Ra8 43.Bg6 Rf8 gives White something to think about. 44.b3! cxb3 45.Rd3 Rf3+ 46.Kg2 b2 47.Rc3 Rf4! is a hair-raising line that doesn't quite lead anywhere for either player. 48.Kg3 *(48.Rxe3? Rxg4+ 49.Kf1!* (avoiding ...Rh2+ in a few moves) *49...Rxg6 50.Rb3 Rg5 51.Rxb2 Rxh5* nonetheless favors Black*)* 48...Bxd4 49.Rc6 Bxe5 50.Rxe6 b1Q 51.Bxb1 Rxb4+ 52.Rxe5 Rxb1 53.Rxd5 Rb3+ and White holds.] **43.bxc3 Rxa3 44.Rd3 Bg5** [44...Bc1 45.Rf3 Bb2 46.Bf7+ Kf8 47.Bxe6+ Ke7 48.Bxd5 Rxc3 leads to one of those bishops of opposite colors endings that can't be won.] **45.Rf3 Ra7 46.Bg6 Rc7 47.Kg2 Bd2 48.Kg3**



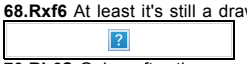
48...Bxc3? [48...Be1+ keeps the king off f4 later] **49.Bf7+ Kh7 50.Bxe6 Bxd4 51.Bf5+** [51.Kf4!] **51...Kg8?!** [51...Kh8 52.e6 Kg8] **52.e6?** [52.Be6+ Kh7 53.Kf4! Black's king is boxed in.] **52...Be5+ 53.Kf2 Bd6** [53...Kf8 54.Be4+ Ke7 55.Bxd5 Rc2+ 56.Ke3 Rc3+ trades rooks with another drawn bishop ending.] **54.Ra3**



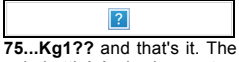
54...Bxb4? If only there weren't a lure in the b-pawn, Black would find the right move. [Black has to get out while he can: 54...Kf8!] **55.Ra8+ Bf8 56.Bg6!** White wins the exchange. Black can still put up a fight with the extra pawns, but it's hard to see a certain draw. **56...b5?** [56...Re7! would force White to decide. 57.Bf7+ *(57.Bf5 g6!? 58.hxg6 Kg7 59.Rd8!+-* The rooks on the board make the difference*.)*] **57.Bf7+** White is down to four minutes. [57.Rb8! b4 58.Ke3 Re7 59.Rb6] **57...Rxf7+ 58.exf7+ Kxf7 59.Ke2 Be7 60.Kd3?!** [60.Ra5! wins a pawn while he can] **60...Ke6 61.Rb8 b4?!** [61...Ke5! 62.Rb7 *(62.Re8 Kd6; 62.Rxb5 Kf4 63.Rb7 Bf6 64.Rb4+ d4)* 62...Bg5! 63.Rxg7 Kf4 can't lose once all White's pawns go.] **62.Rb6+ Ke5**

63.Rg6?? [63.Rb7! Ke6 64.Ke3!] **63...Bf6!** (2:55 - 4:53) Suddenly Black is winning! **64.Kc2 d4 65.g5 hxg5 66.h6 gxh6 67.Rxh6**

67...Ke4? Black loses it. There was only one way to the win. [But it's there: 67...g4! 68.Kd3 g3 69.Rg6 *(69.Ke2 b3; 69.Kc4 Bg5 70.Rh1 Be3)* 69...Bh4! 70.Rg4 Kf5! 71.Rxh4 g2 and touchdown.] **68.Rxf6** At least it's still a draw (2:00 - 3:49) **68...d3+?** Not any more! [68...g4! draws against all tries.] **69.Kd2** Now it's very, very lost. **69...g4**



70.Rb6? Going after the wrong pawn! Now it's drawn! Three other rook moves win: [70.Rd6 and Rxd3 stops either knight-pawn that tries to queen; 70.Rg6 Kf5 71.Rg8 *(or 71.Rd6)* ; Even 70.Re6+ wins but it's more complicated.] **70...b3?** [70...g3 is the only move that makes the draw!] **71.Rxb3 g3 72.Rb4+?** and it's drawn again! [72.Rxd3 wins of course. 72...g2 73.Rg3] **72...Kf3= 73.Kxd3 g2 74.Rb8 Kf2** [74...g1Q just forces king vs. king] **75.Rf8+**



75...Kg1?? and that's it. The other two king moves are nothing for White. [75...Kg3; 75...Ke1] **76.Ke2 Kh2 77.Rh8+ Kg3 78.Rg8+ Kh2 79.Kf2 Kh1** Hoping for 80.Rxg2?? **80.Rh8#** What an epic battle! And a lesson to study basic endgames for both players! It's incredible that Black had a win in there! **1-0**

SwissSys Report: 2021 May Tuesday Night Marathon Online

SwissSys Standings. 2021 May Tuesday Night Marathon Online: 1800

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2661	W21	W9	
2	Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	KyronGriffith	12860484	2493	W25	W11	
3	Eric Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	kingandqueen2017	15688436	2350	W12	W10	
4	Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	MMSanchez	14947382	2195	W26	W18	
5	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	microbear	13778105	2191	W22	W13	
6	Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	TitanChess666	16090452	2149	W27	W17	
7	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2155	D8	W19	
8	Pranav Sathish (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16464655)	championps	16464655	1787	D7	W23	
9	Michael Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13605850)	coalescenet	13605850	2098	W14	L1	
10	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	Ako_h	15206848	1980	W15	L3	
11	Rohan Das (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15263634)	TETRA_Wolf	15263634	1979	W16	L2	
12	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	LightningDragon8	16761994	1877	L3	W27	
13	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	16083648	1804	W20	L5	
14	Sos Hakobyan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14452712)	SacrificeandCrush	14452712	1771	L9	W24	
15	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	L10	W26	
16	Aditya Arutla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16207801)	harshu27	16207801	1718	L11	W25	
17	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	serverbusy	16408266	1691	W23	L6	
18	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	GiorgosTsolias	17266862	1679	W24	L4	
19	Shravan Sriram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15894655)	Ragingbeast360	15894655	1655	B---	L7	
20	Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	L13	H---	

	10363365)						
21	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	mwncklmann	15239016	1883	L1	D22	
22	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	pgstar3	12913356	1788	L5	D21	
23	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	L17	L8	
24	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	L18	L14	
25	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	twangbio	16291100	1879	L2	L16	
26	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1796	L4	L15	
27	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	L6	L12	

SwissSys Standings. 2021 May Tuesday Night Marathon Online: u1800

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W25	W15		
2	Joshua Lamstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15487526)	aveevu	15487526	1632	W30	W17		
3	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1494	W31	W18		
4	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	Echecsmike	12279170	1446	W32	W19		
5	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	Sebbymeister	16875347	1422	W20	W23		
6	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	749	W14	W12		
7	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	unr.	W16	W13		
8	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1547	D26	W22		
9	Rajtilak Indrajit Jagannathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109752)	rtindru	30109752	1484	D10	W26		
10	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	figsnoring	16551291	999	D9	W28		
11	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	L18	W31		
12	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	chuckchess	12448028	1368	W33	L6		
13	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	W21	L7		
14	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	ppra06	15871762	1354	L6	W32		
15	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1346	W27	L1		
16	Prescott Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16009618)	prescott00000	16009618	1296	L7	W33		
17	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	aanval22	14257838	1288	W24	L2		

	14257838)							
18	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1081	W11	L3		
19	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1043	W28	L4		
20	Jonathan Disenhof (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906711)	GoldenBearMe	12906711	869	L5	W29		
21	Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)	MrRap9	30118209	810	L13	B---		
22	Samuel Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	ComfyQueso	16380615	723	B---	L8		
23	Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)	MyKwazowski	30179081	unr.	W29	L5		
24	Jj Ziebart (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30166361)	TomatoSoupGirl	30166361	unr.	L17	W30		
25	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	andrewaballantyne	17079795	1251	L1	D27		
26	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020arEEEWS	16802870	1173	D8	L9		
27	Anton Bobkov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30162536)	texfan	30162536	unr.	L15	D25		
28	Nicholas Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	nmbrown2	12446259	1495	L19	L10		
29	Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)	boozerrip	13553308	1350	L23	L20		
30	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1203	L2	L24		
31	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	1032	L3	L11		
32	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	night_breeze	30055583	982	L4	L14	H---	H---
33	Arumin Ravisankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30025152)	aruminchess	30025152	869	L12	L16		

Thursday Night Marathon Report

The Thursday Night Marathon concluded round 1 with 41 players. Players wishing to join for next week in round 2 may do so with a half point bye for round 1. Time control is G/60+5, 5 rounds in total with games starting at 6:30PM PT. If you wish to register, please follow this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605MayJune2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThursdayNightMarathonG605MayJune2021)

Here are the standings after round 1.

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Institute May-June 2021 ThNM: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2700	W31			
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W32			
3	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	flightsoffancy	10345120	2155	W33			
4	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	chesspilot01	15424820	2103	W34			

5	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	nathanf314	13001390	2004	W35			
6	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	W36			
7	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	W37			
8	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	W38			
9	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	sirianluv	14874734	1621	W39			
10	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1547	W40			
11	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	W41			
12	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1288	W26			
13	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	charvii	16816706	1032	W27			
14	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2nf31-0	16425316	1008	W28			
15	Joshua Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30127073)	probablyjosh	30127073	unr.	W29			
16	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	unr.	W30		H---	
17	Jeff Rosengarden (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105422)	jrosengarden	30105422	unr.	B---			
18	Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	birdorbust	12459313	1873	H---			
19	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	D24			
20	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	D25			
21	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	kingsmasher35	12797931	1789	H---			
22	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	H---			
23	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1203	H---			
24	Suhas Indukuri (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16887781)	suindu12	16887781	1181	D19			
25	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1081	D20			
26	NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	L12			
27	Leo Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061785)	mu3tang	16061785	1765	L13			
28	Matthew Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12541333)	hip_hop_99	12541333	1659	L14			
29	Jacob Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	jacobchess857	17083655	1612	L15			

30	**Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)**	**sfdeals**	16964125	1494	L16			
31	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	**kevin_mx_sun**	16898540	1491	L1			
32	**Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)**	**loltheawesomedude**	16497860	1487	L2			
33	**Daniel Marcus (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12905558)**	**radio_on**	12905558	1458	L3			
34	**Nick Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)**	**nxbex**	16154827	1416	L4			
35	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	**swimgrass**	16380636	1363	L5			
36	**Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)**	**boozerrip**	13553308	1350	L6			
37	**Christopher Harris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15496280)**	**charris6260**	15496280	1017	L7			
38	**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	**andrejsg**	16741331	826	L8			
39	**Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	**vincitore51745**	12814843	581	L9			
40	**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	**tobiahsrex**	30164211	unr.	L10			
41	**Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)**	**greenninja2019**	30015889	unr.	L11			

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 migh be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 5/18: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1159290 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1159290)

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 pretty much everything else of interest. 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/20220129011431/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

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: Current class is full.

Next class starts June. Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021)

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Wednesdays 6:30-8PM -- New offerings start next week: Advanced Attacking Techniques by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: April 28 through June 2 (6 classes)

Special class for players with 1800+ USCF rating to learn, discuss and improve on their attacking skills.
$150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
More information:
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/AdvancedAttackingTechniquesbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/AdvancedAttackingTechniquesbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesdays 7-8PM - Tactics for the Developing Players
Course Dates: March 31 through June 2 (10 classes)

IM (International Master) Elliott Winslow will be teaching this course, which will go over one of the greatest players (world champions, groundbreakers, players who advanced chess theory and practice) per week, including some of the history of the player and the time period in which they made their mark, and use their games to instill basic tactical and positional thinking to those in the class. The class will also conduct a weekly game analysis of at least one game from the star of the week, and show how to find tactics in that game and through puzzles, and at the end o class either leave time open to go over games sent by the participants ahead of class, or for the students to play some games.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tactics-developing-players (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tactics-developing-players)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM)

1. **Sundays 10AM - 12PM -- Free Women's Online Chess Class by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams**

Come join us on Sundays as we are offering a free class for women from 10am-12pm(noon) online.
Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected. Registration is required so we may send the links for players to join. Zoom will be required to participate, and we will include optional links to participate in online platforms like chess.com if players would like to play with each other online.

Be sure to be a part of the Mechanics' Women's Chess Club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-womens-club

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class)
Class is free, but must register to receive class information: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012)

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:

5/18 Tuesday - May 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/May2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/May2021TNMOnline)

Join Now! May/June 2021 Thursday Night Marathon (May 13-June 10)
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129011431/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/20220129011431/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/20220129011431/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Spring Session of our Virtual Chess Classes are starting
March 22 through May 31
Not too late to join - Prorating is available!

All Girls Class with Coach Colin – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring)

Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Thursdays 4-5PM
- Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring)

Advanced Class with Coach Andy – Thursdays 5-6PM
- Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS56PM2021Spring)

Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) – Friday 3-4PM
- Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring)

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129011431/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Monday, May 17: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471291 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471291)
- Tuesday, May 18: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471292 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471292)
- Wednesday, May 19: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471293 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471293)
- Thursday, May 20: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471294 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471294)
- Friday, May 21: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471295 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471295)
- Sunday, May 23: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471296 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=471296)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments on the weekends

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)

5/16 Sunday - 8SS G/5+2 affecting USCF Online Blitz rating.
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay16SUN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay16SUN)

5/22 Saturday - 6SS G/10+2 affecting USCF Online Rapid rating.
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay22SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011431/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay22SAT)

Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

(7) chunky_tofu_icecream (1459) - WildItchyContest (1709) [B13]
Live Chess ChessKid.com

1.e4 c6 The Caro-Kann is an excellent defense played by such great players as Karpov and Kyron Griffith. **2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Nc3** In this exchange variation of the Caro-Kann White usually plays 4. Bd3 and 5.c3. The great Bobby Fischer had success with that. **4...Nf6 5.Nf3 e6** [It's often nice to get the bishop outside the pawn chain before locking it in. 5...Bg4 6.Be2 e6 would be very reasonable] **6.Bf4 a6 7.Bd3 Bd6 8.Bg3 Bxg3 9.hxg3 h6 10.Qe2 Nc6 11.0-0-0 Bd7**

White has developed the pieces very efficiently and is ready for action. How to go forward? **12.Ne5?** Sadly this loses the important central pawn on d4. Instead [12.g4 Nxg4 13.Nxd5 would keep many possibilities for active play with material equality] **12...Nxd4!** Sometimes it takes courage to jump on your opponents mistakes. Grabbing the pawn here is very good. **13.Qe3 Nc6 14.Nxc6 Bxc6** Now it's hard for White to do something with the black center pawns stopping any advance of the pieces. **15.Qd4 Qc7 16.Rhe1 0-0-0** [16...0-0 was also fine] **17.Qa7 Qb8 18.Qb6 Nd7 19.Qe3 Nf6 20.Ne2 Rhe8 21.Ng1?!** This is passive and lets Black come forward. More chances were to be had with [21.f4 Qd6 22.Nd4] **21...d4! 22.Qe2 Bxg2!** Again we see courage from WildItchyContest. It looks as if the black bishop could get trapped, but there are resources to save it. **23.f3 Qxg3 24.Rd2**

24...Nd5! The black knight comes to f4 to defend the bishop. Black is three pawns ahead right now so chunky-tofu decides to take something back.

25.Qxg2? oops, there is a problem **25...Qxe1+ 26.Rd1 Qxd1+!** Anything else would be winning, but this ends it immediately. **27.Kxd1 Ne3+** WildItchyContest won by resignation **0-1**

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 14: Alekhine – Bogoljubov 1934

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

The 1934 rematch between these old drinking buddies was hardly taken seriously by the chess world at the time. Up and comers like Botvinnik, Keres and Fine would have given Alekhine a much harder time, not to mention Capablanca (who Alekhine continued to dodge). Even the aging Lasker would have fared better in this boozy brawl of a match . The final lopsided score of +8 -3 =15 in Alekhine's favor doesn't tell the full story – Bogoljubov found a way to lose some winning positions, for example:

Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 21st Match Game 1934.

Here, instead of playing the obvious **1.Bxb7 Rxb7 2.Rxb7 Qxb7 3.Bxa5** with a winning endgame, Bogoljubov played the atrocious **1.Rb5??** ("I really don't know what he was thinking of." – Kasparov) and found himself the exchange down and dead lost after **1...Rxb5 2.Bxa6 Rxc5 3.dxc5.**

Despite the criticisms leveled at the players, some pretty little combos and tactics came out of this match – chess itself prevailed!

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1. Alekhine - Bogoljubov, 2nd Match Game 1934.

White moves. One of Alekhine's celebrated combinations.

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2. Alekhine – Bogoljubov, 4th Match Game 1934.

White moves. Another example of Alekhine's 'long combinations'

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3. Alekhine – Bogoljubov, 16th Match Game 1934.

White moves. Yet another long and forcing sequence.

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4. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 17th Match Game 1934.

Black moves. A charming 'bank shot' effectively wins it.

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5. Alekhine – Bogoljubov, 24th Match Game 1934.

Black moves. White's position is a house of cards – blow it down.

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6. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 25th Match Game 1934.

Black moves. The very last move of the match.

GM Nick de Firmian

Team Chess. The Bundesliga

The Mechanics' Institute has had great team matches with the other historic chess clubs of the world these last months. This is a benefit of the pandemic and online chess, as it seems our players thoroughly enjoy these team events. The responsibility of playing for your club instead of just yourself gives a different kind of engagement to the battle. You do not worry so much about your individual game except as it matters to the overall match. You are part of a group where each player plays for the good of the team. You can do your part by drawing a higher rated player or holding on in a bad position for the match victory. If it all goes wrong you can at least commiserate together at the end.

This Saturday we play against Hamburg Chess Club, another of the oldest clubs in the world. I have some fond memories of that chess club which was also the opponent of my club more than a decade ago when I played the "Bundesliga" for the Lubeck Chess Club. Lubeck is the farthest north of the German Clubs and we would meet Hamburg for a match twice a year. Of course these were the traditional over the board matches and the club would travel by cars or train. (Once a year we would do a long trip to the very south of Germany and that would take all

weekend.) These were very serious games, but friendly rivalries between the clubs. The Hamburg Chess Club was particularly friendly as they were “neighbors” to Lubeck, only 30 miles away I still recall Hamburg’s excellent and friendly club leaders.

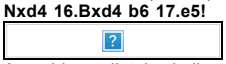
The Bundesliga has been the premier chess league in the world for several decades as the clubs pay for hired guns at the very top of the world rating list. Anand, Kramnik, and other world champions have been on their roster. We give below a game of Anand’s from his job at the club of Baden Baden, a famous city for chess. I include also a game of my own from the Bundesliga. It’s not so special, but gives me fond memories of slowing doing my part for my team.

(1) Anand,Viswanathan (2788) - Kempinski,Robert (2616) [B85]

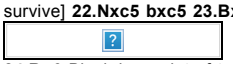
Bundesliga 0910 Germany (11.1), 28.02.2010

Anand was the World Champion at this time. Naturally his job is to win for his team, especially with the white pieces. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.a4 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.f4 Qc7 11.Kh1 Re8 12.Bf3**

This is a favorite way for Anand to play against the Najdorf. He believes in White's side here and has reached this exact positon several times, including his victory against Kasparov in their 1995 World Championship match (played at the top of the World Trade Tower). **12...Nd7?!** This is a little too defensive. Black should do better with 12...Bd7. **13.Qe1 Bf8 14.Qf2 Rb8 15.Rad1 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 b6 17.e5!**



Anand immediately challenges the black setup, as he has a lead in development. It's complicated here and Black has difficult choices. 17...d5 closes the game but leaves White with the strong e5 pawn to develop the kingside attack. Kempinski chooses to open the game. **17...dxe5?! 18.fxe5 Bc5** [18...Nxe5? loses immediately to 19.Bh5 since 19...Ng6 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Be5 Qxe5 22.Qxf7+ is the end; 18...Re7 was perhpas the best defensive chance] **19.Bh5! Rf8 20.Bxf7+ Kh8 21.Ne4 Nxe5?** [21...Bxd4 22.Rxd4 Qxe5 is unpleasant for Black but perhaps he could survive] **22.Nxc5 bxc5 23.Bxe5 Qxe5**



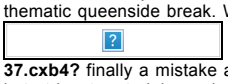
24.Bg6 Black has a lot of trouble on the back rank. **24...Rg8 25.Bxh7! Kxh7 26.Qh4+ Kg6 27.Rd3 Qh5 28.Rg3+** Kempinski resigned. After 28...Kh6 29. Qf4+ Kh7 30. Qxb8 he is well behind in material and still under a strong attack. **1-0**

(2) Heissler,Jakob (2455) - De Firmian,Nick E (2534) [B92]

Bundesliga 0203 Germany (14.8), 29.03.2003

Here is one of my own games against a German International Master. I had the black pieces but my job for the club was to see if I could grind out a win. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5** White plays a very solid line against the Najdorf. My opponent would be quite satified to draw and tries for a good, but safe positional approach. **9...Be6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nd5**

Here begins the job of a professional chess player. White owns the d5 square and has no weakenesses. What is required for the team is a long, calm approach to find a soft spot somewhere in the white position. **11...Nd7 12.c3 Rc8 13.Qd3 Bxd5 14.Qxd5 Qb6 15.Rab1 Be7 16.Nd2 Nf6 17.Qd3 Rfd8 18.Bf3** Black has developed everything, but it's still rock solid for White. **18...Qc6 19.Rfd1 Rd7 20.a3 Bd8 21.Nf1 Bb6 22.Ne3 Bxe3 23.Qxe3 h6 24.Rd2 Kf8** If you want to win you have to put everybody to work. The black king thinks about helping out in the center or being centralized for a potential endgame. **25.Rbd1 Ke7 26.g3 Qc5 27.Qe2 Rc6 28.Bg2 b5 29.Ra1 a5 30.Bf1 Rb7 31.Qf3 Qb6 32.Qe2 Rc4 33.Bg2 Rbc7 34.Rad1 R7c6 35.Rd3 b4** Achieving the thematic queenside break. White is still quite ok but has to worry about targets on the queenside. **36.axb4 axb4**



37.cxb4? finally a mistake as time control approaches! [37.Rxd6 Rxd6 38.Rxd6 Qc7 39.Rd2 bxc3 40.bxc3 Rxc3 would be dead equal] **37...Qxb4 38.Rc3?!** [38.h3 Rc1 leaves White suffering but at least material remains even for a while] **38...Rxc3 39.bxc3 Rxc3 40.Qa6** My opponent seemed happy with the activity after the time control, but he is just a pawn down. The professional's task is to take the point for the team. **40...Qc5 41.Qb7+ Qc7 42.Qa8 g6 43.Bf1 Qb6 44.Ra1 Rc7 45.Ra6 Qb1 46.Ra7 Rxa7 47.Qxa7+ Kf8 48.f3 Kg7 49.Qc7 Qb4** Black has an extra pawn with all pawns on the kingside. The knight is better than the bishop when you play on only one side of the board. **50.Kg2 Qc5 51.Qb7 Qc2+ 52.Kg1 g5 53.g4 Qc5+ 54.Kg2 Qc2+ 55.Kg1 d5 56.exd5 Qc5+ 57.Kh1 Nxd5 58.Qb2 Nf4 59.Qd2 Qa3 60.Be2 Qa1+ 61.Bd1 Qd4** The endgame will be winning for Black with or without the queens on. **62.Qxd4 exd4 63.Kg1 Kf6 64.Bb3 Ke7 65.Kf2 f6 66.Ke1 Kd6 67.Kd2 Ke5 68.Bf7 Ng2 69.Bg6 Nh4 70.Be4 Kf4 71.Ke2**

71...d3+ My opponent resigned and I headed off to meet my teammates at the restaurant, mine being the last game to finish. **0-1**

Solutions to Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Alekhine - Bogoljubov, 2nd Match Game 1934.

1.Rc8+! (But not **1.Qxe5?? Qxg2#**) **1…Kf7** (Bogoljubov says ‘show me’. If **1…Bxc8 2.Qxe5** wins handily) **2.Qh5+** (The king-hunt is on.) **2…g6 3.Qxh7+ Kf6 4.Rf8+ Kg5 5.h4+ Kf4 6.Qh6+ g5 7.Rxf5+!! Rxf5 8.Qd6+ Kg4 9.Bxf5+ 1-0.** If **9…Kh4 10.Qh6#.**

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2. Alekhine – Bogoljubov, 4th Match Game 1934.

The finish is like clockwork: **1.Rxe7+! Rxe7 2.Bh4 Kf7 3.Bxe7 Kxe7 4.Rc7+ Rd7 5.f6+! Ke8** (Or **5…Kd8 6.f7!** wins) **6.Bg6+ Kd8 7.f7! Kxc7 8.f8=Q f3 9.Qxb4 Rd6 10.Bd3 1-0.**

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3. Alekhine – Bogoljubov, 16th Match Game 1934.

1.e6! Rdxg7 (Otherwise **2.e7** wins) **2.Nxg7 Rxg7 (Now what?) 3.Rxd5! cxd5 4.Rf8+ Kc7 5.Rf7+ Kd6 6.Rxg7 Kxe6.** White has won the exchange, and the Champ’s technique is up to the task: **7.Rg6+ Ke5 8.Kg2!** Wisely bringing the king over to deal with a possible passed d-pawn. **8…b5 9.a5 d4 10.Rxa6 b4 11.Kf3 c3 12.bxc3 bxc3 13.Re6+!** The simplest. **13…Kxe6 14. Kxe4 1-0.**

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4. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 17th Match Game 1934.

1…Bxa3! steals TWO crucial queenside pawns, as both **2.bxa3 Qc3+** and the amusing **2.Rxa3 Qxb2!** lose on the spot. Bogoljubov gamely played on, but lost it at the end: **2.0-0 Bxb2 3.Rae1 Bf5 4.g4 Be4 5.f5 Nb7 6.Nf4 0-0-0 7.Qg3 g5 8.fxg6 fxg6 9.Bd1 Qc3 10.Ne6 Rde8 11.Rf6 Re7 12.Ref1 Rhe8 13.Nf4 Nd8 14.Qf2 Qa3 15.Bf3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 g5 17.Ne2 Re6 18.Rf5 Qd3 19.h4 Rg6 20.h5 Rge6 21.Qf2 c5 22.Rf3 Qc2 23.Qe1 Nc6 24.R1f2 Qe4 25.Ng3 Qxg4 26.Kg2 Bxd4 0-1.** Black has five passed pawns on the queenside!

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5. Alekhine – Bogoljubov, 24th Match Game 1934.

This was not Alekhine's finest moment, and Bogoljubov ripped him apart with **1…Nxd5! 2.Rfe1.** There is no solace in **2.Nxd5 Bxb2 3.Rxc4,** as **3…Qxd5!** wins a piece. The rest is just horrible **2…Nf4 3.Qe3 Nd3 4.Qxc5 Rxc5 5.Ba1 Bg5.** Alekhine could have resigned here, but perhaps the challenger's erratic play in the match gave him some hope of a turnaround. It was not to be. **6.Ncb1 fxe4 7.Bc3 Nxc1 8.Rxc1 Bxa4 9.Kg1 Bc6 10.Re1 b5 11.Nf1 Rd5 12.Ng3 Rd3 13.Ne2 Be3+ 14.Kh1 Red8 15.Ng1 Bf2 16.Rf1 e3 0-1.**

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6. Bogoljubov – Alekhine, 25th Match Game 1934.

The match ended with a simple tactic: **1…Rxf1+! 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 #969

May 22, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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- Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column
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Mechanics' Institute Will Reopen For Live Chess Starting in June 1 with the June Tuesday Night Marathon!

After over a year, live chess will return to the historic chess tables of the Mechanics' Institute with the FIDE rated Tuesday Night Marathon beginning June 1st! This will be a 5-round 2-section TNM with the traditional time control of G/120;d5. We will have a capacity of 50 players in total per local and state regulations, and we will broadcast five boards on DGT with live commentary by GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead on our Twitch channel.

All players must abide by our new live chess rules and adhere to local and state mandates, including indoor masking and social distancing. No spectators will be permitted, although MI will provide space for parents of our youth players where they can safely distance themselves. Please visit our COVID-19 safety page for more information.

Registration will open on Sunday morning at 12am PT, please register soon after it opens to guarantee your spot by clicking here:

https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJune2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJune2021)

Full tournament information can be found here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-june-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-june-person)

We look forward to seeing everyone there! Please read Mechanics' Covid Health and Safety Plan by clicking HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/policies/covid?fbclid=IwAR0baytCH6OwbIofbyvu3qoA1Rt-5_73iJbSndCtCcmkGT9fXT8tqzfIKl0).

Please email us to chessroom@milibrary.org with any specific questions.

Mechanics' Institute vs. Hamburg Chess Club Report

We finished our final match in our international four-club match series against the Hamburg Chess Club, in which the Mechanics' Institute lost a hard fought battle 22.5-17.5. This particular match was made even more lively as we were joined on the broadcast by WFM Eva Maria Zickelbein, who provided commentary on the match, discussing their club players and giving our viewers some insights into their chess community. Eva revealed to us that she in fact played GM Nick de Firmian in Hamburg at an event in the 1990's, and Nick rememebred that event, adding a charming side note to this collaboration.

We would like to thank Eva and all the players from the Hamburg Chess Club for the match. It has been a pleasure to connect with the four oldest continually running chess clubs in the world and establish partnerships, friendships, and a foundation for future events, with both our regular and scholastic communities. Through online chess, and a will to find new ways to interact and learn from each other, we are striving to bring diverse communities together. We want to go give a vey special shout out to volunteer WCM Allyson Wong for helping us connect with these clubs and being a huge help in the organizing of these events.

Here are some games from the match, annotated by FM Paul Whitehead.

[Event "**MICC vs Hamburg**"]

[Site "Chess.com"]

[Date "2021.05.15"]

[**White GM Jim Tarjan**]

[**Black FM Julian Kramer**]

[WhiteElo "2345"]

[BlackElo "2293"]

[TimeControl "900+2"]

[ECO "B50"]

[Opening "Sicilian Defense: Delayed Alapin"]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. c3 (White opens modestly with a Delayed Alapin.) **3... Nf6 4. h3 g6.** (Naturally not 4... Nxe4? 5. Qa4+.) **5. Bd3 Bg7 6. Bc2 O-O 7. d4 cxd4 8. cxd4 Nc6 9. Nc3 e5** (9.. d5 the other central advance, leaves white more room after 10. e5 Ne8 11. O-O) **10. O-O** (10. d5 Nd4! and if 11. Nxd4 exd4 12. Qxd4 Nxe4! 13. Qxe4 Re8 with black on top.) **10... exd4! 11. Nxd4.**

11…Nxe4! (This little combination completely equalizes the game.) **12. Nxc6 Nxc3 13. Nxd8 Nxd1 14. Nxf7** (A forced "desperado" so white doesn't fall behind materially.) **14... Nxb2 15. Nh6+** (15. Nxd6 Nc4 16. Nxc4 Bxa1 17. Ba3 Bg7 18. Bxf8 Kxf8 is a possible line. Black is slightly better with the 2 bishops.) **15... Kh8 16. Rb1 Nc4 17. Be4 Nb6 18. Rd1 Be6.**

19. Rxd6?! (Dangerous. White maybe should eliminate a black queen-side pawn with 19. Bxb7.) **19...Bxa2 20. Rb5 Rae8 21. f3 Bc4** (Instead the timely 21... Nc8! followed by 22...b6 would have given white more problems.) **22. Rc5 Ba6 23. g4!** (White's activity should be enough to keep the balance.)**23... Rc8 24. Rxc8 Rxc8 25. Bf4 Rf8 26. Bg5 Nc4 27. Rd7 Ne5 28. Re7 Nxf3+ 29. Bxf3 Rxf3 30.Rc7?!**

(This natural move might have lost the game. Instead 30. Kg2! Rf8 31. Nf7+ Kg8 32. Nh6+ keeps the balance.) **30... Bd4+?** (30... Bb5! Reactivating the light-squared bishop, and if 31. Rxb7 Bd4+ 32. Kh2 Be5+ 33. Kg1 Bc6! and white is in trouble**.) 31. Kg2 Rf2+ 32. Kg3 Rf8 33. Nf7+ Kg8 34. Nh6+ Kh8 35. Nf7+ Kg8 36. Nh6+ Kh8. 1/2-1/2**. A scrappy fight.

[Event "**MICC vs Hamburg**"]

[Site "Chess.com"]

[Date "2021.05.15"]

[**White WCM Allyson Wong**]

[Black Frank Neidner]

[WhiteElo "1834"]

[BlackElo "1424"]

[TimeControl "900+2"]

[ECO "C91"]

[Opening "Ruy Lopez: Closed, Yates Variation"]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O b5 6. Bb3 d6 7. c3 Be7 8. Re1 O-O 9. d4 (A perfectly good alternative to 9.h3.) **9... exd4** (A bit unusual. Black usually opts for the immediate 9...Bg4, with white responding with either 10.d5 or 10.Be3.) **10. cxd4 Bg4 11. Kh1!?**

(This may very well be a novelty. The simple 11.Nc3 and 11.Be3 make sense. However, 11.Kh1 induces...) **11... Bxf3** (...which opens the g-file for white. Better was 11...d5! 12.e5 Ne4 - hitting the undefended f2 pawn!) **12. gxf3 h6?** (A serious weakening of the king's position. 12...Na5 13.Bc2 c5, striving for counter-play was much better.) **13. Rg1 Kh8 14. Nc3 Nh7 15. Be3 Na5 16. Bc2 Nc4 17. Bc1** (White effortlessly builds up a powerful kingside attack.) **17... Bg5?! (**Losing more time. Black is playing on the wrong side of the board!) **18. f4 Be7 19. b3 Nb6 20. Qd3 g6 21. f5 g5 22. Qh3.**

(White's attack plays itself, but 22.f6! and if 22...Nxf6 then 23.e5 dxe5 24.Bxg5! was lovely and immediately decisive.) **22... Kg7 23. e5 dxe5 24. dxe5 f6 25. e6 Nd5 26. Ne4 Rh8 27. Bb2 Qe8 28. Rad1 c6 29. Nc3** (Eliminating black's most active piece is certainly quite logical.) **29... Nxc3 30. Bxc3 Rd8 31. Ba5 Rxd1 32. Rxd1** (White has been winning for some time now.) **32.. Qc8 33. Rd7 c5** (He was lost in any case.) **34. Rxe7+ Kg8 35. Qh5 Qf8 36. Qg6+**

1-0. It's mate next move.

Here is an annoted game by IM Merijn van Delft, his win over IM Josiah Stearman

https://share.chessbase.com/SharedGames/share/?p=k/RNZi73FCfnAUpkrb+svh+sz9Vzv5x023QzSXjWkIG/ZH8IPD5QXlgc1QsKUAS7
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://share.chessbase.com/SharedGames/share/?p=k/RNZi73FCfnAUpkrb+svh+sz9Vzv5x023QzSXjWkIG/ZH8IPD5QXlgc1QsKUAS7)

To see full match results, click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b2Flj-SZpn__2nt072WE1SV612tRm5lF2kcX9EvAk5U/edit#gid=223270135)

To watch the broadcast, go to our YouTube channel HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoabfdpuO7M) starting at the 2:58:00 mark.

May 2021 TNM Report Rounds 3&4

The Tuesday Night Marathon wrapped up Rounds 3&4 Tuesday Night with tournament top seed GM Gadir Guseonov creating separation between himself and the rest of the field. He defeated FM Max Gedajlovic, and NM Eric Hon and now sits alone at the top with 4/4, a full point ahead of the rest of the field. FM Kyron Griffith, who took byes for the evenings rounds, is probably Gadir's toughest remaining opponent, and we hope to see that matchup in next week's final rounds. Sitting with 3 points are FM Kyron Griffith, FM Max Gedajlovic, NM Eric Hon, NM Michael Walder, Austin Mei, Rohan Das, and Aditya Arutla.

In the under 1800 section, Joshua Lamstein and William Kelly are the last perfect scores remaining with 4/4 and will face off next week. Rajtilak Jagannathan is in 3rd with 3.5.

Here are some games from the round, annotated by FM Paul Whitehead.

Event "**TNM**"]

[Site "Chess.com"]

[Date "2021.05.18"]

[White NM Michael Walder]

[Black Austin Mei]

[WhiteElo "2169"]

[BlackElo "2262"]

[TimeControl "2100+2"]

[ECO "A66"]

[Opening "Benoni Defense: Pawn Storm Variation"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4 g6 7. f4.

(The Pawn Storm Variation vs the Modern Benoni: white tries to wipe black off the board.) **7... Nbd7?!** (This annotator is not a theoretician, nevertheless he knows that the d7 square is reserved for the other knight in this line.) **8. Nf3 Bg7 9. e5** (Black is already in serious trouble.) **9... dxe5 10. fxe5 Ng4 11. e6! fxe6 12. dxe6 Nde5 13. Bb5+ Nc6 14. Qxd8+** (Keeping it simple. 14.Qe2 playing for the attack with the queens on was also very good.) **14... Kxd8 15. Bg5+** (White's pieces are literally jumping out of the box.) **15... Kc7 16. Nd5+ Kd6 17. O-O-O Nd4 18. Nc3!**

(Probably white's most difficult move of the game.) **18... Bxe6** (18... Nf2 19. Rhe1 Nxd1 20. Bf4+ Ke7 21. Nd5+ Kf8 22. e7+ Kf7 23. Ng5+ Kg8 24. e8=Q+ Bf8 25. Qf7# is a sample line. Black's king cannot escape in any way shape or form.) **19. Rhe1** (Relentless centralization. Black is a pawn ahead, but totally helpless.) **19... Rhf8 20. h3 Nf2.**

21. Rxe6+! (This starts a forcing continuation leading to the win of an entire rook**.) 21... Kxe6 22. Re1+! Kd6** (If 22... Kf7 23. Bc4+ wins, or 22... Kf5 23. g4+ Nxg4 24. Bd3#) **23. Be7+ Kc7 24. Nd5+ Kc8 25. Bxf8 Nxb5 26. Re8+ Kd7 27. Rxa8.**

(White has played a model attacking game in the style of Alekhine, and black should resign. But he plays it out to the checkmate.) **27... Nd3+ 28. Kc2 Bxf8 29. Rxf8 c4 30. Ne3 Nb4+ 31. Kb1 c3 32. Rf7+ Ke6 33. Rxb7 a6 34. a4 c2+ 35. Nxc2 Nxc2 36. Kxc2 Nd6 37. Rb6 Kd5 38. Rxd6+ Kxd6 39. b4 Kd5 40. Kc3 h6 41. g3 Ke4 42. Nd2+ Kd5 43. Kd3 g5 44. g4 Ke5 45. Ke3 Kd5 46. Kd3 Ke5 47. b5 axb5 48. axb5 Kd5 49. b6 Kc6 50. Nc4 Kb7 51. Kd4 Kc6 52. Ke5 Kb7 53. Kf6 Kc6 54. Kg6 Kb7 55. Kxh6 Kc6 56. Kxg5 Kb7 57. h4 Kc6 58. h5 Kb7 59. h6 Kc6 60. h7 Kb7 61. h8=Q Kc6 62. Qf6+ Kd7 63. Qf7+ Kc6 64. Qc7+ Kb5 65. b7 Ka6 66. Qb6#** (A convincing lesson folks: know your openings!) **1-0.**

[Event "**TNM**"]

[Site "Chess.com"]

[Date "2021.05.18"]

[White FM Max Gedajlovic]

[Black Max Hao]

[WhiteElo "2243"]

[BlackElo "1865"]

[TimeControl "2100+2"]

[ECO "D05"]

[Opening "Queen's Pawn Game: Colle System"]

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 e6 4. Bd3 (White employs the Colle System. It is slow and boring, true - but often deadly.) **4... c5 5. O-O Bd6 6. b3 O-O 7. Bb2 cxd4 8. exd4 Nc6 9. a3 Qc7 10. Qe2 a6** (Unnecessary. Black can develop the bishop faster with 10...b6 or 10...Bd7.) **11. Nbd2 b5 12. Ne5.**

(White could also think about playing for c4 instead.) **12... Bb7 13. f4 b4 14. a4 Qb6 15. Qe3 a5 16. Kh1 Ne7** (And here 16...Ba6! eliminating the dangerous bishop at d3 might have been played.) **17. Qh3 Qc7 18. Ng4?!** (Creating the direct threat of 19.Nxf6+ and 20.Qh7#, but 18.Rae1 getting a grip on the e4 square was better.) **18... Ne4!**

(Despite white's kingside buildup, black is doing great - he now owns the vital e4 square.) **19. Nf3** (White goes for broke.) **19... Bxf4 20. Nfe5 Bxe5!** (Eliminating one of the attacking pieces.) **21. dxe5 Nf5?** (Black loses the thread and allows white a terrific combination. 21... Ng6! and if 22. Nf6+ gxf6 23. exf6 Kh8! and white runs out of steam: 24. Qh6 Rg8 25. Rf3 e5 etc.) **22. Bxe4! dxe4.**

23. Rxf5!! Finally the bishop at b2 has some say!) **23... exf5** (23... Qxc2 24. Rg5 e3 25. Nf6+ Kh8 26. Nxh7! Qxh7 27. Rh5 winning is one cute line.) **24. Nf6+ gxf6 25. Qh6!**

(The final shot: black must give his queen to avoid mate.) **25... fxe5** (If 25…Kh8 26.Qxf6+ Kg8 27.e6! fxe6 28.Qh8+ Kf7 29.Qxh7+ and 30.Qxc7 winning.) **26. Qg5+ Kh8 27. Qf6+ Kg8 28. Bxe5 Qxe5 29. Qxe5 Bc8 30. Re1 Ra6 31. Re3 f6** (If instead 31...Rg6 then either harvesting the queenside with 32.Qxa5 or continuing the attack with 32.h4 wins easily.) **32. Rg3+ Kh8 33. Qe7 Rg8 34. Rxg8+ Kxg8 35. Qe8+ Kg7 36. Qxc8**

1-0.

To see the full event page, click here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/may-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/may-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

To watch the broadcast, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpJbEbcndQU (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpJbEbcndQU)

SwissSys Standings. 2021 May Tuesday Night Marathon Online: 1800

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2661	W26	W11	W
2	Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	KyronGriffith	12860484	2493	W13	W7	H-
3	Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	MMSanchez	14947382	2195	W22	W25	L1
4	Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)	microbear	13778105	2191	W23	W15	W
5	Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2155	D16	W19	W
6	Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	TitanChess666	16090452	2149	W27	W24	L5
7	Rohan Das (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15263634)	TETRA_Wolf	15263634	1979	W8	L2	W
8	Aditya Arutla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16207801)	harshu27	16207801	1718	L7	W13	W
9	Eric Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)	kingandqueen2017	15688436	2350	W14	W12	L4
10	Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	L15	H---	W
11	Michael Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13605850)	coalescenet	13605850	2098	W17	L1	D1
12	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	Ako_h	15206848	1980	W18	L9	L8
13	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	twangbio	16291100	1879	L2	L8	W
14	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	LightningDragon8	16761994	1877	L9	W27	W
15	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	16083648	1804	W10	L4	W
16	Pranav Sathish (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16464655)	championps	16464655	1787	D5	W20	D1
17	Sos Hakobyan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14452712)	SacrificeandCrush	14452712	1771	L11	W21	W

18	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	L12	W22	L1
19	Shravan Sriram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15894655)	Ragingbeast360	15894655	1655	B---	L5	L1
20	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	L24	L16	D2
21	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	L25	L17	W2
22	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1796	L3	L18	L2
23	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	pgstar3	12913356	1788	L4	D26	D2
24	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	serverbusy	16408266	1691	W20	L6	L1
25	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	GiorgosTsolias	17266862	1679	W21	L3	L7
26	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	mwncklmann	15239016	1883	L1	D23	L1
27	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	L6	L14	L1

SwissSys Standings. 2021 May Tuesday Night Marathon Online: u1800

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	Joshua Lamstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15487526)	aveevu	15487526	1632	W23	W26	W7	W
2	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	unr.	W17	W25	W5	W
3	Rajtilak Indrajit Jagannathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109752)	rtindru	30109752	1484	D19	W24	W21	W
4	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W11	W16	W6	L2
5	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1494	W32	W18	L2	W
6	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	Echecsmike	12279170	1446	W28	W27	L4	W
7	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	Sebbymeister	16875347	1422	W8	W9	L1	W
8	Jonathan Disenhof (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906711)	GoldenBearMe	12906711	869	L7	W15	W25	W
9	Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)	MyKwazowski	30179081	unr.	W15	L7	W26	W
10	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1547	D24	W29	W19	L1
11	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	andrewaballantyne	17079795	1251	L4	D22	W31	W
12	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	L18	W32	W27	L3
13	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	chuckchess	12448028	1368	W33	L21	W18	L8
14	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	ppra06	15871762	1354	L21	W28	L20	W

15	Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)	boozerrip	13553308	1350	L9	L8	W32	W
16	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1346	W22	L4	W29	L9
17	Prescott Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16009618)	prescott00000	16009618	1296	L2	W33	W30	L5
18	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1081	W12	L5	L13	W
19	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	figsnoring	16551291	999	D3	W31	L10	D2
20	Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)	MrRap9	30118209	810	L25	B---	W14	L7
21	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	749	W14	W13	L3	L6
22	Anton Bobkov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30162536)	texfan	30162536	unr.	L16	D11	W24	D
23	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1203	L1	L30	D33	W
24	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020arEEEWS	16802870	1173	D10	L3	L22	W
25	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	W20	L2	L8	L1
26	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1288	W30	L1	L9	L1
27	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1043	W31	L6	L12	L1
28	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	night_breeze	30055583	982	L6	L14	H---	H-
29	Samuel Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	ComfyQueso	16380615	723	B---	L10	L16	L2
30	Jj Ziebart (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30166361)	TomatoSoupGirl	30166361	unr.	L26	W23	L17	L1
31	Nicholas Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	nmbrown2	12446259	1495	L27	L19	L11	D3
32	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	1032	L5	L12	L15	D3
33	Arumin Ravisankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30025152)	aruminchess	30025152	869	L13	L17	D23	L2

Thursday Night Marathon Report

Eight players remain perfect with 2/2 after two rounds of the Thursday Night Marathon. Click the event page HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021) for more details. Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Standings. Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2700	W21	W18	
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W22	W19	
	NM Michael Walder						

3	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	flightsoffancy	10345120	2155	W37	W24	
4	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	nathanf314	13001390	2004	W38	W25	
5	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	W39	W26	
6	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	W40	W27	
7	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	W41	W30	
8	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	unr.	W20	W16	H---
9	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	chesspilot01	15424820	2103	W23	H---	
10	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	D13	W32	
11	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	D34	W33	
12	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	kingsmasher35	12797931	1789	H---	W34	
13	Suhas Indukuri (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16887781)	suindu12	16887781	1181	D10	W31	
14	NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	L24	W35	
15	Matthew Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12541333)	hip_hop_99	12541333	1659	L26	W38	
16	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	sirianluv	14874734	1621	W42	L8	
17	Jacob Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	jacobchess857	17083655	1612	L27	W40	
18	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1547	W28	L1	
19	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	W29	L2	
20	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1494	L8	W39	
21	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1491	L1	W42	
22	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	loltheawesomedude	16497860	1487	L2	W41	
23	Nick Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	nxbex	16154827	1416	L9	W36	
24	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1288	W14	L3	
25	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	charvii	16816706	1032	W36	L4	
26	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2nf31-0	16425316	1008	W15	L5	
27	Joshua Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30127073)	probablyjosh	30127073	unr.	W17	L6	
	Tobiah Rex						

28	**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	**tobiahsrex**	30164211	unr.	L18	W37	
29	**Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)**	**greenninja2019**	30015889	unr.	L19	B---	
30	**Jeff Rosengarden (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105422)**	**jrosengarden**	30105422	unr.	B---	L7	
31	**Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)**	**birdorbust**	12459313	1873	H---	L13	
32	**Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)**	**fiddleleaf**	12839763	1574	H---	L10	
33	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	**victor6688**	16738735	1203	H---	L11	
34	**Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)**	**ivanzong**	30131397	1081	D11	L12	
35	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	**bruce_hedman**	17344551	1043	H---	L14	
36	**Leo Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061785)**	**mu3tang**	16061785	1765	L25	L23	
37	**Daniel Marcus (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12905558)**	**radio_on**	12905558	1458	L3	L28	
38	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	**swimgrass**	16380636	1363	L4	L15	
39	**Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)**	**boozerrip**	13553308	1350	L5	L20	
40	**Christopher Harris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15496280)**	**charris62606**	15496280	1017	L6	L17	
41	**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	**andrejsg**	16741331	826	L7	L22	
42	**Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	**vincitore51745**	12814843	581	L16	L21	

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 migh be playing 3-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian, or perhaps our commentator and instructor extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm, 5/22: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1171686 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1171686)

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 pretty much everything else of interest. 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/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

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: Current class is full.
Next class starts June. Free for MI members. Members will have to register online to secure their spot and to receive an email confirming the Zoom link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021)
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Wednesdays 6:30-8PM -- New offerings start next week: Advanced Attacking Techniques by FM Paul Whitehead
Course Dates: April 28 through June 2 (6 classes)

Special class for players with 1800+ USCF rating to learn, discuss and improve on their attacking skills.
$150 Mechanics' members. $180 for non-members. Few single class registrations are available -- Registration is needed to receive the zoom link.
More information:
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/AdvancedAttackingTechniquesbyFMPaulWhitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/AdvancedAttackingTechniquesbyFMPaulWhitehead)

Wednesdays 7-8PM - Tactics for the Developing Players
Course Dates: March 31 through June 2 (10 classes)

IM (International Master) Elliott Winslow will be teaching this course, which will go over one of the greatest players (world champions, groundbreakers, players who advanced chess theory and practice) per week, including some of the history of the player and the time period in which they made their mark, and use their games to instill basic tactical and positional thinking to those in the class. The class will also conduct a weekly game analysis of at least one game from the star of the week, and show how to find tactics in that game and through puzzles, and at the end o class either leave time open to go over games sent by the participants ahead of class, or for the students to play some games.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tactics-developing-players (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tactics-developing-players)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM)

1. **Sundays 10AM - 12PM -- Free Women's Online Chess Class by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams**

Come join us on Sundays as we are offering a free class for women from 10am-12pm(noon) online.
Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected. Registration is required so we may send the links for players to join. Zoom will be required to participate, and we will include optional links to participate in online platforms like chess.com if players would like to play with each other online.

Be sure to be a part of the Mechanics' Women's Chess Club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-womens-club

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class)
Class is free, but must register to receive class information: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012)

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:

5/18 Tuesday - May 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon
Format: 6SS G/35+2
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/May2021TNMOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/May2021TNMOnline)

Join Now! May/June 2021 Thursday Night Marathon (May 13-June 10)
Format: 5SS G/60+5
Registration: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129020220/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/20220129020220/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/20220129020220/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)

Scholastic Corner

By Judit Sztaray

Spring Session of our Virtual Chess Classes are starting
March 22 through May 31
Not too late to join - Prorating is available!

All Girls Class with Coach Colin – Mondays 4-5PM - Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsALLGIRLSChessClassMondays45PM2021Spring)

Intermediate Class with Coach Andrew – Thursdays 4-5PM
- Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS45PM2021Spring)

Advanced Class with Coach Andy – Thursdays 5-6PM
- Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MechanicsChessTHURSDAYS56PM2021Spring)

Tactics, Tactics, Tactics with Coach Andrew for players rated 1000+ (ChessKid rating) – Friday 3-4PM
- Register HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/TacticsTacticsTacticswithCoachAndyFridays34PM2021Spring)

Upcoming Tournaments

Players have to be part of Mechanics' Group on ChessKid. Need help how to join? Watch the tutorial here: https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://youtu.be/kEeMKhpecGY)

1) 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/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/scholastic-online-tournaments-every-day-chesskidcom)

Tournaments start at 4PM and players can join the tournaments 30 minutes before the tournament.

- Monday, May 24: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482476 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482476)
- Tuesday, May 25: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482478 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482478)
- Wednesday, May 26: 3SS G/20+0: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482479 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482479)
- Thursday, May 27: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482482 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482482)
- Friday, May 28: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482483 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482483)
- Saturday, May 29: 5SS G/5+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482484 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482484)
- Sunday, May 30: 4SS G/10+5: https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482486 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.chesskid.com/play/fastchess#t=482486)

2) USCF Online Rated Tournaments on the weekends

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2021-chesskidcom)

5/22 Saturday - 6SS G/10+2 affecting USCF Online Rapid rating.
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay22SAT (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay22SAT)

5/31 Monday Special Memorial Day Rapid- 6SS G/10+2 affecting USCF Online Raid rating.
Register online: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay31 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129020220/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ScholasticOnlineRatedTournamentMay31)

Scholastic Game of the Week: Annotations by FM Paul Whitehead

Event "**Live Chess**"]

[Site "ChessKid.com"]

[White "**AyanG_ACC**"]

[Black "**WildItchyContest**"]

[WhiteElo "1273"]

[BlackElo "1740"]

[TimeControl "5|2"]

[ECO "B12"]

[Opening "Caro-Kann Defense"]

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. c3?

(White drops the pawn at e4. Standard are 3.Nc3, 3.Nd2, 3.exd5 and 3.e5, while 3.Bd3 and 3.f3 are also playable.) **3... dxe4 4. Nd2 Nf6 5. Qe2** (White tries to play catch-up.) **5... Bf5** (The immediate 5...Bg4 has its points.) **6. g3!** (Trying to surround that e4 pawn!) **6... Bg4 7. Qc4?!** (7.Qe3! would allow white to recover the pawn.) **7... Qd5! 8. Qxd5 cxd5 9. Bg2 Nc6 10. Nh3** (Breaking up black's strong central formation with 10.f3 was probably better.) **10... Bxh3** (A good and practical move. Black is a pawn ahead and simplifies the game a bit.) **11. Bxh3 e6 12. O-O Bd6 13. Nb3 O-O 14. Bg5 Be7 15. Bxf6 Bxf6 16. Rad1 b6.**

17. Rfe1 (Again, white should play 17.f3 to give himself some breathing room. The opposite-colored bishops might give some drawing chances.) **17... Na5!? 18. Nxa5 bxa5 19. a3** (Maybe 19.b3 trying for 20.c4, or even 19.c4 right away to get some freedom for his rooks.) **19... Rab8 20. Rb1 Rb3 21. Re3 Rfb8** (Now white loses another pawn.) **22. Ree1** (If instead 22.Re2 then 22...Rxc3! or 22...Rxa3!) **22... Rxb2 23. Rxb2 Rxb2 24. Re3 h6 25. f3** (Finally, but it's too late.) **25... exf3 26. Rxf3 Ra2 27. Bf1 Rxa3 28. Bg2 a4 29. h4 Ra1+ 30. Kf2 a3 31. Bf1 a2 32. c4.**

Rxf1+! (A nice little combination to force the new queen. **0-1.**

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 15: Alekhine – Euwe 1935

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Looking around for an opponent that had financial backing (and who was supposed to be an easy mark), Alekhine chose Max Euwe – who had lost two matches to Bogoljubov. But the Dutchman knew his openings and played steadily, while Alekhine self-destructed with over-confidence fueled by alcohol – it is strongly suspected he was dead drunk during some of the games. He even blew a won king and pawn ending, only drawing it - which I'll let the reader figure out for themselves:

Euwe - Alekhine, 24th Match Game 1935.

Black to move and win.

Most of the pretty combinations and inspired play came from Euwe, so it's a bit surprising that the challenger took the match only by the slimmest of margins: +9 –8 =13.

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1. Euwe – Alekhine, 2nd Match Game 1935.

White moves. Find a way in.

---

2. Euwe – Alekhine, 8th Match Game 1935.

White moves. A nice shot ends further resistance.

---

3. Euwe – Alekhine, 20th Match Game 1935.

White moves. 1...Bb5! is Black's idea. Therefore?

---

4. Alekhine – Euwe, 25th Match Game 1935.

Black moves. Solve black's twin predicaments.

---

5. Euwe – Alekhine, 26th Match Game 1935.

White moves. What is the fighting continuation?

GM Nick de Firmian

GM Nick de Frimian's column returns next week

Solutions to Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Euwe – Alekhine, 2nd Match Game 1935.

1.Qb7! 1-0. Black's only possible way of resisting by **1…Rxc4** is met by the crushing **2.Rxh7+! Kxh7 3.c8=Q+** and it's all over.

---

2. Euwe – Alekhine, 8th Match Game 1935.

1.Ba6! is the only winning move and a tactic worth remembering. **1-0.** If **1…Rxa6 2.Rd8+ Ke7 3.a8=Q** with an easy win.

---

3. Euwe – Alekhine, 20th Match Game 1935.

After **1.Ra2!!** black is paralyzed, as **1…Bb5?** doesn't work: after **2.cxb5** the rook is defended. White created some passed pawns and put black in zugzwang along the way to a nice victory: **1…Ke7 2.f4 gxf4 3.gxf4 Kf6 4.e4 g5 5.f5 h5 6.h4! gxh4 7.Kh2 Kg5 8.Kh3 Ra5 9.Bb7 Kf6 10.Bd5 Kg5 11.Bb7 Kf6 12.Bc8 1-0.** An endgame worth studying.

---

4. Alekhine – Euwe, 25th Match Game 1935.

The challenger got out of Dodge with the nice shot **1…Nf3+!** and the tables are completely turned. Alekhine played on with a hopeless two-pawn deficit for way too long: **2.Qxf3. (**Not **2.Kh1? Rxh2#,** and **2.gxf3 Qg5+** is just as bad.) **2…Qxf3 3.gxf3 Rh5 4.Nf4 Rf5 5.Nd3 Rxf3 6.Nc5 b6 7.Kg2 Rf4 8.Nb3 e5 9.dxe5 Be6 10.Nc1 0-0-0 11.exf6 Rg4+ 12.Kf3 Rf8 13.Ke3 Rxf6 14.f4 g5 15.Nd3 Bc4 16.f5 Rh4 17.Rad1 Rxh2 18.Ke4 Re2+ 19.Kf3 Re8 20.Kg4 Rd8 21.Ne5 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Be2+ 23. Kxg5 Rxf5+ 24.Kxg5 Bxd1 25.Nxc6 a4 0-1.**

---

5. Euwe – Alekhine, 26th Match Game 1935.

This brilliant game is known as "The Pearl of Zandvoort" after the town in Holland where it was played. Euwe went for broke with **1.Nxf5!** and took the point with sparkling attacking play: **1… Bxc3 2.Nxd6 Qb8 3.Nxe4 Bf6 4.Nd2.** White has 3 pawns for the bishop and regroups to set them in motion. **4… g5 5.e4 gxf4 6.gxf4 Bd4 7.e5 Qe8 8.e6 Rg8 9.Nf3 Qg6 10.Rg1! Bxg1 11.Rxg1 Qf6 12.Ng5 Rg7 13.exd7 Rxd7 14.Qe3 Re7 15.Ne6 Rf8 16.Qe5 Qxe5 17.fxe5 Rf5 18.Re1 h6 19.Nd8!** Indirectly defending the e5 pawn with a fork on f7. **19…Rf2 20.e6 Rd2 21.Nc6 Re8 22.e7 b5 23.Nd8 Kg7 24.Nb7 Kf6 25.Re6+ Kg5 26.Nd6 Rxe7 27.Ne4+! 1-0.** The white knight was an absolute miracle worker in this famous game!

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/20220129020220/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #970

May 29, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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Mechanics' Institute Reopening For Live Chess Starting This Tuesday June 1!

After over a year, live chess will return to the historic chess tables of the Mechanics' Institute with the FIDE-rated Tuesday Night Marathon beginning June 1st! This will be a five-round, two-section TNM with the traditional time control of G/120;d5. We will have a capacity of 50 players in total per local and state regulations, and we will broadcast five boards on DGT with live commentary by GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead on our Twitch channel.

All players must abide by our new live chess rules and adhere to local and state mandates, including indoor masking and social distancing. No spectators will be permitted, although MI will provide space for parents of our youth players where they can safely distance themselves. Please visit our COVID-19 safety page for more information.

At the time of this writing, there are still only a few spots left, get your seat now by clicking below:

https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJune2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJune2021)

Full tournament information can be found here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-june-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-june-person)

We look forward to seeing everyone there! Please read Mechanics' Covid Health and Safety Plan by clicking HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/policies/covid?fbclid=IwAR0baytCH6OwbIofbyvu3qoA1Rt-5_73iJbSndCtCcmkGT9fXT8tqzfIKl0).

Please email us to chessroom@milibrary.org with any specific questions.

May 2021 TNM Report Rounds 5&6

One player that will surely miss the Tuesday Night Marathon being online is GM Gadir Guseinov. The world's #73 ranked player won yet another online TNM, defeating FM Kyron Griffith in a very technical endgame out of a Caro-Kann and then taking a friendly draw in the final round against NM Michael Walder to win clear first with 5.5/6. We hope he continues to play our Thursday Night Marathon's, which will continue to be held online. Sharing 2nd place with 4.5/6 were FM Eric Li, NM Eric Hon, and NM Michael Walder.

In the under 1800 section, William Kelly navigated a challenging field of players to score a perfect 6/6 and take clear first. Ethan Sun took clear 2nd place with an impressive 5/6, and Andrew Ballantyne and Jonathan Disenhof tied for 3rd with 4.5/6.

We are grateful for the online TNM, the rated events and the free TNM online events for helping carry the club and the community for over a year. We have also welcomed new players to the Mechanics' Institute through online play, as well as through our broadcasts. Thank you to all the participants who helped continue breathing life into our club through their engagement and trus in us.

Here are some games from the final two rounds, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian:

(1) FM Kyron Griffith (KyronGriffith) (2342) - NM Eric Hon (microbear) (2294) [B23]

MI May TNMo Chess.com (6.2), 26.05.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 The Tiviakov Variation (or "Tiviakov Grand Prix" (Kotronias)) is seen inordinately frequently in the Bay Area, with Stearman and (virtually) Guseinov among others playing it almost as often as not. Kyron as well. One must reach to understand how it could make sense; but mainly White keeps open the option of f2-f4. **3...Nd4** Definitely the most testing counter. **4.Bc4 g6** [Kotronias (in "Grandmaster Repertoire: Beating the Anti-Sicilians") prefers 4...a6 5.a4 e6 when Black gets in ...d5 via various tactical devices.] **5.Nge2 Bg7 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Qf3!?** An attempt at disrupting Black's normal development. **7...Nh6!?** [7...Nf6 8.e5!? *(8.Nb5 0-0 9.Nxd4 d5! 10.exd5 e5!* catches White somewhat off-balance*)* 8...dxc3 9.dxc3 leads to some strange pawns, e.g. 9...Qb6 10.exf6 Qxf6 11.Bf4! *(11.Qxf6 Bxf6* isn't a worry: *12.Bh6 e6* and ...d5*)* 11...g5!? 12.Be3 Qxf3 13.gxf3] **8.Ne2!** [8.d3 Qa5!? 9.Bxh6 Bxh6 10.Qxf7+ Kd8 11.Qd5 Qxd5 12.Nxd5 e6 13.Nf6 Bg7 14.e5 *(14.Ng4?? h5!* is quite a culmination*)* 14...Ke7 Black can regain the pawn at his leisure (maybe completing development with ... b6 and ...Bb7 first), with if anything some advantage.] **8...0-0**

This position has over three hundred games in the "Mega" database! Including an "early" 1999 game Najer-Tiviakov! Was Sergey so impressed that it set him off playing White? (½-½, 34) **9.d3 Ng4 10.Bb3** [10.Qxg4 just leads to trouble: 10...d5 11.Qg3 dxc4 12.dxc4 Be6 13.Qd3 *(13.b3 d3-+)* 13...f5 with more than enough compensation for the pawn.] **10...d6 11.0-0** [More relevant could be 11.Qg3 a5 12.a4 Qc7 13.h4 h5 14.f3 Ne5 15.Nxd4!? Qb6 16.Be3 Qb4+ 17.c3 Qb6 18.0-0!? e6 19.Rae1 Nxd3 20.Nb5 Nc5 21.Rd1 Rd8 22.Bc2 and Black is a bit discomforted still. 22...Qc6 23.e5 d5 24.Qg5 Bd7

25.g4! hxg4 26.h5 gxf3 27.hxg6 Be8 28.gxf7+ Bxf7 29.Rxf3 Ne4 30.Bxe4 dxe4 31.Rxd8+ 1-0 (31) Harutjunyan,G (2619)-Chadaev,N (2559) Chess.com INT 2016] **11...a5 12.a4 Ne5 13.Qg3 Nd7 14.f4** [Here's a high-level game from a while ago: 14.Bg5 Nc5 15.Qh4 Re8 16.Bd5 Be6 17.Bxe6 Nxe6 18.Bh6 Bf6 19.Qg3 Rc8 20.Rac1 Qb6 21.b3 Rc5 22.f4 Rh5 23.f5 Rxh6 24.fxe6 fxe6 25.Nf4 Qc5 26.Nxe6 Qe5 27.Qxe5 Bxe5 28.g3 Rh5 29.c3 dxc3 30.d4 Bf6 31.Rxc3 Kf7 32.Nc7 Rc8 33.Kg2 Kg8 34.Rd1 Rc5 35.dxc5 Bxc3 36.cxd6 exd6 37.Nb5 Be5 38.Rd5 Rc6 39.Na3 Rc3 40.Rb5 Re3 41.Nc4 Rxe4 42.Nxa5 Re2+ 43.Kf3 Rxh2 44.Nc4 Bd4 45.Rxb7 d5 46.Ne3 h5 47.Nxd5 g5 48.a5 Ra2 49.b4 h4 50.gxh4 gxh4 51.Kg4 Bf2 52.Kg5 Kf8 53.Nf6 Ra3 54.Ng4 Be1 55.Kf6 Bc3+ 56.Ne5 Kg8 57.Rg7+ Kh8 58.Rg4 h3 59.Kf7 Be1 60.Rg7 1-0 (60) Svidler,P (2727)-Leko,P (2741) Dortmund 2004] **14...Nc5 15.Bc4**

15...Be6?!N [In another game Black chose to negate White's light-squared bishop with pawns: 15...e6 16.f5 d5 17.exd5 exd5=/+ 18.Ba2 Bxf5 19.Rxf5!? gxf5 20.Bg5 f6? *(20...Qb6)* 21.Bh6?! *(21.Bd2+/-)* 21...Rf7 22.Nxd4 Kh8 23.Be3 Qd7 24.Rf1 f4 25.Qxf4 f5 26.Nxf5 Ne6 27.Qf3 Nd4 28.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 29.Kh1 Raf8 30.g4 Bxb2 31.Bxd5 Rf6 32.Qe4 and in this wildly unbalanced position: ½-½! Mirzoev,E (2428)-Kislinsky,A (2478) Mukachevo 2016] **16.Bxe6 fxe6**

17.f5! exf5 18.exf5 Qd7 [18...gxf5 19.Bh6 Rf7 20.Rxf5] **19.fxg6 Rxf1+ 20.Kxf1 Qf5+ 21.Kg1 Qxg6=**

and the game remains balanced now for quite a while... **22.Bg5 e5 23.b3 h6 24.Be7 Qxg3 25.Nxg3 Bf8 26.Bxf8 Rxf8 27.Rf1** Heading for a knight ending, a last resort for trickiness. **27...Na6 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8 29.Nf5 d5!** Black saves the center pawn, even as it means two connected passed pawns for White. The computers peg this as "0.00" but it's still exciting for us humans! **30.Nxh6 Nb4 31.Ng4 e4! 32.Kf1 Nxc2 33.Ke2 Kf7** keeping the triple-ought are [33...e3; 33...Na1!?; 33...Nb4] **34.h4?!**

[34.dxe4 dxe4 35.Nf2 e3 36.Nd3] **34...Na1! 35.dxe4 dxe4 36.Nf2 e3 37.Ne4?!** [37.Nd3 Nxb3 38.h5 keeps Black's king occupied] **37...Nxb3**

38.Nd6+?? [38.Ng5+ hangs on to the draw] **38...Ke6 39.Nxb7?** [39.Nb5 still loses to 39...Nc1+ 40.Kd1 e2+ 41.Ke1 d3] **39...Nc1+ 40.Kf3 e2 41.Kf2**

41...d3?? Black allows a resource! [41...Kd5! dominates the white knight and it becomes a trivial win for Black. 42.h5 d3 43.Ke1 Nb3 a new queen: 44.h6 Nd4 45.Kd2 Nc2] **42.Nc5+!= Kd5 43.Nxd3! Nxd3+ 44.Kxe2 Nb2 45.h5 Ke5!** [45...Nxa4?? 46.h6+-] **46.h6 Kf6 47.g4! Nxa4 48.Kd3 Kg6 49.g5! Nb6**

50.Kc3 Kh7 51.Kb3 Kg6 52.Ka3 Kh7 53.Kb3 Kg6 54.Ka3 Kh7 55.Kb3 Game drawn by repetition **1/2-1/2**

(4) NM Michael Wang (coalescenet) (2084) - Max Hao (Joseph_Truelsons_Fan) (1888) [E71]

MI May TNMo Chess.com (5.6), 25.05.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bg5 0-0 6.h3 An offbeat line against the King's Indian. White has many possibilites to try with the space advantage. **6...Nbd7 7.Nf3 e5 8.d5 h6 9.Be3 c6?** This is really too aggressive and simply loses a pawn. It does open the game up, but there's no reason to do that right away. **10.Qd2** [Best to take the pawn straight away. 10.dxc6! bxc6 11.Qxd6] **10...Kh7** [Black had the opportunity to save the pawn now with 10...cxd5! 11.cxd5 Kh7] **11.dxc6 bxc6 12.Qxd6 Bb7**

Black wanted to open lines with White's lagging development, but there's no real targets here. **13.Bd3** This is reasonable. Even better would be the aggressive [13.0-0-0] **13...Re8 14.Bc2 Re6 15.Qd2 Qc7 16.Rd1 Bf8 17.0-0 Rd6 18.Qc1 Rd8 19.Rxd6 Qxd6 20.a3 Qc7 21.Bxa7** This is a little complicated. Also fine was the simple [21.Rd1] **21...Ba6 22.Be3 Bxc4 23.Rd1 g5!?** When you're down material it pays to be aggressive. This may cause some weakening of Black's kingside but it at least gets play. **24.h4 g4 25.Nd2 Be6 26.Nf1 Nh5 27.b4 Ra8 28.Qb2 Nf4 29.g3 Nh3+ 30.Kg2 Qb7 31.Bb3 Bxb3 32.Qxb3 Nc5 33.Qc4 Ne6**

34.Nh2?! [Here White could win by immediately undermining the knight on h3. 34.f3! h5 35.fxg4 hxg4 36.Nh2 Rxa3 37.Nxg4 Qxb4 38.Qxb4 Bxb4 39.Nb1] **34...h5 35.f3 Rxa3 36.fxg4?!**

[36.Rb1! Still keeps the advantage for White.] **36...Qxb4!** Siezing the chance to make the battle on the queenside. Giving up the knight on h3 is well worth it. **37.Qxb4 Bxb4 38.Kxh3 Rxc3 39.Rb1??** [39.Nf1 is equal] **39...Rxe3!**

The problem is White cannot take the bishop on b4 because of the sudden threat of 40,,,Nf4 mate! So coalescenet simply loses a piece and there is no coming back in this endgame. **40.gxh5 Be1 41.Kg4 Nd4 42.Kg5 Bxg3 43.Ng4 Nf3+ 44.Kf6 Bxh4+ 45.Kf5 Rc3 46.Rb7** If White could only have one more move... **46...Ng5 47.Nf6+ Kg7 48.Ne8+ Kh6 49.Kg4 Bf2 50.Nd6 Rg3+ 51.Kf5 Rf3+! 52.Kxe5 f6#**

Joseph_Truelsons_Fan won by checkmate **0-1**

(2) Joshua Lamstein (aveevu) (1695) - William Kelly (wkelly) (1942) [D30]

MI May TNMo u1800 Chess.com (5.1), 25.05.2021

A key game determining the winner. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nc3 b6** Early and susceptible to dangers on the a4-e8 diagonal, but the players ignore that. **6.e3 Bb7 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.a3 0-0 11.0-0 c5 12.Rc1 Rfd8 13.Qc2 Rac8 14.Qb1 cxd4 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Nxd4 Nc5 17.f3?**

Even in these symmetrical positions dangers can lurk. White irreperably weakens e3 and it costs him. [17.Bf3 just neutralizes the game. 17...Bxf3 18.Nxf3] **17...Qg5! 18.Kf2** [Not a particularly better try was 18.Nc2 h5 19.Rf2 h4] **18...Nb3?** [Black could initiate central play: 18...e5! 19.Nf5 Be6 20.g4 e4!] **19.Rxc8 Rxc8 20.Nxb3 Bxb3 21.Bd3 g6 22.Rc1** It's back in the boring zone again. **22...Rd8 23.Rc3 Ba4 24.Qc1 Qd5 25.Kg1 Kg7 26.b3 Bb5 27.Bxb5 Qxb5 28.Qc2 Rd6 29.h3 Qd7 30.Rc4 Rd1+ 31.Kh2 Qd6+ 32.f4 Rd2 33.Qc3+ Kh6 34.Rd4 Rxd4 35.Qxd4 Qxa3** Black grabs the pawn (the king ending was drawn), but White's queen is nicely placed for compensation. **36.b4 Qc1 37.Qe5 Qd2 38.Qg5+ Kg7 39.Qe5+ Kf8 40.Qb8+**

40...Ke7?? What? Black has to take the draw: [40...Kg7 41.Qe5+ Kf8 42.Qb8+] **41.Qc7+??** White has to take the pawns and the win! [41.Qxa7+ Kf8 42.Qb8+ Ke7 43.Qxb6 Inexplicable! In any case White is now under a minute (and Black under four).] **41...Qd7 42.Qc3 h5 43.g4 hxg4** It should be a draw now, but White slips further. **44.hxg4 Qb7** [44...Qb5

Black still has chances based on White's exposed king and pawns: 45.Qc7+ Kf8 46.Qc8+ Kg7 47.Qc3+ Kh7 48.Qc7 Qe2+] **45.g5 Kd7 46.Qf6 Kc6 47.Qe5 Qd7 48.b5+ Kb7** Queen and pawn endings are notoriously difficult, but Black eventually pulls it down. **49.Qe4+ Kb8 50.Qe5+ Qc7 51.Qh8+ Kb7 52.Qd4 Qc2+ 53.Kg3 Qc7 54.Qe4+ Kc8 55.Qd4 Qd7 56.Qh8+ Kb7 57.Qf6 a6 58.bxa6+ Kxa6 59.Qa1+ Kb7 60.Qh1+ Qc6 61.Qh7 Qc7 62.Qg7 b5 63.Qd4 Qc6 64.Qb4 Kb6 65.Qd4+ Kc7 66.Qa7+ Qb7 67.Qc5+ Kd7 68.Qd4+ Kc7 69.Qe5+ Kb6 70.Qd6+ Ka7 71.Qd4+ Qb6 72.Qd7+ Qb7 73.Qd4+ Ka6 74.Qa1+ Kb6 75.Qd4+ Kc6 76.Qe4+ Kc7 77.Qe5+ Kd7 78.Qd4+ Qd5 79.Qa7+ Kc6 80.Qa8+ Kc5 81.Qa7+ Kc4 82.Qa2+ Kd3 83.Qf2 b4 84.Qf1+ Kc2 85.Qe2+ Qd2 86.Qc4+ Kb2 87.Qe4 b3 88.Qe5+ Kb1 89.Qe4+ Qc2 90.Qh1+ Qc1 91.Qe4+ Qc2 92.Qh1+ Kb2 93.Qb7 Qd3 94.Qb6 Qd1 95.Qd4+ Qxd4 96.exd4 Kc2 97.Kf3 b2 98.Ke3 b1Q 99.Ke4 Kc3+ 100.Ke5 Qe1+ 101.Kf6 Kxd4 102.Kxf7 Ke4 103.Kxg6 Kxf4 104.Kf6 e5 105.g6 e4 106.g7 Qg1 107.Kf7 Qxg7+ 108.Kxg7 e3 109.Kh6 e2 110.Kh5 e1Q 111.Kg6 Qa5** wkelly won by resignation **0-1**

(3) Andrew Ballantyne (andrewaballantyne) (1469) - Marina Xiao (programmingmax) (1593) [B21]

MI May TNMo Chess.com (6.4), 26.05.2021

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 The Smith-Morra Gambit. An entertaining way to play with white against the Sicilian, The active play is enough compensation for the pawn. **4...e6 5.Bc4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bc5** This is a little risky. It's safer to play 6...d6 and develop this bishop to e7. **7.0-0 Nge7 8.Qe2 0-0 9.Rd1 Qc7 10.Nb5 Qb6 11.Bf4**

11...e5? giving back the pawn just gets a bad position.Black needed to play [11...a6 12.Nd6 Ng6 13.Bg3 f6 14.Rd2 Nge5 with a decent game] **12.Nxe5** Critical move. **12...Nd4?!** This gets into more trouble. It's hard to play for Black here but [12...d5 13.exd5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Qg6 would give some chances] **13.Nxd4 Bxd4**

14.Nxf7! Rxf7 15.Bxf7+ Kxf7 16.Qc4+ Kf8 17.Qxd4 Qxd4 18.Rxd4 With an exchange and pawn ahead the endgame is an easy win. **18...b6 19.Rad1 Nc6 20.Rd5 Kg8 21.a3 h6 22.Rd6 Kh7 23.e5 Ne7 24.g4 Ng6 25.Bg3 Nf8 26.Rc1 Bb7 27.Rc7 Bc6? 28.f4 Kg8** [28...Ne6? 29.Rxe6 dxe6 30.Rxc6] **29.f5 Ba4 30.e6**

There's no defense. Black plays on to mate, but could give up anytime. **30...dxe6 31.fxe6 Be8 32.e7 Nd7 33.Rcxd7 Bxd7 34.Rxd7 Re8 35.Rd8 Kf7 36.Rxe8 Kxe8 37.Bb8 Kxe7 38.Bxa7 b5 39.Bd4 g6 40.b3 h5 41.h3 hxg4 42.hxg4 Kd6 43.b4 Kd5 44.Bb2 Kc4 45.Kf2 Kb3 46.Bc1 Kc2 47.Be3 Kb3 48.Bd2 Kxa3 49.Kf3 Kb3 50.Kf4 Kc2 51.Be3 Kb3 52.Bc5 Kc4 53.Kg5 Kd5 54.Kxg6 Ke6 55.Kh6 Kf7 56.Kh7 Kf6 57.Kh6 Kf7 58.g5 Kg8 59.g6 Kh8 □ 60.Bd4+ Kg8 □ 61.g7 Kf7 □ 62.Kh7 Ke8 63.g8Q+ Ke7 64.Qg7+ Ke6 65.Qf6+ Kd5 66.Qe5+ Kc4 67.Qc5+ Kb3 68.Qc3+ Ka2 69.Qb2#** andrewaballantyne won by checkmate **1-0**

Final standings can be found here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/may-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/may-2021-tuesday-night-marathon-online)

Watch the historic broadcast of the final online TNM: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgrIaHGzVkw (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgrIaHGzVkw)

SwissSys Standings. 2021 May Tuesday Night Marathon Online: 1800

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	**Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	**gguseinov**	17343590	2661	W27	W16	W1
2	**Eric Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15688436)**	**kingandqueen2017**	15688436	2350	W14	W17	L3
3	**Eric Hon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13778105)**	**microbear**	13778105	2191	W20	W15	W2
4	**Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	**FlightsOfFancy**	10345120	2155	D7	W24	W5
5	**Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)**	**TitanChess666**	16090452	2149	W25	W26	L4
6	**Rohan Das (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15263634)**	**TETRA_Wolf**	15263634	1979	W9	L8	W2
7	**Pranav Sathish (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16464655)**	**championps**	16464655	1787	D4	W18	D1
8	**Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	**KyronGriffith**	12860484	2493	W13	W6	H--
9	**Aditya Arutla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16207801)**	**harshu27**	16207801	1718	L6	W13	W1
10	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	**ecwinslow**	10363365	2278	L15	H---	W2
11	**Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)**	**MMSanchez**	14947382	2195	W19	W23	L1
12	**Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)**	**kondsaga**	12469525	1934	L23	L21	W1

13	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)	twangbio	16291100	1879	L8	L9	W2
14	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	LightningDragon8	16761994	1877	L2	W25	W2
15	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	Joseph_Truelsons_Fan	16083648	1804	W10	L3	W2
16	Michael Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13605850)	coalescenet	13605850	2098	W21	L1	D7
17	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	Ako_h	15206848	1980	W22	L2	L9
18	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	L26	L7	D2
19	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1796	L11	L22	L1
20	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	pgstar3	12913356	1788	L3	D27	D1
21	Sos Hakobyan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14452712)	SacrificeandCrush	14452712	1771	L16	W12	W2
22	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	L17	W19	L1
23	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	GiorgosTsolias	17266862	1679	W12	L11	L6
24	Shravan Sriram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15894655)	Ragingbeast360	15894655	1655	B---	L4	L1
25	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	L5	L14	L1
26	Vedant Talwalkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16408266)	serverbusy	16408266	1691	W18	L5	L2
27	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	mwnckImann	15239016	1883	L1	D20	L1

SwissSys Standings. 2021 May Tuesday Night Marathon Online: u1800

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	unr.	W21	W16	W2	W
2	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1494	W33	W10	L1	W
3	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	andrewaballantyne	17079795	1251	L11	D28	W30	W
4	Jonathan Disenhof (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12906711)	GoldenBearMe	12906711	869	L14	W8	W16	W
5	Joshua Lamstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15487526)	aveevu	15487526	1632	W22	W18	W14	W
6	Rajtilak Indrajit Jagannathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30109752)	rtindru	30109752	1484	D19	W23	W12	W
7	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	Echecsmike	12279170	1446	W25	W32	L11	W
8	Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)	boozerrip	13553308	1350	L20	L4	W33	W
9	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1346	W28	L11	W27	L2

10	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1081	W24	L2	L15	W
11	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W3	W9	W7	L1
12	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	749	W17	W15	L6	L7
13	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1547	D23	W27	W19	L5
14	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	Sebbymeister	16875347	1422	W4	W20	L5	W
15	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	chuckchess	12448028	1368	W31	L12	W10	L4
16	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	W26	L1	L4	L3
17	Pranav Pradeep (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15871762)	ppra06	15871762	1354	L12	W25	L26	W
18	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1288	W29	L5	L20	L1
19	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	figsnoring	16551291	999	D6	W30	L13	D2
20	Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)	MyKwazowski	30179081	unr.	W8	L14	W18	W
21	Prescott Yu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16009618)	prescott00000	16009618	1296	L1	W31	W29	L2
22	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1203	L5	L29	D31	W
23	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020arEEEWS	16802870	1173	D13	L6	L28	W
24	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	L10	W33	W32	L6
25	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	night_breeze	30055583	982	L7	L17	H---	H-
26	Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)	MrRap9	30118209	810	L16	B---	W17	L1
27	Samuel Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380615)	ComfyQueso	16380615	723	B---	L13	L9	L2
28	Anton Bobkov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30162536)	texfan	30162536	unr.	L9	D3	W23	D1
29	Jj Ziebart (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30166361)	TomatoSoupGirl	30166361	unr.	L18	W22	L21	L1
30	Nicholas Brown (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12446259)	nmbrown2	12446259	1495	L32	L19	L3	D3
31	Arumin Ravisankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30025152)	aruminchess	30025152	869	L15	L21	D22	L2
32	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1043	W30	L7	L24	L8
33	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	Charvii	16816706	1032	L2	L24	L8	D3

Thursday Night Marathon Report

Round 3 is complete in the Thursday Night Marathon and only 3 perfect scores remain; GM Gadir Guseinov, IM Elliott Winslow and NM Michael Walder. Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Institute May-June 2021 ThNM: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2700	W24	W23	W8
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	W14	W12	W10
3	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	flightsoffancy	10345120	2155	W38	W16	W11
4	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	kclemens	13901075	1997	W32	W25	H---
5	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	D17	W22	W21
6	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	unr.	W13	W30	H---
7	Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)	chesspilot01	15424820	2103	W15	H---	H---
8	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	nathanf314	13001390	2004	W42	W33	L1
9	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	cccalboy	16419664	1794	D40	W39	D17
10	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	W34	W26	L2
11	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	W43	W37	L3
12	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	rimus11	17137317	1513	W36	L2	W33
13	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1494	L6	W32	W36
14	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	loltheawesomedude	16497860	1487	L2	W43	W37
15	Nick Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)	nxbex	16154827	1416	L7	W28	W29
16	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	aanval22	14257838	1288	W19	L3	W31
17	Suhas Indukuri (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16887781)	suindu12	16887781	1181	D5	W20	D9
18	Kevin Thompson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13110777)	aCalBear	13110777	1120	H---	H---	W30
19	NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	L16	W41	D24
20	Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	birdorbust	12459313	1873	H---	L17	W40
21	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	kingsmasher35	12797931	1789	H---	W40	L5
22	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	H---	L5	W39
23	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	programmingmax	16380642	1547	W27	L1	D25

	16380642)						
24	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1491	L1	W35	D19
25	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2nf31-0	16425316	1008	W29	L4	D23
26	Joshua Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30127073)	probablyjosh	30127073	unr.	W31	L10	H---
27	Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	tobiahsrex	30164211	unr.	L23	W38	H---
28	Leo Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061785)	mu3tang	16061785	1765	L33	L15	W41
29	Matthew Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12541333)	hip_hop_99	12541333	1659	L25	W42	L15
30	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	sirianluv	14874734	1621	W35	L6	L18
31	Jacob Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	jacobchess857	17083655	1612	L26	W34	L16
32	Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)	boozerrip	13553308	1350	L4	L13	W43
33	Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)	charvii	16816706	1032	W28	L8	L12
34	Christopher Harris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15496280)	charris62606	15496280	1017	L10	L31	W42
35	Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	vincitore51745	12814843	581	L30	L24	B---
36	Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)	greenninja2019	30015889	unr.	L12	B---	L13
37	Jeff Rosengarden (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105422)	jrosengarden	30105422	unr.	B---	L11	L14
38	Daniel Marcus (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12905558)	radio_on	12905558	1458	L3	L27	H---
39	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1203	H---	L9	L22
40	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1081	D9	L21	L20
41	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	bruce_hedman	17344551	1043	H---	L19	L28
42	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L8	L29	L34
43	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	andrejsg	16741331	826	L11	L14	L32

WIM Dr. Alexey Root

WIM Dr. Alexey Root was gracious enough to give the Mechanics' Institute a very nice shout out for its coverage of the Texas Chess Association Qualifier for the Denker/Barber/Rockefeller/Haring championships. These are national championship invitationals in which each state send one representative to compete in a closed tournament representing high school/middle school/elementary school/girls respectively. We broadcast the event on our Twitch channel and we provided commentary with GM Nick de Firmian and GM Julio Sadorra, head coach of the University of Texas at Dallas chess team. It was not only a talent rich event of the top scholastic players in Texas, it was action packed with stunning tactics and several of fortunes, drama well covered in Alexy's article. Click on the link here: https://www.sparkchess.com/chess-question-from-a-celebrity-fitness-trainer.html (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.sparkchess.com/chess-question-from-a-celebrity-fitness-trainer.html).

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 6/3: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1185695 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1185695)

See you in the arena!

Renew or Get your US Chess membership NOW before prices go up on June 1

Renew it through Mechanics' Institute and support your chess club!

Old memberships
Scholastic: Age 12&under: $17/one year; $30/two years
Youth: Age 15&under: $22/one year; $40/two years
Young Adult: Age 24&under: $26/one year; $48/two years
Adult: Age 25&over: $40/one year; $75/two years
Senior: Age 65&over: $40/one year; $75/two years

If you belong to the categories that are bolded, you could save by renewing your membership TODAY!

New membership structure effective from 6/1/2021:

Youth (≤ 18 years): $20/one year; $37/two years
Young Adult (19 – 24 years): $27/one year; $51/two years
Adult (25 – 64 years): $45/one year; $87/two years
Senior (65 years and older): $40/one year; $77/two years

Renew it through us by Monday noon, and we'll take care of the submitting to US Chess.
https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/USCFMemberships (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/USCFMemberships)

If you are interested in renewing for 2 years, please email us to chessroom@milibrary.org and we will provide further instructions on what to do.

Mechanics' Institute

Summer Online Classes

Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe
Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:00-7:00PM - Middle Game Strategy Through the Lens of the TNM

New session date: June 14 - July 26 (no class July 5)

Middle games can be very complex, trying to formulate plans, spot weaknesses, and developing instincts that guide when to initiate aggression or hold things static. These are just some of the topics as we discuss middle game strategy using game resources from a Mechanics' Institute tradition, the Tuesday Night Marathon (TNM). Using real games from our flagship event, we will look at concepts in middle game management to improve our game. Class will be taught by 3-time US Champion Nick de Firmian with support from FM Paul Whitehead. Relive the fun and action of the TNM, with games from our local players while learning to play better chess.
More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/middle-game-strategy-through-lens-tnm (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/middle-game-strategy-through-lens-tnm)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MiddleGameStrategyThroughLensofTNMGameswithGMNickdeFirmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MiddleGameStrategyThroughLensofTNMGameswithGMNickdeFirmian)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members
New session date: June 9 - July 28
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: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021)
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/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Wednesdays 6:30-8PM -- Next Class by FM Paul Whitehead -- Endgame Lab
Course Dates: June 30 through Aug 4 (6 classes)
For tournament players looking to solve some of toughest situations they face, here is the class to help you learn the essentials to work out and win or save games.
FM Paul Whitehead's Endgame Lab Class will focus solely on endgame techniques and will teach you the essentials in a 6-week course meant to build endgame skills you need to get your chess to the next level.
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhiteheadJunJul2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhiteheadJunJul2021)

Wednesdays 7-8PM - Introduction to Openings for Developing Players
Course Dates: June 23 through August 25 (10 classes)

IM (International Master) Elliott Winslow will be teaching this course. Opening theory in chess is a big subject! But of course there's no avoiding it, you have to step forward, and you might as well make those important first moves count. In this course, we'll look into this world, sampling the various openings, with more than a bit of history of their development, plus we'll learn the basic principles of opening play as we go: Development, the Center, King Safety, Initiative, and Stopping the Opponent (from all those). We'll see a number of standard deployments and their counters, and maybe even find out what (and why!) is happening in the games of the best players (and how it could help our games). Lastly, this dynamics class will give players the opportunity to discuss their own choices of openings, obstacles and receive advice on how to get past them.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/introduction-openings-developing-players (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/introduction-openings-developing-players)
Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/IntroductiontoOpeningsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/IntroductiontoOpeningsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM)

Sundays 10AM - 12PM -- Free Women's Online Chess Class by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams

Come join us on Sundays as we are offering a free class for women from 10am-12pm(noon) online.
Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected. Registration is required so we may send the links for players to join. Zoom will be required to participate, and we will include optional links to participate in online platforms like chess.com if players would like to play with each other online. Be sure to be a part of the Mechanics' Women's Chess Club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-womens-club

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class)
Class is free, but must register to receive class information: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012)

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:

6/1 Tuesday - June 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon LIVE
Format: 5SS G/120;d5
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-june-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJune2021)
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJune2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJune2021)

Redesigned NEW Thursday Night Marathon
Starting June 24 through July 15
Since the Tuesday Night Marathon is back to OTB, we have redesigned the Thursday Night Marathon Online to offer two games a night. Increment has been increased to 5 second to give our players a bit more time to move the mouse. This tournament will stay our online main event, and our amazing broadcast team will cover the games just like the Tuesday Night Marathon Online.
Format: one Open section with 8SS G/35+5 - 2 games a night
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online)
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThefirstNewThursdayNightMarathonOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThefirstNewThursdayNightMarathonOnline)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129011802/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220129011802/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/20220129011802/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).
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/20220129011802/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)

Scholastic Corner

Starting June 2021, the scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated, monthly publication:
Scholastic Monthly Diary

Please click the following link to read the first inaugural edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 16: Alekhine – Euwe 1937

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Taking on Max Euwe in the rematch two years later, Alexander Alekhine used a new and powerful weapon: sobriety. Alekhine overwhelmed the Dutchman in the transitions to winning endgames, and was willing to take risks even in the opening, as this famous game illustrates:

Alekhine – Euwe, 6th Match Game 1937.

Queens Gambit Declined, Slav Defense

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e4 e5 5.Bxc4 exd4.

Here Alekhine, a point behind in the match, stunned Euwe with the amazing **6.Nf3!?** a sacrifice that should have been taken: 6…dxc3 7.Bxf7+ Ke7 8.Qb3 with wild complications. But he erred with **6…b5?** and was mowed down: **7.Nxb5! Ba6** (7…cxb5 8.Bd5 wins) **8.Qb3 Qe7 9.0-0 Bxb5 10.Bxb5 Nf6 11.Bc4 Nbd7 12.Nxd4 Rb8 13.Qc2 Qc5 14.Nf5 Ne5 15.Bf4 Nh5 16.Bxf7+! Kxf7 17.Qxc5 Bxc5 18.Bxe5.** Two pawns down, black can resign here. **18…Re5 19.Bd6 Bb6 20.b4 Rd8 21.Rad1 c5 22.bxc5 Bxc5 23.Rd5 1-0.**

Alekhine went on to win the next two games as well, effectively deciding the match. The final score of +10 -4 =11 for the challenger hid another grim statistic: Euwe could not buy even one lousy game with the black pieces.

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1. Euwe – Alekhine, 5th Match Game 1937.

White moves. A one-two punch sends Alekhine reeling.

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2. Euwe – Alekhine, 7th Match Game 1937.

Black moves. What to do about the threat of f5?

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3. Alekhine – Euwe, 8th Match Game 1937.

White moves. What to do about the threat of 1…b5?

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4. Alekhine – Euwe, 10th Match Game 1937.

White moves. Wrap it up.

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5. Euwe – Alekhine, 25th Match Game 1937.

Black moves. Be the spoilsport.

GM Nick de Firmian

Crypto Chess

Major chess tournaments around the world have often been sponsored by financial Institutions. The great Lloyds Bank tournaments of London and the Credit Suisse tournament of Switzerland easily come to mind. Thus it is not surprising to see a major tournament that is now played being sponsored by crypto currency. The FTX Crypto Cup has $320,000 in prize money plus extra bonus funds of $100,000 in bitcoin.

This event saw 16 of the world's best players in the preliminary phase, whereupon the 8 qualifiers played off in mini-matches. A great surprise of the preliminaries was the bare qualification of World Champion Magnus. He had a very drawn position in the final round against the solid Radjabov and a draw would have seen him booted out of the tournament with the 7 other bottom finishers. That is like seeing Tiger Woods miss the cut at a golf tournament. Somehow Magnus managed to win that dead drawn game against a top ten player and get to the playoff stage where he met longtime blitz rival Hikaru Nakamura.

Despite this uneven qualifying performance the champ produced a brilliant and entertaining game against the Russian Alexander Grischuck. We give this game below, and one with the same opening that also involved the reigning world champion and best Scandinavian player in the world. That game was 51 years ago, but was an absolute classic. The game played this week was a sequel to that dramatic story.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Grischuck,Alexander [A01]

Crypto Prelimns, 24.05.2021

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 Bc5 6.Nf5! A new move after 51 years (see next game). This certainly gets to entertaining positions. **6...d5?!** [6...0-0! 7.Nc3!? *(7.Ng3* is safe and equal*)* 7...d5 is wild and crazy but should be no worse for Black] **7.Nxg7+ Kf8 8.cxd5 Bd4**

9.Nc3! Ne7 [9...Nb4 may be better but White still holds the edge after 10.Nh5 Nxh5 11.e3] **10.e3 Bxc3 11.dxc3! Kxg7 12.c4**

Black has won a piece but Magnus has tremendous compensation with the powerful bishop on the long dark diagonal and the strong central pawns. Larsen would be proud of his Scandinavian colleague. **12...Ng6 13.g4 h6 14.h4 c5** It's hard to offer good advice for Black. This at least prevents the white queen from coming to d4. **15.Be2** [Not 15.g5? hxg5 16.hxg5 Qa5+ followed by ...Rxh1 wins for Black] **15...Kg8 16.Qc2 Rh7 17.0-0-0 Nxg4** I think most anyone would greatly enjoy playing the white side here. So you've lost some material - you've got all very active pieces and a continuing attack against the black king. **18.h5**

18...Nf8 19.Qxe4 f5 [19...Nxf2 20.Rdg1+ Ng6 21.hxg6 Nxe4 22.gxh7+ Kxh7 23.Rg7+ Kh8 24.Rxh6# would be a pretty finish] **20.Qc2 Nxf2 21.Rhg1+ Kf7 22.Rdf1 Qh4** [22...Nh3 23.Rxf5+ Bxf5 24.Qxf5+ Ke8 25.Qxh3 would be a crushing advantage] **23.Be5?!** This is imprecise in an otherwise superb game. Now Grischuck could get some defensive chances with 23...Qe7 though he would still be under great pressure. Instead 23. Rg2 should win fairly easily. **23...Qe4?! 24.Qc3 Nh3 25.Rg4!**

Grischuck resigned as his queen is trapped. A most entertaining game from the World Champion, even from a tournament where he is a little off form. **1-0**

(2) Larsen,Bent - Spassky,Boris V [A01]

Belgrade URS-World Belgrade (2.1), 31.03.1970

Larsen plays the opening that bears his name. **1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 Bc5**

Now Larsen captures the knight on c6 to double the pawns, but this gives Black quick development. No grandmaster dared play the opening again for white until Magnus showed there was real potential to his fellow Scandinavian's opening idea. **6.Nxc6?! dxc6 7.e3 Bf5 8.Qc2 Qe7 9.Be2 0-0-0 10.f4?** White advances the f-pawn as Black cannot capture en passant with the bisho on f5. Yet this gives Black the last tempo needed to break through the poorly developed white position. It takes incredible aggression to succeed though. **10...Ng4! 11.g3** Preventing 11...Qh4+ **11...h5! 12.h3**

12...h4! 13.hxg4 hxg3 14.Rg1

14...Rh1!! This fabulous move brings the game to a historic level. After sacrificing a piece Spassky throws a whole rook in for the sake of one tempo. **15.Rxh1 g2** That tempo is absolutely decisive. The white rook must move and the black queen invades. **16.Rf1** [16.Rg1 Qh4+ 17.Kd1 Qh1 is the end] **16...Qh4+ 17.Kd1 gxf1Q+** Larsen resigned as it is mate in three. Now we have two classic games from this variation. I hope a world champion of the future will venture into this line again. **0-1**

Solutions to Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Euwe – Alekhine, 5th Match Game 1937.

1.f4! Sends the bishop out of orbit... **1…Bxb2** (1…Bb8 2.Bc6 wins) and **2.Rf3!** …salvages it for scrap. The twin threats of 3.Rd8+ followed by 4.Rg3+, and the simple 3.Rb3 snagging the bishop are too much for black. After **2…Bb7 3.Rg3!** threatening 4.Bc5# it was all over but the crying. Alekhine tried the funny **3…Ba3**, as 3…Rc8 lost instantly to 4.Rd8+! but the rest was too painful: **4.Rxa3 Rg8 5.Rg3 Rxg3 6.hxg3 Bd5 7.Bb3 Bxb3 8.axb3 Ke8 9.b4 Rb8 10.Bc5 Rc8 11.Ra1 Rc6 12.Kf2 f5 13.Ke3 f6 14.Kd4 Kf7 15.Kc4 Kg6 16.Rd1 Kh5 17.Rd6 Rxd6 18.Bxd6 Kg4 19.Be7 Kg3 20.Bxf6 Kxf4 21.Kc5 1-0.**

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2. Euwe – Alekhine, 7th Match Game 1937.

The powerful centralization with **1…Rad8! 2.f5 exf5 3.exf5 Rfe8!** put black firmly in the driver's seat. White wins the piece with **4.Qg2 Qxg4 5.fxg6** but black has 3 pawns for it after **4…hxg6** and a raging initiative despite the queens coming off. The rest was actually a rout: **5.Bd1Qxg2+ 6.Kxg2 Rd4 7.Nf3 Rg4+ 8.Kh3 Rd8 9.Bg5 Rb4 10.Bd2 Re4 11.Bb3 Re2 12.Bc3 Rd3 13.Kh4 Rxf3!** A little combination decides matters quickly. **14.Rxf3 Rh2+ 15.Rh3** (15.Kg5 Rh5#) **15…g5+ 16.Kxg5 Rxh3 17.Bd1 Ne4+ 0-1.**

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3. Alekhine – Euwe, 8th Match Game 1937.

Yet again Alekhine ignores the threat and blows open the center: **1.e4! b5 2.Qf4!** Hits the rook on b8. **2…Rb6 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Rhe1+ Be6 5.Rac1!** The end is near, with the deadly threat of 6.Rc8+. **5…f6 6.Rc7 Kd8** (He can take the pesky bishop with 6…Rxa6 but then is mated after 7.Re7+ Kd8 8.Qc7#) **7.Rxa7 1-0.**

----

4. Alekhine – Euwe, 10th Match Game 1937.

1.Kg2! threatens to snag the queen with 2.Nf3, and black is busted. Euwe bailed out in the only way he could with **1…Nxe5 2.dxe5,** but oops, the knight has nowhere to go. Black resisted for a while, but without any real hope: **2…Nh5 3.gxh5 Rxc4 4.Qf3 Rf8 5.h6 f5 6.Qg3 Qxg3+ 7.fxg3 Rfc8 8.hxg7 Rc2+ 9.Kf3 R2c3+ 10.Be3 Rxa3 11.Rd7 Rc4 12.Kf2 Rc2+ 13.Re2 Raa2 14.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 15.Kf3 a5 16.Bh6 Rc8 17.Ra7 1-0.**

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5. Euwe – Alekhine, 25th Match Game 1937.

1…Rxf5! returning the exchange, leaves white in a hopeless position. The World Championship Match ended with Euwe's king being chased around the board: **2.Kxf5 Qxh5+ 3.Kf4 Qh4+ 4.Kf3 Qh3+ 5.Ke4 Re8+ 6.Kd5 Qb3+ 7.Kd4 Qxa3 0-1.**

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Newsletter #971

June 5, 2021

By Abel Talamantez

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Tuesday Night Marathon is Back Live at Mechanics' Institute!

Tuesday night marked a historic night in the already storied history of the chess club, with the first live event in more than a year. It was the return of the Tuesday Night Marathon, an event that continued online since last March, and kept the lineage of the event uninterrupted. Now, it returns for live over the board FIDE and USCF rated play. Our entries were limited in capacity due to our Covid Health and Safety Plan, but we have a very solid 56 players for this event. The feeling of excitement and anticipation was in the air, from both the players and staff. We saw many of our regulars return to battle on our over 100-year old wooden tables, some with our modern DGT boards on top. We also welcomed players we had only previously met online. It was great to be back, and our players who had adjusted well over the past year with shorter time controls online, were back to the traditional TNM time control of G/120;d5. Classical chess has returned!

In the top section, overall top seed by rating FM Kyron Griffith won his first round game against Mark Drury. IM Josiah Stearman had a round 1 bye, so he will be in action next week. Also winning were IM Elliott Winslow and Theo Biyiasas. Pulling mild upsets on the first night were Gaziz Makhanov against Abhishek Mallela and Gary Harris against Nicholas Weng.

FM Kyron Griffith on Board 1 against Mark Drury

In the under 1800 section, Andrew Imbens upset the top seed Georgios Tsolias to take a point. Also getting a first round win were some Mechanics' regulars like Albert Starr, Richard Hack, and some young online players we first met online now playing at Mechanics' for the first time including Sebby Suarez and Shiv Sohal.

Sebby "sebbymeister" Suarez (right) in action at the Mechanics' Institute

Here are some games from Tuesday night, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(2) Drury,Mark - FM Griffith,Kyron [A03]

TNM, 02.06.2021

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 The Bird's Opening is a Dutch Defense reversed. One chooses it as a matter of taste. Objectively Black is fine. **2...Bg4 3.e3 Nd7 4.Be2 Ngf6 5.b3** The logical follow up to contro the long dark-squared diagonal. **5...Bxf3 6.Bxf3 e5!** As usual Kyron takes the aggressive approach. Trading away the bishop pair allows Black to break in the center immediately. **7.fxe5?!** Black's pieces now jump into good central squares. 7. Bb2 would instead be about even. **7...Nxe5 8.Bb2 Bd6 9.Nc3 c6 10.Qe2 Qe7 11.0-0?!** [11.e4!?] **11...0-0-0**

Black has gotten a well developed, centralized position with opposite sides castling. Already White is having difficulties. **12.a3?!** [12.Nd1!? h5 13.c4] **12...h5! 13.b4?!** This just weakens the c4 square. The position was hard to play in any case. **13...Nc4 14.Rfb1** [14.Rab1] **14...Nxb2 15.Rxb2 g5 16.Qf2 Kb8 17.b5 c5 18.d4** This loses, but everything else is bad too. White cannot take on d5 since [18.Nxd5 Nxd5 19.Bxd5 Qe5 attackes the bishop on d5, the rook on b2 and the pawn on h2] **18...cxd4 19.exd4 Qc7!**

There are too many threats for White to deal with. **20.Ne2 Bxh2+ 21.Kf1 g4 22.Bxd5 Nxd5 23.g3**

23...h4! White wins the bishop on h2 but loses his kingside. **24.Qxh2 hxg3 25.Qg2** There is nothing to be done anyway. **25...Ne3+** A forceful game by Kyron! **0-1**

(4) Winslow,Elliott C (2278) - Rajaram,Anika (1860) [B28]

MI June TNM San Francisco (1.2), 01.06.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 The Kan Sicilian: a difficult test for both players. **5.c4** This is a less common Maroczy Bind formation, but the concept is the same: deterring Black from freeing her game with ...d5. **5...Nc6** [5...Nf6 One usually sees 6.Nc3 and now one of three moves to stop 7.e5: 6...-- *(6...Qc7; 6...d6;* with *6...Bb4* the longstanding main line*.)*] **6.Nxc6** White tries to take some sort of advantage of the early development of that knight. [Just 6.Nc3 is far more common.] **6...bxc6** [6...dxc6 7.Qxd8+ is not to many players' taste.] **7.Nc3 Qc7 8.Be3 Bb4?!** These last two moves don't make much sense. **9.Rc1?!** Often in Sicilian variations the doubled pawns are less a factor than Black's dark-squared deficiencies, and this clearly one of them: [9.Bd3 can be played without fearing the exchange on c3.] **9...Nf6 10.Bd3 h6?!**

Another insignificant move, and White can't stand it any longer. **11.c5!?** [11.0-0! first is an important difference: 11...0-0 12.c5 d6 13.Na4! the knight is free to poke at the queenside.] **11...0-0?** [11...d6; 11...d5 12.cxd6 Bxd6 13.h3 0-0 isn't ideal, but it is playable.] **12.a3+/-** Now White claims a big advantage, leaving Black with one horrible bishop and an ineffective knight. **12...Bxc3+ 13.Rxc3 Qe5?! 14.f4 Qh5 15.Qxh5 Nxh5**

16.e5!+- and Black's knight is never able to find a good square. **16...g6** [16...f5 17.Rg1 g6 18.g4 Ng7 19.gxf5 gxf5 (19...Nxf5 20.Rxg6+ Kh7 21.Rf6!? Rxf6 22.exf6 Kg6 23.Bxf5+ exf5 *(23...Kxf5 24.f7 Bb7 25.Rb3)* 24.Bd4 and Rg3+ wins handily.) Now White rolls forward: 20.Be2 Kf7 21.Bf2 Rh8 22.Rcg3 Rh7 23.Rg6 h5 24.Rf6+ Kg8 25.Bh4 Bb7 26.Bg5 Rf8 27.Bh6 Rf7 *(27...Rxf6 28.exf6 Rxh6 29.Rxg7+ Kf8 30.Rxd7)* 28.Rfg6

and king up to b6 (!).] **17.g4 Ng7**

18.Kd2! [18.f5 right away might work, but it gets a bit messy after 18...exf5 19.gxf5 d5!? So a little preparation can't hurt.] **18...a5** [18...h5 19.h3 doesn't make it any better.] **19.f5 Kh7 20.f6 Ne8 21.h4 Ba6 22.Be4** Again playing it safe, which is fine and avoids the danger of a miscalculation. [But as before, White could just play directly 22.h5 Bxd3 23.hxg6+ Bxg6 24.Rxh6+ and doubling on the h-file will be fatal.] **22...Nc7** Black's knight finally eyes the wonderful d5 square but it's way too late. **23.h5 Rh8 24.hxg6+ fxg6 25.Bxh6 Rab8** [25...Kg8 everything works, with 26.Bxg6 Rf8 27.Rb3 (threatening, Rb8 or f7) 27...Nb5 28.a4 working the best] **26.Bg7+ Kg8 27.Rxh8+ Kf7 28.Rxb8 1-0**

(5) Wilson,Stephen (1242) - Starr,Albert (1609) [A01]

MI June TNM u1800 San Francisco (1.1), 01.06.2021

1.b3 e5 2.g3 d5 Talk about battle lines drawn! Hypermodern vs. Classical. **3.Bb2 Bd6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.d4** White recants. **5...Nc6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Nd2 e4**

This works out, **8.Qe2** both players surprisingly go for queenside castling: [as 8.c4 runs into 8...Nb4] **8...Qd7 9.h4?! 0-0-0 10.0-0-0 Rhe8 11.Bh3?!** This is the last piece White should be exchanging! [11.a3!? Ne7 12.c4 c6 maintains the center.] **11...Ng4!? 12.Bg2 g6 13.f3?** White finally cracks. **13...exf3 14.Bxf3 Rxe3 15.Qf1 Bxg3** Two pawns, with more to come. **16.Ne2 Qd6 17.Nxg3 Qxg3 18.Bxg4 Bxg4 19.Re1 Rxe1+ 20.Qxe1 Qxe1+ 21.Rxe1** The opposite colored bishops aren't going to mean much of anything in this ending, Black's extra pawns will eventually march. **21...f5 22.Kb1 Kd7 23.Nf1 Re8 24.Rxe8 Kxe8 25.Ne3** Exchanges won't matter. **25...Ne7 26.Ba3 c6 27.Bc5 b6 28.Bd6 a6?!** [28...Kd7 29.Bb8 a5 avoids giving up all the dark squares.] **29.Bc7 b5 30.c4 h5?** Black is really pushing his luck though! putting every pawn on the same color as his bishop is NOT how it works. **31.Bd6** [31.c5 paves the way for K up to a5, but if Black is awake he'll notice 31...g5! 32.hxg5 Bf3! confounding the knight. White's pieces will be hamstrung by the danger the h-pawn poses.] **31...Kf7** [31...bxc4 32.bxc4 dxc4 33.Nxc4 Nd5 followed by ...f4 and after some reparations, ...g5.] **32.Bxe7?** White has operated on the assumption all game that exchanges favor him, but this one is suicide. **32...Kxe7 33.cxd5**

33...f4! 34.dxc6?! fxe3 Of course Black's king and bishop stop everything, including losing the e-pawn. White must be hoping now to exchange kings, but the rules won't permit it. **35.Kc1 Kd6 36.d5 Kxd5 37.c7 Kd6 38.c8Q Bxc8 39.Kd1 Ke5 40.Ke2 Kf4 41.a4 bxa4 42.bxa4 a5 43.Ke1 Kf3 44.Kf1 e2+ 45.Ke1 Bd7 46.Kd2 Kf2 47.Kc2 e1Q 48.Kb2 Bxa4 49.Ka2 Qc3 50.Kb1 Bd1 51.Ka2 a4 52.Kb1 a3 53.Ka2 Qb2# 0-1**

(1) Argo,Guy - Mahooti,James [B23]

TNM, 02.06.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 The Grand Prix Attack against the Sicilian is a good practical choice. It avoids a lot of theory at the cost of giving Black the d4 square. Anyway White gets kingside play with the e and f pawns controlling squares on that side. **3...g6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bb5 a6?!** This forces White to do what he wants to do anyway. [5...Bd7 or at least; 5...Bg7 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.d3 give Black reasonable chances] **6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.d3 Bg7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Qe1**

We take a look at the result of the opening so far. White is developed and ready for kingside play while Black's doubled c-pawns make it hard to get play on the queenside or center, Already White has a clear plus, **9...e6?!** This doesn't help though and allows White central play also. 9...0-0 or 9...Bg4 was better. **10.b3 Bd7?! 11.e5! Nd5 12.Na4 Nb6 13.Nb2 d5 14.c4**

Strategically Black is in great difficulties. The c5 pawn is weak, the light squared bishop can't find any useful play and there is no good way to free the position. **14...0-0 15.Qa5 Qc7 16.Qxc5 Rfb8 17.Be3 Nc8 18.Qa3!** White had snatched the c5 pawn for nothing but needed to be careful with the queen. This last move is ready to answer 18...Bf8 with 19. Bc5 **18...Nb6 19.Qa5 Qb7 20.c5** Taking control of the queenside squares and keeping Black bottled up. **20...Nc8 21.Qd8+ Bf8 22.Qh4** A switch to the kingside prepares to make the breakthrough on that side of the board. **22...Ne7 23.g4 Be8 24.Nd4 Qd7 25.Rf3 h6**

26.f5! exf5 27.gxf5 Nc8 28.Rh3 [28.fxg6 fxg6 29.Raf1 Bg7 30.Bxh6 would have been very direct] **28...Qe7!** Trying at least to make the win difficult for White. **29.Qxe7 Bxe7 30.Na4 h5 31.fxg6 fxg6 32.Rf1** Alas the endgame is also lost for Black as the white pieces and pawns control too many squares. **32...Rb4 33.Rhf3 Rxa4** This is a bit desparate, but [33...Ra7 34.e6 is not much better] **34.bxa4 Bxc5 35.Ne6! Be7** [35...Bxe3+ 36.Rxe3 Ne7 37.Rf8+ Kh7 38.Nc7] **36.Nc7** Black resigned. A fine game by Argo! **1-0**

Here are the current standings after round 1:

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2493	W22				H---	1.0
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	W23					1.0
3	Theodore Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	13989054	2155	W24					1.0
4	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	X25					1.0
5	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	12517167	1928	W26					1.0
6	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1855	W19					1.0
7	Gary Harris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12834452)	12834452	1827	W20					1.0
8	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1788	W21					1.0
9	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	12931024	1622	B---					1.0
10	IM Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)	14006506	2484	H---				H---	0.5
11	Abhinav Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	15467440	2087	H---				H---	0.5
12	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	H---			H---		0.5
13	Rohan Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15739716)	15739716	1929	D16					0.5
14	Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)	16192001	1925	D17					0.5
15	Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	12572270	1900	D18					0.5

16	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1804	D13					0.5
17	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	D14		H---			0.5
18	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1776	D15					0.5
19	Abhishek Mallela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12888811)	12888811	2159	L6					0.0
20	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2013	L7					0.0
21	Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	L8					0.0
22	Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	12459313	1873	L1					0.0
23	WCM Anika Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446678)	15446678	1860	L2					0.0
24	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1834	L3					0.0
25	Nelson Sowell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11103405)	11103405	1807	F4					0.0
26	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1800	L5					0.0

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June Tuesday Night Marathon: u1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1609	W21					1.0
2	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	W22					1.0
3	Lee Cooper (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14563710)	14563710	1529	W23					1.0
4	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1517	W24					1.0
5	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	W25					1.0
6	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1491	W26					1.0
7	Joseph Roberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16864855)	16864855	1448	W27					1.0
8	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1422	W28					1.0
9	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1253	W17					1.0
10	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	30032729	1127	W18	H---			H---	1.0
11	Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)	30179081	unr.	W19					1.0
12	Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)	30191497	unr.	W20					1.0
13	Justin Stimatze (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30189846)	30189846	unr.	B---					1.0
14	Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)	12423364	1612	D16					0.5
15	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1610	H---					0.5
16	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1251	D14	H---				0.5
17	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1679	L9					0.0
18	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600	L10					0.0
19	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	12448028	1368	L11					0.0
20	Jacob Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17099171)	17099171	1365	L12					0.0
21	Stephen Wilson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12584515)	12584515	1242	L1				H---	0.0
22	Simone Pagan Griso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17322263)	17322263	1098	L2	H---				0.0
23	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1050	L3					0.0
24	Thomas Cunningham	12923340	971	L4					0.0

	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12923340)								
25	**Aleksandra Singer (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12853158)**	12853158	949	L5					0.0
26	**Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)**	16939797	887	L6					0.0
27	**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	16741331	826	L7					0.0
28	**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	30174249	unr.	L8	H---		H---		0.0

For full information, please check the event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-june-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-june-person)

Thursday Night Marathon Report

Four rounds are complete in the current Thursday Night Marathon online, and GM Gadir Guseinov and NM Michael Walder remain with perfect scores at 4/4. Next week will be the final round, and as it turns out, the final round in the G/60+5 format.

Starting June 24, we will be switching to a 2-round per evening G/35+5 USCF online rated format that we will stream with live commentary. It will have almost the same format as our previous online TNM, with the exception that the increment will be +5 rather than +2. We think it will be great to broadcast both the live TNM and online ThNM, bringing two regular ches sprograms weekly. Registration is open for the next Thursday marathon, join by following this link: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online)

Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Institute May-June 2021 ThNM: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2700	W16	W15	W5	W4		4.0
2	**NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	10345120	2155	W41	W9	W6	W11		4.0
3	**William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)**	30161947	unr.	W7	W22	H---	W13		3.5
4	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	W8	W24	W20	L1		3.0
5	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	13001390	2004	W43	W36	L1	W25		3.0
6	**Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)**	11296106	1643	W38	W40	L2	W27		3.0
7	**Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)**	16964125	1494	L3	W26	W39	W18		3.0
8	**Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)**	16497860	1487	L4	W38	W40	X17		3.0
9	**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	14257838	1288	W29	L2	W23	W20		3.0
10	**Suhas Indukuri (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16887781)**	16887781	1181	D13	W12	D18	W24		3.0
11	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1997	W26	W33	H---	L2		2.5
12	**Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)**	12459313	1873	H---	L10	W31	W34		2.5
13	**Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)**	12463327	1853	D10	W14	W30	L3		2.5
14	**Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)**	12839763	1574	H---	L13	W42	W35		2.5
15	**Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	16380642	1547	W35	L1	D33	W29		2.5

16	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	16898540	1491	L1	W28	D29	W30		2.5
17	**Pranav Sairam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15424820)**	15424820	2103	W25	H---	H---	F8		2.0
18	**Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)**	16419664	1794	D31	W42	D10	L7		2.0
19	**Leo Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16061785)**	16061785	1765	L36	L25	W32	W33		2.0
20	**Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)**	12440572	1759	W37	W34	L4	L9		2.0
21	**Matthew Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12541333)**	12541333	1659	L33	W43	L25	W36		2.0
22	**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	14874734	1621	W28	L3	L27	W39		2.0
23	**Jacob Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)**	17083655	1612	L34	W37	L9	X40		2.0
24	**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1513	W39	L4	W36	L10		2.0
25	**Nick Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16154827)**	16154827	1416	L17	W19	W21	L5		2.0
26	**Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)**	13553308	1350	L11	L7	W38	W37		2.0
27	**Kevin Thompson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13110777)**	13110777	1120	H---	H---	W22	L6		2.0
28	**Cleveland Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	12814843	581	L22	L16	B---	X41		2.0
29	**NM Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)**	10490936	1900	L9	W32	D16	L15		1.5
30	**Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)**	12797931	1789	H---	W31	L13	L16		1.5
31	**Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)**	30131397	1081	D18	L30	L12	W42		1.5
32	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	1043	H---	L29	L19	W43		1.5
33	**Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)**	16425316	1008	W21	L11	D15	L19		1.5
34	**Joshua Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30127073)**	30127073	unr.	W23	L20	H---	L12		1.5
35	**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	30164211	unr.	L15	W41	H---	L14		1.5
36	**Charvi Atreya (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16816706)**	16816706	1032	W19	L5	L24	L21		1.0
37	**Christopher Harris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15496280)**	15496280	1017	L20	L23	W43	L26		1.0
38	**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	16741331	826	L6	L8	L26	B---		1.0
39	**Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)**	30015889	unr.	L24	B---	L7	L22		1.0
40	**Jeff Rosengarden (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105422)**	30105422	unr.	B---	L6	L8	F23		1.0

41	**Daniel Marcus (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12905558)**	12905558	1458	L2	L35	H---	F28		0.5
42	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	16738735	1203	H---	L18	L14	L31		0.5
43	**Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)**	16380636	1363	L5	L21	L37	L32		0.0

Mechanics' Institute May Online Blitz Championship Attracts 3 GM's!

The Mechanics' May Blitz Championship on Chess.com attracted 38 players for this 8-round G/5+2 event. It was an open event, and it was exciting to see many club players participating in the same event as strong GM's. The GM's ruled the event, with GM Gadir Guseinov taking clear first with 7/8. GM Patrick Wolff put on a fantastic showing taking clear 2nd with 6.5/8, and GM Aleksaner Lenderman tied for 3rd place with 6/8 along with Casimir Dudek. Full results can be found at the link below:

https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-monthly-blitz-championship-2356818 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mechanics-monthly-blitz-championship-2356818)

Here is a fine win by GM Patrick Wolff against GM Alex Lenderman, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(3) GM Patrick Wolff (AmateurT2021) (2604) - GM Alex Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2734) [C10]

MI Blitz ch Chess.com (5), 28.05.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 The Rubinstein Variation of the French Defense. Black accepts a smaller share of the board, but also a solid position. **4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Be3** One sees almost everything here; this is not so common but scores as well as the others, in the high 60% range. [7.Bd3 is most popular.; 7.Bc4; 7.c3; 7.Bg5; Even 7.g3] **7...Bd6** A slightly odd square for the bishop in the Rubinstein, usually ...Be7 [And 7...Nd5 immediately targetting the Be3, has done as well as anything.] **8.Bc4** Here it is move eight and it's already rare territory. **8...b6 9.Qe2 Bb7 10.Ba6!?**

The former Mechanics' President and second to Anand for his world championship match with Kasparov pursues a dry position strategy. Objectively it leads to very little, but it has advantages. **10...Bxa6 11.Qxa6 0-0 12.0-0 Qc8 13.Qxc8!?** More of the same. Hardly the swashbuckling style of Patrick's younger days! But he appreciates the value of experience that comes with the years. **13...Rfxc8 14.c4 c5 15.Rac1** White does have a no-loss strategy of pressing the queenside majority, plus Black will want to pay attention to his bishop getting bad (fixed pawns on dark squares). **15...Ng4** Black trades off White's bishop, but has to be careful on the followup. [Stockfish 13 gives some tiny advantage to Black(!) after 15...cxd4 16.Bxd4 Rd8 Nothing significant, but food for thought.] **16.Rfd1 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Kf8** [17...cxd4!? 18.exd4 g5! gets Black's pawns going with some initiative. Note 19.Nxg5? Bf4 20.Rc3 Bxg5 21.Rg3 h6 22.h4 Rxc4 23.hxg5 hxg5 24.Rxg5+ Kf8 when Black's advantage isn't all that sizable, but it is real.] **18.Kf2 Ke7**

19.d5!? On principle, when Black even more than before has to watch his bishop's health. **19...f5?! 20.dxe6 Kxe6 21.Rd5 h6 22.e4** [Or 22.Re1 first] **22...fxe4 23.Re1 Rf8?!** [23...Rg8!? intending later ...Raf8; 23...Re8!? 24.Rxe4+ Kd7 25.Ne5+ Kc7 finally gets in ...Re6 and ...Rae8 (development in the ending!)] **24.Rxe4+ Kd7 25.h3** [25.Rg4! would be a real plus, with a numbe of threats. 25...g5 26.h4 Rf4 27.Rxf4 gxf4 28.Rh5 Rh8 29.Ng1!] **25...Rae8 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.b3** Stockfish rolls out the "0.00"s everywhere, but Black is still slightly unhappy about the pawns or the same collor phenomenon. **27...Re4 28.a4 a5 29.Nd2 Re6 30.Kf3 Ke7 31.Ne4 Be5 32.g4 Bd4 33.h4 Rc6?!** A slight moving of the needle off dead even... **34.h5 Re6 35.Kf4** [35.g5!?] **35...Bb2 36.Kf3 Be5 37.Rd2 Rc6 38.Re2**

38...Ke6?! It gets uncomfortable now. There were only two moves Stockfish calls at 0.00: [38...Re6; 38...Kd7] **39.Ng3?!** [39.Nc3+/= and into d5.] **39...Rd6 40.Nf5 Rd3+ 41.Re3**

41...Rxe3+ A tough decision. [41...Rd7 is back to a wall of zeros.] **42.Kxe3** It's hard to say which recapture is better. The computer just sees "draw"... **42...Kf6 43.Ke4 Ke6 44.Ne3 Bc7 45.Nd5 Bd8 46.Kf4 Bg5+** Not quite zugzwang! The king can't be let into f5. **47.Kf3**

47...Bd8?? But this *will* be zugzwang! Surprisingly Black should let the b-pawn go! [47...Ke5!! Well, or 47...Bh4, 47...Bf6 or 47...Be7 48.Nxb6 Anything else would win -- for Black! 48...Kd4 49.Nd7 Bd2 and White draws, but it gets harrowing when Black's king gets to start taking pawns.] **48.Ke4+-** Now the b-pawn goes without compensation, and there's more... **48...Bg5 49.Nxb6 Bd8 50.Nd5 Bg5 51.Nc7+** For the record, it was White 1:43 Black [51.Nf4+ is the clean win: 51...Kd6 *(51...Bxf4 52.Kxf4 Kf6 53.g5+ hxg5+ 54.Kg4* with the b6 pawn gone, c5 falling will be the end.*)* 52.Kf5 Bf6 53.Kg6 Ke5 54.Nd5 Bg5 55.Kxg7 Kd4 56.Nf6] **51...Kd7 52.Nb5 Ke6 53.Nc3 Bd8 54.Nd1 Kf6 55.Nf2** [55.Kd5 does work of course.] **55...Kg5 56.Kf3 Kf6** [56...Be7 57.Ne4+ Kh4 58.Kf4 and into the magic square f5.] **57.Ne4+ Ke5 58.Nxc5** The second pawn seals it. **58...Be7 59.Nd3+** [59.Nb7 Bb4 60.Ke3] **59...Kd4 60.Nf4 Bf6 61.Ne6+ Kc3 62.c5 Kxb3 63.Ke4 Be7 64.c6 Bd6 65.Kd5 Bg3 66.Nxg7 Kxa4 67.Nf5 Bf4 68.Nd6** AmateurT2021 won by resignation **1-0**

Tony's Teasers

Tony Lama is back, and ready to challenge us with mate in 3 problems he loves to study up on. See if you are up for the challenge!

Kenneth Howard 1926

Kenneth Howard, 1925

Solutions at the end of newsletter

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

Our arena will return with the start of the Thursday Night Marathon on June 24!

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 6/24: link coming soon

See you there!

Mechanics' Institute

Summer Online Classes

Monday's 4:00-5:30PM - Mechanics' Chess Cafe

Ongoing casual meeting to talk about chess, life, and pretty much everything else of interest. 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/20220122152912/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2020OnlineClasses_120/ChessCafe)

Monday's 6:00-7:00PM - Middle Game Strategy Through the Lens of the TNM

New session date: June 14 - July 26 (no class July 5)

Middle games can be very complex, trying to formulate plans, spot weaknesses, and developing instincts that guide when to initiate aggression or hold things static. These are just some of the topics as we discuss middle game strategy using game resources from a Mechanics' Institute tradition, the Tuesday Night Marathon (TNM). Using real games from our flagship event, we will look at concepts in middle game management to improve our game. Class will be taught by 3-time US Champion Nick de Firmian with support from FM Paul Whitehead. Relive the fun and action of the TNM, with games from our local players while learning to play better chess.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/middle-game-strategy-through-lens-tnm (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/middle-game-strategy-through-lens-tnm)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MiddleGameStrategyThroughLensofTNMGameswithGMNickdeFirmian (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/MiddleGameStrategyThroughLensofTNMGameswithGMNickdeFirmian)

Wednesday's 5:00-6:30PM - Free Adult Beginner Class for Mechanics' Members

New session date: June 9 - July 28

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: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FreeAdultBeginnerClassforMechanicsMembersJuneJuly2021)

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/20220122152912/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-adult-beginner-class-mechanics-members)

Wednesdays 6:30-8PM -- Next Class by FM Paul Whitehead -- Endgame Lab

Course Dates: June 30 through Aug 4 (6 classes)

For tournament players looking to solve some of toughest situations they face, here is the class to help you learn the essentials to work out and win or save games.

FM Paul Whitehead's Endgame Lab Class will focus solely on endgame techniques and will teach you the essentials in a 6-week course meant to build endgame skills you need to get your chess to the next level.

Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/endgame-lab-fm-paul-whitehead)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhiteheadJunJul2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/EndgameLabbyFMPaulWhiteheadJunJul2021)

Wednesdays 7-8PM - Introduction to Openings for Developing Players

Course Dates: June 23 through August 25 (10 classes)

IM (International Master) Elliott Winslow will be teaching this course. Opening theory in chess is a big subject! But of course there's no avoiding it, you have to step forward, and you might as well make those important first moves count. In this course, we'll look into this world, sampling the various openings, with more than a bit of history of their development, plus we'll learn the basic principles of opening play as we go: Development, the Center, King Safety, Initiative, and Stopping the Opponent (from all those). We'll see a number of standard deployments and their counters, and maybe even find out what (and why!) is happening in the games of the best players (and how it could help our games). Lastly, this dynamics class will give players the opportunity to discuss their own choices of openings, obstacles and receive advice on how to get past them.

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/introduction-openings-developing-players (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/introduction-openings-developing-players)

Register: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/IntroductiontoOpeningsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/IntroductiontoOpeningsfortheDevelopingPlayersWednesdays78PM)

Sundays 10AM - 12PM -- Free Women's Online Chess Class by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams

Come join us on Sundays as we are offering a free class for women from 10am-12pm(noon) online.

Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected. Registration is required so we may send the links for players to join. Zoom will be required to participate, and we will include optional links to participate in online platforms like chess.com if players would like to play with each other online. Be sure to be a part of the Mechanics' Women's Chess Club on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/club/mechanics-womens-club

More information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class)

Class is free, but must register to receive class information: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineClasses/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012)

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:

6/1 Tuesday - June 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon LIVE

Format: 5SS G/120;d5

Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-june-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://mechanics-

institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJune2021)
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJune2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJune2021)

Redesigned NEW Thursday Night Marathon
Starting June 24 through July 15
Since the Tuesday Night Marathon is back to OTB, we have redesigned the Thursday Night Marathon Online to offer two games a night. Increment has been increased to 5 second to give our players a bit more time to move the mouse. This tournament will stay our online main event, and our amazing broadcast team will cover the games just like the Tuesday Night Marathon Online.
Format: one Open section with 8SS G/35+5 - 2 games a night
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online)
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThefirstNewThursdayNightMarathonOnline (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/ThefirstNewThursdayNightMarathonOnline)

Past Club Tournament results are here:
https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://www.chess.com/club/live-tournaments/mechanics-institute-chess-club-1)
and here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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/20220122152912/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/20220122152912/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).
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/20220122152912/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)

Scholastic Corner

Starting June 2021, the scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated, monthly publication:
Scholastic Chess Highlights

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122152912/https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Scholastic-Chess-Highlights--June-2021--Mechanics-Institute.html?soid=1103755398293&aid=21dvBzoYULE) to read the first inaugural edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

Finishing Tactics from the FIDE World Championship Tournament 1948

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Alekhine died under rather mysterious circumstances in 1946, still holding the title he had last wrested back from Euwe nine years earlier. After much controversial negotiation with players (notably Rueben Fine's choosing not to play) and Federations (the USSR was a late entry into the FIDE family) a quintuple(!) round-robin tournament was finally held, the games being split between The Hague in the Netherlands and Moscow in the USSR. The final five participants were ex-World Champion Max Euwe, the Soviets Mikhail Botvinnik, Vassily Smyslov and Paul Keres, and the always dangerous Sammy Reshevsky from the USA.

Mikhail Botvinnik, the darling and personification of the 'Soviet Chess Machine', took 1st place decisively with a score of 14 – 6 and was declared the new World Chess Champion. Trailing with 11 – 9 was Smyslov, while Keres and Reshevsky totaled 10.5 each. Euwe finished with a dismal 4 – 16.

The ex-Champ did provide some exciting chess, notably this failed effort:

Euwe – Smyslov, FIDE World Championship 1948.

The Hague, Rd. 4

Here the Dutchman played to the hometown fans with the inspired **1.Nexg6!!** with the point that 1…Bxe2 is met by the very pretty 2.Nf8#! After Smyslov's **1…fxg6** however, Euwe could not resist leaving his queen hanging for another move and plunged on with **2.Nxg6?** when instead 2.Qg4! followed by 3.e5! would have given him a very strong attack. Smyslov whacked off the 2nd knight with **2…Kxg6!** (Again 2…Bxe2? 3.Nf8#) and white's attack soon ran out of gas: **3.e5+ Kf7 4.Qh5+ Kf8 5.f4 Bb6 6.Qf5+ Ke7 7.Qh7+ Kd8 8.Bxb6+ Qxb6+ 9.Kh2 Qe3 10.Qf5 Nc6 0-1.**

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1. Botvinnik – Euwe, FIDE World Championship 1948.

The Hague, Rd. 2

White moves. What's the precise finishing tactic?

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2. Smyslov – Keres, FIDE World Championship 1948.

The Hague, Rd. 7

Black moves. Is there a simple path?

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3. Botvinnik – Keres, FIDE World Championship 1948.

The Hague, Rd. 10

White moves. Can you find the exquisite follow-through?

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4. Euwe – Keres, FIDE World Championship 1948.

Moscow, Rd. 11

Black moves. Strike while your iron is hot.

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5. Smyslov – Reshevsky, FIDE World Championship 1948.

Moscow, Rd. 11

White moves. A famous continuation exploits white's lead in development.

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6. Botvinnik – Reshevsky, FIDE World Championship 1948.

Moscow, Rd. 14

Black moves. Win something.

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7. Keres – Reshevsky, FIDE World Championship 1948.

Moscow, Rd. 18

Black moves. Break it down.

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8. Euwe – Smyslov, FIDE World Championship 1948.

Moscow, Rd. 24

Black moves. A little two-step decides.

GM Nick de Firmian

A New Rivalry Emerges

The sporting world often gains the most interest in a particular arena when there is a battle between two great teams or individuals. The classic Lakers vs Celtics in basketball (or more recently Warriors vs. Cleveland) build anticipation of an encounter well before the actual games would occur. Tennis had Federer vs Nadal, and boxing still remembers the epic Ali vs. Frazier fights. Chess has had some great rivalries such as Alekhine vs Capablanca and Karpov vs Kasparov. Those struggles continued throughout the players' careers and each time the titans met would demand our attention. The chess world in the last decade has missed any great rivalry of classical chess. Carlsen usurped Anand's throne and fended off different challengers that tried to steal his crown. Carlsen has been world #1 for 11 years, and though we look forward to a hard fought match with Nepomniachtchi it is just the first time that Nepo has finished first among the challengers to get a shot at Carlsen.

Yet rapid and blitz chess have been a rather different story from classical chess. Though Carlsen tends to win here too he has had difficult battles with America's Hikaru Nakamura over the las decade. Many times Naka had topped the FIDE rating list in rapid or blitz, and we would see close battles with Carlsen (and a few others) in the finals or semi-finals of the world's major rapid/blitz tournaments. Alas Naka has faded somewhat in the last couple years. Perhaps he has slowed down but certainly he has focused more on his career as an "influencer" in the new on-line chess world. Though still a force in rapid and blitz, Naka is no longer the best even in the US.

A new rival has emerged in Naka's place, and that rival has been even more of a thorn in Carlsen's side. He is fellow American Wesley So, and Wesley takes back seat to no one in the secondary forms of chess – rapid, blitz and Fischer Random. He thumped Magnus in the last Fischer Random Championship and defeated him in two legs of the Champions Chess Tour. The third leg ended Tuesday with these two rivals in the finals for another tense encounter. This time Magnus came out on top, though the match went all the way to the Armageddon game. Clearly Wesley So is the great rival to the World Champion in rapid chess, and with a little luck he may well be the challenger in classical chess also from the next Candidates Tournament.

(1) So,Wesley - Carlsen,Magnus [C54]

FTX Crypto Cup, 01.06.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 The Italian Game (Guioco Piano) is the hottest opening these days. **4.c3 Nf6 5.d4** Wesley prefers this direct move instead of the slower 5. d3, which most GMs play these days. **5...exd4 6.e5 d5!** The only good move is to counter in the center with this. **7.Bb5 Ne4 8.cxd4 Bb6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Be3 Bg4 11.Qc2** This line has been seen for many decades, but Wesley has his own ideas for White including this move. The little nuances are what can confuse an opponent. **11...Bf5 12.Qb3 Ne7 13.0-0 c6 14.Be2 Rb8 15.Na4 Bc7 16.Nh4 f6 17.Bf3?**

The opening has gone well enough for So and he could have perhaps a small edge with 17. f4 instead, keeping a grip on the central dark squares. **17...b5! 18.Nc3 Nxc3 19.exf6!?** [19.Qxc3 fxe5 20.dxe5 b4 21.Qc1 Bxe5 22.Nxf5 Nxf5 23.Qxc6 Nxe3 24.fxe3 would be about equal. Now Magnus gets some interesting chances.] **19...Be4!? 20.bxc3** [20.fxe7 Qxe7 21.g3 Rxf3! leaves Black with attacking chances] **20...Qd6 21.g3 Bxf3 22.Bf4** [22.fxe7 Qxe7 23.Nxf3 Rxf3 is even] **22...Qxf6 23.Bxc7 Rb7 24.Be5 Qf7 25.Nxf3 Qxf3 26.Qb4?!** [There is danger for White on the kingside. So needs counterplay and would do better with 26.a4 to get the a1 rook into play] **26...Nf5 27.Qc5?!**

27...Rbf7! It's time to go directly for the attack. All the black pieces are poised for the assualt and the black queen sits on the key square f3. **28.Rae1 h5!** Just one more attacker is needed to decide the battle and Harry the h-pawn is it. **29.h3 h4 30.Qxc6**

30...Nxg3 crushing. This move would also have been the reply to 30. g4. **31.Bxg3 hxg3 32.Re8 g2! 33.Rxf8+ Rxf8** White resigned as he loses at least a rook. **0-1**

(2) So,Wesley - Carlsen,Magnus [B30]

FTX Crypto Cup, 01.06.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e5!? 4.0-0 [Of course 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.Nxe5 Qd4 wins the pawn back (just as in the Exchange Ruy Lopez).] **4...Bd6 5.c3** This Rossolimo Sicilian has transposed to a position similar to a Ruy Lopez, but White has some edge as his moves have gotten a harmonius position. **5...a6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bb3 Nge7?!** 7...Bb7 or 7...Nf6 may offer better chances **8.d4 c4** This is an admission that something isn't right with the black position. This c-pawn should be used to exchange in the center to deny White a classic pawn center. **9.Bc2 Ng6 10.dxe5! Be7** [even worse is 10...Bxe5 11.Nxe5 Ngxe5 12.f4] **11.Nd4 Ngxe5 12.f4 Ng6 13.Nxc6 dxc6 14.Qh5 Qb6+ 15.Kh1 Qc5 16.Qf3 0-0 17.Be3 Qd6 18.Qh5 c5 19.Nd2**

We take a look at the results of the opening. Black has doubled pawns on the c-file which hurt a forceful advance on that side. Meanwhile the white kingside majority with the e and f pawns is mobile and threatening. **19...Bb7 20.e5 Qc7 21.Nf3 h6?** This fails to stop the white advance. The best try was [21...Rad8 22.Qh3 Bc8 23.Qg3 Rd3! when the exchange sacrifice gives Black good control of the light squares.] **22.Rae1 Qc6 23.e6! Nh4** [23...Qxe6? 24.f5] **24.exf7+ Rxf7**

25.Qxf7+! cashing in for an exchange up ending **25...Kxf7 26.Ne5+ Kf8 27.Nxc6 Bxc6 28.Re2** The position is winning for White but requires some technique to unwind from the pressure of the black minor pieces. **28...Re8 29.Bc1 Rc8 30.Kg1 Bf6 31.f5 b4 32.Bd2 Rd8 33.Be1 b3!?** Magnus chooses to go down with active play. That at least gives one chances to provoke an error. **34.axb3 cxb3 35.Bxb3 Bb5 36.c4 Bc6 37.Rf4 Rd4 38.Rxd4 Bxd4+ 39.Bf2 Nxf5 40.Bc2**

Carlsen resigned. A forceful performance from Wesley. **1-0**

Solutions to Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Botvinnik – Euwe, FIDE World Championship 1948.

The Hague, Rd. 2

1.Rxc6! is obvious, but after **1…Nxc6 2.e7+ Rf7** did you see **3.Bd5!** winning the house? **1-0.**

---

2. Smyslov – Keres, FIDE World Championship 1948.

The Hague, Rd. 7

Black won by simply trading… everything: **1.…Qxc3! 2.Rxc3 Rdf8 3.Rcc2 Nxf2! 4.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 5.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 6.Kxf2 a4!** Passed pawns must be pushed. White is helpless. **7.Bh3 Kf7 8.d5 exd5 9.Bd7 Kf6 10.Bc6 dxe4 11.Bxb5 a3 0-1.**

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3. Botvinnik – Keres, FIDE World Championship 1948.

The Hague, Rd. 10

Botvinnik ripped open black's kingside with **1.Rxg7+!! Kxg7 2.Nh5+**. Keres tried 2…Kg6 as 2…Kh8 3.Bg5 or 2…Kf8 3.Nxf6 were hopeless. **3.Qe3!** however threatens mate on g5 or h6 and forced the Estonian Grandmaster's resignation. **1-0.**

---

4. Euwe – Keres, FIDE World Championship 1948.

Moscow, Rd. 11

White is woefully behind in development – it's no wonder black can break through: **1…Bxf4!** guts the kingside, and it was soon all over: **2.gxf4 Nxf4 3.Ndf3 Ne2+ 4.Kg2 h6 5.Qd2 Qf5! 6.Qe3** There was nothing better. **6…hxg5 7.Bd2 Be4 0-1**. The pawn advance to g4 is next.

---

5. Smyslov – Reshevsky, FIDE World Championship 1948.

Moscow, Rd. 11

1.Qh4!! is a beautiful move to win the d6 pawn. Reshevsky got cute with **1…Qd7** (1…Qxh4 2.gxh4 followed by 3.Rxd6 is actually worse.) but Smyslov persisted with **2.Qd8+! Qxd8 3.Bxd8 Nd7** (3…Nc6 4.Bc7 anyway) **4.Bc7 Nc5 5.Rxd6 Rc8 6.Bb6 Na4 7.Rxe6 Nxb2 8.Rxe5 Nc4 9.Rd6.** Now Reshevsky tried to prove the old adage that says 'all rook and pawn endings are drawn but Smyslov says: Not so fast. **9…Nxb6 10.Rxb6 Rxc3 11.Rxb7 Rc2 12.h4 Rxa2 13.Kg2 a5 14.h5 a4 15.Ra7 Kg8 16.g4 a3 17.Kg3 Re2 18.Kf3 Ra2 19.Ke3 Kf8 20.f3 Ra1 21.Kf4 a2 22.e5 Kg8 23.Kf5 Rf1** Otherwise 24.Kg6 decides. **24.Rxa2 Rxf3+ 25.Kg6 Kf8 26.Ra8+ Ke7 27.Ra7+ 1-0.** A classic ending worth studying.

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6. Botvinnik – Reshevsky, FIDE World Championship 1948.

Moscow, Rd. 14

Reshevsky stomped on Botvinnik before a hostile Moscow crowd with **1…Nb3!** and white could not respond with 2.Rb2 as 2…Rxd3 3.Rxd3 Rxd3 4.Ke2 fails to 4…Nc1+! Botvinnik threw the knight away with **2.Nd5+** to confuse the issue, but to no avail: **2…exd5 3.Bxf5 Nxd2 4.Rxd2 dxc4!** (Black would probably win after 4…Rc7 5.cxd5, but why be greedy?) **5.Bxd7 Rxd7 6.Rf2 Ke6 7.Rf3 Rd3 8.Ke2** and **0-1.**

---

7. Keres – Reshevsky, FIDE World Championship 1948.

Moscow, Rd. 18

1…Rxd3! was just what the doctor ordered. Keres played on for a few moves, but that a-pawn… **2.Rxd3 Bxb2 3.Rd5 c6 4.Rd8+ Kc7 5.Ra8 Kb7 6.Rf8 Bxe5 7.Rxf7+ Kb6 8.f4** and **0-1.** The win is trivial, for example: 8…Bc3 9.f5 a3 10.Rd7 a2 11.Rd1 a1=Q 12.Rxa1 Bxa1 13.Kg3 c5, etc.

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8. Euwe – Smyslov, FIDE World Championship 1948.

Moscow, Rd. 24

Smyslov put the hapless Euwe out of his misery with **1…Nc3+ 2.Ke3 Rd1! 0-1.** After 3.Rxd1 Nxd1+ is CHECK, followed by queening the a-pawn. Also hopeless would have been 2.Ke1 b5 3.Bxa2 Ra4.

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/20220122152912/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #972

June 12, 2021

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 2 Report

by Abel Talamantez

Round 2 of the Tuesday Night Marathon is complete, and we have four players with perfect scores in the top section: FM Kyron Griffith, IM Elliott Winslow, Theo Biyiasas, and Gary Harris. Abhishek Mallela pulled off a miracle draw against Anika Rajaram, as he forced an exchange in a completely losing position that would either create a stalemate or cost her the rook and a losing position. She opted for the stalemate. Both players had stopped recording as they were under 5 minutes so we don't have a record of the finish.

In the under 1800 section, 6 players have perfect scores, which includes Nursultan Uzakbaev, Kevin Sun, Sebby Suarez, Andrew Imbens, and Nikhil Pimpalkhare.

Please visit our event page for full event information HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-june-person).

Here are some annotated games from round 2, from GM Nick de Firmian:

(3) FM Griffith,Kyron (2493) - Makhanov,Gaziz (1855) [A25]

MI June TNM San Francisco (2.1), 08.06.2021

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Bc5 This at first naive-looking development has quite a bit of subtlety to it -- such that it being named the Karpov System isn't so surprising after all. Unfortunately for Black, he missed that there were dangers lurking, and succumbed to a classic positional pitfall. **4.Nc3 Nc6 5.e3** Greatly preferred over other moves -- White blunts the bishop's action, opens up e2 for a safe knight development, and eventually prepares d2-d4. **5...0-0 6.Nge2 a6** Black secures a seemingly safe refuge to keep pressure on the center, but it's a tricky business. [6...d6 is most common, when among others Carlsen has played 7.0-0 *(*while Karpov -- this time as White! -- played the immediate *7.d4)* ; 6...Re8 is more flexible (and stops 7.d4 for a move), but White can maybe not panic either: 7.0-0 e4 8.d3 scores very well. But at least the bishop's retreat is still on, hoping for better use later.] **7.0-0 d6 8.a3 Bf5 9.d4 Ba7 10.b4** [10.h3 holds up any restraint Black might plan with ...Qd7.] **10...Rb8?!** Slightly suspicious -- and in fact that square could well be used by quite a few other pieces!

Black's problem is obvious to us humans -- that dark-squared bishop risks burial alive. The computers of old would innocently play for White d4-d5 and e3-e4, gaining space but freeing the bishop. Nowadays they're strong enough to try to keep the center. But look what happens in our game: [10...h6 was by far the highest level game to get this far: White decided to grab the space like the computers above: 11.d5 Ne7 12.e4 Bh7 13.Qd3 Nd7 14.Be3 Qb8!? 15.Rac1 1-0 (40) Fridman,D (2653)-Ter Sahakyan,S (2578) Plovdiv 2012] **11.Bb2 Qd7?!N** [11...exd4 12.exd4 Qd7 still keeps the fight alive.] **12.Nd5!? Ne8?!** Black might be dreaming of ...Bh3 and ...f5 with an attack, but probably it's just a dream. **13.b5 Na5?!**

[13...Ne7 permits White to cash in with a positional plus with 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.b6 cxb6 16.Bxe5 but this is the lesser evil.] **14.Qa4!** Exposing the fragility of Black's defenses. **14...b6?!** Black absolutely had to avoid this! His bishop and a few other pieces are all but dead. Again, computers see the material on the board, but have some trouble seeing that those pieces are permanently out of the game. **15.Rfd1 f6** [15...c6?? 16.bxc6 Nxc6 17.Qxc6] **16.Rac1 Bg4 17.Re1 Rd8 18.Nb4** [18.Bc3! is pretty good, too.] **18...axb5 19.cxb5 Bb8 20.Nc6 Nxc6 21.Bxc6**

White might as well be up a piece. **21...Qe6 22.f3 Bh5 23.g4 Bg6 24.e4** So long as there is a breakthrough available on the kingside or the d-file, Black is totally lost. **24...Kh8 25.Ng3 Bf7 26.d5** No ...d5 for Black; White is sure he can crash through. **26...Qc8 27.Nf5**

Black begs White to "just" win the Exchange (else Ne7 wins Black's queen) -- but why even bother... **27...Rd7 28.Rc2 g6 29.Bxd7 Qxd7 30.Nh6 Kg7 31.Bc1 Kh8 32.Qc4 Ng7 33.Nxf7+ Qxf7 34.Bh6 g5 35.h4 Qg6 36.Bxg7+ Qxg7 37.Rh2 gxh4 38.Rxh4 f5 39.exf5 Rxf5**

40.Rxh7+ A nice tactic to snap Black's resistance, but still a few more moves. **40...Kxh7 41.Qe4 Qg6 42.Qxf5 Qxf5 43.gxf5 Kg7 44.Kf2 1-0**

(4) Gerstoft,Philip (1788) - IM Winslow,Elliott C (2278) [B22]

MI June TNM San Francisco (2.2), 1983

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 [5.d4 is most common, 5...cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 *(7.a3)* when Black can try 7...dxe5 8.dxe5 *(8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6! 10.d5 Nd4! 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 Bd7* when Black's pawn are more mobile, with the plan ...f5 and ...Kf7*!)* 8...Ndb4! can get complicated, but Black winds his way out of trouble and hopes to leav White with a week pawn on e5 after exchanges.] **5...Nb6** [5...e6 seems to hold up well.] **6.Bb3 c4!?** An odd pawn to push White around. White will soon have breaks with the b- or d-pawn, but Black hopes in the meantime to use his artificial central majority. **7.Bc2 d6 8.exd6**

8...e5 The top players are pretty evenly divided between this [and 8...Qxd6] **9.0-0 Bxd6**

Now Black is ready to castle, but in fact... **10.h3?!N** Unnecessary. [Michael Adams is the big hero of this line, championing 10.d3 on numerous occasions.] **10...0-0?** is also too relaxed: [10...f5 would show up White's previous lapse, rendering the break possible but still problematic. 11.d3 cxd3 12.Qxd3 e4 13.Qe2 Be6 14.Rd1 and Black has the certain upper hand after 14...Qe7 *(14...Bc4* is not so good.*)*] **11.d4 cxd3**

[11...exd4!? 12.Nxd4 Re8= lets White mess up Black's pawns, but they're relatively secure -- and they control some useful squares.] **12.Qxd3** It looks like Black has kept the better center pawn, but this mate threat is more than a little annoying. **12...g6?!** [12...f5 13.Bb3+ Kh8 14.Rd1 Bc7 15.Qxd8 Rxd8 16.Rxd8+ Bxd8 is some advantage for White -- he develops more smoothly and Black's queenside comes under fire.] **13.Bh6?!** White tries too hard to make something of the dark squares, unsuccessfully. [13.a4!?+/= is the computer's choice.] **13...Re8?** [13...Bf5! 14.Qe2 Re8 The bishop trade actually favors Black.] **14.Nbd2!+/-** Now White is out and causing trouble while Black struggles still. **14...Be7?!** [14...Bf8 right away] **15.Qe2!**

Queens on the board for maximum annoyance. **15...Bf8** [15...Bf5 16.Ne4 Be6 17.b3 f6] **16.Bg5 f6 17.Bh4** The bishop is offsides a bit, but Black is always concerned with pressure on all sorts of squares. **17...Be7 18.Rad1** [18.Rfd1!?] **18...Qc7 19.Ne4 Kg7 20.Rfe1?** [20.g4!? is a striking but possibly effective blow. 20...g5?? 21.Nexg5!! fxg5 22.Qe4! is just the sort of thing Black must avoid.] **20...f5!-/+** and Black takes over the initiative with healthy pawns on the march. **21.Ng3 Bxh4 22.Nxh4 e4?** They've marched enough for now!

[Time to bring up reinforcements: 22...Be6 Here the sacrifices on f5 don't quite cut it.] **23.Nf3** White tries to get that knight back in the game, provoking Black into a daring avalanche of pawns. **23...Be6 24.Nd2**

24...e3!? Black couldn't bring himself to stop the flow of the pawns. [24...Rad8! keeps a winning grip on the center.] **25.Nb3** Curious that not only can't White take the pawn either way, but he still can't. **25...Bc4** [25...a5! is the Alpha-Zero-inspired "final straw" (although here White still can fight on). Maybe ...h5 next.] **26.Bd3 f4?!**

Black presses forward, hoping to confound White with fright if nothing else. [26...exf2+ 27.Qxf2 Rxe1+ 28.Qxe1 Rd8 29.Bxc4 Nxc4 30.Rxd8 Qxd8 does a nice job of controlling squares, with a healthy but not overwhelming advantage.] **27.Nf1!** Cool defense. [Note that 27.Bxc4 exf2+ 28.Qxf2 fxg3 29.Qc5 Na4! wins the b-pawn and the game, if you believe Stockfish's numbers.] **27...f3!?** Nothing objectively, but a scary and disconcerting assault! [27...exf2+ 28.Qxf2 Rxe1 *(28...Bxd3 29.Rxd3 Rxe1 30.Qxe1 Qf7* in fact nothing special.*)* 29.Qxe1 Bf7 is some vague pull, but hardly decisive.] **28.gxf3!** This must be played. **28...exf2+ 29.Qxf2 Rxe1 30.Qxe1 Bxd3?!** White has a reply: [30...Rd8 would maintain equality but no more. 31.Be4 for example.] **31.Rxd3 Ne5**

32.Re3? [32.Qg3! stops Black cold for long enough to get into position -- White has some advantage (still a pawn).] **32...Nbc4** This was Black's vision -- the Exchange is won, still for a pawn, and the white knights have a hard time coordinating. **33.Nfd2 Nxe3 34.Qxe3 Nc6 35.Kg2 Qe7** [35...Qe5 could be better, but Black wants that square for knight advancement.] **36.Ne4 Rd8 37.Nbd2 b6 38.a3?! Ne5 39.c4 Nd3 40.b4 Qe5** [Even more effective is 40...Qh4] **41.h4 Nf4+ 42.Kf2?!** [42.Kg3!?] **42...Rd3** More effective than this? **43.Qe1 Qd4+ 44.Kg3 Nh5+ 45.Kg2 Re3 46.Qf2**

46...Re2 Black didn't see a crusher so claims the queen. [46...Nf4+! is that crusher.] **47.Qxe2 Nf4+ 48.Kf1 Nxe2 49.Kxe2 Qb2 50.c5 bxc5 51.bxc5 Qxa3 52.Nc4 Qb3 53.Ne3 a5 0-1**

(5) Heidari,Ako (1980) - Harris,Gary (1827) [B06]

MI June TNM San Francisco (2.4), 08.06.2021

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Na3 cxd4 7.Bc4 Qe4+

8.Be3! e6? [8...Nh6; 8...dxe3?? 9.Bxf7+! *(9.0-0+-* is surprisingly crushing as well, but not as "obvious"*)*] **9.cxd4?** [9.Nb5! Kf8 (Really? The best try?) 10.0-0! is Ako's "What Might Have Been"] **9...a6** [9...Ne7 Black really ought to get castled.] **10.0-0 b5**

Black shouldn't see the light of day. **11.Bd3?!** But there are tactical possibilities everywhere: [11.Bxb5+!; 11.Ng5!! Qb7 12.d5!!] **11...Qd5 12.Rc1 Bb7**

Black tries to put his position in order when the pertinent features are the isolated queen pawn (more weak than strong here) and the misplaced knight on a3 (it should be temporary!). Oh, and the pawn at a2, if Black dares. The problem is it's White's move. **13.Qd2?** Wrong plan. [13.Rc7! disrupts Black in more than one way. 13...Nf6 14.Nc4!! Nbd7 (14...bxc4 15.Bxc4 Qd6 (15...Qe4 16.Re1 is more than Black can handle. e.g. 16...Bd5 17.Bg5 Qf5 18.Qa4+ Nbd7 *(18...Kf8 19.Qb4+* leads to mate*!)* 19.Bxf6) 16.Rxb7 0-0 17.Ne5 is a pawn and all sorts of other advantages.) 15.Na5 Rb8 16.Nxb7 Rxb7 17.Rc8+ when Black's king will be caught up in the battle.] **13...Nf6** [13...Qd8?! 14.Nxb5 axb5 15.Bxb5+ Kf8 16.d5 is still disorder.] **14.Bh6?** [14.Rc7 0-0= and the worst has passed.] **14...0-0 15.Bxg7 Kxg7** Now more than the worst has passed -- it becomes all about the weak d-pawn. **16.Rfe1 Nc6 17.Rc5?** Just a liability as it turns out. [17.Bb1 Rfd8 18.Nc2 Qd6-/+] **17...Qd6 18.Nc2**

18...Nxd4!-+ and White's house of cards tumbles. **19.Qc3 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Bxf3 21.b4 Qf4 22.Ne3 Rad8** Two pawns and a nasty danger on the a8-h1 diagonal. **23.Be2 Ba8** Sensible humans! [23...Kg8 was even better, claims the machine.] **24.a4 Rd4 25.axb5 axb5 26.Rxb5 e5 27.Rd1?**

[27.Ng2 Bxg2 28.Kxg2 Re8 secures a won pawn-up something, middlegame or endgame.] **27...Qxf2+!** Who is going to miss playing this? [But 27...Ne4! was far more deadly! 28.Qe1 Ng5 goes immediately for the royal throat.] **28.Kxf2 Ne4+ 29.Ke1 Nxc3 30.Rxd4 exd4 31.Nc2 Nxb5 32.Bxb5 d3** [32...Rd8! of course] **33.Bxd3 f5 34.Kf2 Re8 35.Nd4 Kf6 36.b5 Rd8 37.Ke3**

37...f4+ 38.Kd2 Rxd4 39.Kc3 Rxd3+ Merci! But some people insist that they suffer... **40.Kxd3 f3 41.Ke3 Kf5 42.b6 Bb7 43.h3 Ke5 44.Kf2 Kf4 45.h4 h5 46.Kg1 Ke3 47.Kh2 Kf4 48.Kg1 Kg3 49.Kf1 Ba6+ 50.Ke1 f2+ 51.Kd2 0-1**

(6) Clemens,Kristian - Hao,Max [D58]

TNM, 08.06.2021

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 c5?! 10.dxc5 bxc5

11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Nxd5! Fine opening play by Kristian. The knight is immune because of Bh7+. White doesn't win a pawn but gains the valuable black d-pawn for the b-pawn. Thus the black c-pawn becomes isolated and weak, **12...Bxb2 13.Rb1 Bf6** [13...Qa5+? 14.Qd2 Qxd2+ 15.Nxd2 Be5 16.Ne7+ Kh8 17.Be4 wins] **14.Nxf6+** [even stronger is 14.Be4 Nc6 15.0-0 Rb8 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Qd5] **14...Qxf6 15.Qc2 Na6 16.a3 Rb8 17.Rxb8 Nxb8 18.0-0 Nd7 19.Rd1 Ne5 20.Nxe5 Qxe5 21.Qa4 Bg4?** oops. A sad oversight by Max just drops the bishop. **22.Qxg4 Qc3 23.Qe4 g6 24.Bc4 Kg7 25.Qd3 Qb2 26.g3 h5 27.h4 Qf6 28.Qd5 Rb8 29.Qd6 Qf3 30.Qe5+ Kh7 31.Qxb8 Qxd1+ 32.Kg2 Kg7 33.Qe5+ Kf8 34.Qxc5+ Kg8 35.Qe5**

Black resigns as there is no swindler potential in this position (even for Kyron Griffith). **1-0**

(7) Mercado,Adam - Drury,Mark [B78]

TNM, 08.06.2021

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 Ne5 12.h4 h5

A classic Yugoslav Attack against the Dragon. Sure to be fireworks sometime in the game. **13.Rhg1?!** This could end up being a little slow. 13. Rdg1 would keep an attacking rook on the h-file. **13...Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Qe2 Rxc3!** The common Dragon exchange sacrifice. Play against the white king is worth at least the material invested. **16.bxc3 Qa5 17.Kb2 Rc8 18.Bd2 b5 19.Qe3 Rc4** Black has the more dangerous attack. White has yet to get anything going on the kingside. **20.Nb3 Qa4 21.Kb1 Be6 22.Bc1 Nd7** [22...Nxe4? 23.fxe4 Rxc3 24.Rd3 defends. Black is right to build the attack patiently.] **23.Bb2 Nc5?!** [23...Nb6 is more useful as the knight can get to the important c4 square] **24.Rd4!** Good defense to offer the exchange back. White will be happy if Black gives up the Dragon bishop and straightens the pawns out. **24...a5 25.Rgd1** [25.g4!] **25...b4 26.Rxc4 Bxc4 27.Nxc5?** [27.cxb4 is a simple defense giving White the edge] **27...Qxa2+ 28.Kc1 dxc5** Now the black attack is extremely dangerous with the pawns and queen near the white king **29.Rd8+ Kh7 30.e5 a4 31.cxb4 Bh6?**

The simple 31...cxb4 leaves Black with a powerful attack. **32.Rh8+!** Siezing the moment! Suddenly White gets a crushing attack. **32...Kxh8 33.Qxh6+ Kg8 34.e6 f6 35.Qxg6+** It's not just the pawn. There is no way out of the mating attack. **35...Kh8 36.Qe8+ Kh7** Black resigns as 37. Qxe7+ Kg8 38. Qf7+ Kh8 39. Bf6 is mate. **1-0**

Here are the standings after 2 rounds:

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	**FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2493	W24	W12			H---	2.0
2	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	W20	W15				2.0
3	**Theodore Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)**	13989054	2155	W13	W17				2.0
4	**Gary Harris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12834452)**	12834452	1827	W9	W10				2.0
5	**Abhinav Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)**	15467440	2087	H---	W19			H---	1.5
6	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1997	H---	W21		H---		1.5
7	**Rohan Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15739716)**	15739716	1929	D21	W22				1.5
8	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	12517167	1928	W14	H---		H---		1.5
9	**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2013	L4	X25				1.0
10	**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	15206848	1980	X25	L4				1.0
11	**Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)**	16192001	1925	D22	D16				1.0
12	**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)**	16828914	1855	W18	L1				1.0
13	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	16571026	1834	L3	W24				1.0
14	**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	12621393	1800	L8	B---				1.0
15	**Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)**	12913356	1788	W23	L2				1.0
16	**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	12680193	1776	D19	D11				1.0
17	**David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)**	12931024	1622	B---	L3				1.0
18	**Abhishek Mallela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12888811)**	12888811	2159	L12	D20				0.5
19	**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	12572270	1900	D16	L5				0.5
	WCM Anika Rajaram								

20	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446678)	15446678	1860	L2	D18				0.5
21	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1804	D7	L6				0.5
22	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	D11	L7	H---			0.5
23	Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	L15	U---				0.0
24	Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	12459313	1873	L1	L13				0.0
25	Nelson Sowell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11103405)	11103405	1807	F10	F9				0.0

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June Tuesday Night Marathon: u1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	W20	W19				2.0
2	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1491	W21	W22				2.0
3	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1422	W29	W11				2.0
4	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1253	W10	W12				2.0
5	Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)	30179081	unr.	W30	W14				2.0
6	Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)	30191497	unr.	W15	W13				2.0
7	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1610	H---	W26				1.5
8	Lee Cooper (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14563710)	14563710	1529	W28	H---				1.5
9	Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	unr.	H---	X25				1.5
10	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1679	L4	W23				1.0
11	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1609	W18	L3				1.0
12	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	W27	L4				1.0
13	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1517	W31	L6				1.0
14	Joseph Roberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16864855)	16864855	1448	W32	L5				1.0
15	Jacob Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17099171)	17099171	1365	L6	W31				1.0
16	Paul Henry Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)	13373197	1322	H---	H---				1.0
17	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1251	D23	H---				1.0
18	Stephen Wilson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12584515)	12584515	1242	L11	W32			H---	1.0
19	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	30032729	1127	W24	L1	H---		H---	1.0
20	Aleksandra Singer (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12853158)	12853158	949	L1	X30				1.0
21	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	887	L2	B---				1.0
22	Justin Stimatze (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30189846)	30189846	unr.	B---	L2				1.0
23	Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)	12423364	1612	D17	L10				0.5
24	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600	L19	D28				0.5
25	Jerry Simpkins (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14479154)	14479154	1404	H---	F9				0.5
26	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1228	H---	L7				0.5
27	Simone Pagan Griso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17322263)	17322263	1098	L12	H---				0.5
28	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1050	L8	D24				0.5
29	Trent Hancock	30174249	unr.	L3	H---		H--		0.5

	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)						-		
30	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	12448028	1368	L5	F20				0.0
31	Thomas Cunningham (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12923340)	12923340	971	L13	L15				0.0
32	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	826	L14	L18				0.0

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2013	W5					1.0
2	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	887	W6					1.0
3	Paul Henry Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)	13373197	1322	D4					0.5
4	Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	unr.	D3					0.5
5	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1800	L1					0.0
6	Aleksandra Singer (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12853158)	12853158	949	L2					0.0

Thursday Night Marathon Report

by Abel Talamantez

The Thursday Night Marathon concluded in more than one way, as NM Michael Walder was able to hold a draw against GM Gadir Guseinov to share 1st place with him at 4.5/5. IM Elliott Winslow handed William Kelly his first loss and finishes tied for 3rd place with 4/5 along with Adam Stafford.

Full results can be found here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-g605-mayjune-2021)

We will start our next Thursday Night Marathon online June 24th under a different format. We will have 2 games per evening with a time control of G/35+5, USCF online rated. We will also broadcast the games with commentary on our Twitch channel. We thought it would be great to offer to our chess community two regular broadcasts per week, one for our live and one for our online marathons.

Registration is open, please click here to see the event page with registration details: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online)

Tony's Teasers

Tony Lama is back, and ready to challenge us with mate in 3 problems. See if you are up for the challenge!

Mate in 3, white to move. Kenneth Howard 1928

Solution at the end of the newsletter

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 extraordinaire FM Paul Whitehead.

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

Our arena will return with the start of the Thursday Night Marathon on June 24!

GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena: Thursdays 5pm-6pm, 6/24: link coming soon

See you there!

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

June 13: Mechanics' Summer Kickoff Blitz; 12 rounds G/3+2 USCF online rated - Online: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-summer-kickoff-blitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-summer-kickoff-blitz)

June 24- July 15: NEW Thursday Night Marathon; USCF online rated, 8 rounds, G/35+5 - Online: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online)

June 26: 1-day USCF rated; 4 rounds, G/45;d5 - Live @ Mechanics' :https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-addison-memorial-tournament-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-addison-memorial-tournament-g45-person)

July 13-August 24: Tuesday Night Marathon Live; 7 rounds, FIDE & USCF rated, G/120;d5 - Live @ Mechanics': https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

Starting June 2021, the scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated, monthly publication:
Scholastic Chess Highlights

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129010936/https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Scholastic-Chess-Highlights---June-2021---Mechanics--Institute.html?soid=1103755398293&aid=21dvBzoYULE) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 17: Botvinnik – Bronstein 1951

by FM Paul Whitehead

Botvinnik's first challenger for the title was the creative genius David Bronstein, and the circumstances surrounding the final result - a drawn match with 5 wins apiece and 14 draws – are still not properly understood. Bronstein felt that upsetting the established order: "…could seriously harm me, which does not mean that I deliberately lost."

Although Botvinnik retained his title, Euwe declared Bronstein the “Co-World Champion” which seems about right. Bronstein was certainly more talented, and his chess was imaginative and modern. But Botvinnik was tenacious and disciplined – the qualities he needed to squeak out a tie, in a long and grueling match.

The chess was exciting and complex, with Bronstein the intellectual psychologist using Botvinnik’s own opening systems against him.

But ultimately Bronstein proved to be his own worst enemy: he lost three drawn endings, including the famous ‘Blunder of the Century’:

1. Bronstein – Botvinnik, 6th Match Game 1951.

White to move and draw. Bronstein played **1.Kc2**?? What should he have played instead? And what was Botvinnik’s reply, forcing instant resignation?

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2. Botvinnik – Bronstein, 3rd Match Game 1951.

White moves. Can he play **1.Rxd5**?

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3. Botvinnik – Bronstein, 11th Match Game 1951.

Black moves. Take Botvinnik out bowling.

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4. Botvinnik – Bronstein, 17th Match Game 1951.

Black moves. **1…Kh8**?

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5. Botvinnik – Bronstein, 19th Match Game 1951.

Black moves. Anything wrong with **1…Nxb2**?

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6. Bronstein – Botvinnik, 20th Match Game 1951.

White moves. Is **1.Nc6+** followed by **2.Nxa5** possible?

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7. Bronstein – Botvinnik, 22nd Match game 1951.

White moves. Find the path.

GM Nick de Firmian

Chess in Romania

Chess is the game that pervades the world perhaps more than any other. You find it in Greenland, Somalia, Fiji, and most any place on earth you can think of. One country that has had relatively few significant tournaments has been Romania, and that is a bit of a surprise as it is in Europe, the center of modern chess for centuries. Yet, Romania is somewhat cut off from the rest of Europe. One thinks more of Transylvania and Bram Stoker's count Dracula.

Yet right now (for this week at least) Romania is the center of the chess world. The Grand Chess Tour Romania has many of the world's best players including America's Fabiano Caruano, the World #2 by rating. Fabiano is of course disappointed not to have won the Candidate's Tournament that finished in April. His number two ranking is not nearly as important as being the challenger, with the chance to take the chess crown in a match with Carlsen. Nonetheless any tournament with Fabi is notable, and when you also have Anish Giri, Radjabov, Grischuk and MVL you have got a super tournament.

I had opined on the dearth of significant chess tournaments in Romania at our wonderful Chess Café (Mondays 4-5:30). I was slightly corrected by a welcome guest, the MI's own chess director from 1998-2018, John Donaldson. "No you must remember the great Bucharest Tournaments of 1953 and 54," said John. (I must confess I hadn't remembered.) Of course John was right. There were two great tournaments with many of the best Soviet players there soon after World War II. This was about half the years back to Stoker's Dracula, but I don't have any recording of the count's chess games. Perhaps John recalls a few - we can ask him in the Chess Café.

Below we give a couple of games from the current Grand Romanian Chess Tour.

(1) Caruana,Fabiano - Lupulescu,Constantin [C13]

Grand Romanian Chess Tour, 06.06.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Nbd7 6.Nf3 h6 7.Bxf6 Nxf6 8.Bd3 Nxe4 9.Bxe4 c5 This is a very solid line for Black. It's hard for White to get an opening edge. **10.Qe2 Qa5+** [10...cxd4 11.0-0-0] **11.c3 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Be7**

13.0-0-0! This fine move makes some troubles for Black. **13...0-0** [13...Qxa2 14.Qb5+ Bd7 15.Qxb7 Rd8 16.Nb3] **14.Kb1 Rd8 15.Bc2 Bd7 16.Qe4 g6 17.h4!** [17.Qxb7 Rab8 18.Nc6 Bxc6 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Qxc6 Rd2 is active play for the pawn] **17...Ba4?!** [17...e5! 18.Nb3 Qc7 is the best plan to keep White's edge to a minimum.] **18.Bxa4 Qxa4 19.h5 g5 20.Qxb7** Now this works better than earlier. **20...Bc5?**

[20...Bf6 21.Qf3 Bg7 is clearly better for White but Black is still well in the game. Fabi now makes a great transition.] **21.Qc6! Qxc6 22.Nxc6 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Bxf2** It seems White has just given back the pawn and traded to an endgame. Yet the endgame is simply winning. One important factor is the white pawn on h5. It is on the oppositie color of the black bishop and advanced to cause trouble on the kingside. **24.Rd7** The other factor is the powerful rook that now takes its post on the seventh rank. The coordination of the white rook and knight attackes both sides of the board. **24...f6 25.Nd8! Bb6 26.Nf7** going for the h-pawn keeps complete control **26...Rf8 27.Nxh6+ Kh8 28.Kc2**

Lupulescu resigns as there is no constructive move. On 28...f5 29. Nf7+ wins at least one more pawn. **1-0**

(2) So,Wesley - Caruana,Fabiano [A20]

Grand Romanian Chess Tour, 07.06.2021

The player who has been on a tear recently is Wesley So. Here he meets the number one American, the world number 2, and Wesley has no fear. **1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Bc5 4.d3 c6 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 a5 8.d4 exd4 9.Nxd4 a4 10.Rb1 Re8 11.e3 Qa5 12.Bd2 Bg4 13.f3 Bh5 14.Ne4 Qd8 15.Nxc5 dxc5 16.Ne2 Qd3 17.Nf4! Qxc4 18.b3**

18...axb3 19.axb3 Qb5 20.e4 Bg6 21.Bc3 This is an inspired pawn sacrifice. Black has no serious weakenesses and near complete development, yet White has the dark-squared bishop and kingside pawn majority. Wesley causes trouble with these tools. **21...Na6 22.h4 h5?!** [Fabi gets in real trouble now. He needed to find the creative 22...Rad8 23.Qc1 Nd5! 24.exd5 Bxb1 25.Qxb1 cxd5 When Black is only slightly worse.] **23.Qc1 Kh7 24.Rd1 Rad8 25.Qb2!** The pressure on the diagonal adds to the kingside assualt. **25...c4 26.Bxf6 gxf6 27.Qxf6 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Qc5+ 29.Kh2**

There is no time to take the pawn on b3 as 30. Rd7 is a deadly threat. **29...Qe7** [29...cxb3? 30.Rd7 Rg8 31.Nxg6 Rxg6 32.Qxf7+] **30.Qxe7 Rxe7 31.bxc4** White is one pawn ahead and the black pieces are inactive. **31...Kg7 32.Bh3 Nc5 33.Rd6 f6 34.Ne6+ Nxe6 35.Bxe6 Be8 36.c5 Bf7 37.Bc8**

There is no salvation for Black in this endgame. **37...Re5 38.Bxb7 Rxc5 39.Rxc6 Rb5 40.Ba6 Rb2+ 41.Kg1 Be8 42.Rc5 Kh6 43.Kf1 Bd7 44.Be2 Be8 45.Kf2 Rb3 46.Rd5 Ra3 47.Bd3 Kg7 48.Ke3 Rb3 49.Kf4 Rb4 50.Rc5 Bf7 51.Rc7 Kg6 52.g4 1-0**

Solutions to Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Bronstein – Botvinnik, 6th Match Game 1951.

1.Kc2?? threw the draw away. After the (somewhat) surprising **1…Kg3!** there was no stopping the f-pawn, and **0-1**. Instead the simple 1.Ne6+ brings the knight back just in time to sac for the f-pawn: 1… Kg3 (or 1…Kf3 2.Nd4+) 2.Nd4 Kf2 3.Ka4 e2 4.Nxe2 Kxe2 5.Kxa5 Kd3 =.

---

2. Botvinnik – Bronstein, 3rd Match Game 1951.

1.Rxd5? would lose on the spot: 1…Rd1+ 2.Kh2 Qf4+! 3.g3 Qf3, a common sequence, with 4…Qh1# or 4…Rh1# next. Botvinnik chose **1.Qd3** instead, and after **1…Rd8** the game was drawn many moves later.

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3. Botvinnik – Bronstein, 11th Match Game 1951.

1…Re4! hits the queen and knight, and it's a strike: **2.Bxe4 Bxe4+ 3.Qxe4 fxe4 4.Nf5 Qb4 5.Rxe3 Rd1+ 6.Kg2 Rd2+ 7.Rxd2 Qxd2+ 8.Kh3 Qf2 9.Kg4 f6! 0-1.** Decisive will be 10…h5+.

---

4. Botvinnik – Bronstein, 17th Match Game 1951.

1…Kh8? 2.Nxe8 Rxe8 and black has dropped the exchange. Bronstein's **1…Qxf6!** was the ticket. **0-1.** After 2.exf6 Rxe1+ 3.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 4.Kf2 white is a piece down and mated into the bargain: 4…Nd3#.

---

5. Botvinnik – Bronstein, 19th Match Game 1951.

1…Nxb2? gets that piece trapped after 2.Qe2! Nd3 3.Rad1. Bronstein instead played **1…Bg4** but still ended up losing a heart-breaker on the 60th move.

---

6. Bronstein – Botvinnik, 20th Match Game 1951.

The game was agreed drawn after **1.Nc2 Nb2 2.Nd4 Nd1 3.Nc2 Nb2 4.Nd4 ½ - ½** . Instead 1.Nc6+? would have led to disaster. After 1…Kd6 2.Nxa5 Kc7 the knight is trapped and lost.

---

7. Bronstein – Botvinnik, 22nd Match game 1951.

Bronstein is the exchange ahead for a pawn, and trading queens with 1.Qxg8+ might not be enough. But the brilliant **1.Bg3!!** wins on the spot. Now 1…Qxb3 2.Bxe5+ Kg8 3.Rg7+ Kh8 4.Rf8# is no good, and 1…Bxg3 2.Qc3+! is hardly better. Botvinnik tried the snarky 1…Bg7, hoping for 2.Bxb8? Qxb3! winning, but the simple **2.Qxg8+** before taking the rook forced resignation. **1-0.**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. Ba1!! Oc3+ 2. Kf5 Qxa1 3. R6h7#

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/20220129010936/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #973

June 19, 2021

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 3 Report

by Abel Talamantez

Round 3 of the Tuesday Night Marathon was one of the longer nights ever, as we had nine games extend past 10:30pm, with the final two games ending after 10:45 pm on the top two boards. FM Kyron Griffith worked himself out of a losing position for much of the game, showing his master resilliency in creating enough complications to even out the position against Theo Biyiasas. He then took advantage of time pressure as he induced a miscalculation with less than a minute left on Theo's clock to take the win. It was an incredible game by Theo, who deserved a better outcome. Kudos however to Kyron for staying with keeping his composure to create his opportunity to win. On board 2, Gary Harris missed a winning move on move 33 that would have provided a big upset over IM Elliott Winslow, but it was Winslow who found all the right moves after in a sharp attacking position to close the show and get the win. Harris mentioned to me he was trying to channel the attacking spirit of Mikhail Tal, as he was sitting in the chair commemorating him in the chess room. He fell just short, but the game certainly showed a fighting spirit. Griffith and Winslow are the only two remaining perfect scores in the top section with 3/3, and will square off next week in what should be an exciting matchup. Abhinav Penagalapati of the San Jose Chess Club is close behind at 2.5/3.

Theo Biyiasas and FM Kyron Griffith lit up round 3 with their exciting game on board 1

In the u/1800 section, unrated Leon Quin won a tough battle against Kevin Sun, using a rook and two knights effectively against Sun's two rooks. He brings his score to 3/3. Sebby Suarez and Nursultan Uzakbaev also won their games to get to 3/3. With Uzakbaev taking a bye next week, we should have a very exciting matchup between Suarez and Quin in round 4. Joel Carron is close behind at 2.5/3.

You can watch the all the action of round 3 with commentary by GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead by clicking here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maV2HvNXGVQ (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maV2HvNXGVQ)

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Biyiasas,Theodore (1982) - Griffith,Kyron (2351) [E33]

Mechanics' June TNM San Francisco (3.1), 16.06.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 Nc6 Sometimes called the Zurich Variation. It's nowhere near as frequent as the three big moves, but not for anything wrong with it. [4...d5; 4...c5; 4...0-0; And it's worth noting that the even less popular 4...d6 outscores them all (and has been seen played by Carlsen).] **5.Nf3 d6 6.Bd2** White goes with the gentle development of the dark-squared bishop, while putting Black's counterpart on notice. **6...0-0 7.a3 Bxc3 8.Bxc3 Qe7 9.e3 a5 10.b3 e5 11.Be2** [11.d5!? Nb8 12.Nd2+/=] **11...e4 12.Nd2**

White has the two bishops (although they have yet to come into their own), while Black looks to maintain his advanced pawn. In sum the position favors White slightly, but a whole game ahead. **12...Bf5N** [12...d5 13.Bb2 Bf5 14.Rc1 Rad8 15.h3 Rfe8 16.Qc3 h5 17.c5 Bd7 18.a4 h4 1/2-1/2 (72) Quan,Z (2303)-Hutters,T (2400) Kitchener 2003] **13.h3 h5**

14.g4!? Radical. [14.Qd1+/- seems counterproductive but still intends to press forward on the kingside.] **14...hxg4?!** The open h-file favors White of course. [14...Bg6!+/=] **15.hxg4+/- Nxg4?!** [15...Bxg4+/- 16.d5 Ne5 17.Nxe4 still causes Black difficult problems, 17...Nxe4 18.Qxe4 f5 19.Qf4] **16.Bxg4+- Bxg4**

17.f3! White gets a dream attacking scenario, with diagonals and files all pointing to a king whose forces don't seem to care. [17.Qxe4 Qxe4 18.Nxe4 Bf5=; 17.d5 Ne5-/+] **17...Bf5**

18.fxe4? Too soon! It was just the right (i.e. last) moment to evacuate White's own king and add another rook to the fire: [18.0-0-0!+- Bg6 19.Nxe4 Bxe4 20.fxe4] **18...Bg6?** [And Black could have stopped that very arrangement: 18...Bg4!-/+ A defensive ...f5 takes care of the king, while ...Rae8 will still be uncomfortable for White's king.] **19.0-0-0!+-** White is back on track. **19...Rfe8 20.Rdg1! b5?!** Objectively just making things worse, but in practice Black has to do something to at least seem to be counterattacking. [20...Bxe4? 21.d5! f6 no choice: *(21...Bxc2?? 22.Rxg7+ Kf8 23.Rh8#; 21...Ne5? 22.Nxe4)* 22.Nxe4 Qxe4 23.Qh2 Qxe3+ 24.Bd2 with multiple threats.; 20...Qf6 is a better defense. 21.Rg2 Rad8] **21.d5?!** [21.cxb5 would have called Black's bluff. 21...Nb4 22.axb4 axb4 23.Bb2 *(23.Bxb4* is winning as well*)* 23...d5 desperate to close the long diagonal, but now even 24.Rxg6 fxg6 25.exd5 is disaster.] **21...b4**

22.Ba1!! Excellently keeping the guns aimed. [22.dxc6 bxc3 23.Qxc3 Qe5=] **22...Ne5 23.a4** Very logical, sealing the queenside. [23.c5!+- is one of those computer moves that makes sense eventually. The c-file stays closed, but c4 is available for the white knight, and White gets there first. But who wants to stare down 23...a4!?] **23...Qf6** [On 23...c6+/- White has 24.Nf1 getting out of the way to play Qh2.] **24.Bd4?!** White is having trouble finding a knockout and divigates. [24.Rg3+-] **24...Qf2** [24...c5!?+/- 25.dxc6 Rac8 is still better for White -- Black hasn't broken through there yet.] **25.Qd1!** Another excellent solution by Theo -- Black's knight has to seriously consider relocating (and opening the long diagonal again). **25...Nd3+ 26.Kb1!** [26.Kc2? Nc5= and White's knight is pinned] **26...Rxe4** Best try, but with accurate defense insufficient. **27.Nxe4 Bxe4 28.Rxg7+** Still good for White [Precarious but winning was 28.Ka1! Bxh1 29.Qg4! g6 *(29...Kf8 30.Rxh1!+-)* 30.Rxh1 Ne5 31.Qh3 Kg7 32.Qh6+ Kf6 33.Qf4+] **28...Kf8 29.Ka1** [29.Rh8+ Ke7=] **29...Bxh1**

30.Qxh1? The knight was more troublesome and should have been removed: [30.Qxd3!+- Re8 31.Qh7 Rxe3 32.Rg8+ Ke7 33.Bxe3 Qe1+ *(33...Qxe3* White ignores the bishop and mates directly: *34.Qh4+ f6 35.Qh7#)* 34.Kb2 Qe2+ 35.Qc2 Qxe3 36.Qc1+- White avoids the perpetual, when Black's king is in trouble.] **30...Qe1+?** [30...Ne1= 31.Bb2 *(31.Rg8+ Ke7=)* 31...Nd3] **31.Qxe1+/- Nxe1** And it's into an ending, but there are still tactical problems... **32.Bf6! Rc8**

33.Kb1 [33.c5!! There is still a mating attack! 33...dxc5 34.e4 The pawn goes to e6, the rook to h7. 34...c6! *(34...Nd3 35.Rh7 Ke8 36.e5 Nf4 37.e6! fxe6 38.dxe6 Nxe6 39.Re7+)* 35.d6 Ke8 36.e5 Nc2+ 37.Kb2 Nd4 38.Rh7 c4! 39.bxc4 c5 White is better, but the win isn't apparent just yet.] **33...Nd3 34.Kc2 Nc5 35.Rh7 Ke8 36.Bd4 Ne4** [36...Nb7+/-] **37.Rh4 Ng3 38.e4** [38.Kd3!?] **38...Ke7** [38...Ne2+/-] **39.Bf2** [39.Kd3+- It was surprising that Biyiasas didn't automatically put his king vis-a-vis Black's knight to keep it off squares.] **39...Ne2 40.Kd2 Nc3 41.Bd4** [41.Kd3+/- and again] **41...Rg8= 42.Bxc3 Rg2+ 43.Kc1 bxc3 44.Rh3 c2 45.Rc3 Re2 46.Rxc2 Rxe4 47.Kd2** Rh2-h8-a8xa5 takes a while, but in any case the rook had to be activated. **47...Rh4 48.Kc3 Rh3+ 49.Kb2 f5**

50.Rc3? [50.Re2+= Kf6 51.Re6+ Kg5 52.Re7] **50...Rh7?** [And it was surprising that Kyron didn't see 50...Rxc3!-+ as winning: 51.Kxc3 f4 just in time. 52.Kd2 Kf6 53.b4 axb4 54.a5 f3 55.a6 f2 56.Ke2 f1Q+ 57.Kxf1 b3 58.a7 b2 59.a8Q b1Q+ 60.Ke2 Qc2+ 61.Ke3 Qc3+! 62.Kf2 Qxc4 and the Lomonosov Tablebase helpfully declares "Black mates in 75"] **51.Re3+ Kf6 52.b4 f4 53.Re6+ Kf5** [53...Kg5!=/+ 54.bxa5 Rh8] **54.bxa5** Suddenly White has chances! **54...f3 55.Re8 Rf7 56.a6! f2 57.a7 f1Q 58.a8Q** If only Theo had more time... **58...Qxc4 59.Qc8+ Kf4 60.Qe6 Qb4+ 61.Kc1 Qc4+ 62.Kb2 Qb4+ 63.Kc1 Qa3+ 64.Kd2 Qb2+ 65.Kd1 Qb1+ 66.Kd2** Threatening mate with Qe3+. **66...Qa2+ 67.Kc1 Qa1+ 68.Kd2 Qd4+ 69.Kc1 Rf5**

70.Qe2 Qa1+

[70...Qxd5? 71.Qe3+ Kg4 72.Rg8+! Qxg8 73.Qg1+ Kh5 74.Qxg8+-; 70...Rxd5? 71.Qh2+ Kg4 72.Rg8+] **71.Kd2??** [71.Kc2! Qa2+ (71...Qxa4+ 72.Kb2 Qd4+ is drawn (Black takes d5, White initiates a perp) as long as White avoids *(72...Qb4+* is just perpetual*)* losing the d-pawn with check: 73.Kb3?? *(*the trade of queens and rook and two connected pawns vs. rook (almost always lost): *73.Kc1??* 73.Kb1 0.00

73...Qa1+! 74.Kc2 Qa2+ 75.Kc3 Qxe2 76.Rxe2 Rxd5; 73.Kc2=; 73.Ka3=; 73.Kb1=; 73.Kb1= and White is okay. *73...Qxd5 74.Qe3+ Kg4 75.Rg8+ Rg5 76.Qg1+ Kf4 77.Qf1+ Ke4 78.Qh1+ Kd4 79.Qh4+ Kc3 80.Qe1+ Kd3 81.Qf1+ Ke4 82.Qh1+ Kd4 83.Qh4+ Kc3 84.Qe1+ Kd3 85.Qf1+ Ke4)*) 72.Kc3 Qxe2 73.Rxe2 Rxd5 74.Ra2 Ra5 75.Kb4 Ra6 76.a5 c6 is drawn.; 71.Kc2= Qa2+ 72.Kc3 Qxe2 73.Rxe2 Rxd5 74.Kb4] **71...Rxd5+** The worst of them all: mate follows shortly.Black mates. **72.Kc2 Qxa4+** [Slightly faster is 72...Qa2+ 73.Kc1 Rc5+] **73.Kc3 Qa3+ 74.Kc2 Rc5+ 75.Kd2 Qc3+ 76.Kd1 Qc1#** What an epic! Biyiasas outplayed Griffith to a point, but he seemed to run out of batteries and collapsed at the end. But credit to the New In Chess "2020 Swindle of the Year" winner (!) for keeping his chances and grabbing them when they appeared. **0-1**

(2) Winslow,Elliott (2278) - Gary Harris (1827) [B90]

Mechanics' June TNM San Francisco (3.2), 15.06.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3!? This move goes back to Weaver (not Michael!) Adams in the 1950s, a poetic response to 5...a6. White aims to get in g2-g4 after all. **6...e5 7.Nde2 Be7** [The main battle involves the modern 7...h5 (well, there are isolated instances in the 1970s), when the question remains: whose h-pawn move is better? Top grandmaster discussion continues with no clear result.] **8.g4 0-0** All sorts of alternatives have been tried within the last year here. **9.Ng3** White has a lot of moves he'd like to get in, but only one at a time. So he aims for g4-g5 without allowing ...Nh5. [9.Be3 is certainly one of them, with some pedigree: 9...Nbd7 10.a4 Nb6 11.Bg2 Be6 12.0-0 Nc4 13.Bc1 Rc8 14.b3 Nb6 15.a5 Nbd7 16.Be3 (That was quite a sparring they went through!) 16...Re8 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5 Nf8 19.Ng3 N6d7 20.Qd2 Ng6 21.Nf5 h6 1/2-1/2 (47) Lombardy,W-Fischer,R New York 1958] **9...Be6** [9...Ne8!? aims at the dark squares before White can grab them, but White still comes out on top. 10.Nd5 Bh4 11.Be3 Nc6 12.Qd2 Nd4!? 13.0-0-0 *(13.Bxd4 exd4 14.Qxd4* really isn't so bad, if a bit antithetical (often a pawn for the dark squares is a fair trade)*.)* 13...Nf6 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.c3 Qa5!? 16.cxd4+- Qxa2 17.Qb4 1-0 (35) Kupreichik,V (2535)-Dvoirys,S (2590) Leeuwarden 1993] **10.g5N**

White has to be careful not to take on too many obligations. [10.Bg2 was what few games had been played so far.] **10...Ne8N** Could be a problem on b6. [10...Nfd7 11.h4 Nc6 12.Nd5 b5 13.Be3 Rc8 14.Qd2 Nc5 15.0-0-0 Bxd5 16.exd5 Na5+/- 1-0 (31) Lambert,M (1962) -Bello,J ICCF email 2018 17.b4?? Nab3+] **11.h4 Nc6** See previous concern. **12.Be3 Qa5 13.Qd2 b5 14.Bg2 f6 15.0-0** White finally commits to the kingside with the king (Black had clearly made 0-0-0 inhospitable). **15...fxg5 16.hxg5 Rd8?!** This ends up being a problem, taking away a queen retreat. But he's thinking about ...d5. [16...Rc8+/- guards the knight in some variations.] **17.Nf5!?** White was trying to work the hanging knight on c6 into the works. But [17.a4!+- works better here: 17...Qb4 18.axb5 axb5 19.Qd1! *(19.Nf5* is something as well*; 19.Qc1!?)* 19...Qxb2 20.Nd5 is trouble for Black.] **17...Nc7** [17...d5! was his intention, and he shouldn't have assumed White had stopped it! White has a path to an advantage: 18.Nxd5 Qxd2 19.Bxd2 Bc5 *(19...Bxf5? 20.exf5 Rxf5 21.Nxe7+ Nxe7 22.Rad1+-* and the two bishops will cut up the knights*.)* when Stockfish surprises with 20.Be3 Bxe3 21.fxe3!

(the knight recaptures are actually just as good)] **18.a3+/-** Suddenly Black's queen is concerned! **18...b4**

19.Nxe7+ White had a "concept" that he couldn't let go of. [19.axb4 Qxb4 20.Rfd1 was the sober approach, in the style of Mickey (not Weaver) Adams.] **19...Nxe7 20.Nd5** What? Well, White wins a pawn! [20.Na2 Qb5 White takes the pawn, but then has to contend with ...Ng6! with dangerous kingside play.; But best is 20.Ne2+/- was a serious advantage, even if Black still play. The kingside help is definitely significant. Note 20...Qb5 21.axb4 Bc4 22.Rfd1! maintaining pressure as well as the pawn.] **20...Ncxd5 21.exd5 Bf5!?** [21...Bxd5? 22.axb4 Qb5 23.Ra5+-; 21...Nxd5!? 22.axb4 Qb5! *(22...Qxb4?? 23.Bxd5 Qxd2 24.Bxe6+)* 23.Ra5 Nxe3! 24.Rxb5 Nxf1 25.Bxf1 axb5 26.Bxb5 is still advantage White, but the glaring problems (f-file? ...d5?) will require White to play with accuracy to collect a point.] **22.axb4 Qb5**

23.b3?! [White should try 23.f4!+/- exf4 24.Bxf4 to cover e5 *(24.Rxf4 Ng6+/-)*] **23...Ng6=** Black's counterplay is substantial and rather scary. White now took a lot of time to not get checkmated. **24.f3** [24.f4!= exf4 25.Bxf4 Bxc2! 26.Bxd6! Rxd6 27.Rxf8+ Nxf8 28.Qxc2 Qxb4 leaves White with next to nothing.] **24...Nh4-/+** Black has strong compensation. **25.Bh1** White's convoluted defense tricked up his less experienced opponent but probably wasn't so brilliant. [25.Bf2=/+ Nxg2 26.Kxg2] **25...Bc8?!** [25...Bh3-/+ 26.Rf2 Perhaps some exchange sacrifice was called for 26...Qe8 is quite dangerous] **26.c4 Qe8** [26...Qd7!? 27.Qh2 Ng6 regroups] **27.Qh2! Nf5** [Black should play 27...Qh5-/+ threatening ...Rxf3, and it's hard to stop it.] **28.Bb6!?** Trying to harass Black but just helps to mobilize that rook. [28.Bd2 Nd4 29.f4 is madness but seems to draw.] **28...Rd7 29.f4**

[29.Rae1!?=/+ Rb7 30.Bf2] **29...e4?!** Harris saw a new type of plus, a passed pawn, but White can keep a pretty good eye on it. [29...Rb7! would have been timely and advantageous, since 30.Rxa6?? Rb8 works.] **30.Rae1 Re7 31.Re2** Wrong rook probably. [31.Rf2=] **31...h6 32.Rfe1** [32.Be3= remains equal.] **32...e3-/+ 33.gxh6?**

[33.c5-/+ is more resistant. 33...Nd4 34.cxd6 Nxe2+ 35.Qxe2 *(35.Rxe2 Ref7-/+)*] **33...gxh6?** [33...Rf6-+ 34.h7+ Kh8 35.Bxe3 Nxe3 as pointed out by the computer, is a win. For Black.] **34.Bf3!|^** The g-file cuts both ways. **34...Rg7+** [34...Kh7=] **35.Rg2+/-** They were scrambling at this point, with clocks running out. **35...Rxg2+ 36.Bxg2** Hoping for Bxe3! [White had been planning 36.Kxg2 Qg6+ 37.Kh1 Ng3+ 38.Qxg3 *(38.Kg2? Ne4+ 39.Kf1 Nd2+ 40.Ke2 Qc2-+; 38.Kg1 Rxf4-/+)* but 38...Qxg3 39.Rg1 Qxg1+ 40.Kxg1 Rxf4 41.Kg2 Bg4 is won for Black.; 36.Qxg2+?! Kh7=] **36...Kh7?**

[Better is 36...Rf7! but White still has his chances: 37.Qh5!+/-] **37.Bxe3!+-** White produces a tactical sequence that seems to work well. **37...Nxe3 38.Qg3 Rg8 39.Rxe3 Qh5?** [39...Qf7+- 40.Qe1!; 39...Rxg3 40.Rxe8 Bh3 *(40...Bg4 41.c5)* 41.Kh2] **40.Re7+ Kh8 41.Qc3+** To Harris's credit, a hard fought battle with excellent chances taken when they materialized. **1-0**

(3) Weng,Nicholas (1731) - Mercado,Adam (1731) [C97]

Mechanics' June TNM San Francisco (3.5), 16.06.2021

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 d6 9.c3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7

A classic Ruy Lopez, Chigorin Variation. Old school chess, but still one of the best lines for both sides. **12.d5 Nc4 13.b3 Nb6 14.a4 Qb7!?N** [14...Bd7 or; 14...c4 may be better tries to equalize] **15.Nbd2 Bd7 16.c4 bxc4 17.bxc4 a5 18.Qe2** White has an edge due to the extra space. Both a-pawns are targets though. **18...Rab8 19.g4!?** An aggressive move to take space on the kingside also. The battle however will be waged on the queenside where there is an open file. **19...g6 20.Nb3 Qa6 21.Bd2** starting the action. Slower is [21.Bh6 Rfe8 22.Nfd2] **21...Qxc4 22.Qxc4 Nxc4 23.Nxa5 Nxd2?!** It seems logical to take White's nice dark-squared bishop, but the knights are better when they come to the powerful c4 square. **24.Nxd2 Rb2 25.Rec1 Ra8 26.Nac4**

The strong white a-pawn is a looming threat. The white pawn on d5 helps restrict the black forces. **26...Rb4 27.Rcb1! Rbb8?!** [27...h5 has more chance for counterplay.] **28.f3 Kg7 29.a5 Rxb1+ 30.Nxb1 Ne8 31.Nb6 Ra7 32.Nd2 Bd8 33.Rb1?!** [33.Nxd7 Rxd7 34.Ba4! Re7 35.Nc4 would be even stronger] **33...Rxa5 34.Nxd7 Ra7?** [Black is still much in the game after 34...Ra2 35.Rb8 *(*not *35.Rc1? Bg5!* which is very good for Black.*)*] **35.Rb8!**

35...Bg5 [35...Rxd7 36.Ba4 wins] **36.Nc4 Rxd7 37.Rxe8** with a clear piece ahead White easily converts the point. **37...Bd8 38.Ba4 Ra7 39.Rxd8 Rxa4 40.Nxd6 Ra2 41.Rd7 Kf6 42.h4 1-0**

(4) Cunningham,Thomas - Ahrens,Richard [C57]

TNM, 15.06.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxf7 The famous Fried Liver Attack. **6...Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 8.Nc3**

Black is under strong pressure for the piece. The trickiest and probably best move here is to guard the knight with also a counter threat 8...Ncb4 **8...Nce7** Richard's move is solid but should lead to trouble if you are playing a great attacker like Morphy. **9.0-0** This is good but [9.d4! is the most aggressive move. Black cannot take the pawn as Qe4+ would immediately win the piece back.] **9...g6 10.d4 c6 11.Qg4+?** This is the source of Whites troubles. The queen check looks aggressive but just drives the black king to a safer square and loses a tempo as the bishop on c8 uncovers an attack. [11.Re1 would be the way Morphy played. Also 11. Bg5 or 11. dxc5 would be good. Then White would have a strong attack worth more than the piece sacrificed.] **11...Kf6 12.dxe5+ Kg7! 13.Qg3 Be6 14.Bg5**

14...Nf5 15.Bxd8 Nxg3

16.fxg3? [missing the important zwischenzug 16.Bf6+! Nxf6 17.exf6+ Kh6 with even chances] **16...Rxd8** Now Black's extra piece in the endgame is a huge advantage. The two extra pawns White has don't contribute much, so there is little hope for salvation. **17.Rad1 Be7 18.Ne4 Rhf8 19.Bd3 Ne3 20.Rxf8**

20...Nxd1! Excellent! Black takes the other rook and gets his pawns back. **21.Rf3 Nxb2 22.Be2 Bxa2** White resigned. Not only does Black have the extra piece, but the a and b pawns are ready to move up the board. **23.e6 0-1**

(5) Carron,Joel - Starr,Albert [C42]

TNM, 15.06.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4?! Tricky, but dubious against precise play. **4.Nxe5 Qe7?!** [4...0-0 is better way to play this variation. The threat of ...Re8 gives some real compensation for the pawn.] **5.Nf3 Nxe4**

6.Nd5! This excellent move crosses up Black's plans. There is no good discovered check when the queen is attacked. **6...Qc5 7.Ne3 0-0?** Continuing to play for quick development, but this costs a piece and the activity gained is not worth it. It was necessary to move the black queen or bishop and remain just a pawn down. **8.c3! Nc6** [8...Ba5 9.b4 Bxb4 10.cxb4 Qxb4 11.Bd3 is a piece and development ahead] **9.cxb4 Nxb4**

At first sight it looks somewhat dangerous for White. Black is castled, the white king is in the center and neither white bishop has been developed while the black knights look active. It is an illusion though as Joel shows. There are no access squares for the black knights and now Albert just has to retreat with the queen's knight. **10.a3! Nd5 11.Qc2!** forcing an ending if Black doesn't want to give up another piece. Very professional play. **11...Ndf6 12.Qxc5 Nxc5 13.b4 Ne6 14.Bc4 c6 15.0-0 d5 16.Bd3 g6 17.Bb2 Nh5 18.g3 Bd7 19.Ng4** with a threat of Nh6 mate! **19...f6 20.Ne3 Rad8 21.Nd4 Nc7 22.Rfe1 b6?!** searching for activity with 23...c5 Albert creates a target on the c-file. [22...Ng7 would hold out some vague hope] **23.Rac1! c5 24.bxc5 b5 25.c6 Be8 26.Nxb5 Rb8** not good, but nothing else is either **27.Nxc7 Rxb2 28.Nxe8 Rxe8 29.c7 f5 30.c8Q Rxc8 31.Rxc8+ Kg7 32.Nxd5 Rxd2 33.Re7+ Kh6 34.Bc4 Rd4 35.h4 f4 36.g4 Ng7 37.Nf6**

Very fine play by Joel against risky and dangerous play by Albert. **1-0**

Here are the standings after three rounds:

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	**FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2493	W15	W10	W4		H---	3.0
2	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	W13	W19	W11			3.0
3	**Abhinav Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)**	15467440	2087	H---	W23	W12		H---	2.5
4	**Theodore Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)**	13989054	2155	W16	W21	L1			2.0
5	**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2013	L11	X25	W16			2.0
6	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1997	H---	W14	D8	H---		2.0
7	**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	15206848	1980	X25	L11	W20			2.0
8	**Rohan Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15739716)**	15739716	1929	D14	W18	D6			2.0
9	**Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)**	16192001	1925	D18	D20	W17			2.0
10	**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)**	16828914	1855	W22	L1	W21			2.0
11	**Gary Harris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12834452)**	12834452	1827	W5	W7	L2			2.0
12	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	12517167	1928	W17	H---	L3	H---		1.5
13	**WCM Anika Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446678)**	15446678	1860	L2	D22	W19			1.5
14	**Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)**	16083648	1804	D8	L6	W23			1.5
15	**Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)**	12459313	1873	L1	L16	B---			1.0
16	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	16571026	1834	L4	W15	L5			1.0
17	**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	12621393	1800	L12	B---	L9			1.0
18	**Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	16419664	1794	D9	L8	H---			1.0

	16419664)								
19	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1788	W24	L2	L13			1.0
20	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1776	D23	D9	L7			1.0
21	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	12931024	1622	B---	L4	L10			1.0
22	Abhishek Mallela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12888811)	12888811	2159	L10	D13	U---			0.5
23	Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	12572270	1900	D20	L3	L14			0.5
24	Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	L19	U---	U---			0.0
25	Nelson Sowell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11103405)	11103405	1807	F7	F5	U---			0.0

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June Tuesday Night Marathon: u1800 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	W24	W18	W11			3.0
2	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1422	W29	W21	W13			3.0
3	Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)	30191497	unr.	W9	W7	W8			3.0
4	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1610	H---	W17	W21			2.5
5	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	W19	L11	W22			2.0
6	Lee Cooper (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14563710)	14563710	1529	W23	H---	D14			2.0
7	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1517	W31	L3	W24			2.0
8	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1491	W25	W27	L3			2.0
9	Jacob Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17099171)	17099171	1365	L3	W31	W27			2.0
10	Paul Henry Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)	13373197	1322	H---	H---	W25			2.0
11	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1253	W20	W5	L1			2.0
12	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1251	D28	H---	W20			2.0
13	Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)	30179081	unr.	W30	W16	L2			2.0
14	Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	unr.	H---	X---	D6			2.0
15	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600	L18	D23	W29			1.5
	Joseph Roberts								

16	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16864855)	16864855	1448	W26	L13	H---			1.5
17	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1228	H---	L4	W31			1.5
18	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	30032729	1127	W15	L1	H---		H---	1.5
19	Simone Pagan Griso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17322263)	17322263	1098	L5	H---	W28			1.5
20	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1679	L11	W28	L12			1.0
21	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1609	W22	L2	L4			1.0
22	Stephen Wilson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12584515)	12584515	1242	L21	W26	L5		H---	1.0
23	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1050	L6	D15	H---			1.0
24	Aleksandra Singer (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12853158)	12853158	949	L1	X30	L7			1.0
25	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	887	L8	B---	L10			1.0
26	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	826	L16	L22	X30			1.0
27	Justin Stimatze (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30189846)	30189846	unr.	B---	L8	L9			1.0
28	Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)	12423364	1612	D12	L20	L19			0.5
29	Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)	30174249	unr.	L2	H---	L15	H---		0.5
30	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	12448028	1368	L13	F24	F26			0.0
31	Thomas Cunningham (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12923340)	12923340	971	L7	L9	L17			0.0

SwissSys Standings. Extra games (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2013	W6	U---				1.0
2	Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1974	U---	W8				1.0
3	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	887	W7	U---				1.0
4	Paul Henry Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)	13373197	1322	D5	U---				0.5
5	Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	unr.	D4	U---				0.5
6	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1800	L1	U---				0.0
7	Aleksandra Singer (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12853158)	12853158	949	L3	U---				0.0
8	David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)	12934283	435	U---	L2				0.0

New Thursday Night Marathon Begins June 24!

by Abel Talamantez

We are very excited to return to live chess at the Mechanics' Institute, but we remain committed to our online events, as they offer an opportunity for members and players to participate in our qulaity events in a convenient and still very competitive way. Our new Thursday Night Marathon begins next Thursday and will have a new format. Much like our previous TNM online, it will be two rounds per evening with a time control of G/35+5, USCF online rated. Games will be paired manually on Chess.com and we will broadcast the games live with commentary by GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead, and myself. Judit Sztaray will be the Chief TD. Games begin at 6:30pm PT.

Additionally, we will resume our GM Nick de Firmian/FM Paul Whitehead Arena on Thursdays starting next week at 5:00pm PT. This arena is free for members of our online community, and wil last 1-hour with a time control of G/5+2. Take your shot at playing a 3-time US Champion, or our commentator extraordinaire, as they banter live during play on our broadcast.

To register for the ThNM and to get full tournament information, click here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online)

The link for the Arena next Thursday is here: https://www.chess.com/live#r=1225136 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/https://www.chess.com/live#r=1225136)

Join us next Thursday night, for live action online from the Mechanics' Institute!

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The William Addison Memorial, named for our former Chess Director, will take place live at the Mechanics' Institute on Saturday June 26, 2021

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

June 24- July 15: NEW Thursday Night Marathon; USCF online rated, 8 rounds, G/35+5 - Online: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online)

June 26: IM William Addison Memorial; 1-day USCF rated; 4 rounds, G/45;d5 - Live @ Mechanics' :https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-addison-memorial-tournament-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-addison-memorial-tournament-g45-person)

July 13-August 24: Tuesday Night Marathon Live; 7 rounds, FIDE & USCF rated, G/120;d5 - Live @ Mechanics': https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated, monthly publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015849/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

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/20220129015849/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #974

June 25, 2021

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 4 Report

by Abel Talamantez

Round 4 saw a batlle of the top two players, and the game lived up to all expectations. FM Kyron Griffith began launching a kingside attack against IM Elliott Winslow early in the game and on move 19, he took a pawn leaving his queen open for capture. Of course, capturing the queen would have led to defeat, but it was a surprising looking move that drew a crowd to board 1, and a crowd around the television broadcast of the board inside the chess room. Kyron went on to win the game and the open section with a round to spare, as he leads by a full point. Since he will receive a pre-tournament requested bye for the final round, He will finish with 4.5/5 and sole first place. Five tough players sit at 3/4 currently, and will fight for 2nd place next week. Those player are IM Elliott Wonslow, Theo Biyiasas, Nicholas Weng, Ako Heidari, and Gary Harris. Nicholas Weng scored an impressive win against Andrew Guo, despite arriving 30 minutes late after a late arrival in SFO from the National Open in Las Vegas.

FM Kyron Griffith and Elliott Winslow played an exciting game on board 1, while Leon Quin prevailed on the top board in the under 1800 section against Sebby Suarez

In the under 1800 section, a battle of undefeateds was won by Leon Quin, as he defeated Sebby Suarez. He now has sole first place with 4/4, and will face Joel Carron next week, who sits at 3.5/4. Right behind are five players, including Suarez, Jacob Morgan, Paul Reed, Andrew Imbens, Andrew Ballantyne, and Nursultan Uzakbaev.

Here are some games from round 4, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) FM Griffith,Kyron (2351) - IM Winslow,Elliott (2150) [B81]

Mechanics' June TNM San Francisco (4.1), 23.06.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 The Scheveningen Variation of the Sicilian Defense is no longer as popular as the Najdorf (5... a6) or Dragon (5...g6), or for that matter the Classical Sicilian (5...Nc6), mainly because of White's next move. But its story isn't over, with further ideas keeping it alive. [5...a6 (Najdorf) not only keeps an eye on g4 for now but also keeps the option of playing ...e7-e5 in one go. White has not always given up on the Keres Attack idea: 6.h3!? *(*or even more conspicuously: *6.Rg1!?)*] **6.g4** The Keres Attack, as much as to dislodge Black's lovely knight on f6 (with g4-g5) as to launch a kingside assault. **6...h6!** Black holds White back for more than one move with this, now the main line. **7.Be3** Kyron veers towards the English Attack (Be3/f3/g4). [White can advance anyway, but then the knight stays: 7.g5 hxg5 8.Bxg5; 7.h4 is the main theoretical line. White still has to make another move to get in g5 with hxg5 for White, which gives Black a moment to prepare central counterplay: 7...Nc6 8.Rg1 d5! (This has taken over from the older *(8...h5)* 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 exd5!? *(10...Qxd5 11.Bg2* shows one plus to this system.*)* 11.Be3 Qxh4!? is one way to soften White's middlegame attack -- but the compensation goes way into the endgame, as shown in Negi's "old (2016) repertoire book on 1.e4 vs. the ...e6 Sicilian lines (where he's analyzing into the ending!) as well as a 2019 article in New In Chess Yearbook by Hungarian theoretists Hazai and Lukacs (called "How sharp is the Keres Attack actually?").; 7.h3; 7.Bg2] **7...Nc6 8.f3 d5!?**

According to the chess proverb, meeting a wing attack with a central counter. And this is as good a time for it as any. But as is often the case in the Sicilian, it's not so simple. White hasn't over-extended, and can try to maintain central control. [8...a6 lets White continue with Qd2 and 0-0-0, but with the usual queenside counterplay complications.] **9.exd5** [Caruana (and others) have played 9.Bb5 here, but he slipped into a positional quicksand against Andreikin in 2013: 9...Bd7 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.e5 Nd7 12.f4 Bb4 13.Qd2 Nc5 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qd4 Rb8 *(15...Qa5!?; 15...Na6!?)* 16.a3 Bxc3+ 17.Qxc3 Qh4+ 18.Bf2

18...Qxf2+! 0-1 (53) Caruana,F (2774)-Andreikin,D (2713) Moscow 2013] **9...Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Nxc6** [11.Nb5?! Qe5 12.Qe2 Qxb2?! *(12...a6! 13.Nc3 Nd4!-/+)* 13.Rd1 Bb4+ 14.c3 Bxc3+ 15.Kf2 Qxe2+ 16.Bxe2 Be5 White kept compensation for the pawns and held, ½-½ (37) Hommeles,T (2374) -Atlas,V (2432) Switzerland 2017] **11...Qxc6** Now Black has development problems, which he didn't solve. [11...bxc6 12.Bd3 and engines like 12...Bb7 *(12...Qe5* 1-0 (?!) was a correspondence game that doesn't really make sense: Tsonev,B (2128)-Nikolov,N ICCF email 2009*)* with no particular advantage after 13.Qe2 Be7 14.0-0 h5!] **12.Qd4** trying maybe too hard to crimp Black's kingside.

[12.Qd2 may well be better.] **12...f6?** Overlooking a tactical solution. [12...Bd7!? 13.0-0-0 The move White wants to play. **a)** 13.Rd1 Rd8 White has to watch f3; **b)** 13.Be2!? h5! 14.g5 Qxc2!? 15.Rc1 Qf5 *(15...Qa4 16.Rc4+/-* develops too much initiative.*)* 16.0-0 Qd5!? 17.Qc3 Qc6 18.Qb3 Qd5 19.Bc4 is exasperating.; 13...Rc8 14.Bd3 *(14.Qd2 Be7 15.Kb1 e5* and ...Be6*)* 14...Bc5! 15.Qxc5 Qxc5 16.Bxc5 Rxc5 17.Be4 Bc6 leads to a fairly dry double rook ending.] **13.Bd3!** White expertly takes advantage of the weaknesses in Black's kingside and failure to develop (on either side!). **13...Bd6** [13...Kf7 was probably the plan, but 14.0-0-0 Be7 15.Be4 sets up Qd3 with more headache.] **14.Be4 Qc7 15.0-0-0 Ke7 16.Kb1** Griffith patiently avoids shots and prepares g5. [Of course the engines would notice that 16.f4! right away is in fact overwhelming, since 16...Bxf4 17.Bxf4 Qxf4+ 18.Rd2 followed by tripling, and Black will never develop, nor find his king a home.] **16...Rd8**

[Las chance to develop: 16...e5 17.Qd5 Rb8 but 18.Bf5! squelches that.] **17.h4** Thanks to ...f6 (not quite a beginner's move, but it is starting to look like one!), Black's king has nowhere to hide. **17...Kf8?** [17...Kf7 18.Qd3 and ...Kf8 after a check, and then put it on f8 directly.; 17...e5 followed by ...Be6, even giving up a pawn, was the best chance.] **18.g5!** and White has the classic kingside pawnstorm. Black gets desperate, to no avail. **18...Be7 19.gxh6 g6 20.Qa4!** The "!" isn't needed as this is all but forced. But it's nice that the queen heads all the way to the a-file, but the attack is forthcoming. **20...f5 21.Bd3** Another patient retreat by Kyron, when Stockfish likes immediate violence: [21.Rdg1! fxe4 22.Rxg6 smashes in.] **21...b5!?** Black tries to make up for lost time in the counterattack, but White just takes what is given. **22.Bxb5** [22.Qb3 a5 23.Bxb5 a4 24.Bxa4 is even more pawns for White.] **22...Rb8 23.Rxd8+** Everything is good for White by now. [23.Bf4 e5 24.Rxd8+ Bxd8 25.h5! is overwhelming.] **23...Bxd8**

[23...Qxd8 24.h7 Kg7 25.h8Q+ Kxh8 26.Qf4 is a nice double attack.] **24.Qd4!** Black can't hold it together. **24...Rxb5** [24...e5 25.h7! Kg7 26.Qd5 Kxh7 27.Bc4] **25.Qh8+ Kf7 26.h7 Bf6** Black might have thought (in time trouble) that he was okay, but... **27.Qxf6+! Kxf6 28.h8Q+ Ke7**

29.Rd1! This time the "quiet" move is the best move going away! Mate follows. **29...Qe5 30.Qh7+** With this win Kyron not only clinched the tournament with one round to go (his last round, since he had already taken a last-round half-point bye), and the rumor is he also gets his FIDE rating up to the necessary 2400, having gotten his third norm in the just-completed National Open in Las Vegas! Congratulations to International Master-elect Kyron Griffith! **1-0**

(2) Hack,Richard (1569) - Carron,Joel (1610) [B01]

Mechanics' June TNM u1800 San Francisco (4.11), 22.06.2021

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 a6 6.a4 Bf5 7.Nf3 e6 8.0-0 Bg4 9.Be2 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 c6 13.Qd3 Qc7 14.Rfd1 Rd8

Both side have gotten what they wanter out of this Scandinavian Defense. White has a little more mobility while Black has a solid position. **15.Qe2 Nbd7 16.a5 Nd5 17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.c3 Nf6 19.Bg5 h6 20.Bh4 Ne8 21.Bg3 Bd6 22.Be5!** Nicely keeping control of some dark squares. This is better than exchanging on d6. **22...Qe7 23.Re1 Nf6 24.b4!?** [24.Qd2 avoids a backward c-pawn] **24...Rac8 25.Qb2 Rc6 26.Rec1 Nd7 27.Bxd6 Qxd6 28.Be2 b5?! 29.axb6! Rxb6 30.Ra4** Now the black pawn on a6 is a target. **30...Qc6 31.Rca1 Rc8 32.R1a3! Ra8** [32...Nb8 is probably a better defense] **33.Qa1 e5**

34.b5! Qb7 35.Rxa6 Raxa6 36.Rxa6 Qc7 37.Rxb6 Nxb6 38.Qa3 exd4 39.cxd4 Qc2 40.Qd3 Qxd3 41.Bxd3 Kf8 42.Kf1 Ke7 43.Ke2 Kd6 44.Kd2 Ke6 45.Kc3 Kd6 46.Kb4 f6 47.Ka5 Kc7 48.Ka6 g5 49.Bh7 h5 50.Bg8 h4 51.Bf7 f5 52.Be6 f4 53.f3! Zugszwang! Black must move and lose the d-pawn. **53...Nc4 54.Bxd5 Ne3 55.b6+ Kb8 56.Be6 Nxg2 57.d5 Ne1 58.Bg4** This is fine, but [58.d6 Nd3 59.Kb5 would be finished for Black] **58...Nd3 59.d6 Nc5+ 60.Kb5 Nb7 61.Kc6 Nd8+ 62.Kd7 Nb7**

63.Ke8? A terrible slip! Black could just resign after 63. Ke7. White gives away the tremendous d-pawn. Such a gift! **63...Nxd6+ 64.Kd7 Nc4 65.Kc6?** Oh no! After giving away the win Richard now gives away the other half point. **65...Ne5+ 66.Kd6 Nxg4 67.Ke6** The best try now. Capturing the knight allows a black pawn to queen. **67...Nh2 68.Kf5 Nxf3 69.Kg4 Nh2+ 70.Kxg5 f3** White resigns and Joel takes another point. A tragedy for Richard after playing such a fine game for over 60 moves. Hopefully he'll make a good story for the Chess Cafe about this experience. **0-1**

(3) Guo,Andrew (1707) - Weng,Nicholas (1731) [D02]

Mechanics' June TNM San Francisco (4.3), 23.06.2021

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Bg2 d5 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nbd2 c5 7.c3 Nbd7 8.Re1 b6

The opening is an original type of Neo-Grunfeld. It is equal, but Andrew begins to play away from the center and this can let Black try to become aggressive. **9.Nb3 Bb7 10.a4 Re8 11.a5 e5!** Principled play. Nicholas takes a bit more control of the central squares. **12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Rxe5 14.Bf4 Re7 15.axb6 axb6 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.Qc2 Qe8 18.Bf3 Ba6 19.Bg5 Re5 20.Bf4 Re6 21.Nc1 Ne4 22.Bxe4 Rxe4**

The bishop pair and extra central space ensure an advantage for Black. Still the white position is very solid. **23.Qb3 Qc6 24.Rd1 Bb7 25.f3** Needed to stop Black's ideas on the long a8-h1 diagaonal **25...Re8 26.c4 Bd4+! 27.Kg2** [27.e3? dxc4 28.Qxc4 Qxf3] **27...Qe6 28.cxd5 Bxd5 29.Qc2 Bb7 30.Qd3?** Under pressure Andrew just gives up the b-pawn. This stops any mating ideas Black has but the endgame is very bad. **30...Bxb2 31.Qd7 Qxd7 32.Rxd7**

32...Bxc1! 33.Bxc1 [33.Rxb7 Bxf4 34.gxf4 Rxe2+ 35.Kg3 Rb2 is hopeless] **33...Rxe2+ 34.Kf1 Ba6! 35.Ra7 Bb5** White resigned. Fine technical play by Nicholas. **0-1**

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June TNM: 1800+ (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)	12860484	2493	W13	W14	W3	W2	H---	4.0
2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	W18	W20	W6	L1		3.0
3	Theodore Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)	13989054	2155	W15	W17	L1	W7		3.0
4	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2013	L6	X25	W15	W12		3.0
5	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	X25	L6	W21	W14		3.0
6	Gary Harris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12834452)	12834452	1827	W4	W5	L2	X10		3.0
7	Abhinav Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	15467440	2087	H---	W23	W11	L3	H---	2.5
8	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1997	H---	W9	D10	H---		2.5
9	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1804	D10	L8	W23	X18		2.5
10	Rohan Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15739716)	15739716	1929	D9	W19	D8	F6		2.0
11	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	12517167	1928	W16	H---	L7	H---		2.0
12	Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)	16192001	1925	D19	D21	W16	L4		2.0
13	Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	12459313	1873	L1	L15	B---	W19		2.0
14	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1855	W22	L1	W17	L5		2.0
15	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1834	L3	W13	L4	W21		2.0
16	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1800	L11	B---	L12	W20		2.0
17	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	12931024	1622	B---	L3	L14	W23		2.0
18	WCM Anika Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446678)	15446678	1860	L2	D22	W20	F9		1.5
19	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	D12	L10	H---	L13		1.0
20	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1788	W24	L2	L18	L16		1.0
21	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1776	D23	D12	L5	L15		1.0

22	**Abhishek Mallela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12888811)**	12888811	2159	L14	D18	U---	U---		0.5
23	**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	12572270	1900	D21	L7	L9	L17		0.5
24	**Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)**	10490936	1900	L20	U---	U---	U---		0.0
25	**Nelson Sowell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11103405)**	11103405	1807	F5	F4	U---	U---		0.0

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June TNM: u1800 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	**Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)**	30191497	unr.	W5	W16	W17	W4		4.0
2	**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	16600505	1610	H---	W24	W13	W14		3.5
3	**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1513	W28	W10	W7	U---		3.0
4	**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	16875347	1422	W30	W13	W9	L1		3.0
5	**Jacob Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17099171)**	17099171	1365	L1	W27	W31	W19		3.0
6	**Paul Henry Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)**	13373197	1322	H---	H---	W25	W16		3.0
7	**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	30102682	1253	W12	W14	L3	X15		3.0
8	**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	17079795	1251	D20	H---	W12	W17		3.0
9	**Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)**	30179081	unr.	W32	W22	L4	W21		3.0
10	**Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)**	30032729	1127	W21	L3	H---	X22	H---	2.5
11	**Simone Pagan Griso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17322263)**	17322263	1098	L14	H---	W20	W24		2.5
12	**Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)**	17266862	1679	L7	W20	L8	W28		2.0
13	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	12844781	1609	W23	L4	L2	W29		2.0
14	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	12796129	1569	W11	L7	W23	L2		2.0
15	**Lee Cooper (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14563710)**	14563710	1529	W26	H---	D19	F7		2.0
16	**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	16566932	1517	W27	L1	W28	L6		2.0
17	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	16898540	1491	W25	W31	L1	L8		2.0
18	**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	12934283	435	H---	H---	U---	W26		2.0
19	**Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	30164211	unr.	H---	X---	D15	L5		2.0

20	Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)	12423364	1612	D8	L12	L11	W31		1.5
21	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600	L10	D26	W30	L9		1.5
22	Joseph Roberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16864855)	16864855	1448	W29	L9	H---	F10		1.5
23	Stephen Wilson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12584515)	12584515	1242	L13	W29	L14	D25	H---	1.5
24	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1228	H---	L2	W27	L11		1.5
25	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	887	L17	B---	L6	D23		1.5
26	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1050	L15	D21	H---	L18		1.0
27	Thomas Cunningham (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12923340)	12923340	971	L16	L5	L24	B---		1.0
28	Aleksandra Singer (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12853158)	12853158	949	L3	X32	L16	L12		1.0
29	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	826	L22	L23	X32	L13		1.0
30	Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)	30174249	unr.	L4	H---	L21	H---		1.0
31	Justin Stimatze (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30189846)	30189846	unr.	B---	L17	L5	L20		1.0
32	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	12448028	1368	L9	F28	F29	U---		0.0

SwissSys Standings. Extra games (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2013	W10	U---	U---			1.0
2	Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1974	U---	W12	U---			1.0
3	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	887	W11	U---	U---			1.0
4	Gary Harris (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12834452)	12834452	1827	U---	U---	D5			0.5
5	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1804	U---	U---	D4			0.5
6	Paul Henry Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)	13373197	1322	D9	U---	U---			0.5
7	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1253	U---	U---	D8			0.5
8	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	30032729	1127	U---	U---	D7			0.5
9	Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	unr.	D6	U---	U---			0.5
10	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1800	L1	U---	U---			0.0
	Aleksandra Singer								

11	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12853158)	12853158	949	L3	U---	U---			0.0
12	David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)	12934283	435	U---	L2	U---			0.0

New Thursday Night Marathon Rounds 1&2 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The first two rounds of the new Thursday Night Marathon online format finished on Thursday, and we have a strong turnout of 44 players, including 2 GM's, 2 IM's, an FM and 2 NM's. This is an 8-round event with a time control of G/35+5, with two games played per evening over four weeks. We are broadcasting the Thursday Marathon live with commentary, so we may bring both the Tuesday and Thursday Marathons to all viewers online.

Since this is an open section tournament, the first two rounds were about underdogs looking for big upsets. GM Alex Lenderman, GM Gadir Guseinov, IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla, and FM Max Gedajlovic got through the first two rounds unscathed and go to next week 2/2. The two national masters in the tournament, NM Mike Walder and NM Tom Maser fell victim to mouse slips in their first round games. IM Elliott Winslow also faced a tough battle in round 1 against Paul Krezanoski resulting in a draw. Eight players remain with perfect scores headed into rounds 3 & 4 next Thursday night.

For full standings, please visit the event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online. Watch the broadcast of all the action that evening by clicking HERE.

SwissSys Standings. NewThNM: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4
1	GM Alex Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)	alexanderl	12787646	2703	W23	W17	H---	H---
2	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2651	W24	W19		
3	IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)	swarnapuri	30100858	2523	W33	W20		
4	FM Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	mmsanchez	14947382	2213	W25	W27		
5	Sina Mohammadi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14116846)	sina101	14116846	2163	W26	W21		
6	Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	titanchess666	16090452	2149	W28	W22		
7	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W30	W29		
8	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	figsnoring	16551291	1015	W16	W15		
9	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	D34	W32		
10	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	nathanf314	13001390	2004	W39	H---		
11	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	kingsmasher35	12797931	1789	W31	D13		
12	Fong Kevin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	H---	W34		
13	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2nf31-0	16425316	1085	W37	D11		
14	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	flightsoffancy	10345120	2157	L27	W39		
15	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	W40	L8		
16	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	L8	W40		

17	Callaghan McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	W41	L1		
18	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	1677	H---	H---		
19	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	W42	L2		
20	Ethan Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	erm999	16090467	1585	W35	L3		
21	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	W43	L5		
22	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	loltheawesomedude	16497860	1531	W44	L6		
23	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1488	L1	W41		
24	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1481	L2	W42		
25	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1335	L4	W43		
26	Sarvagnya Brahmanapally (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16466227)	bsarvagnya	16466227	1323	L5	W44		
27	Casimir Dudek (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101045)	thechesskid2021	30101045	1284	W14	L4		
28	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020areeews	16802870	1220	L6	X37		
29	Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)	greenninja2019	30015889	1165	X36	L7		
30	Kevin Thompson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13110777)	acalbear	13110777	1120	L7	W36		
31	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	bruce_hedman	17344551	1055	L11	W38		
32	Ishan Goteti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17016988)	aurex79	17016988	615	W38	L9		
33	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L3	D35		
34	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1346	D9	L12		
35	Adithya Shankar Katepalli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30153861)	2021adi	30153861	824	L20	D33		
36	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	mangonel	14006141	1940	F29	L30		
37	NM Tom Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	L13	F28		
38	James Hamlett (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12374510)	james_hamlett_IV	12374510	1561	L32	L31		
39	Aditha Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	1185	L10	L14		
40	JJ Ziebart (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30166361)	tomatosoupgirl	30166361	1072	L15	L16		
41	Thomas Cunningham (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12923340)	banjotom	12923340	971	L17	L23		
42	Arumin Ravisankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	aruminchess	30025152	869	L19	L24		

	30025152)							
43	**Victor Beauchamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30154650)**	**greatboomer**	30154650	807	L21	L25		
44	**Jonathan Rice (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205348)**	**ricejonathanc**	30205348	unr.	L22	L26		

TD Corner

Chess Etiquette Revisited

by Abel Talamantez

As we get back to live over the board play, it stands to reason there will be a little rust from both players and tournament directors regarding rules and expectations. Experiencing the first four rounds of the TNM, we have seen quite a few actions from players that reminds us the importance of going over some rules again. For your information and entertainment, here are some things that have caught our attention that players should be aware of. We will also make this announcement prior to the next rounds of the TNM as well as the Addison Memorial this weekend.

1. **Scoresheets must remain on the table at all times.** Here is the USCF rule: *15A. Manner of keeping score. In the course of play each player is required to record the game (both the player's and the opponent's moves), move after move, as clearly and legibly as possible, on the scoresheet prescribed for the competition. Algebraic notation is standard, but descriptive or computer notation is permitted. The player must first make the move, and then record it on the scoresheet. The scoresheet shall be visible to the arbiter (tournament directors) and the opponent throughout 40 US Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess, V 7.1 Edition 7-19-19 the game.*

I saw a player grab their scoresheet after making a move, and leave the table with the scoresheet in hand to go observe another game. The player had not realized they had done this, and di not know the rule, so I just informed the player without incident and gave a warning. The scoresheet must remain at the table, visible to the players and arbiters at all times.

2. **No photos inside the playing hall, especially from parents!** This should be obvious, but sometimes parents are not aware of the larger implications in trying to get that action photo of their child in the middle of a game. Taking a photo of a position could raise suspicion of cheating, as it is possible to analyze the position from a picture and give advice if a child leaves the playing hall. Please ask the arbiter to take a picture, or take one at the start of the game with the erbiters permission.

3. **Do not inform other players it is their move.** Here is the associated rule: *20E2. Unsolicited advice. Ruling on unsolicited advice can be difficult. The giver deserves a penalty, but what of the recipient? The director's task is to prevent a player from benefiting from advice but also not unduly penalize the player for another's offense.* We saw some players let their friends know it was their move in the game, which should never be done as it can constitute helping. Players should play their own game and not interfere in the games of others. A player will receive a warning for this, and would be subject to additional penalties including forfeit of their game.

4. **No analyzing games in the playing hall that are going live.** Here is the rule: *20F. Analysis in the playing room prohibited. No analysis is permitted in the playing room during play or during adjourned sessions. See also 1C2, Director discretion; 21F, Player requests for rulings; and 21K, Use of director's power.* I warned two players who were following the action of one of the games of the TNM on the big screen in the room not to discuss the game. Even though it was clearly away from the action, there were other games going on in the room and even body language and pointing can suggest information about a position. Please do not discuss the positions of live games inside the playing hall, and players in active games should not discuss ANY games.

5. **Don't stand to close to games you are spectating.** The applicable rule that gives arbiters broad discretion is here: *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.* I saw quite a few players spectating other games where they stood way to close, which as almost every player knows can be quite a distraction. Give a respectable distance when observing games, trying as much as possible to be out of the immediate view of the players playing the game.

I suggest players take a look at the USCF rulebook online HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/chessrules/US_Chess_Rule_Book-%20Online_Only_Edition_v7.1-1.2.11-7.19.19.pdf). These rules and all the others are there to protect the integrity of games and are for the benefit of all players. Please seek out an arbiter if there is something that you feel is compromising to the game or player experience.

Games from the National Open from TNM Players

The National Open concluded last weekend in Las Vegas, and we had a strong presence of Mechanics' players there. FM Kyron Griffith achieved his third and final IM norm, and Sebby Suarez won the under 1300 section. The winner of the event on tiebreaks went to IM Arthur Guo from Georgia, who played the 2020 US Cadet Championship we organized online. His winning the Edmondson Cup was quite an achievement, considering there were over 20 GM's in attendance.

We wanted to showcase the games from some of our players from the National Open. Here they are. FM Kyron Griffith annotated his own game, with the others annotated by GM Nick de Firmian. Full results from the National Open can be found here: https://www.vegaschessfestival.com/live/results/

(4) Ardito,Andrew (2280) - Biyiasas [A24]

National open 2021 https://lichess.org, 0006

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.c4 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.d3 This modest line of the English Opening is less aggressive than 6. d4 with a King's Indian Defense. Many players just like the position with White though - it's like a Sicilian reversed. **6...e5 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bd2 Nc6 9.Qc1 Kh7 10.h4?!** White needs to play on the queenside instead of the kingside. 10. Rb1 and 11. b4 is in order. **10...Bg4 11.Nh2 Be6 12.h5?!** Aggressive and scary, but not truly worth the pawn sacrificed. **12...Nxh5 13.Bf3**

13...f5! correctly playing for the initiative and not worrying about doubled pawns. **14.Nf1 Bf7 15.g4 fxg4 16.Bxg4 Nf4! 17.Bxf4 exf4 18.Qxf4 Bd5 19.Qxf8 Qxf8 20.Nxd5 Bxb2** [20...Nd4 would probably be an easier way to convert the material advantage] **21.Rb1 Qg7 22.Nd2 Bf6?!** [22...Ne5! 23.Bh3 c6] **23.Rxb7 Bd8**

24.0-0 Strange to castle now, but it gets the rooks coordinated. White is suffering in any case. **24...Rb8! 25.Rxb8 Nxb8 26.Rb1 Nc6 27.Ne4 h5 28.Bh3 Kh6 29.Nf4**

29...g5! Excellent! This aggressive move takes control of the kingside and pushes the white pieces around. The black kingside pawns go from being defenders of the king to charging attackers. **30.Ne6 Qf7 31.f3 Bf6 32.Rb5**

[32.Rb7 g4! 33.fxg4 hxg4 34.Bxg4 Qg6 35.Nxf6 Qxf6 36.Rxc7 Nd4! wins a piece - e.g. 37.Nxd4 Qxd4+ 38.Kf1 Qxg4] **32...Nd4! 33.N6xg5 Qg7 34.Rd5 Nxe2+ 35.Kf2 Nf4 36.Ng3**

36...Qxg5! A great move, crushing any hopes for White. On 37. Rxg5 Nxh3+ will leave Black a piece ahead in the ending. White resigned. **0-1**

(5) Tyler Hansen - Sebastian Suarez [B01]

Las Vegas National Open 2021 Chess.com (8), 20.06.2021

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 a6 6.h3 This move is a little slow. White should get an edge in this opening with normal developing moves. 6. Nf3 would be better. **6...b5 7.Bb3 c5?! 8.dxc5?!** [8.Qf3! Ra7 9.dxc5 would be clearly better for White] **8...Qxd1+ 9.Nxd1 e6 10.Be3 Bb7 11.Nf3 Nbd7** Now Black gets the pawn back and reaches a level endgame. **12.Nc3 Bxc5 13.Bxc5 Nxc5**

Here starts a long endgame battle. **14.0-0-0!? Nxb3+ 15.axb3 Nd5** [15...Bxf3! 16.gxf3 Ke7 would be an edge for Black due to the weak white kingside pawns] **16.Ne4 Ke7 17.Nc5 Bc6 18.Ne5 Rac8** [18...Rhc8 would put all the black pieces into play] **19.Rhe1 Rhd8 20.Ned3 a5!** It's good to put this pawn into play and control some dark squares on the queenside. **21.f4 Kf8 22.g4 Ne7 23.Re5 Ng6 24.Re3 Ne7 25.h4 Bd5 26.Rde1?!** Black begins to gain the advantage after this move. White should keep a rook on the d-file. **26...Rc7 27.h5?!** [27.b4! axb4 28.Na6 would be a great improvement] **27...Rdc8! 28.Re5 Nc6?!** [28...Rxc5 29.Nxc5 Rxc5 is simply a material advantage for Black. The bishop and knight are much better than a rook in this ending.] **29.R5e3 Nb4 30.Ne5?!** [30.Nxb4 axb4 31.Nd3 Rxc2+ 32.Kb1 Rg2 33.Nxb4 Rxg4 34.Nxd5 exd5 is quite good for Black, but better than the game move] **30...Nxc2** This leaves Black much better, but the simple [30...Rxc5 31.Nd7+ Ke7 32.Nxc5 Rxc5 is a great advantage] **31.Kxc2 Rxc5+ 32.Kb1 R5c7 33.g5 f6 34.Ng4 Ke7 35.h6 fxg5**

36.fxg5?! [36.hxg7! gxf4 37.Re5 Bxb3 38.Nh6 would give White serious counter chances, practically a level position] **36...gxh6 37.Nxh6 Kd6!** The centralized black king is well placed in this ending. **38.Rf1 Rg7 39.Rf6 Rg6?!** [39...Rxg5! 40.Nf7+ Ke7 would win. The black king attacks the white pieces instead of the usual case of defending against them.] **40.Rf2?!** [40.Nf5+! Kd7 41.Rf7+ Kd8 42.Rf8+ is equal] **40...Rg7 41.Rg3 Ra7 42.Nf7+ Ke7 43.Ne5 Rcc7 44.Re3 Kd6 45.Rf1 Rg7 46.Rg1 Rab7 47.Nf3 Rb8 48.Nd4 Rbb7 49.Re2 Rg8 50.Re3 Ra8 51.Rge1 Re8 52.Nf5+ Kd7 53.Ng7 Re7 54.Nh5 Kd6 55.Rd1 Ra7 56.Rg3 Kc6 57.Rc3+ Kb6 58.Nf6 Bc6 59.Rd6 Rac7 60.Re3 e5**

Black has been a pawn up for some time, and now starts the advance. **61.Rc3 Kb7 62.Rdd3 Re6 63.Rh3 Ree7 64.Rh6 Rg7 65.Rg3 e4 66.Rh2 Rce7 67.Re2 Re6 68.Ree3 Re5 69.Rh3 Rexg5 70.Nxe4 R5g6 71.Nf2 Rg1+ 72.Ka2 Rf1! 73.Nd3 Rgg1**

Giving back the pawn with check, but starting a winning attack in the ending. **74.Rxh7+ Kb6 75.b4 a4 76.b3 Rg2+ 77.Nb2 Rff2** winning the knight. The rest is easy. **78.bxa4 Rxb2+ 79.Ka1 Ra2+ 80.Kb1 bxa4 81.Rh5 Rab2+ 82.Kc1 a3 83.Rxa3 Rbc2+ 84.Kd1 Rb2 85.Kc1 Be4! 86.Ra1 Rbc2+ 87.Kb1 Rg1#** A great endgame struggle from Sebby, who is quickly improving in each

(6) GM Vorontsov,Pavlo - FM Griffith,Kyron [D30]

National Open 2021 Las Vegas (7), 18.06.2021

[FM Griffith,Kyron]

1.d4 Nf6 Somehow I still haven't lost yet. I knew this would be a tough pairing though because I had lost to Vorontsov before and with white that time. He plays every opening on the face of the planet and every variation of every opening (not sure how that is possible??) so my prep consisted of watching basketball. **2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Bg5** I had this weird feeling he would play this once I had played d5. I had lost my file on this line so all I knew was that I should take on c4 and aim to play c5. **4...dxc4 5.Qa4+** this was weird and I was pretty sure it was bad. I saw no reason not to just continue with my Nd7, a6, c5 plan. In fact I think it expedites this plan for me. **5...Nbd7 6.Nbd2 a6 7.Qxc4 c5** [7...b5 8.Qc6 I thought that this could get unpleasant quickly] **8.Bxf6 gxf6** [8...Qxf6 I saw that this was possible but I thought it contradicted my plan a little bit. 9.Ne4 Qf5 and black is fine] **9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.g3 Qb6** I wasn't sure where I wanted to put my king, so I decided to go grab a pawn and figure it out later. He has wasted a good amount of time in the opening so I felt somewhat justified in grabbing this one. **11.e3 Qxb2 12.Rb1 Qa3 13.Bg2 b5 14.Qe4 Rb8 15.0-0 Bb7 16.Qh4** Again, I couldn't find a plan to get myself safe in the long-term so I decided to grab another pawn for my troubles. The bonus of getting this second pawn is not so much the material advantage, but more so my a and b pawns can be pushed to create counterplay later **16...Qxa2 17.Nb3 Be7 18.Nfd4 f5 19.Qh6 Bf8?** based on a miscalculation **20.Qh5 Nf6 21.Qd1?** The grandmaster blunders back. The line we both missed was: [21.Qh4 Bxg2 22.Ra1! *(22.Qxf6? Bxf1 23.Rxf1 Rg8* is fine for black*)* 22...Qb2 23.Rfb1 Qc3 24.Qxf6 and the point is now there is no longer a Rf1 for me to take in the desperado exchange.] **21...Nd5?** [21...Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Qa3 extraditing the queen is more important than anything else **22.Qd3?** [22.Nxe6! fxe6 23.Qd4! Rg8 24.Qe5! is what the engine spots and white is regaining his material with interest] **22...Nb4!** it is imperative to spot 25...Qxb1 or else this continuation would be losing for black **23.Qc3 Rc8 24.Nc6 Rg8 25.Nxb4 Qxb1!** and the computer gives 0.00 in this position... of course **26.Nc6 b4!** The only winning move, but a fairly obvious one in the moment. We know that white wants to play Nba5 and cannot afford to trade queens. This in-between move pokes the queen to c4 and now Qa2 comes with a pin on the b3 knight. Also the pawn on b4 supports a Qc3 escape at some point for us. **27.Qc4 Qa2 28.Ra1 Qb2 29.Rc1 Be7 30.Nba5 Bxc6 31.Nxc6 b3** white has a bind but no way forward so we can use this time to advance our passer **32.Rd1** [32.Rf1 I actually expected this strange looking move because it prevents Qc2 on account of Qxa6] **32...Qc2** now a6 can't be taken due to the rook on d1 **33.Qxc2** now the win is easy for me [33.Qd4 Rxc6 34.Qd7+ Kf8 35.Bxc6 b2 will do the trick but still requires black to be accurate] **33...bxc2 34.Rc1 Bd6** The last finesse. The plan is to play Kd7 Rc7 Rgc8 and white is helpless and will lose more material. Bd6 prevents both Ne5+ and Rd2+ in this plan. This was my highest rated win in classical chess to date (2540 FIDE)! **0-1**

Tony's Teasers

Here is a mate in 3 from longtime Mechanics' Institute employee Tony Lama. This should occupy a good chunk of your time this weekend!

White to move and mate in 3. Kenneth Howard, 1930.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

June 24- July 15: NEW Thursday Night Marathon; USCF online rated, 8 rounds, G/35+5 - Online: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/first-new-thursday-night-marathon-online)

June 26: IM William Addison Memorial; 1-day USCF rated; 4 rounds, G/45;d5 - Live @ Mechanics' :https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-addison-memorial-tournament-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-addison-memorial-tournament-g45-person)

July 13-August 24: Tuesday Night Marathon Live; 7 rounds, FIDE & USCF rated, G/120;d5 - Live @ Mechanics': https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated, monthly publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129005932/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Las Vegas Chess Festival: Mechanics Members Make Their Showing

Last weekend saw the resounding return of live chess in the United States with over a thousand live participants at the National Open in Las Vegas. It was an amazing scene to see so many chess players in one huge room again, quickly giving everyone the feeling that the pandemic is fading away and that life is returning to normal.

We saw Kyron Griffith scoring well with his usual resourcefulness. He has proven he can come back from daunting odds online in the shorter time control. It is another thing playing classical chess where the time control is slow and blunders much rarer. He reached a pawn down bishop ending against grandmaster Melikset Khachiyan. Any normal player would need a great struggle to draw the game, but we are talking Kyron here. We show now this game and a last round game to decide a share of first place between Hans Nieman (who was a regular at the MI a few years ago) and one of the pre-tournament favorites. We should have a couple other MI member games elsewhere in our newsletter.

(1) GM Khachiyan,Melset - FM Griffith,Kyron [B15]

National Open, 19.06.2021

1.e4 c6 Kyron's beloved Caro-Kann **2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.Nf3 Bd6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.Nh4! Bxe2 11.Qxe2 g6 12.Re1 Nd7 13.Bh6 Re8 14.Qxe8+ Qxe8 15.Rxe8+ Rxe8 16.Kf1**

Khachiyan has played the opening well and has just a slight edge in the endgame, but the kind grandmasters like. The white queenside pawns are more mobile than the black kingside pawns. **16...Re4 17.Nf3 f5 18.Re1 f6 19.Bd2 Kf7 20.c4 c5 21.Bc3 cxd4 22.Bxd4 Rxe1+?!** White is slightly better in this ending with the 3 vs 2 pawn advantage on the queenside. The rook exchange simplifies the position which makes it easier for White to press the edge. **23.Kxe1 a6 24.Ke2 Ke6 25.b3 Ne5 26.Be3 Nxf3?!** simplifying again **27.Kxf3 g5 28.Bd4** Now White's advantage is clear with only bishops left and the doubled black f-pawns. **28...h5 29.Ke2 Be5 30.Kd3** [of course not 30.Bxe5? fxe5 fixing the black pawns] **30...Bc7** now White should advance slowly starting with 31. f3, but Khachiyan thinks he can charge ahead immediately. **31.c5?!**

31...Kd5! Excellent defense from Kyron. Giving away one of the doubled pawns to centralize the king. **32.Bxf6 g4 33.b4 Bf4 34.Bd8 Be5 35.f3 gxf3 36.gxf3 Bd4 37.a4 Bf2 38.Ba5 Bd4 39.Bb6 Bf2 40.Ba7** tricky **40...Be1** [40...Bg1? 41.c6! Bxa7 42.c7 queens] **41.b5 axb5 42.axb5 Bb4 43.c6 bxc6 44.b6 Bc5!** This accurate defensive move stops b6-b7 and equallizes the game. Melset continues to play for the win. He should have know better against this opponent. **45.Kc3 Bf2 46.Kb3? c5! 47.Ka4** [since 47.b7? c4+ wins the bishop on a7] **47...c4 48.Kb5?** White is in trouble now, but the best defense was to retreat with the white king to stop the c-pawn. **48...c3 49.Bb8 Be3** stopping 50. Bf4 **50.b7 c2 51.Bg3 c1Q 52.b8Q Qc4+ 53.Ka5 Bd2+**

Everything is even in this queen and bishop endgame, but White is getting mated after 54. Kb6 Qc6+ 55. Ka7 Be3+ 56. Qb6 Qxb6+. Great cool headed play by Kyron against a grandmaster

opponent. **0-1**

(2) GM Nieman,Hans - GM Nyzhnyk,Illya [E73]

National Open, 19.06.2021

Young Hans Nieman was a regular at the Mechanics' Instiute some years ago when he was developing his chess game. He has since become a grandemaster. In the last round he faced off with one of the top ranked players in the tourament, Illya Nyzhnyk, who has won this event before. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Be3 c6 7.Qd2 e5 8.0-0-0** Aggressive play by Hans. **8...Qe7**

9.d5?! This locks up the center when White had some options on the d-file. Better was to shore up the kingside squares with [9.f3] **9...cxd5 10.cxd5 Ng4!** Black gains the bishop pair with this early knight sortie. **11.Bxg4 Bxg4 12.Nge2 Bd7 13.Kb1 b5!** Well done by Nyzhnyk! He delays development to start the queenside attack. This works because of the closed center. **14.Rc1 b4 15.Nd1 Bb5 16.g4 Nd7 17.Ng3** [17.h4 was to be considered] **17...a5 18.Bg5?! Bf6!** Black is happy to trade off the dark-squared bishops. This works well with the central pawn chain. **19.Be3** [19.Bh6 Rfc8 works well; 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 leaves Black strong on the dark squares] **19...Rfc8 20.g5 Bg7 21.h4 Rxc1+ 22.Qxc1**

22...f5! Black doesn't forget about the kingside. This advance allows more control of the central squares. **23.gxf6 Nxf6 24.Qd2 Ng4 25.h5 Qf7 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Re1?!** This last inaccuracy allows Black a nice maneuver soon. The white rook should have stayed on the h-file. **27...Rc8 28.Bb6**

28...Nh2! The black pieces all come into play with decisive effect. **29.Rh1 Nf3 30.Qe3 Qf4!** White resigned. There are too many threats, starting with 31...Nd2+ and 32...Rc1 mate. Thus Nyzhnyk tied for first. We expect Hans to start winning these last rounds with a little more experience. **0-1**

Solution To Tony's Teaser

1. Ba1!! cxd5 2. Nc3 dxc4 3. Nd5#

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Newsletter #975

July 3, 2021

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 5 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The TNM concluded with a tight battle for 2nd place, as FM Kyron Griffith had already wrapped up a clear first. IM Elliott Winslow defeated Ako Heidari on board 1 to take his share of 2nd place with 4/5. Theo Biyiasas inched closer to master status (2200) with his win over Gary Harris, also netting him a share of 2nd place. Nicholas Weng also tied for 2nd after his last round defeat of Max Hao.

Theo Biyiasas got a decisive result in the final round to share 2nd place along with IM Elliott Winslow and Nicholas Weng.

In the under 1600 section, Joel Carron came from behind in the final round, defeating previously unbeaten Leon Quin to pass him up and take clear first place with 4.5/5. Four players tied for second place, including Quin, Paul Henry Reed, Andrew Imbens, and Andrew Ballantyne.

Joel Carron (right) came up big to take sole first in the under 1600

Congratulations to all the participants for supporting the Mechanics' Institute and the return to live chess! We look forward to the next TNM starting July 13, 7SS in 3 sections, FIDE and USCF rated. For details, please click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person).

To watch the broadcast, click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5BcWP6bsAA).

Here are some games from the final round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Clemens,Kristian (1919) - Guo,Andrew (1707) [A38]

Mechanics' June TNM San Francisco (5.4), 30.06.2021

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d3 Kristian plays a modest continuation instead of the full advance 7. d4. **7...d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bd2 Nxc3 10.bxc3 e5 11.Qc2 Rb8 12.Rfd1 h6** The opening phase is done and the chances are equal. **13.Be3 b6 14.Qd2 Kh7 15.Ng5+!? hxg5 16.Bxc6 Qc7 17.Bg2 g4**

The black pawn on g4 helps a little more with central control than it did when it was on h6. Black is just a tad more comfortable. **18.Rac1 f5 19.f4?!** [19.Bg5] **19...gxf3** [19...Bb7 was also good Black has more pawn control on the kingside.] **20.Bxf3 f4 21.Bf2 Bh6?!** [21...fxg3! followed by 22...Bh6 would keep the kingside open and give Black a clear edge.] **22.g4!** Kristian closes the kingside. The white king is safer now. **22...Bb7 23.Kg2** [23.Qc2!] **23...Rbd8** [23...c4! works toward opening lines] **24.Qc2 Qd7 25.h3 Bxf3+ 26.exf3 Qc6 27.Qe2 Rfe8 28.Qc2 Bg7 29.h4 c4! 30.dxc4 e4**

Suddenly the game has broken open. Andrew has an edge with pressure on the long white diagonal. **31.Rxd8** [31.fxe4?! Rxe4 32.Kh2 Rxd1 33.Rxd1 f3 would be clearly better for Black] **31...exf3+ 32.Kh3 Rxd8 33.h5 Re8 34.Re1?!** [34.hxg6+] **34...Rxe1 35.Bxe1 f2 36.Qxg6+**

White captures with check attacking the black queen on c6. Clearly you don't have to think here as there is only one reasonable move right? **36...Qxg6?** Going from advantage to trouble in one move. With [36...Kh8!! 37.Qxc6 *(37.Bxf2 Qh1#)* 37...fxe1Q Black has the advantage with the extra piece. White can make it difficult with a lot of checks, but it is only Black with winning chances. 38.Qc8+ Kh7 39.Qf5+ Kg8 40.Qd5+ Kf8 41.Qd6+ Qe7 42.Qxf4+ Kg8 etc.] **37.hxg6+ Kxg6 38.Bxf2 Bxc3 39.Kg2 Kg5 40.Kf3** All the black pawns are on dark squares like the bishop, so Black is struggling to draw. **40...Bb4 41.Bd4 Bd6 42.a4 Bc7 43.Bc3 Bd6 44.Bd2 Bc7 45.Bb4 Bb8 46.Be7+ Kg6 47.Ke4 Bc7 48.Bh4 Bd6 49.Kd5 Bc5 50.Ke4 Bd6 51.Bd8 Kf7?** Oh no.This lets the bishop attack the f-pawn. Black should be able to hold after 51...Bb8 **52.Bg5 f3 53.Kxf3** The bishop ending is easily won with the extra pawn. Kristian shows good technique to finish. **53...Kg6 54.Bf4 Bc5 55.Ke4 Kf7 56.Kf5 a6 57.g5 Ke7 58.Be5 Kf7 59.g6+ Ke7 60.Bc3 Bg1 61.Bb4+ Ke8 62.Ke6 Bd4 63.Bd6 Bg7 64.Bc7 Bf8** Black resigned as there is no hope here. **1-0**

(3) IM Winslow,Elliott (2150) - Heidari,Ako (1783) [C09]

Mechanics' June TNM San Francisco (5.1), 30.06.2021

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Ngf3 Nc6 6.Bb5

6...Qe7+!? A tricky move! Now a complicated tempo game transpires -- who loses time in all the maneuvers? [6...Bd6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 Nge7 9.Nb3 Bd6 *(9...Bb6 10.Re1 0-0 11.Be3)* 10.Re1 0-0 11.Bg5 was Karpov's path to some nice wins in the 70s.; 6...cxd4 7.Qe2+! White can play this game too.] **7.Be2! Qc7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Re1 Be6!?** [9...Be7?! 10.dxc5 sees White claiming his tempo.; 9...cxd4 10.Nb3 Bb4 *(10...Be7 11.Nfxd4 0-0 12.Be3+/=)* 11.Bd2 Bxd2 12.Qxd2 White is okay with those bishops coming off -- but it was a win for Black in Kotronias,V (2580)-Zvjaginsev,V (2655) Legnica 2013 (0-1, 59).] **10.h3**

The main problem with this, besides costing a move, is that if f2-f3 is needed down the line then g3 is weak. Pretty subtle stuff. [White also could try 10.Bd3!? when Black has the unusual 10...0-0-0!? *(10...c4 11.Bf5!|^; 10...Be7 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Nb3+/=)* 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Nb3 Bb6 13.Be3 Certainly Black's king isn't so secure on this side.] **10...cxd4N** [Predecessor: 10...Be7 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Nb3 Bb6 13.Nbd4 0-0 14.c3 Rae8 15.Be3 Ne4 saw Black completing development and doing okay. 1/2-1/2 (31) Radzhabov,R (2329)-Urazayev,A (2450) Moscow 2019] **11.Nb3 Bb4 12.Bd2 Be7 13.Nbxd4 0-0 14.Bd3 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bc5 16.Be3 Rae8 17.c3 Bd7**

A standard Isolated Queen Pawn from the Tarrasch French with 3...d5. White can claim some nominal advantage (and Stockfish has it on the border between "slight" and "clear"), but it will be hard to make much of it objectively. **18.Qf3 Ne4 19.Re2** [Stockfish 13 suggests targeting the d-pawn already with 19.Bc2 and 20.Rad1.] **19...Re7** [It might seem radical, but 19...f5!? at least poses some uncomfortable problems for White regarding the kingside.] **20.Bf4** [White might have seen the blow 20.c4!? already.] **20...Qb6 21.Nb3 Bd6**

22.c4!? White grabs the moment to drastically alter the landscape -- probably better a few moves earlier, before the knight landed on b3. [22.Bxe4 dxe4 23.Rxe4 Rxe4 24.Qxe4 Bxf4 25.Qxf4 Qg6 26.Kh2 is in fact an extra pawn at hardly any cost.; Just 22.Rd1 to increase the pressure might be best.] **22...dxc4! 23.Bxe4 cxb3 24.Bxh7+?** A miscalculation, leading to an equal position -- but Black started to get short on the clock. [24.Qd3!? is still some advantage. 24...Bxf4 25.Bxh7+ Kh8 26.Rxe7 But complicated!] **24...Kxh7 25.Rxe7 Bxe7 26.Qe4+** [26.Qd3+? Kg8 27.Qxd7 Bc5 pulls Black's way.] **26...Qg6** [26...Kg8 27.Qxe7 Bc6 (keeping an eye on b3) is also nothing for either side.] **27.Qxe7 Bc6** [Not 27...Bxh3?? 28.Qh4+] **28.Bg3 Re8** [The temporarily exciting 28...bxa2!? 29.Qxf8 Qb1+ 30.Rxb1 axb1Q+ 31.Kh2 f6 leads to the dreaded column of moves marked "0.00".] **29.Qh4+ Qh6** [29...Kg8 30.axb3 a6 is a worthless pawn up for White.] **30.Qc4!?**

There's still an annoyance factor... **30...Qe6** [30...Qd2 31.Qxb3 Bd5 32.Qc3 Qxc3 33.bxc3 is another of those pawn up but bishops of opposite colors and next to no future positions.] **31.axb3 a6! 32.f3 Qe3+?!** [32...Qxc4 33.bxc4 Re2 34.b4 Rc2 35.c5 f6+/= And another.] **33.Bf2 Qd2?! 34.Qxf7+/-**

With the disappearance of this pawn, a new factor emerges -- Black's more exposed king. **34...Qxb2** [34...Re2 looks aggressive, but White has various ways to defend f2, and on ...Qxb2 the rook gets into the game with Rd1 as in the game.] **35.Rd1!** [35.Ra5!? is a scare, but 35...Re5! avoids complete disaster. *(35...Bb5?? 36.Rxb5; 35...b5? 36.Rxa6)* 36.Rxe5 Qxe5 37.Qc4 is BOC with queens for a change, which favors White's winning chances on paper but any win would be long-winded.] **35...Qc2??** Missing the point. [Black absolutely must upset White's queen with 35...Qf6 36.Qh5+ *(36.Qxf6!? gxf6 37.Rd6* is a tough ending as well.*)* 36...Kg8 and the game continues. *(36...Qh6 37.Qc5)*] **36.Rd4!** Out of nowhere -- threatening mate. **36...Qc1+ 37.Kh2 Re4 38.Rxe4 Bxe4 39.Qh5+ Qh6 40.Qxh6+ Kxh6 41.fxe4 Kg5 42.Kg3 g6 43.Bb6 1-0**

(4) Argo,Guy (1928) - Mercado,Adam (1834) [C25]

Mechanics' June TNM San Francisco (5.6), 29.06.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 Bc5?! [Stockfish 13 suggests 3...exf4 with a advantage for Black. So much for the Age of Romantic Chess.] **4.fxe5**

4...Nxe5? [This piece sacrifice makes it easy for White. Much trickier is 4...d6!? 5.exd6 Qxd6] **5.d4 Bb4 6.dxe5 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Qh4+ 8.Ke2 Qxe4+ 9.Be3** [9.Kf2!] **9...b6 10.Nf3 Ne7**

11.Qd3? Almost everything else is better, with practiaclly a winning position. **11...Qa4?** [11...Ba6!! comes so close to turning the game around! Alas, White is still solidly better if not barely winning: 12.Qxa6 Nd5 13.Ke1! *(13.Qd3?? Nf4+)* 13...Qxe3+ 14.Be2 Qxc3+ *(14...Nf4 15.Kf1 Qxc3 16.Rc1)* 15.Kf2 Qe3+ 16.Kf1 Qc3 17.Re1 Qxc2 18.Qa3+/- Three pawns for the piece! But sooner or later that piece will be effective.] **12.Kd2 Bb7 13.Qc4 Qa5** Endgames are great for White of course. **14.Qb4 Qd5+ 15.Bd3 c5 16.Qb3 Qc6 17.c4 0-0 18.Bf4** Any rook-to-the-center was better **18...h6 19.Rae1 Qe6 20.Be4?! Bxe4 21.Rxe4 g5** [21...d5!? 22.cxd5 Nxd5 23.Kc1 b5 at least puts a scare in White.] **22.Bg3 f5**

23.exf6! Qxe4 24.Re1 Nice decisive play by Guy. Giving back material temporarily for a direct win. **24...Qxe1+** A better try than letting that pawn make it to e7 or further, but it's reached "futile." **25.Nxe1** [25.Bxe1! sending the bishop to the long diagonal.] **25...Rxf6 26.Nd3 Nc6 27.c3 Re8 28.Qd1 Re4 29.Qh5 Kf8?! 30.h4!** That should, and does, break down the defences. **30...gxh4 31.Bxh4 Rfe6 32.Qf5+ Ke8 33.Nf4 Rd6+ 34.Kc1 Rxc4 35.Bf6 Nd8 36.Qg6+ 1-0**

(5) Parsons,Stephen (1517) - Tsolias,Georgios (1679) [A21]

Mechanics' June TNM u1800 San Francisco (5.14), 29.06.2021

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 f5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.e3 Be7 6.d4 0-0 7.Nge2 c6 8.0-0 Na6 Good play by both sides in this English Opening. The black knight has possibilities from the a6 square so is well posted for now. White is just a tad better, as is usual with the first move. **9.Bd2 Nc7 10.Qb3 Ne6 11.Rad1 Qc7 12.dxe5 Nc5?**

Hitting the white queen, but overlooking the reply. **13.exd6! Bxd6** [13...Nxb3 14.dxc7 is clear pawn up ending] **14.Qc2 a5 15.a3 Be6** [15...a4! would fix the queenside pawns] **16.b3 Qf7 17.a4 Be5 18.Nd4 Bxd4 19.exd4 Nxb3!?**

Black is worse and tries to mix it up. Stephen finds a powerful continuation. **20.d5!** cutting off the black bishop on the a2-g8 diagonal **20...cxd5 21.cxd5 Nxd5 22.Qxb3 Ne3** Black makes the most of the discovered attack on the white queen. It's still bad though. **23.Qxb7 Qxb7 24.Bxb7 Nxf1 25.Kxf1 Rab8 26.Bd5 Kf7 27.Bxe6+ Kxe6 28.Nb5**

The endgame may seem to offer Black chances for salvation, but the white pieces work well together. It's instructive to see how much better the bishop and knight are compared to a black rook. **28...Rbd8 29.Re1+ Kd7 30.Bg5!** not bothering with taking the a-pawn. The initiative gains more than that here. **30...Rde8 31.Rd1+ Kc6 32.Rc1+ Kb6 33.Be3+**

Black must lose the exchange in any case. The resulting knight up endgame is an easy win for White. **33...Rxe3 34.fxe3 Rf7 35.Kf2 g6 36.h4 Rd7 37.Kf3 Rd2 38.Rc4 Rd1 39.Nd4 Rf1+ 40.Kg2 Rb1 41.Ne6 Rb4 42.Rd4 Rxd4 43.exd4 Kc6 44.Nf8 Kd5 45.Nxh7 Kxd4 46.Nf8 Kc4 47.Nxg6 Kb4 48.h5** Black resigned. A fine game by Stephen! **1-0**

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June TNM: u1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	**FM Kyron Griffith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12860484)**	12860484	2493	W11	W9	W3	W2	H---	4.5	350.00
2	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2278	W17	W21	W10	L1	W7	4.0	128.33
3	**Theodore Biyiasas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13989054)**	13989054	2155	W18	W14	L1	W6	W10	4.0	128.33
4	**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2013	L10	X---	W18	W16	W12	4.0	128.33
5	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1997	H---	W12	D15	H---	W16	3.5	105.00
6	**Abhinav Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)**	15467440	2087	H---	W19	W8	L3	H---	3.0	
7	**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	15206848	1980	X---	L10	W22	W9	L2	3.0	
8	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	12517167	1928	W13	H---	L6	H---	W18	3.0	
9	**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)**	16828914	1855	W23	L1	W14	L7	W15	3.0	
	Gary Harris									

10	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12834452)	12834452	1827	W4	W7	L2	X15	L3	3.0	
11	Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	12459313	1873	L1	L18	B---	W20	D14	2.5	
12	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1804	D15	L5	W19	X17	L4	2.5	
13	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1800	L8	B---	L16	W21	D17	2.5	
14	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	12931024	1622	B---	L3	L9	W19	D11	2.5	105.00
15	Rohan Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15739716)	15739716	1929	D12	W20	D5	F10	L9	2.0	
16	Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)	16192001	1925	D20	D22	W13	L4	L5	2.0	
17	WCM Anika Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446678)	15446678	1860	L2	D23	W21	F12	D13	2.0	
18	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1834	L3	W11	L4	W22	L8	2.0	
19	Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	12572270	1900	D22	L6	L12	L14	B---	1.5	
20	Alexander Huberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16419664)	16419664	1794	D16	L15	H---	L11	U---	1.0	
21	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1788	W24	L2	L17	L13	U---	1.0	
22	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1776	D19	D16	L7	L18	U---	1.0	
23	Abhishek Mallela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12888811)	12888811	2159	L9	D17	U---	U---	U---	0.5	
24	Thomas Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	10490936	1900	L21	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. 2021 June TNM: under1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1610	H---	W28	W14	W7	W5	4.5	280.00
2	Paul Henry Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)	13373197	1322	H---	H---	W23	W8	W13	4.0	113.75
3	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1253	W18	W7	L9	X20	W10	4.0	113.75
4	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1251	D19	H---	W18	W16	W9	4.0	113.75
5	Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)	30191497	unr.	W11	W8	W16	W10	L1	4.0	113.75
6	Simone Pagan Griso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17322263)	17322263	1098	L7	H---	W19	W28	W11	3.5	
7	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1569	W6	L3	W21	L1	W26	3.0	
8	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1517	W30	L5	W29	L2	W18	3.0	
9	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	W29	W12	W3	U---	L4	3.0	
	Sebastian Suarez									

10	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1422	W25	W14	W13	L5	L3	3.0	
11	Jacob Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17099171)	17099171	1365	L5	W30	W31	W26	L6	3.0	
12	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	30032729	1127	W15	L9	H---	X27	H---	3.0	
13	Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)	30179081	unr.	W32	W27	L10	W15	L2	3.0	
14	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1609	W21	L10	L1	W24	D17	2.5	
15	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600	L12	D22	W25	L13	W28	2.5	
16	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1491	W23	W31	L5	L4	D19	2.5	
17	David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30206324)	30206324	unr.	H---	H---	U---	W22	D14	2.5	
18	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1679	L3	W19	L4	W29	L8	2.0	
19	Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)	12423364	1612	D4	L18	L6	W31	D16	2.0	
20	Lee Cooper (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14563710)	14563710	1529	W22	H---	D26	F3	U---	2.0	
21	Stephen Wilson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12584515)	12584515	1242	L14	W24	L7	D23	H---	2.0	
22	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1050	L20	D15	H---	L17	B---	2.0	
23	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	887	L16	B---	L2	D21	D29	2.0	
24	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	826	L27	L21	X32	L14	W31	2.0	
25	Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)	30174249	unr.	L10	H---	L15	H---	W30	2.0	
26	Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	unr.	H---	X---	D20	L11	L7	2.0	
27	Joseph Roberts (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16864855)	16864855	1448	W24	L13	H---	F12	U---	1.5	
28	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1228	H---	L1	W30	L6	L15	1.5	
29	Aleksandra Singer (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12853158)	12853158	949	L9	X32	L8	L18	D23	1.5	
30	Thomas Cunningham (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12923340)	12923340	971	L8	L11	L28	B---	L25	1.0	
31	Justin Stimatze (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30189846)	30189846	unr.	B---	L16	L11	L19	L24	1.0	
32	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	12448028	1368	L13	F29	F24	U---	U---	0.0	

20th IM William Addison Memorial Report

The 20th IM William Addison Memorial exceeded expectations, with 72 players registered in this four-round USCF rated event. Chess players were clearly missing over-the-board play, and it showed on that Saturday afternoon. IM Josiah Stearman was the overall top seed, who participated in this event as the result of a flight cancellation to the Philadelphia International. It was a weekend well spent for him, as he took sole first place with a perfect score of 4/4. There was a three-way tie for 2nd between Austin Mei, Tanmay Khattar, and Leyton Ho, all with 3/4.

IM Josiah Stearman (white) takes on Austin Mei in round 3

In the under 1800 section, there were 46 players in total, with many new unrated players. It was great to see new players and perhaps likely the result of more people playing online during the pandemic and coming out to live play for the first time. Despite 46 players and four rounds of play, there was only a 2-way tie for 1st place, as Adam Stafford and Stephen Parsons remained perfect with 4/4 to share the top prize. Vian Yang and Prabhmehar Sodhi were right behind with 3.5/4.

A busy Saturday afternoon at the Mechanics' Institute for the Addison Memorial

Join us for our next live weekend event, the 20th Charles Bagby Memorial on Sunday July 18, details can be found by clicking HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-bagby-memorial-championship-g45-person).

SwissSys Standings. 2021 Addison Memorial: 20th Addison Memorial Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	**IM Josiah Stearman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006506)**	14006506	2482	W14	W22	W2	W6	4.0	425
2	**Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)**	16090452	2149	W18	W4	L1	W13	3.0	121
3	**Tanmay Khattar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13833487)**	13833487	2147	W23	D16	D8	W20	3.0	121
4	**Leyton Ho (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13850433)**	13850433	1841	W12	L2	W22	W16	3.0	121
5	**FM Andrew Boekhoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12685687)**	12685687	2333	W15	D13	W19	U---	2.5	
6	**NM Yashodhan Gogte (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13531225)**	13531225	2192	W17	D19	W21	L1	2.5	
7	**Henry Deng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16681298)**	16681298	2112	L20	W23	D16	W21	2.5	
8	**Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)**	17039584	1886	D10	W26	D3	H---	2.5	
9	**NM Arman Baradaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14466706)**	14466706	2208	L16	W15	D12	D14	2.0	
10	**Shawnak Shivakumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15641965)**	15641965	2178	D8	D20	D14	D17	2.0	
11	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**	12734479	2121	L19	D17	W26	H---	2.0	

12	Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)	14958842	2069	L4	W18	D9	D19	2.0	
13	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	1983	W25	D5	D20	L2	2.0	
14	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1980	L1	W24	D10	D9	2.0	
15	Advay Bansal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16068511)	16068511	1974	L5	L9	W24	W25	2.0	
16	Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)	16192001	1925	W9	D3	D7	L4	2.0	
17	Nathan Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16430495)	16430495	1895	L6	D11	W25	D10	2.0	
18	Alejandro Canales (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16913725)	16913725	1878	L2	L12	W23	W22	2.0	
19	Rithwik Narendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14903560)	14903560	1849	W11	D6	L5	D12	2.0	
20	Patrick Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1847	W7	D10	D13	L3	2.0	
21	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1818	W27	H---	L6	L7	1.5	
22	Jacob Chiang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16093205)	16093205	1991	W24	L1	L4	L18	1.0	
23	Mikhail Molodyk (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13573825)	13573825	1876	L3	L7	L18	W26	1.0	
24	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	12440572	1759	L22	L14	L15	B---	1.0	
25	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	11296106	1643	L13	W27	L17	L15	1.0	
26	Mohammad Soltani (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12889183)	12889183	1745	H---	L8	L11	L23	0.5	
27	Alek Pensky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13214867)	13214867	2000	L21	L25	U---	U---	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. 2021 Addison Memorial: 20th Addison Memorial u/1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1517	W37	W10	W9	W12	4.0	190
2	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	14257838	1372	W38	W13	W16	W6	4.0	190
3	Vian Yang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15804394)	15804394	1620	W25	W8	D14	W16	3.5	53
4	Prabhmehar Sodhi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17272541)	17272541	1570	W35	W22	W11	H---	3.5	53
5	Aryan Morasa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15873486)	15873486	1566	W45	L9	W35	W14	3.0	
6	Arjun Sankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14542170)	14542170	1555	W36	W32	W24	L2	3.0	
7	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	16964125	1488	W46	L12	W40	W26	3.0	
8	Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)	13553308	1359	W39	L3	W29	W24	3.0	

9	Aryan Soni (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15167321)	15167321	1284	W42	W5	L1	W30	3.0	
10	Matthew Perez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16711456)	16711456	1230	W30	L1	W31	W18	3.0	
11	Elliott Regan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15032065)	15032065	1215	W31	W18	L4	W20	3.0	
12	Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)	13377410	1179	W33	W7	W17	L1	3.0	
13	Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)	30191497	unr.	W23	L2	W22	W21	3.0	
14	Carliteau Leger (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12841454)	12841454	1487	W28	W29	D3	L5	2.5	
15	Isaac Sterling (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14316046)	14316046	1236	H---	L17	W43	W32	2.5	
16	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1609	W26	W21	L2	L3	2.0	
17	Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)	15361305	1573	D43	W15	L12	D19	2.0	
18	Jonas Shomorony (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15097261)	15097261	1558	W27	L11	W36	L10	2.0	
19	Daniel Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)	16465203	1555	X---	L24	D32	D17	2.0	
20	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1500	L32	W28	W39	L11	2.0	
21	Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)	13373197	1322	W40	L16	W42	L13	2.0	
22	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1296	W41	L4	L13	W40	2.0	
23	Keith Ballinger (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12779932)	12779932	1251	L13	W37	L30	B---	2.0	
24	Adam Ellner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12925276)	12925276	1164	W44	W19	L6	L8	2.0	
25	Swaminathan Sankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14080777)	14080777	1116	L3	L42	X46	W39	2.0	
26	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	1100	L16	W46	W33	L7	2.0	
27	Brandon Conchas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13352116)	13352116	696	L18	L40	W38	W42	2.0	
28	Noah Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30182833)	30182833	unr.	L14	L20	W45	W34	2.0	
29	Jonathan Moore (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214849)	30214849	unr.	W34	L14	L8	W43	2.0	
30	Kai Sharpe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17304795)	17304795	unr.	L10	W45	W23	L9	2.0	
31	Luka Vyatkin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30209432)	30209432	unr.	L11	B---	L10	W36	2.0	
32	Zakir Ahmad (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30208449)	30208449	unr.	W20	L6	D19	L15	1.5	
33	David Trestor (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12525828)	12525828	1769	L12	W43	L26	U---	1.0	
34	Abhi Kulgod (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	13306912	1317	L29	L39	W37	L28	1.0	

	13306912)								
35	**JJ Ziebart (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30166361)**	30166361	1072	L4	W38	L5	U---	1.0	
36	**Kadhir Suresh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15721954)**	15721954	658	L6	W41	L18	L31	1.0	
37	**Krish Agarwal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30198066)**	30198066	unr.	L1	L23	L34	W45	1.0	
38	**Tyler Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30212590)**	30212590	unr.	L2	L35	L27	W41	1.0	
39	**Alexia Laffin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30211880)**	30211880	unr.	L8	W34	L20	L25	1.0	
40	**Aaron Metyko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30209636)**	30209636	unr.	L21	W27	L7	L22	1.0	
41	**Chester O'Neal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205708)**	30205708	unr.	L22	L36	B---	L38	1.0	
42	**Sam Pearce (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205827)**	30205827	unr.	L9	W25	L21	L27	1.0	
43	**Simone Pagan-Griso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17322263)**	17322263	1098	D17	L33	L15	L29	0.5	
44	**Mohammad Soltani (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12889183)**	12889183	1745	L24	U---	U---	U---	0.0	
45	**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	30164211	992	L5	L30	L28	L37	0.0	
46	**Andrea Fossati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30206267)**	30206267	unr.	L7	L26	F25	U---	0.0	

New Thursday Night Marathon Rounds 3&4 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The Thursday Night Marathon finished rounds 3&4, with GM Alex Lenderman taking two half-point byes as he is playing the World Open in Philadelphia. The action was in high gear however, and GM Gadir Guseinov showed again just how strong a player he is, quickly defeating two very strong players: FM Max Gedajlovic and IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla. Only two players remain with perfect scores after four rounds, as Sina Mohammadi joins Guseinov in perfection after he defeated IM Elliott Winslow in round 4, taking advantage of a blunder by Winslow in time pressure, in a position where Winslow went from slightly better to losing.

The action game of the evening came in round 3 between IM Dhulipalla and Austin Mei. Possibilities galore in this game, and GM Nick de Firmian has annotated the game on short notice for our readers entertainment!

(6) IM Dhulipalla (Swarnapuri),Bala Chandra (2423) - Mei (TitanChess666),Austin (2267) [A48]

Mechanics' ThNMo June/July Chess.com (3.2), 01.07.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 The London System. So popular these days. **2...g6** Austin chooses a dynamic continuation with options for central breaks. **3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6 7.h3 e5! 8.Bh2** [8.dxe5 Ne4! gets the pawn back with equal chances and an open position] **8...Nd7!? 9.c4 f5!?** These last two moves are a little provacative and give White some central opportunities. **10.Nc3 exd4 11.exd4 g5** Clearly Austin is in an aggressive mood. **12.d5 Nce5 13.Nd4 Nb6 14.Ne6 Bxe6 15.dxe6 Re8 16.Qb3 Kh8 17.Bh5!**

Black is compelled to take the pawn and allow White serious activity in the center. It may not be so bad but requires careful defense. **17...Rxe6 18.c5 Rh6 19.cxb6 Rxh5 20.bxc7 Qxc7 21.Nd5 Qf7 22.Bxe5!** This seems risky but it gives White strong play on the c-file. If the black knight stays on the board it can retreat to c6 to stop the rook invasion. **22...Bxe5 23.Rac1 b6** This is slow, 23...g4! gives strong attacks to both sides. **24.Rc7 Qg8 25.Rfc1 g4! 26.h4 Rxh4 27.g3 Rh3 28.Qd3 f4 29.Ne7** [29.Qe4! fxg3 30.Ne7 gxf2+ 31.Kf1] **29...fxg3 30.f4**

30...g2? [30...gxf3! 31.Nxg8 f2+ 32.Kg2 Rh2+ 33.Kf3

would be a fascinating positon. Black has full value for the queen. Both 33...Rf8+ and 33...Rg8 are equal.] **31.Qe4 Qf8 32.Rc8!** Pinning the queen decides the game. There is no attack for Black now and White wraps up the point. **32...Rh1+ 33.Kxg2 Rxc1 34.Rxa8! Rc2+ 35.Kg3 Bxf4+ 36.Qxf4 Rg2+** [36...Qxa8 37.Qf6#] **37.Kh4 Rh2+ 38.Qxh2 Qxa8 39.Qxd6 Qh1+ 40.Kxg4 Qg2+ 41.Kf5 Qf2+ 42.Ke6 Qe3+ 43.Qe5+ Qxe5+ 44.Kxe5 Kg7 45.Nc8 h5 46.Nxa7 Kg6 47.Kf4 Kf6 48.Nc8 b5 49.Na7 b4 50.Nc6 b3 51.axb3 Ke6 52.Nd4+ Kd5 53.Nc2 h4 54.b4 Kc4 55.Kg4 h3 56.Kxh3 Kb3 57.b5 Kxc2** Swarnapuri won by resignation **1-0**

To watch the broadcast of the evenings rounds, please click here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pfm_j86EG1k (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pfm_j86EG1k)

Here are the standings going into next week

SwissSys Standings. NewThNM: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	F 4

1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2651	W25	W10	W5	W
2	Sina Mohammadi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14116846)	sina101	14116846	2163	W26	W24	W14	W
3	GM Alex Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)	alexanderl	12787646	2703	W18	W9	H---	H
4	IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)	swarnapuri	30100858	2523	W31	W23	W7	L
5	FM Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	mmsanchez	14947382	2213	W33	W27	L1	W
6	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	flightsoffancy	10345120	2157	L27	W34	W33	W
7	Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	titanchess666	16090452	2149	W28	W17	L4	W
8	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	X45	W36	H---	H
9	Callaghan McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	W43	L3	W26	W
10	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	W46	L1	W29	W
11	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2nf31-0	16425316	1085	W20	D15	D16	W
12	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	D42	W39	W45	L
13	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	nathanf314	13001390	2004	W34	H---	W15	L
14	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W35	W29	L2	D
15	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	kingsmasher35	12797931	1789	W37	D11	L13	W
16	Fong Kevin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	H---	W42	D11	D
17	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	loltheawesomedude	16497860	1531	W41	L7	W35	D
18	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1488	L3	W43	W30	D
19	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	mangonel	14006141	1940	F29	L35	X36	W
20	NM Tom Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	L11	F28	W46	W
21	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	W36	X45	F27	L
22	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	1677	H---	H---	L28	W
23	Ethan Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	erm999	16090467	1585	W32	L4	W37	L
24	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	W38	L2	H---	H
25	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1481	L1	W46	W40	L
26	Sarvagnya Brahmanapally (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	bsarvagnya	16466227	1323	L2	W41	L9	W

	16466227)							
27	Casimir Dudek (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101045)	thechesskid2021	30101045	1284	W6	L5	X21	L
28	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020areeews	16802870	1220	L7	X20	W22	L
29	Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)	greenninja2019	30015889	1165	X19	L14	L10	W
30	Jimolee Gray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30172836)	grayj43	30172836	unr.	H---	H---	L18	W
31	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L4	D32	W39	L
32	Adithya Shankar Katepalli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30153861)	2021adi	30153861	824	L23	D31	X42	L
33	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1335	L5	W38	L6	L
34	Aditha Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	1185	L13	L6	L41	W
35	Kevin Thompson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13110777)	acalbear	13110777	1120	L14	W19	L17	L
36	JJ Ziebart (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30166361)	tomatosoupgirl	30166361	1072	L21	L8	F19	W
37	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	bruce_hedman	17344551	1055	L15	W44	L23	L
38	Victor Beauchamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30154650)	greatboomer	30154650	807	L24	L33	X44	L
39	Ishan Goteti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17016988)	aurex79	17016988	615	W44	L12	L31	L
40	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	Vincitore51745	12814843	unr.	H---	H---	L25	L
41	Jonathan Rice (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205348)	ricejonathanc	30205348	unr.	L17	L26	W34	L
42	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1346	D12	L16	F32	U
43	Thomas Cunningham (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12923340)	banjotom	12923340	971	L9	L18	H---	U
44	James Hamlett (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12374510)	james_hamlett_IV	12374510	1561	L39	L37	F38	U
45	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	figsnoring	16551291	1015	F8	F21	L12	U
46	Arumin Ravisankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30025152)	aruminchess	30025152	869	L10	L25	L20	L

Tony's Teasers

Here is a mate in three from longtime Mechanics' Institute player Tony Lama. This should occupy a good chunk of your time this weekend!

White to move and mate in 3. Kenneth Howard, 1927.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

July 13-August 24: Tuesday Night Marathon Live; 7 rounds, FIDE & USCF rated, G/120;d5 - Live @ Mechanics': https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person)

July 18: Charles Bagby Memorial; 4 rounds, USCF rated, G/45;d5 - Live @ Mechanics':
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-bagby-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-bagby-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated, monthly publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129015050/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 18: Botvinnik – Smyslov 1954

Vassily Smyslov was Botvinnik's next challenger, after decisively winning the Zurich 1953 Candidates Tournament - two points ahead of David Bronstein.

Bronstein's book of that tournament is considered one of the all-time great chess books.

Once again Botvinnik escaped by the skin of his teeth, retaining the title in a drawn match of +7 -7 =10.

The games were sharp and interesting, and at one point down the middle there were eight decisive results in a row!

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1. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 9th Match Game 1954.

White moves. How do you deal with this rook check?

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2. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 10th Match Game 1954.

Black moves. Bust loose.

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3. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 12th Match Game 1954.

White moves. When all else fails…

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4. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 13th Match Game 1954.

White resigned, but why? What happens after 1.Rxb5?

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5. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 14th Match Game 1954.

Black moves. 1…Qe2? Or something else?

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6. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 16th Match Game 1954.

White moves. Win a little something.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

So Good! So Nice! So Wesley Fabulous!

Like the lyrics to the famous James Brown song “I Got You,” we have reason to celebrate. Chess in America has the strongest top players we have ever had, with Caruana, Dominguez, Nakamura and new arrival Aronian in the top 20, Not to mention the talented young 2700 plus players Sam Shankland and Jeffery Xiong. The American player who is making the biggest splash though is the US Champion, Wesley So.

The latest show from So was total domination of the world’s top players at the Chess Tour in Paris. The star-studded field included his great rivals Fabiano Caruana (#2 rating in the world), challenger Ian Nempomniachtchi, MVL, young superstar Alireza Firoujza, Aronian and even Vladimir Kramnik. Here Wesley gave anther World Champion style performance. He finishing a remarkable two and a half points ahead of the field. This is reminiscent of Alekhine in San Remo 1930. Yet we must also remember that So is the only player who evenly trades blows with Carlsen on a regular basis - winning these online matches against the champ as often as he loses.

The rules for making a challenge to the World Championship would have worked well for Wesley in the 1930s when Alekhine was the champion. His string of victories would gain the attention of a sponsor and thus he could directly challenge the champ to a match with the appropriate purse. The hard fact of the chess world today is that even with all these tournament victories Wesley will have a difficult time getting a challenge match. He must go through the official FIDE system, and hence first he must qualify into the 2022 Candidates Tournament when there are only a couple of routes available. No player qualifies on rating anymore, so Wesley must finish first or second in the World Cup or FIDE Grand Prix just to get a spot in the eight player Candidates in 2022. It is a hard job winning the Candidates Tournament even if you get there as form and luck have a lot to do with it. Still, one should just tune into James Brown – So Good! So Nice! (Good luck Wesley!)

(1) Firouzja,Alizera - So,Wesley [D00]

Paris Grand Chess Tour, 21.06.2021

Young Firouzja is the most promising teenager on the planet. Will he be like Bobby Fischer or Kasparov? That remains to be seen. Just now he seems to be learning from the very best and not yet their equal. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5** The Trompowsky Opening is as good as most. **2...d5 3.e3 c5!** An exclamation mark for aggression. Typical of So. **4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.dxc5**

Black has the bishop pair and should win back the pawn on c5. White has better pawn structure - "dynamic equality." **5...Nc6 6.Bb5 e6 7.c4** Hitting at the center to keep equal control there. **7...dxc4 8.Nd2 Bxc5 9.Ngf3 c3** may as well disrupt the white pawn structure since this pawn is doomed anyway **10.bxc3 0-0 11.0-0 f5 12.Nd4 Bd7 13.Rb1 Rc8 14.Qh5 Qf6** The black kingside is a little loose, but can be defended. **15.Rfd1 Qg6 16.Qe2 Rfd8 17.N2f3 Qf6 18.e4?!** Opening lines, but this trades off Black's doubled pawn. **18...Bb6 19.exf5 Nxd4 20.cxd4 Qxf5 21.Bd3 Qf6 22.Qe4**

22...h6! Calmly defending. There is nothing serious about the white queen coming to h7. By itself the queen cannot trouble the black king here. **23.Qg4+ Qg7 24.Qh4 Ba4 25.Re1 Bxd4 26.Re4?** Planning to decide the game on the g-file. Black has resources with all pieces on active squares. **26...Bf6 27.Qh3 Rxd3 28.Rg4 Bg5** Blocking the g-file. This loses the bishop back or a4, but then the question is who has the real attack. **29.Rxa4**

29...Qb2! Suddenly it is Black who is attacking. The counter attack is powerful as White has decisive trouble on the back rank. **30.Rf1 Rc1** It seems as if White should be able to defend somehow, but note the scattered white forces on all sides of the board against the coordinated black forces. **31.g4 Rxf1+ 32.Kxf1 Qb5!** Black wins at least a rook with the threat to capture on a4 and the terrible threat of a discovery check. Firouzja resigned. **0-1**

(2) So,Wesley - Vachier-Lagrave,Maxim [D85]

Paris Chess Tour, 25.06.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 MVL is an expert on the Grunfeld. Wesley doesn't back down and plays the most challenging line - the Exchange Variation. **4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.h3 0-0 9.Be2 Nc6 10.Be3 cxd4 11.cxd4 f5** [11...Qa5+ can be meet by 12. Kf1, 12. Qd2 with an endgame coming, or the move I expect So would have played, 12. Bd2.] **12.Bc4+ Kh8**

13.0-0! Aggressive play, sacrificing a pawn for the initiative. Wesley has a dynamic style where he doesn't worry too much about material. Maybe this is not better than the alternatives, but it is the most direct and double-edged. **13...f4** [13...fxe4 14.Ng5 is clearly compensation for the pawn.] **14.Bd2 Nxd4 15.Bc3 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3** Black has an extra pawn yet the black pawns don't threaten. The game is objectively equal though it seems more fun for White. **16...Bd7 17.Rfd1 Qc7**

18.Rac1! Rad8 19.Bb4!? Bc6 20.Bd5 Qe5 21.Rc5 A tense postion with all the pieces focused on the central squares. **21...Bxd5 22.exd5 Rd7 23.d6** directly opening the game. White has an edge, so Black must take care. **23...Qe6 24.dxe7 Rxd1+ 25.Qxd1 Qxe7 26.Rc4 Rd8?**

Black needed to play 26....Qf7 to get out of the skewer. This allows a winning blow. **27.Rc8!** Black must lose the queen or the rook. MVL resigned. **1-0**

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 9th Match Game 1954.

1.Rxe4! rocked the World Champion back on his heels. After **1…dxe4 2.Rb8+ Bc8 3.Bb5+!** aced it. Botvinnik played on the exchange down for a few moves before resigning: **3…Qxb5 4.Rxb5 Ne6 5.Bf6 Rxg2 6.h5 Ba6 7.h6 1-0.**

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2. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 10th Match Game 1954.

1…Nxe5! wins a crucial pawn and frees up black's game. If now 2.fxe5? then 2…Qxe4+ wins on the spot. Botvinnik opted for a slow death: **2.Qe3 Ng4 3.Qg3 Qxg3 4.fxg3 Nf2! 5.Kxf2 Rxd2+ 6.Ke3 Rxb2 7.Rb1 Rxb1 8.Rxb1 c5 9.Rd1 Ra8 10.Rd6 Rb8 11.Kd2 c4 12.Kc2 g6 13.Rc6 c3 14.Kb3 Rc8 0-1.**

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3. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 12th Match Game 1954.

1.f7+! takes the tiger by the tail. **2…Rxf7** Also losing is 1…Kxf7 2.Qxg7+ Ke8 3.Qh8+ Ke7 4.Rg7+ Kd6 5.Rg6+ winning the queen. **3.Qd8+ Kh7** (3…Rf8 4.Bxd5+) **4.Bxd5 Nf2+ 5.Kg2 Qf6 6.Qxf6 Rxf6 7.Kxf2 Rxf5+ 8.Bf3 Rf4 9.Rg4 1-0.**

---

4. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 13th Match Game 1954.

Smyslov resigned, as mate is unavoidable. If **1.Rxb5 g3! 2.hxg3 Ne3!** followed by **…Rh8#.** Or **1.Nf4 Rg5#.**

---

5. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 14th Match Game 1954.

If 1…Qe2? 2.Bxb7 Nxg5 black is the exchange down and the attack has fizzled out. Smyslov kept it going with **1…Bxa8!! 2.Rxb2 Nxg5+ 3.Kh2 Nf3+ 4.Kh3 Bxb2.** The white queen has no targets, and the three minor pieces buzz and hound the white king without mercy: **5.Qxa7 Be4 6.a4 Kg7 7.Rd1 Be5 8.Qe7 Rc8 9.a5 Rc2 10.Kg2.** White is helpless. **10…Nd4+ 11.Kf1 Bf3 12.Rb1 Nc6 0-1.** Coming up is …Bd4.

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6. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 16th Match Game 1954.

Simply trading everything with **1.Rxd8 Rxd8 2.Rxd8 Nxd8** followed by **3.Nf6+ Kg7** and then attacking the b-pawn with **4.Nd5** forcing **4…b5** and finally **5.Nc7** wins a pawn - and ultimately the game: **5…g5 6.Kf3 gxf4 7.gxf4 c4 8.bxc4 bxc4 9.Nxa6 f6 10.Nc7 fxe5 11.fxe5 Kg6 12.Ke4 Kg5 13.a4 Kh4 14.a5 Nc6 15.a6 Kxh3 16.Nb5 c3** Trying to slow white down. **17.Nbxc3 Kg4 18.Nd4 Na7 19.Nd5 h5 20.Nf6+ 1-0.** This was Botvinnik's last win of the match. Smyslov won two more, with six draws, but it wasn't enough to take the title.

Solution To Tony's Teaser

1. Rf7!! Re8, 2.R7xf6 Bb5, 3.R6f4#

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 #976

July 10, 2021

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Tuesday Night Marathon Begins Tuesday July 13

by Abel Talamantez

Inside the Mechanics' Institute's Tuesday Night Marathon

We will commence with our first full return of the TNM starting this Tuesday, with our 7-round FIDE rated Tuesday Night Marathon. We will have three sections (2000+, 1600-1999, and U/1600) with a time control of G/120;d5. We will broadcast 10 boards with live commentary on our Twitch channel, featuring the top eight boards in the open section, and top boards in the lower two sections.

Masks are optional if you are fully vaccinated, but otherwise facemasks and social distancing will be required. We have 44 players already registered with a capacity of 90. Register now to save your spot by following this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJulAug2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonJulAug2021).

To see full tournament details as well as advanced entries, please click here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person)

GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead will provide commentary on the games. Abel Talamantez and Judit Sztaray will be the Arbiters. We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday night for the start of the next TNM!

New Thursday Night Marathon Rounds 5&6 Report

by Abel Talamantez

It was an action-packed evening for rounds 5 & 6 of the Mechanics' Institute's Thursday Night Marathon. Austin Mei seized the opportunity rising players look for when playing a grandmaster, as he took advantage of an overlooked pin by GM Alex Lenderman and won a crucial central pawn, causing Lenderman's position to unravel and Mei to obtain a winning position. The game ultimately ended in a draw, but it was an example to show the importance of putting pressure against more experienced players and creating opportunities. GM Gadir Guseinov made quick

work of a game with Sina Mohammadi, who won his first four games, only to get hit with the buzzsaw of facing the two GM's. Guseinov then went on to draw NM Mike Walder in round 6. Guseinov holds a half point lead over the field heading into the final two rounds next week. IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla is in 2nd place with 5/6 after an impressive win in round 6 against FM Max Gedajlovic. Four players sit at 4.5, including Lenderman, Walder, IM Elliott Winslow, and Austin Mei.

Tune in next Thursday for the final two rounds!

To watch the broadcast, please click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTbTVBxmB-I)

Here are some games from the evening, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(3) GM Aleksandr Lenderman (AlexanderL) (2693) - Austin Mei (TitanChess666) (2282) [A45]

Live Chess Chess.com, 09.07.2021

[de Firmian]

There is over a 400 rating point difference in this game, but TitanChess666 (Austin Mei) is fast improving. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Nbd2 Nxd2 7.Qxd2 Bf5 8.c4 c6 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nd7 12.Rfd1 Bg4 13.Be2 e6 14.Rac1 Qe7 15.Bg3 a5 16.b3 Rfe8 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Bxf3**

Alex Lenderman is a strong grandmaster and knows his openings well. Austin with Black chooses a very practical approach, taking a defensive position which makes its hard for White to progress. White has the bishop pair and a little more space, but the black pawns on c6 and e6 forstall any easy advance. **18...Qb4** Black would be happy with a queen trade that opens the a-file. **19.Qc2 Nb6 20.Qc5 Bf8** patient defense **21.Qc2 Bg7 22.h4 h5** Very good. This keeps the game more closed which favors a knight over a bishop. **23.Be4 Kh7 24.Qc5 Nd5 25.Qc4 Red8 26.Rc2** Lenderman is having trouble finding a really good plan to move forward. If this were classical time control he would have more time to figure something out. **26...Rd7 27.Rdc1 Kg8 28.Qe2 Qe7 29.Rc5?!** This doesn't do much and wastes time. **29...a4** [29...Bf6! would win the h-pawn] **30.Bxd5 exd5**

31.b4? A serious mistake from the grandmaster. White would be worse in any case (after a move like 31. Qb2), but this loses a key center pawn. **31...Bxd4! 32.R5c2 Bb6**

White is a clear pawn down with the worse position. Lenderman struggles to get some play. **33.b5 c5 34.Qf3 Re8 35.Rd1 d4 36.exd4 Rxd4 37.Rxd4 cxd4 38.Rc4 a3! 39.Kh2 Bc5 40.Qd3 b6**

Austin has solidified the queenside and controls the e-file. With the extra passed d-pawn the position should be winning. **41.Rc2 Qe4 42.Qd1 Qe1** [42...d3 43.Rd2 Rd8 would be a good plan, tying the white pieces down] **43.Qd3 Qe4 44.Qd1 Qe1 45.Qd3**

45...Qe4? Austin was a bit short of time and decides to repeat moves against his illustrious opponent. Courage Austin! This positon is terrific for Black. Congratulations for scoring something against Lendermann, but next time no more Mr. Nice Guy. **1/2-1/2**

(1) Sina Mohammadi (sina10) (2107) - GM Gadir Guseinov (GGuseinov) (2594) [A10]

Live Chess Chess.com, 09.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 d6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nc3 Bf5!? 8.h3 Polugaevsky used to play 8. Nh4 here. Stockfish suggests 8. d5 Na5 9. Nd4 with an edge. **8...a6 9.Kh2** This and the next move are a little slow for White, as they let Black move into the center. **9...Rb8 10.Re1 Ne4! 11.Nxe4 Bxe4 12.e3?!** [12.Be3] **12...e5! 13.dxe5?!** Opening the game lets the black pieces invade. 13. d5 or 13. b3 kept the disadvantage smaller. **13...dxe5 14.Bd2 Bd3**

15.Qc1? [Now White gets in serious trouble. It was necessary to give up a pawn with 15.e4 Bxc4 16.b3 Be6 17.Rc1 when admittedly its a clear pawn down at least, but the white pieces do have decent squares] **15...e4 16.Ng1 Qf6**

Gadir does this to poeple. The white position is a shambles. **17.f3** This is bad, but [17.Bc3 Qxf2 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Qc3+ f6 20.Rad1 Ne5 is also completely miserable for white] **17...Qxb2** That's it folks. Black wins the exchange to go with the extra pawn and position. That would be plenty for most people and way too much for Guseinov. **18.fxe4 Qxa1 19.Qxa1 Bxa1 20.Rxa1 Rfe8**

21.Nf3 Bxe4 22.Re1 Rbd8 23.Bc3 Rd3 24.Bf6 Bxf3 25.Bxf3 Rexe3 26.Rxe3 Rxe3 27.Bd5 Re2+ 28.Kg1 Rxa2 29.h4 h5 30.c5 Rd2 White resigned, which could have happened ten moves ago. **0-1**

(2) FM Max Gedajlovic (MMSANCHEZ) (2250) - IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla (Swarnapuri) (2430) [D07]

Live Chess Chess.com, 08.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bg4 Chigorin's Defense is active and risky. Black allows White to clear the center squares yet the black pieces gain real activity, so it is tricky for the first player to keep control of the board. **4.cxd5 Bxf3 5.dxc6** [5.gxf3 Qxd5 6.e3 is the most usual line for White. The bishop pair and extra center pawn are fine compensation for the doubled f-pawns.] **5...Bxc6 6.Nc3 e6 7.e4 Bb4 8.f3**

8...Qh4+! It may seem that Black is just giving away a tempo by checking and simply being driven back, yet the small weakeness created by 9. g3 gives Black play on the kingside light-squares. **9.g3 Qh5 10.Be2 0-0-0 11.Be3**

11...f5! Active play is required if you play Chigorin's Defense, and this move fits the bill. Chances are now equal in a complex game. **12.e5?** This gives Black control of the important d5 square and a clear advantage. It was hard to find the right move here. [12.Qb3 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 fxe4! 14.Qxe6+ Kb8 15.fxe4 Qa5 16.0-0 Nf6 Leaves Black with the edge due to the active pieces. Relatively best for White was; 12.0-0 Bxc3 13.bxc3 fxe4 14.fxe4 Qg6 15.Bd3 Bxe4 16.Bxe4 Qxe4 17.Bg5 with equal chances] **12...Ne7 13.0-0 Ba5** [13...f4! 14.Bxf4 Bc5 would have been even better] **14.f4 Qh3 15.Rf2 h5 16.Bf1 Qg4** Very nice. Swarnapuri heads for an endgame with all the positional trumps. **17.Qxg4 hxg4 18.Rd1 Nd5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.b3 Bb6**

White is just suffering in this position. The d-pawn is backward, Black has the h-file and it is difficult to do anything active. **21.Bc4 Rd7 22.Rfd2 Kd8 23.Bb5 c6 24.Bc4 Ke7 25.Rd3?!** The wrong square for this rook. **25...Rhd8 26.Bf2?**

The last chance to bail out to "only" a very bad ending with [26.Bxd5 Rxd5 27.b4] **26...Bf3** Now Black wins material. Both white rooks cannot stay on the d-file to guard the d-pawn. **27.R1d2 Be4 28.Rc3?!** The position was lost anyway. **28...Ba5 29.Rdc2 Bxc2 30.Rxc2 Bb6** Swarnapuri won by resignation. Already an exchange down, White loses the d-pawn. **0-1**

SwissSys Standings. New Thursday Night Marathon: Open (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	R 4
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2651	W13	W11	W7	W
2	IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)	swarnapuri	30100858	2523	W30	W18	W6	L
3	GM Alex Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)	alexanderl	12787646	2703	W29	W10	H---	H
4	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	D32	W38	W46	L
5	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	flightsoffancy	10345120	2157	L20	W26	W33	W
6	Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	titanchess666	16090452	2149	W25	W19	L2	W
7	FM Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	mmsanchez	14947382	2213	W33	W20	L1	W
8	Sina Mohammadi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14116846)	sina101	14116846	2163	W24	W12	W15	W
9	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	mangonel	14006141	1940	F34	L27	X35	W
10	Callaghan McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	W41	L3	W24	W
11	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	W36	L1	W34	W
12	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	W43	L8	H---	H
13	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1481	L1	W36	W44	L
14	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	nathanf314	13001390	2004	W26	H---	W16	L
15	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W27	W34	L8	D
16	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	kingsmasher35	12797931	1789	W42	D28	L14	W
17	Fong Kevin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	H---	W32	D28	D
18	Ethan Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	erm999	16090467	1585	W37	L2	W42	L
19	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	loltheawesomedude	16497860	1531	W40	L6	W27	D
20	Casimir Dudek (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101045)	thechesskid2021	30101045	1284	W5	L7	X22	L
21	NM Tom Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	L28	F25	W36	W
22	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	W35	X46	H---	H
23	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	X46	W35	H---	H
24	Sarvagnya Brahmanapally (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16466227)	bsarvagnya	16466227	1323	L8	W40	L10	W
25	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020areeews	16802870	1220	L6	X21	W31	L

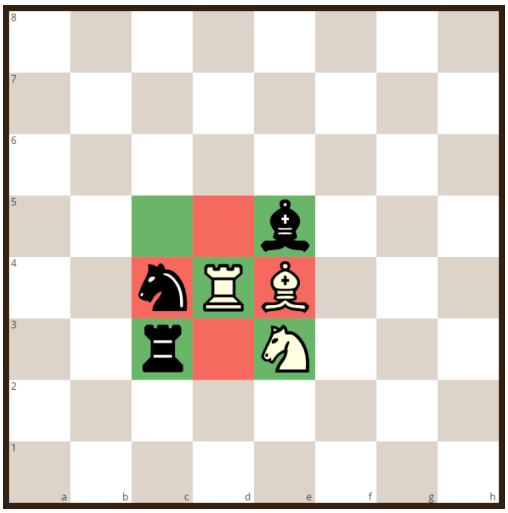
26	Aditha Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	1185	L14	L5	L40	W
27	Kevin Thompson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13110777)	acalbear	13110777	1120	L15	W9	L19	L
28	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2nf31-0	16425316	1085	W21	D16	D17	W
29	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1488	L3	W41	W39	D
30	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L2	D37	W38	L
31	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	1677	H---	H---	L25	W
32	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1346	D4	L17	F37	H
33	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1335	L7	W43	L5	L
34	Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)	greenninja2019	30015889	1165	X9	L15	L11	W
35	JJ Ziebart (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30166361)	tomatosoupgirl	30166361	1072	L22	L23	F9	W
36	Arumin Ravisankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30025152)	aruminchess	30025152	869	L11	L13	L21	L
37	Adithya Shankar Katepalli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30153861)	2021adi	30153861	824	L18	D30	X32	L
38	Ishan Goteti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17016988)	aurex79	17016988	615	W45	L4	L30	L
39	Jimolee Gray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30172836)	grayj43	30172836	unr.	H---	H---	L29	W
40	Jonathan Rice (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205348)	ricejonathanc	30205348	unr.	L19	L24	W26	L
41	Thomas Cunningham (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12923340)	banjotom	12923340	971	L10	L29	H---	U
42	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	bruce_hedman	17344551	1055	L16	W45	L18	L
43	Victor Beauchamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30154650)	greatboomer	30154650	807	L12	L33	X45	L
44	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	Vincitore51745	12814843	unr.	H---	H---	L13	L
45	James Hamlett (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12374510)	james_hamlett_IV	12374510	1561	L38	L42	F43	U
46	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	figsnoring	16551291	1015	F23	F22	L4	U

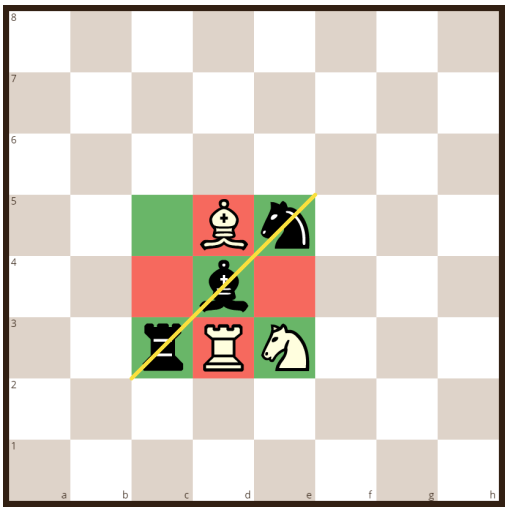
Educational Chess: Chess as a Learning Tool for Students

by Abel Talamantez

I have previously written that I had the opportunity to complete FIDE's Chess in Education Lecturer Course. I can now teach classes on behalf of FIDE to school teachers looking to earn the FIDE title of School Instructor. The idea behind this class and curriculum is to teach school teachers chess - not to develop competetive chess players, but to teach children chess so the teacher can use it as a tool to develop critical thinking skills. This is what is referred to as educational chess, which is to be distinguished from competetive chess. I also had the pleasure to experience a School Instructor course so I can not only see the curriculum, but also to see school teachers from many countries learn chess with the purpose of using it in the classroom. While the class did have some already seasoned chess players, the novelty of how chess would be applied in a classroom was certainly innovative. We also learned about interdisciplinary chess, which is a field of study in how chess can be used to teach regular school subjects such as math, language and history. More information about this can be found on the FIDE Chess in Education page here: https://edu.fide.com/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/https://edu.fide.com/)

One brief example of what we learned was how to employ mini-games to enhance critical thinking, using the moves and rules of chess in a slightly different way. For example we learned the chess variant Tic-Tac-Toe chess, where we use 3x3 Board and using a bishop, knight, and rook on each side, we try to make a classic tic-tac-toe on the board. The rule is no captures are allowed, so if players can not make a tic-tac-toe when placing pieces, they must play out the position to achieve a tic-tac-toe across, diagonal or vertically. Here are some examples.





This really helps young players visualize and strategize problem solving. There are countless ways to use chess as a fun activity to enhance critical thinking in ways educationally applicable to many fields. Chess in many countries is taught as a subject in schools, and there is a growing movement to apply chess to enhance teaching in many other subjects. I think for many chess coaches in schools, having an awareness of the greater possibilities of coaching chess beyond competitive play has immense value, as it can also enhance the in classroom experience in fun ways. We'll share more information on the subject as I also continue to expand my own learning in this subject.

NM Robert Hammie 1947-2021

by IM John Donaldson

NM Robert Hammie (behind IM John Donaldson along with Steve Brandwein)

National Master Robert Hammie, a long-time resident of Oakland, passed away recently at the age of 74. He had battled diabetes for many years.

Born in New York City, Hammie moved to Palo Alto as a teenager and not long after began to play in tournaments in the Bay Area. He made steady progress but it was not until the mid-1970s that he became a Master, one of the few Black players at the time to hold the title. Like many of his contemporaries, Bob's play was influenced by Bobby Fischer, and he adopted the World Champion's repertoire in toto - Najdorf Sicilian and King's Indian as Black and 1.e4 as White (including Fischer's 6.Bc4 in the Open Sicilian). Hammie was a member of the Berkeley Riots entry in the National Telephone League from 1976 to 1979, the latter team taking first place.

Away from the board Hammie taught mathematics at the high school level in the Oakland School District for many years. He was also involved in running after-school chess programs and served as a mentor to troubled youth. The past decade Bob was a fixture at the recently closed Au Coquelet and Berkeley Expresso where he could found playing chess or engaging in

political debate. With the passing of Robert Hammie one more member of the Golden Era of Bay Area chess (1970s) is gone.

Tony's Teasers

Here is a mate in three from longtime Mechanics' Institute player Tony Lama. This should occupy a good chunk of your time this weekend!

White to move and mate in 3. Francis C. Collins 1875

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

July 13-August 24: Tuesday Night Marathon Live; 7 rounds, FIDE & USCF rated, G/120;d5 - Live @ Mechanics': https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person)

July 18: Charles Bagby Memorial; 4 rounds, USCF rated, G/45;d5 - Live @ Mechanics': https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-bagby-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-bagby-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated, monthly publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004555/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 19: Botvinnik – Smyslov 1957

Smyslov earned yet another shot at the title by winning the 1956 Candidates Tournament in Amsterdam.

This time he was not to be denied, taking Botvinnik down +6 -3 =13.

There were few tactical blows in this match. Instead the players ground it out in the late middle-game, with the hungry Smyslov pouncing on Botvinnik's uncharacteristic positional errors and sloppy adjournment analysis.

Now Botvinnik had played three World Championship matches without winning one, with an "automatic" right to a re-match the following year…

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1. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 4th Match Game 1957.

Black moves. Flush the white king out.

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2. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 6th Match Game 1957.

White moves. Remove the defender.

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3. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 9th Match Game 1957.

Black moves. Find the only move that draws.

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4. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 12th Match Game 1957.

White moves. Find the only move that wins.

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5. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 17th Match Game 1957.

Black moves. A famous endgame.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

World Open Success

GM Hans Niemann

Over-the-board tournament chess is back. The resounding turnout for the National Open has been followed this last week by one of the other heritage chess tournaments of the US – the World Open. First started in 1973, this famous tournament has more ups and downs that Vegas. Players will be in last round games where the winner can get $20,000 and the loser nothing. It's like a serious poker tournament, but what is much better is that your skill and nerves completely determine who gets the money.

The 2021 World Open was played over the long July 4th weekend and proved very successful for our former Mechanics' youth star Hans Niemann He took down first in the open section and the $13,000 for first place! Young Hans developed his chess game here at the MI, becoming a strong master and winning the Tuesday Night Marathon.

Though officially taught by IM John Grefe, one must regard IM Elliott Winslow as one of his mentors since Hans learned each time they battled over the board in the TNM. Hans was always a confident and energetic youngster and garnered the nickname "Niemann the Demon." A few years ago his family moved to the East Coast and Hans gained his GM title. Now World Open Champion is added to his resume!

Another success story at the World Open was GM John Fedorowicz, who has run many chess camps here at the Mechanics' and has been a frequent visitor throughout the years. Like William Lombardy he has also been a guest of genial member Richard Hack. (GMs seem to like staying at Richard's place.) John Fed is also a childhood friend of our longtime MI trustee Mark Pinto in the years they played at the Westfield Chess Club.. The Fed is an older grandmaster now, but still packs a punch. He finished 6/9 with a $1,400 prize. We give a couple of the Fed's games from the World Open. This was an interesting journey for one of our older US stars, who is a former World Open champion himself.

(1) Sinha,Sahil (2361) - Niemann,Hans Moke (2571) [E35]

49th Annual World Open Philadelphia USA (4), 03.07.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 g5!? Hans plays risky aggressive chess. White seems to get a small edge out of the opening, but Hans doesn't mind as long as the game is complicated. **8.Bg3 Nc6 9.e3 h5 10.Bb5 h4 11.Be5**

11...0-0! This is actually the safest spot for the black king, despite the advance of the g and h pawns. **12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Nge2 Bd6 14.Na4 Rb8 15.Qxc6 Bxe5 16.dxe5 Ng4 17.Rd1?** Here is where it starts to go wrong for White. Black gets tempi attacking the white queen and takes a strong initiative. [17.Qc3! would keep a small edge for White] **17...Bd7 18.Qa6 Bb5 19.Qxa7** White didn't like 19. Qa5 Nxe5, but this is a piece sacrifice. **19...Ra8 20.Qc5 Bxa4 21.Rxd5**

21...Qxd5! The only move to keep the advantage is this queen sacrifice. **22.Qxd5 Rfd8** Because of the mate on d1 Black wins the queen back. **23.Qd4**

23...Nxe5! Not rushing to recapture the queen gives Black a much easier time convertring the material advantage. **24.b3 Rxd4 25.exd4 Nd3+ 26.Kd2 Nxf2** The black knight dances away from danger. Now on 27. Rf1 Ne4+ 28. Kd3 Bc6 saves both pieces. **27.Rc1 Ne4+ 28.Ke3 Bb5 29.a4 Bxe2 30.Kxe4** The best piece to capture. Now we see Hans' GM technique in action. **30...Rb8 31.Kf5 Rxb3 32.Kxg5 Rb4 33.Kxh4 Rxd4+ 34.Kg3 Rc4 35.Re1** [35.Rxc4 Bxc4 36.Kf4 Kg7 37.a5 Ba6 38.g4 c5 39.Ke5 c4 40.Kd4 Kg6 41.h4 f5 42.gxf5+ Kxf5 is an easy win as the white king can't attack the black bishop due to the c-pawn running] **35...Rc2 36.h4 c5 37.a5 Ra2 38.Kf4 Bd3 39.Re5 Rxa5** A full piece ahead now. The rest needs no comment. **40.Ke3 Bh7 41.Rg5+ Kf6 42.h5 Ra3+ 43.Ke2 c4 44.Rc5 c3 45.g4 c2 46.g5 Bd3+ 47.Kd2 Ra1 48.Rc8+ Kg7 49.h6+ Kh7 50.Rc7 Rd1+ 0-1**

(2) Dominguez,JM (2181) - Fedorowicz,J (2413) [B87]

49th Annual World Open Philadelphia USA (3), 02.07.2021

To win money in a big swiss system tournament you have to beat the lower rated players, even with black. Then make sure you don't lose to the higher rated players and you cash out. The struggle to score a big prize is one of the most exciting things about the World Open. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5** Fedorowicz is an expert in many variations of the Sicilian, including the Najdorf. **8.Bg5** Cudos to Dominguez for playing a super sharp variation. **8...Be7 9.Qe2 b4** precise opening play stops White from having all the fun **10.Na4 0-0 11.0-0-0 Qc7 12.f4 Nbd7 13.Rhe1**

13...Nc5! One of the main things Black needs to do in a Sicilian is dampen the attacking chances of an aggressive White player. The counter attack will follow if you have time to press on the queenside. Fedorowicz is a master of Sicilian strategy, which many MI players learned during our chess camps a few years ago. **14.Nxc5 dxc5 15.Nf3?** This natural move just doesn't work right in the complex Sicilian. Needed was either 15. e5 or 15. Nc6!? Qxc6 16. e5 with chances for an even battle. Now Black takes control. **15...h6! 16.Bxf6 Qxf4+ 17.Kb1 Qxf6 18.e5 Qf4 19.Bc4 Bb7! 20.Rd7 Bxf3 21.Qxf3** [21.gxf3 Bg5 is extremely good for Black] **21...Qxc4**

22.Rxe7? The natural capture just loses. Needed was [22.b3 Qh4 23.g3 which keeps White is the game though he is still down.] **22...Qh4** Cute, forking the two rooks on opposite ends of the e-file. **0-1**

(3) Fedorowicz,J (2413) - Akopian,Vl (2625) [A61]

49th Annual World Open Philadelphia USA (4), 03.07.2021

Akopian was one of the pre-tournament favorites. It can be hard for an aging player to battle against the current top players of the field. Look at Roger Federer who is only 39 years old, and is finally slipping. Of course you age faster in tennis than chess, but players who continue to battle after 60, like the Fed, deserve our respect. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 7.h3** This move against the Benoni seems to give White the easier time. Black has fewer squares to maneuver with. **7...a6 8.a4 Qe7** A good move, stopping 9. e4. Still White just has to develop for an easy game. **9.Bf4 Bg7 10.e3 0-0 11.Be2 Nbd7 12.0-0 Rb8 13.Bh2**

Black is sort of ok, but it's hard to find something to hit at in White's solid position. Meanwhile the white d5 pawn exerts a cramping influence. **13...Ne8 14.Nd2 f5 15.Nc4 Ne5 16.Nb6!** avoiding exchanges to keep Black cramped **16...Nf6 17.a5 Nfd7 18.Nca4 g5?!** looking for kingside play, yet this is more likely a weakeness than an aggressive advance **19.Qd2 Nxb6 20.Nxb6 Bd7**

White is solid on the kingside and can choose which side of the board to play on. **21.f4** This is pretty good, but [Even better is 21.b4! as White takes control of the queenside while allowing no targets for Black on the kingside.] **21...Ng6 22.Nxd7 Qxd7 23.fxg5 b6 24.axb6 Rxb6 25.Ra2 Qe7 26.Bd3** [The greedy 26.Bxa6 Qxg5 27.Bd3 would be a good winning attempt] **26...Qxg5 27.Qf2?!** This allows a liquidation and we soon arrive at a drawn ending. White could keep some edge with the prophylactic [27.Kh1] **27...f4 28.exf4 Qxd5 29.Qc2 Kh8 30.Qc4**

now we get many exchanges and end up in a dead draw ending **30...Qxc4 31.Bxc4 Rxb2 32.Rxa6 Rb4 33.Bd3 Nxf4 34.Bxf4 Rbxf4 35.Rxf4 Rxf4 36.Rxd6** Game agreed drawn. This game was important for Fedorwicz to keep up with the prize winners. **1/2-1/2**

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 4th Match Game 1957.

1…Rxd5! Returns the exchange for a devastating attack. **2.Rxd5 Qg1+! 3.Kc2 Rc8+ 4.Kd3 Qb1+ 5.Kd4** (Or 5.Ke2 Re8+ 6.Ke2 Qe1#) **5…Qxb2+ 6.Ke4 Re8+ 0-1**. After 7.Kd3 Re3+ it's all over.

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2. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 6th Match Game 1957.

1.Rxd5! Again this move! **1…exd5** (Or 1…Rxd5 2.Nxc7 Rc5+ 3.Kb1 followed by Na6 winning.) **2.Nxc7 Rdc8** There's nothing better. **3.Bxc8 Rxc8 4.Nxd5 Rxc6+ 5.Kd2 Ke6 6.Nc3 1-0.**

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3. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 9th Match Game 1957.

1…Rc3! Sets up enough threats to the white king to hold the position. **2.Qd8+** White must take a perpetual check. **2…Kh7 3. Qd7+ Kh8 4.Qd8+ Kh7 5.Qd7+ Kh8 6.Qe8+ Kh7 7.Qe7+ Kh8 8.Qe8+ Kh7 1/2-1/2.**

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4. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 12th Match Game 1957.

1.Rd3! Supporting the passed pawn from behind is the key. If 1.b7? Rb5+. Or 1.Kb3? Rxc5, intending …Rb5+. **1…Ra8 2.Kb3.** Preparing Kb4 and Ra3 with decisive penetration. **2…Ra5 1-0.** Black is busted after 3.Kb4 Ra8 4.Rb3! intending b7 and Ka5, and if 4…Rb8 then 5.Ra3. One way or another white will get in.

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5. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 17th Match Game 1957.

Smyslov used subtle zugzwang and out-flanking motifs to bring home the point in this classic endgame, starting off by winning the h-pawn: **1…Kh5 2.Kf3 Kxh4 3.Ne1 g5 4.fxg5 Kxg5.** Now the idea of …f4 with the subsequent weakening of the pawn at d4 hangs in the air. **5.Nc2 Bd6 6.Ne1 Kh4!** Here comes the "out-flanking" king. **7.Nc2 Kh3 8.Na1 Kh2 9.Kf2 Bh4+ 10.Kf3 Bh4! 11.Nc2 Kg1.** Step by step. **12.Ke2 Kg2 13.Na1 Be7 14.Nc2 Kg3 15.Ne1 Bd8 16.Nc2 Bf6!** Zugzwang. **17.a3 Be7 18.b4 a4! 19.Ne1 Bg5 20.Nc2 Bf6 21.Kd3 Kf2 22.Na1** (Or 22.Kxc3 Ke2 23.b5 Bd8!) **22…Bd8 23.Nc2 Bg5 24.b5 Bd8 25.Nb4 Bb6 26.Nc2 Ba5 27.Nb4 Ke1! 0-1.** Kasparov says: "Completing the out-flanking maneuver. White resigned in view of 70.Nc2+ (70.Kxc3 Ke2) 70…Kd1 71.Na1 Kc1 72.Nc2 Kb2. A textbook endgame!"

Solution To Tony's Teaser

1. d3!! Rxa2 2. Bf2 exf2 3. g4#

1. d3!! Rxd3 2. Nb7 Kxe4 3. Nd6#

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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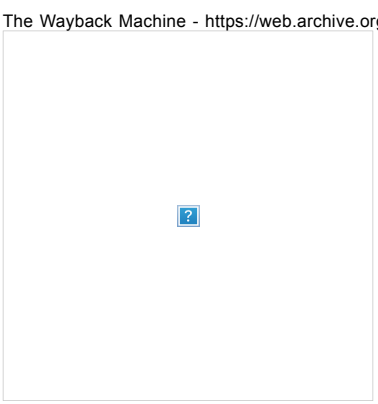

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Newsletter #977

July 17, 2021

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Charles Bagby Memorial Sunday July 18!!

Charles Bagby seated in the black suit with Arthur Stamer and Henry Gross standing behind

Join us this Sunday for the 20th Charles Bagby Memorial live at the Mechanics' Institute with four rounds USCF rated G/45;d5. The tournment starts at 10am with free street parking.

To register, please click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-bagby-memorial-championship-g45-person)

WCM Allyson Wong will be the Chief TD along with Chess Director Abel Talamantez and Assistant TD Michael Hsu. We look forward to a great Sunday live at Mechanics' Institute!

Tuesday Night Marathon Round One Report

by Abel Talamantez

The Tuesday Night Marathon has returned to its seven-round, three-section format with 66 players. While the limited BART service, with trains not yet running past 9pm PT, is keeping some folks away for the time being, things are returning to normal. We have an increased turnout from our last TNM, and we look forward to regular public commuting options returning to full strength soon, helping facilitate more players joining us at the Mechanics' Institute building for chess once again.

In the top section, board 1 featured a battle of seasoned Mechanics' Institute veterans IM Elliott Winslow and Kristian Clemens. The game went long, and it appeared as if Clemens was going to hold the position in an enedgame with rook, knight, and pawns. However, a miscalculation led to a trading of material with Winslow getting the opposition in a king and pawn endgame to seal the win. A tough break for Kristian in an otherwise very well played game. Also with first round wins were NM Siddharth Arun, NM Christophe Bambou, Abhi Penagalapati, and Chelsea Zhou. Chelsea received a full point bye and would be paired with Juan Cendejas in an extra rated game, which was beautifully played by Juan. He responded to Chelsea's Sicilian with 2 b4!? He got the win, showing even the DGT technical manager extraordinaire still has solid game left in his tank.

IM Elliott Winslow and Kristian Clemens on board 1. Juan Cendejas vs Chelsea Zhou on board 5 and Adam Mercado and Joel Carron next to them on 6

In the under 2000 section, nine players go into week 2 with one point. The standout in this round was Albert Starr, who played very well in his upset of Luiz Uribe. Also among the point scorers were Mechanics' regulars Marty Cortinas rising youth Kevin Sun, who upset Glenn Kaplan. In the under 1600 section, 13 players are with one point. Among them are Valerie Jade and David Olson, as well as the up and comin young players Sebby Suarez, Andrew Ballantyne, and Issac Sterling. With 7 rounds of play, there is still ample opportunity for big moves in the standings. Also a big shoutout to Tobias Rex, who came back from a lost position against Sammy Agdamag to win the game.

It was a fun atmosphere at the chess club, as we had the Annex open for post game analysis and skittles. It was great to see players analyzing their games after and play recreational chess once again in that room.

The Chess Annex ready for analysis and skittles

To watch the broadcast, please click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ablfKgwEmCc).

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Winslow,Elliott (2278) - Clemens,Kristian (1997) [D36]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.1), 13.07.2021

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.cxd5 [6.e3 0-0 7.cxd5 exd5 *(7...Nxd5!?)*] **6...exd5 7.Qc2 c6 8.e3 Nf8!?** [8...0-0 9.Bd3 Re8 10.h3!? **a)** 10.0-0-0; **b)** 10.0-0 Nf8 11.h3!? *(11.Rab1; 11.Rae1; 11.Bxf6!? Bxf6 12.b4)* ;] **9.Bd3 g6 10.0-0** [10.h3 Ne6 11.Bh4 *(11.Bh6?? Ng8)* 11...Ng7 12.g4? *(12.0-0; 12.0-0-0!?)* 12...h5!] **10...Ne6 11.Bh4 0-0** [11...Ng7!?] **12.Rab1 a5 13.a3 Ng7 14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 Bf5 16.b5 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 Nf5 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.bxc6 bxc6 20.Rfc1 Nd6 21.Nd2** [21.e4!?] **21...Qd7 22.Rb2 Rfb8 23.Rxb8+ Rxb8 24.Na4 Qb7 25.Nc5 Qa7 26.g3 Be7 27.Ncb3 Rb6 28.Ra1 Qc7 29.Ra8+ Kg7 30.Nc5 Nb5 31.Ndb3 Bxc5 32.Nxc5 Qd6 33.Kg2 h5 34.Qc2** [34.h4] **34...Rb8 35.Ra6 Nc7 36.Ra7 Rb6 37.Qa2 Nb5 38.Rd7 Qf6 39.Qa8?!** [39.Nd3!+/- Nd6 40.Ne5 Rb7 41.Rxb7 Nxb7 42.Qa6 Nd8 43.Qc8 h4 44.gxh4 Qxh4 45.Kf1!] **39...Nd6?!** [39...Nxd4!= 40.exd4 (40.Qa1 Qf3+ 41.Kh3[] *(41.Kg1?? Rb1+!! 42.Qxb1 Ne2+ 43.Kf1 Qh1+ 44.Kxe2 Qxb1-+; 41.Kf1 Qh1#)* 41...Qf5+ 42.Kg2 Qf3+=) 40...Rb2 41.Nd3 Rd2[] 42.Nf4 Rxf2+ 43.Kxf2 Qxd4+= 44.Ke1 Qc3+] **40.Qa2** [40.Qd8 Ne4! *(40...Qxd8 41.Ne6+ Kf6 42.Nxd8+-)* 41.Qxf6+ *(41.Nxe4 dxe4 42.Qxf6+ Kxf6=)* 41...Kxf6 (41...Nxf6?! 42.Ra7!+/- *(42.Re7+/-)*) 42.h3+/= Nxc5 43.dxc5 Ra6= 44.Kf3; 40.Rd8!? Ne4 **a)** 40...Rb2 41.Nd3 Ne4 *(41...Rd2 42.Rh8; 41...Qf5!?)* 42.Rg8+ Kh7 43.Rh8+ Qxh8 44.Qxh8+ Kxh8 45.Nxb2+/=; **b)** 40...Nc4= 41.Rh8?? Nxe3+ #4/0 ; **c)** 40...Nf5 41.Rb8 Rxb8 42.Qxb8 Nd6 43.Qb1; 41.Nd3 Nxf2[] *(41...Rb3?? 42.Rh8)* 42.Rh8[] Qf5= (42...Qe6= 43.Rg8+ *(43.Qf8+ Kf6 44.Qd8+ Kg7=)* 43...Kh7 44.Qf8?? Qf6-+ 45.Nxf2 Rb2)] **40...Nc4?!** [40...h4!=/+] **41.Qe2=** [41.Rb7!? Rxb7 42.Nxb7 h4 43.Qe2 hxg3 44.hxg3 g5 **41...Rb2 42.Qf3=** 0.00/0 **Qxf3+** [42...g5; 42...Rc2; 42...Rd2] **43.Kxf3 Nd2+** [43...g5] **44.Kg2?!** [44.Kf4 Ne4 45.Nxe4 dxe4 46.Kxe4 Rxf2 47.h4] **44...Nc4** [44...Ne4?! 45.Nxe4 dxe4 46.Re7] **45.e4?** [45.Kg1; 45.Kf1; 45.Ne6+ Kg8 *(45...Kh6)* 46.Rd8+ Kh7 47.Ng5+ Kg7 48.Kg1 *(48.Kf3; 48.Kf1)*] **45...dxe4?** [45...Ne3+ 46.Kf3 Ng4 47.Kg2! (47.exd5 Rxf2+ 48.Ke4 cxd5+!-+ *(48...Nf6+ 49.Ke3 Ng4+[] 50.Kd3 cxd5-/+)* 49.Rxd5 Nxh2-+ *(49...Re2+ 50.Kd3 Rxh2)*)] **46.Nxe4= Ne3+ 47.Kf3 Nf5** [47...Nc2=; 47...Nf1=] **48.Ng5 Nh6 49.h3** =/+/= 0.12/0 **49...Kf6 50.Ne4+ Kg7 51.g4** [51.Kf4 Re2 52.f3] **51...hxg4+?!** [51...Rb3+! 52.Ke2 Rxh3 *(52...hxg4; 52...Rb2+)*] **52.hxg4+/-** /\Kf4, f3 **52...Rc2? 53.Rc7??** [53.g5!+- Nf5 *(53...Ng8 54.Nd6 Rd2 55.Rxf7+ Kh8 56.Rd7 Rxd4 57.Nf7+ Kg7 58.Rxd4 Kxf7 59.Rd6 Ne7 60.Ke4)* 54.Rd8! (What I overlooked) and a classic mating net. 54...Ne7 55.Nf6 Rc3+ 56.Ke2 Rc2+ 57.Ke1 Rc1+] **53...Rc4 54.Rd7 Kf8 55.Kf4 f5?!** [55...Nxg4 56.Kxg4 f5+=] **56.g5 Ng4**

57.Nf6? [57.Nc5!? Ke8 58.Rd6 Nxf2! *(58...Ke7 59.Rxg6 Rxd4+ 60.Kxf5+-)* 59.Rxg6 Rxd4+ 60.Kxf5 Rd5+ 61.Ke6 Kf8 (61...Kd8? 62.Rg8+ Kc7 63.Rg7+ Kc8 *(63...Kb6?! 64.Nd7+ Kb5 65.g6)* 64.Nd7+/-) 62.Nd7+ Rxd7 63.Kxd7 Nh3=] **57...Nxf6** [57...Nxf2= 0.00/0] **58.gxf6 c5 59.Ke5 Rxd4 60.Rxd4 cxd4 61.Kxd4 Kf7 62.Ke5 f4 63.f3 g5 64.Kf5 g4 65.Kxg4**

65...Kxf6?? [65...Kg6! 66.Kxf4 Kxf6= Basic lesson in opposion. But Clemens had seconds left, and his impulses failed him.] **66.Kxf4 Ke6 67.Kg5 Kf7 68.Kf5 Kg7 69.Ke6 Kf8 70.Kf6 Kg8 71.f4 Kf8 72.f5 Kg8 73.Ke7 1-0**

(2) Argo,Guy (1928) - Arun,Siddharth (2253) [B15]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.2), 13.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.f3!? The Blackmar-Diemer Gambit (where Black is "committed" to ...c6). **4...exf3 5.Nxf3 Bg4 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Be3** This move is a little slow for a gambit line. It would be a good move in a normal game, but here White has something to prove for the pawn. **8...Bd6 9.h3 Bh5 10.Bg5 Be7 11.g4 Bg6 12.Ne5 Bxc2?!**

[Stockfish 13 just develops with 12...Nbd7 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.Kg2 0-0-/+] **13.Qxc2?** [White needs to be creative. 13.Nxf7!! Kxf7 14.Qe2! Qxd4+ 15.Kg2 Ke8 16.Rae1+/= /=] **13...Qxd4+ 14.Qf2?** [14.Kg2 Qxe5 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Rae1 Qa5 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Rxe6 Nd7 19.Qe2 0-0-0-/+] **14...Qxe5 15.Bf4 Qc5** White has nothing in the coming endgame for the three pawns. **0-1**

(3) Bambou,Christophe (2121) - Riese,Kayven (1900) [C01]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (1.3), 13.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Bd3 c5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3 c4 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.b3 cxb3 9.axb3 0-0 10.c4 b6 11.Nc3 dxc4 12.bxc4 Nbd7 13.Nb5 Bb8 14.Ba3 Re8 15.Nd6 Re6? [15...Bxd6! 16.Bxd6 Ne4! Double attack! 17...Nxd6 but also 17...Nc3 and 18...Nxe2+ *(16...Bb7 17.Bf4* is still a solid advantage for White,with both bishops and pretty good pawns in the center.*)* 17.Bb4 *(17.Be5 Nc3 18.Qe1 Nxe2+ 19.Qxe2 Bb7 20.Qd1 Qc8!* readies removing both minor pieces with a strong major piece game, what with White's weak pawns.*)* 17...a5 18.Qc2 Bb7 19.Ba3 Ng5 20.Nxg5 Qxg5 21.d5 White still has both bishops but the pawns are somewhat compromised; Black isn't much worse.] **16.Nxc8** White cashes in for some material. [16.Nxf7! happens to be even stronger.] **16...Qxc8 17.Ng5 Rc6 18.Bf3 Bf4 19.Bxc6 Qxc6 20.Qf3 Qxf3 21.Nxf3 Rc8 22.g3 Bb8 23.Rac1 Ne4 24.c5 bxc5 25.dxc5 Ndxc5 26.Rfd1 Bd6 27.Rxd6 Nxd6 28.Rxc5 Ra8 29.Nd4 a5 30.Nc6 a4 31.Ra5 Rxa5 32.Nxa5 Nb5 33.Nc4 f6 34.Kf1 Kf7 35.Nd6+ Nxd6 36.Bxd6 Ke6 37.Ba3 Kd5 38.Ke2 Kc4 39.Bf8 g6 40.Bg7 f5 41.Ke3 a3 42.h4 a2 43.Ba1 h6 44.f3 g5 45.h5 Kd5 46.g4 f4+ 47.Kd3 Kc5 48.Ke4 Kc4 49.Bf6 Kb3 50.Kf5 Kc2 51.Kg6 Kd3 52.Kxh6 Ke2 53.Kxg5 Kxf3 54.h6 Ke4 55.h7 f3 56.h8Q f2 57.Qh1+ 1-0**

(6) Starr,Albert (1609) - Uribe,Luiz (1856) [A00]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u2000 San Francisco (1.8), 13.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.b4 Albert entertains with complications from move one! **1...d5 2.e3 e5 3.Bb2 Nd7 4.b5 Ngf6 5.c4 Bd6 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Nc3** White has gotten queenside play with his favorite opening. **7...N7f6 8.g3?!** This leaves a lot of loose white squares for the black knights. **8...Bg4 9.Be2 Bxe2 10.Ngxe2 Nb4 11.0-0 Nd3 12.Qc2 Nxb2 13.Qxb2 Qd7 14.a4 Qh3 15.f3!** Ensuring the safety of the white king. **15...h5 16.Rf2 0-0-0 17.Qb1 Rhe8 18.Qf1 Qe6**

19.e4? [19.a5~~] **19...Bc5-+** winning material **20.d4 exd4 21.Nf4 Qb3 22.Nd3**

22...Nd7? [22...dxc3 23.Nxc5 Qb4-+ Is an extra pawn and full control for Black] **23.Nxc5?** [23.Nd5!+- It's not easy to notice the threat of 24.Nc1 trapping the black queen, but there it is.] **23...Nxc5-/+ 24.Nd5 d3 25.Rd2?!-+ Qc4 26.Rc1 Qd4+ 27.Kg2-+ Nb3?** [27...f5; 27...b6; 27...Kb8; 27...g5] **28.Rxc7+= Kb8 29.Rxd3**

29...Qxa4? [29...Qb2+ 30.Qf2 Qxf2+ 31.Kxf2 Rxd5 32.exd5 Kxc7 33.Rxb3 Re5+/=] **30.Rxf7+- Rc8 31.Rc3** Now it is White in control with a strong extra pawn **31...Rxc3 32.Nxc3 Qd4 33.Nd5 Rc8 34.Qb1 Qd2+ 35.Kh3 Nd4 36.Qb4 Qxb4 37.Nxb4 Ne6 38.Re7 Ng5+ 39.Kg2 Rc4 40.Rxg7! Nxe4 41.fxe4 Rxb4 42.Rg5 h4 43.gxh4 Rxe4 44.h5 Re7 45.h6** The advanced h-pawn wins the game. **45...Re2+ 46.Kg3 Re3+ 47.Kg4 Re4+ 48.Kh5 Re8 49.h7 1-0**

(17) Rex,Tobiah (1013) - Agdamag,Samuel (1586) [A26]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u1600 San Francisco (1.10), 13.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Nge2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d3 The Botvinnik System of the English. **8...Ne8 9.h3 f5 10.exf5 gxf5 11.f4 Nf6 12.Be3 Qe8 13.Qd2 Qg6 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5+ Kh8 16.Kh2 Ne7 17.Bg2 c6 18.d4 e4 19.Nc3 Rg8 20.Rae1 Bf6 21.Bf2 d5 22.c5?!** Black gets an edge now. It was better to make an open file on the queenside with 22. cxd5. **22...Be6 23.Nd1 Rae8 24.Ne3 Qg7 25.Rd1 Bf7-/+**

26.Nxf5?? Black is better but this is just a blunder. **26...Nxf5 27.g4 Nh4?!** [27...e3! or; 27...h5! would pour on the pressure] **28.Bxh4 Bxh4 29.g5 h6 30.Rg1 e3** [30...Bh5] **31.Qe2 Bf2 32.Bf3** The best practical try. **32...Bxg1+ 33.Rxg1 hxg5 34.Qd3 Qf6 35.f5 Qh6 36.Rg3 Qh4** [36...g4!] **37.Bg4 Bh5 38.Kg2?! Bxg4** [38...e2] **39.hxg4 Kg7** [39...e2 Stockfish is already finding mate in 7 for Black...] **40.f6+ Kf7! 41.Qb3**

41...Rh8?? Almost anything else just wins for Black, being a whole rook up. [41...e2! (well, the fastest mate); 41...b5; 41...b6; 41...Qxg3+ 42.Kxg3 e2] **42.Qxb7+** Amazingly Black is lost now. It is mate in 4 no matter what. **42...Ke6 43.Rxe3+ Kxf6 44.Rf3+ Kg6 45.Qf7+** Black resignes as 46. Rf6 will be mate. A tragic turnaround for Sam and a lucky escape for T. Rex **1-0**

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 2000+ (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**		10363365	2278	W9						
2	**Siddharth Arun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13206647)**		13206647	2253	W10					H---	H---
3	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**		12734479	2121	W11						
4	**Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)**		15467440	2078	W12						
5	**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)**		15239016	1879	B---					H---	
6	**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**		15499404	2013	H---				H---		
7	**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**		15206848	1964	H---						
8	**Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)**		12545869	1828	H---						
9	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**		13901075	1997	L1						
10	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**		12517167	1928	L2						
11	**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**		12572270	1900	L3						
12	**Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)**		16192001	1885	L4	H---					

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under2000 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7
1	**Amitoj Singh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12907156)**		12907156	1819	W22						
2	**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**		12590374	1720	W23						
	Frederick Hope										

3	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12646004)		12646004	1646	W24							
4	Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)		30191497	1611	W25							
5	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)		12844781	1609	W17							
6	Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)		30179081	1577	W18	H---						H---
7	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)		16898540	1517	W19			H---				
8	Nursultan\ Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)		17137317	1513	W20							
9	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)		14257838	1473	W21							
10	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)		16571026	1879	D14							
11	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)		12747074	1795	D15							
12	Ted Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)		12773115	1789	D16							
13	David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)		12931024	1622	H---							
14	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)		16600505	1610	D10							
15	Daniel Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)		16465203	1555	D11							
16	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)		16566932	1532	D12							
17	Luiz Uribe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839860)		12839860	1856	L5							
18	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)		12621393	1800	L6							
19	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)		12680193	1776	L7							
20	Gregory Rousso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17073094)		17073094	1745	L8							
21	Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)		12423364	1612	L9							
22	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)		10424364	1600	L1							
23	Anvi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315087)		16315087	1485	L2							
24	Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)		13159224	1483	L3							
25	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)		12872385	1408	L4							

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under1600 (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7
1	Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?		17168772	1490	W22	H-					

	17168772)					--						
2	Dominic Zirbel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13356345)		13356345	1481	W23							
3	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)		16875347	1433	W24							
4	David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)		13913131	1400	W29							
5	Claudio Bastiani-Fonck (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16874166)		16874166	1377	W25							
6	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)		12448028	1368	W26							
7	Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)		13373197	1322	W27							
8	Isaac Sterling (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14316046)		14316046	1236	X28							
9	Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)		30164211	1013	W18							
10	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)		17079795	948	W19							
11	David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)		12934283	435	B---							
12	Iven Yarovoy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17131276)		17131276	unr.	W20		H---					
13	Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)		30223021	unr.	W21							
14	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)		30102682	1296	H---	H---			H---			
15	Peter Borah (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12883291)		12883291	1232	D17							
16	James Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30209892)		30209892	unr.	H---			H---	H---			
17	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)		30214657	unr.	D15	H---						
18	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)		14874734	1586	L9							
19	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)		12796129	1569	L10							
20	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)		16953298	1228	L12							
21	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)		16716976	1050	L13							
22	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)		16741331	826	L1							
23	Romeo Nehme (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16271243)		16271243	795	L2						H---	
24	Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)		17005685	660	L3							
25	Tyler Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30212590)		30212590	unr.	L5							
	Tony Kachakji											

26	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228920)		30228920	unr.	L6							
27	Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)		30174249	unr.	L7							
28	Dave Bianco (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12909439)		12909439	unr.	F8							
29	Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)		30210917	unr.	L4			H---	H---			

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games - JulyAugTNM (Standings (no tiebrk))

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	To
1	Juan Cendejas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12717746)		12717746	1718	W3							1.(
2	David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)		12934283	435	W4							1.(
3	Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)		15239016	1866	L1							0.(
4	Benjamin Grant			unr.	L2							0.(

New Thursday Night Marathon Rounds 7&8 Report

by Abel Talamantez

Broadcast setup from the Mechanics' Institute

The final two rounds of the Thursday Night Marathon produced the matchup everyone had been waiting for - the matchup in round 7 of the two GM's Gadir Guseinov and Alex Lenderman again showed that GM Guseinov is a standard of play above many. He put Lenderman in a very tough position right away, and although Lenderman found the right moves to continue on, the pressure eventually became insurmountable, with Guseinov winning material and the game. Guseinov would go on to defeat Austin Mei in the final round in a very interesting game to win the Thursday Night Marathon with a score of 7.5/8. IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla defeated IM Elliott winslow in round 7 and then survived a great game played by Cailen Melville in round 8 to get a draw in a losing position. It was still enough for Dhulipalla to finish with 6.5/8 and clear 2nd place.

GM Guseinov and GM Lenderman doing battle with commentary by GM Nick de Firmian, FM Paul Whitehead and Chess Director Abel Talamantez

Perhaps the game of the round was the matchup in round 8 between FM Max Gedajlovic and GM Alex Lenderman. Max fought bravely and aggressively, obtaining an advantage positionally. After reaching the middle game in a worse position, Lenderman offered a draw which Gedajlovic, after some thinking, declined. He showed the mettle of a player looking to go next level in pressing on in a winning position despite the opposition. It is always a gamble, as the lower rated player is trying to maintain an advantage and fighting against the calculating abilities and expeirence of a seasoned GM. Lenderman pressed on, finding opportunities to complicate the position, and after putting Gedajlovic in time pressure, created enough chaos in the position to get the win desite being the exchange down for much of the endgame. It was a great game to watch, and we will have annotations for the final rounds of the ThNM in the next newsletter. Kudos to Max for going for the win, but kudos as well to Lenderman for staying cool when things got hot.

Special shoutout to Mechanics' regulars Cailen Melville and Jonah Busch for an outstanding performance in this event, as well as Marina Xiao. She will be a force to bre reckoned with in the coming years.

Full standings are below, final standings are pending fair play review.

To watch the broadcast, click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbhocW2_LQA).

SwissSys Standings. New Thursday Night Marathon: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	F 4
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2651	W12	W10	W7	W
2	IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)	swarnapuri	30100858	2523	W30	W19	W9	L
3	GM Alex Lenderman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12787646)	alexanderl	12787646	2703	W23	W18	H---	H
	Sina Mohammadi							

4	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14116846)	sina101	14116846	2163	W24	W22	W6	W
5	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	mangonel	14006141	1940	F34	L14	X40	W
6	Jonah Busch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12469525)	kondsaga	12469525	1934	W14	W34	L4	D
7	FM Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	mmsanchez	14947382	2213	W32	W13	L1	W
8	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	flightsoffancy	10345120	2157	L13	W25	W32	W
9	Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)	titanchess666	16090452	2149	W33	W11	L2	W
10	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	W37	L1	W34	W
11	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	loltheawesomedude	16497860	1531	W26	L9	W14	D
12	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1481	L1	W37	W44	L
13	Casimir Dudek (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101045)	thechesskid2021	30101045	1284	W8	L7	X17	L
14	Kevin Thompson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13110777)	acalbear	13110777	1120	L6	W5	L11	L
15	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2278	D31	W39	W46	L
16	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	nathanf314	13001390	2004	W25	H---	W20	L
17	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	W40	X46	H---	H
18	Callaghan McCarty-Snead (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14948275)	doctorbanner	14948275	1700	W43	L3	W24	W
19	Ethan Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	erm999	16090467	1585	W41	L2	W36	L
20	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	kingsmasher35	12797931	1789	W36	D35	L16	W
21	William Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161947)	wkelly	30161947	1677	H---	H---	L33	W
22	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	W38	L4	H---	H
23	Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)	sfdeals	16964125	1488	L3	W43	W42	D
24	Sarvagnya Brahmanapally (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16466227)	bsarvagnya	16466227	1323	L4	W26	L18	W
25	Aditha Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	1185	L16	L8	L26	W
26	Jonathan Rice (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205348)	ricejonathanc	30205348	unr.	L11	L24	W25	L
27	Fong Kevin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	H---	W31	D35	D
28	NM Tom Maser (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10490936)	talenuf	10490936	1900	L35	F33	W37	W
29	Jason Ochoa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12440572)	barok44	12440572	1759	X46	W40	H---	H

30	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	L2	D41	W39	L
31	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1346	D15	L27	F41	H
32	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1335	L7	W38	L8	L
33	Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)	dum2020areeews	16802870	1220	L9	X28	W21	L
34	Pratyush Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)	greenninja2019	30015889	1165	X5	L6	L10	W
35	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2nf31-0	16425316	1085	W28	D20	D27	W
36	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	bruce_hedman	17344551	1055	L20	W45	L19	L
37	Arumin Ravisankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30025152)	aruminchess	30025152	869	L10	L12	L28	L
38	Victor Beauchamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30154650)	greatboomer	30154650	807	L22	L32	X45	L
39	Ishan Goteti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17016988)	aurex79	17016988	615	W45	L15	L30	L
40	JJ Ziebart (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30166361)	tomatosoupgirl	30166361	1072	L17	L29	F5	W
41	Adithya Shankar Katepalli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30153861)	2021adi	30153861	824	L19	D30	X31	L
42	Jimolee Gray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30172836)	grayj43	30172836	unr.	H---	H---	L23	W
43	Thomas Cunningham (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12923340)	banjotom	12923340	971	L18	L23	H---	U
44	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	Vincitore51745	12814843	unr.	H---	H---	L12	L
45	James Hamlett (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12374510)	james_hamlett_IV	12374510	1561	L39	L36	F38	U
46	Jerry Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551291)	figsnoring	16551291	1015	F29	F17	L15	U

SwissSys Standings. New Thursday Night Marathon: Extra Games

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Total
1	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1346	W2	1.0
2	Aditha Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	1185	L1	0.0

Tony's Teasers

Here is a mate in two from longtime Mechanics' Institute player Tony Lama. This should occupy a good chunk of your time this weekend!

White to move and mate in 2

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

July 13-August 24: Tuesday Night Marathon Live; 7 rounds, FIDE & USCF rated, G/120;d5 - Live @ Mechanics': https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-jul-aug-person)

July 18: Charles Bagby Memorial; 4 rounds, USCF rated, G/45;d5 - Live @ Mechanics': https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-bagby-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-bagby-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated, monthly publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014536/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 20: Smyslov – Botvinnik 1958

After losing the title a year earlier, Botvinnik exercised his right to a rematch (under FIDE rules at the time) and came out slugging – he won the first three games and ultimately the contest by the score of +7 -5 =11.

The players were not at their best: both came down with the flu, and both were prone to strange mistakes and lapses:

Smyslov – Botvinnik, 3rd Match Game 1958.

Here the World Champion made the elementary blunder **1.Ne5?** losing 2 pieces for a rook and ultimately the game after the simple **1…Rxc3! 2.cxb7+ Kxb7 3.Rxc3 Bxe5.**

Even more surprising was what happened here:

Smyslov – Botvinnik, 15th Match Game 1958.

Black was enjoying his position so much (he's very close to winning) he "forgot" about the clock and lost on time!

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1. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 2nd Match Game 1958.

White moves. Win a little something.

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2. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 5th Match Game 1958.

White moves. Surprise!

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3. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 9th Match Game 1958.

Black moves. What's your defensive task?

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4. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 14th Match Game 1958.

White moves. Not difficult, but be accurate.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

The Old Man and the Chessboard

In Hemingway's famous novel about an aging fisherman, the protagonist battles for days to reel in a great marlin. Ultimately he wins the battle against the marlin, but fails when encountering too many sharks that eat the marlin tied to his boat and steal his hard-earned victory.

The Grand Croatian Chess Tour saw the return of the great Garry Kasparov to the chess board. He too ran into a bunch of sharks who stole all his points, and in eighteen rounds of blitz chess against the young top players of today Kasparov scored only two and a half points. This disappointing showing is usually done by an amateur who gets to play with the pros, and that player is often labeled the “fish” of the tournament. It was painful to see how a great champion can fall.

“The old get old and the young get stronger” sang Jim Morrison. So perhaps we must resign ourselves to playing worse chess as we age. Here we have some good news for those who wish to defy the march of time. Second place in this same tournament went not to one of the young sharks, but to 51 year old Vishy Anand. Anand is of course a former world champion and was a rival to Kasparov in the 1990’s. It was inspiring to see him vanquishing players half his age. The rest of us may take solace that excellence at chess isn’t just about age, but about staying motivated and dedicated to the game.

(1) GM Kasparov,Garry - GM Vachier-Lagrave,Maxim [A30]

Grand Chess Tour Croatia, 11.07.2021

This game was played in the second to last round, with MVL in first place. Despite having a terrible tournament Kasparov is determined to show the leader what championship chess is. **1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.Nc3 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxg2 9.Kxg2** This hedgehog position out of an English Opening is just a tad better for White. **9...Qc8 10.b3 Qb7+ 11.f3 d5** MVL makes the center break instead of sitting back on the first three ranks as most Hedgehog players do. This equalizes space in the center, but Black lags in development in the resulting open position. **12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Be3 Nc6 15.Nxc6! Qxc6 16.Rc1**

The pawn structure is symmetrical but White is first to sieze the open files. It's hard to make good use of this edge yet Kasparov does so. **16...Qe6 17.Qd3 0-0 18.Rfd1 h5** [18...Rfd8?? 19.Qxd8+ Rxd8 20.Rxd8+ Bf8 21.Bh6 leads to a quick mate] **19.Bf2 Bf6 20.Qc4 Qxc4 21.Rxc4 Rfd8 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Rc7 a5?** Black could have tried a more active defense with [23...Rd2 24.Rxa7 Rxe2 25.Kf1 Rc2 26.Bxb6 Rxh2] **24.Be3!** stopping infiltration of the black rook **24...Rd6 25.Rb7** Now White will win a pawn. **25...Bd4 26.Bxd4 Rxd4 27.Kf2** Accurate play. Now if 27...Rd2 28. a4 defends the white pawns and attacks two of the black ones. **27...a4 28.Rxb6 Rd2 29.bxa4 Rxa2**

So Kasparov is a pawn ahead in a rook ending against the leader. In his championship days he would have converted this advantage, but now he runs into trouble against a stout defense. **30.Rb4?!** [30.Ra6 Would be a better placement for the rook since it could help the a-pawn advance a couple of squares. Defending the pawn from b4 means the white king must come over to help before it marches further.] **30...Ra3!**

This is an instructive move. MVL cuts off the path of the white king to come to the a-pawn. **31.h4 Kg7 32.Ke1 Ra2!** I hope you guessed this move. It is the same reason as on move 30, to keep the white king out of the queenside battle. If the white king moves the queenside then the white e-pawn is undefended. **33.Kf2 Ra3 34.Re4 Kf6 35.Rf4+?!** [Now is the time to try 35.Ke1! Ra2 36.Kd1 and head to the queenside] **35...Ke6 36.g4?!** deciding to advance on the kindside, but this gives white poor pawn structure. **36...hxg4 37.fxg4 f6 38.h5?!** This last impatient move throws away the remaining winning chances. 38. e3 would have cut off the black rook on the third rank. **38...gxh5 39.gxh5 Rh3 40.a5**

This positon shows a very interesting point in the struggle, and helps explain the great result of MVL and bad result of his opponent. White has been pressing to win for 30 moves but now loses the dangerous a-pawn. (The h-pawn is closer to the black king and thus not such a danger to queen,) The position suddenly goes to even material and White is in danger of losing a second pawn when the black king and rook surround it. Kasparov spent all his time trying to win, yet suddenly he must defend. **40...Ra3! 41.h6 Rxa5 42.Rh4 Ra8** Just in time the black rook come back to stop the h-pawn. Kasparov was down to 7 seconds on the clock. **43.Ke3 Ke5**

And here Kasparov lost on time. He can make a draw even when he loses the h-pawn, but his form was so bad that he couldn't make the good moves in time. A horrible and undeserved loss, but that's what happens. The winning player makes use of all the chances and the loser can't handle the "unfair" changes of fate. **0-1**

(2) GM Anand,Vishy - GM Nepomniachtchi,Ian [B46]

Grand Chess Tour Croatia, 11.07.2021

Here Anand meets the current challenger to the chess throne, Nepomniachtchi, who will have the title match with Magnus in November. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Qf3 d5 8.Qg3 f5!?** As he often does, Nepo chooses an imbalanced position. **9.exf5 exf5 10.Bf4 Nf6 11.Be2 Ra7 12.0-0 Kf7 13.Rad1 h6 14.Be5 g5 15.Rfe1 Bg7 16.Bf1 Re7 17.Bd4 Rhe8**

Despite the unorthodox treatment of this Sicilian Black has all the pieces out and equal chances. **18.Rxe7+ Qxe7 19.Qd3 f4 20.a3 a5 21.Na4 Bg4 22.f3 Bd7 23.Nc5 Bc8 24.Qc3 g4 25.Nd3 gxf3 26.gxf3 Nd7** playing for the attack on the g-file **27.Bxg7 Rg8?** The pin gets the bishop back, but Black had to first play [27...Qe3+ 28.Nf2 then 28...Rg8] **28.Kh1 Rxg7 29.Qxc6!** This looks risky but it's good. **29...Qg5 30.Bh3** Carefully defending against the mating threats, which is especially hard to do in blitz. **30...Nb6**

31.Bg4! This makes use of the forking defense against the double capture on g4. White is now well ahead. **31...Bxg4 32.fxg4 Kg8 33.Nf2 Rg6 34.Qe8+ Kh7 35.Re1 Rg7 36.b3 Nd7 37.Qe6 Nf6 38.Re5 Qg6 39.Qf5 Rc7 40.Qxf4 Rxc2 41.Re7+ Kh8 42.Re6 Kg7 43.h3 Qf7**

44.Qe5! leaving the white knight hanging allows Anand to press the attack. **44...Qf8 45.Re7+ Kg8 46.Qe6+ Kh8 47.Rf7 Qxf7 48.Qxf7 Rxf2** The white queen is too strong for the black rook and knight. Vishy wraps it up efficiently. **49.Kg1 Rf4 50.Qg6 Rf3 51.Qxh6+ Kg8 52.Qg6+ Kf8 53.Kg2 1-0**

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 2nd Match Game 1958.

1.Nc6! was a cute little move, and white won a pawn after **1…Bxc6 2.Qxc4+ d5 3.Qxc6.** Black was faced with an impossible defensive task (3…Rxb4 4.Nxd5 wins) and succumbed quickly: **3…Rd8 4.Qb6 Qe7 5.Qd4 Qd6 6.Rfe1 Rfe8 7.Rxe5 Rxe5 8.b5 Ne6 9.Qa7 d4 10.Ne4! 1-0.** If 10…Rxe4 11.Qa8+.

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2. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 5th Match Game 1958.

1.Kd3!! 1-0. Threat: 2.b4# which black can only delay, but not stop.

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3. Smyslov – Botvinnik, 9th Match Game 1958.

1…g5! Hiding the king behind the attacking h-pawn saves the day. The game petered out to a draw after **2.Bxg5 Qd6 3.Rh4 Nf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rxg4+ Kh8 23.Kb1 Rg8 24.Rb4 a5 25.Rb6 Bxc3 26.bxc3 Rab8 27.Rxb8 Rxb8+ 28.Ka1 Rg8 29.Qe3 Rg4 30.a3 Re4 31.Qd3 Qe5 32.Kb2 Re3 33.Qd4 Qxd4 34.cxd4**

Kg7 35.Rg1+ Kf7 36.h6 Rh3 37.Rg7+ Kf6 38.Rh7 Rh4 39.Kc3 Rh3+ 40.Kb2 Rh4 1/2-1/2

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4. Botvinnik – Smyslov, 14th Match Game 1958.

1.f4! 1-0. But not 1.c8=Q? which only leads to a draw after 1…Rxc8 2.Kxc8 Kxf2. After 1.f4 white can simply push his f-pawn and sacrifice his rook if need be for the h-pawn.

Solution To Tony's Teaser (Thanks Jon Frankle)

1. Rb7!! Bxb7 2. Bxb7# or 1. Rb7, Ke4 2. Nf6# or.. 1. Rb7 any bishop move not Bxb7, Rb5 or Rd7# with discovery

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Newsletter #978

July 24, 2021

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Charles Bagby Memorial Tournament Report

by Abel Talamantez

The 20th Charles Bagby Memorial had a full house of chess enthusiasts with 77 players participating in this one-day G/45;d5 USCF rated event. This tournament is held in honor of former Mechanics' Institute Trustee and Chair of the Chess Committee at the Mechanics' Institute. Here (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/ccr/art_08.htm) is an obituary from the California Chess Reporter, courtesy of Chess Dryad.

Split into two sections, the 1800+ was a wide open field, especially after top seed IM Elliott Winslow was upset in round 1 by Mikhail Molodyk. After three rounds, Nicholas Weng was in position to take clear first as the only player with 3/3 after a terrific win against Evan Ai. However, NM Siddharth Arun held on to a draw against Weng in round 4 to create a 3-way tie for 1st place between Matthew Ng and Luiz Uribe, who all finished 3.5/4.

Nicholas Weng (left) and Evan Ai square off in round 3

In the under 1800 section, recent UC Berkeley grad Adam Stafford continues his sharp rise with another tournament win, sharing first place with Daniil Kardava with a perfect 4/4. Stafford won his section at the recent Addison Memorial as well. We had 44 players in this section, and it was exciting to see many new faces jumping into live tournament play.

Adam Stafford (white) continues his fine play in the u/1800 section with another cash finish

It was a great day at the Mechanics' Institute, as the excitement and energy were definitely in the room for live chess. There were many talented young players participating, some of whom wil be the next generation of Bay Area stars. We also had many new players, and our always faithful Mechanics' Institute regulars. I would like to thank my two volunteer TD's, Chief TD WCM Allyson Wong and Michael Hsu, for helping me keep an eye on the games and making sure everything ran smoothly. I would also like to thank Allyson's mom Alice Lu for the irresitable (too much so) doughnuts.

Here are the final standings for the 20th Charles Bagby Memorial

SwissSys Standings. 20th Bagby Memorial Championship: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2013	W32	W27	W5	D4	3.5	274.42
2	**Matthew Ng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11440339)**	11440339	2000	W21	W17	D10	W15	3.5	274.42
3	**Luiz Uribe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839860)**	12839860	1856	D4	W9	W14	W10	3.5	274.42
4	**Siddharth Arun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13206647)**	13206647	2253	D3	W26	W6	D1	3.0	
5	**Evan Ai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14780703)**	14780703	2058	W28	W12	L1	W17	3.0	
6	**Jacob Chiang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16093205)**	16093205	1998	X14	W13	L4	W16	3.0	
7	**Rithwik Narendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14903560)**	14903560	1849	D9	W23	D11	W22	3.0	
8	**Abhishek Mallela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12888811)**	12888811	2159	L27	W32	W19	D12	2.5	
9	**Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)**	16090452	2149	D7	L3	W24	W25	2.5	
10	**Laimonas Turauskas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228235)**	30228235	2126	W19	W18	D2	L3	2.5	
11	**Pranav Senthilkumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14020007)**	14020007	2046	W20	D25	D7	D13	2.5	
	Ako Heidari								

12	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1964	W33	L5	W29	D8	2.5	
13	Ranen Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)	12614986	1803	W22	L6	W18	D11	2.5	
14	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1776	H---	W31	L3	W23	2.5	
15	Aiden Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16850092)	16850092	1715	D23	W24	W25	L2	2.5	
16	Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2278	L25	W20	W27	L6	2.0	
17	Advay Bansal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16068511)	16068511	1949	W29	L2	W30	L5	2.0	
18	Rohan Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15739716)	15739716	1933	W30	L10	L13	W26	2.0	
19	Andrew Ng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14302931)	14302931	1844	L10	W33	L8	W29	2.0	
20	Tony Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16147444)	16147444	1816	L11	L16	W33	W30	2.0	
21	Jacob Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17083655)	17083655	1782	L2	L22	W28	W27	2.0	
22	Atul Thirumalai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14973786)	14973786	2043	L13	W21	D26	L7	1.5	
23	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)	15176393	1983	D15	L7	W31	L14	1.5	
24	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1953	D31	L15	L9	W33	1.5	
25	Mikhail Molodyk (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13573825)	13573825	1877	W16	D11	L15	L9	1.5	
26	Dylan Tang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551237)	16551237	1619	B---	L4	D22	L18	1.5	
27	Patrick Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1851	W8	L1	L16	L21	1.0	
28	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1842	L5	L29	L21	W31	1.0	
29	Vian Yang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15804394)	15804394	1620	L17	W28	L12	L19	1.0	
30	Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)	30191497	1611	L18	B---	L17	L20	1.0	
31	Vikrant Ganesan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16786952)	16786952	1628	D24	L14	L23	L28	0.5	
32	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1800	L1	L8	U---	U---	0.0	
33	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	11296106	1643	L12	L19	L20	L24	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. 20th Bagby Memorial Championship: under1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	14257838	1473	W35	W17	W21	W4	4.0	198.88
2	Daniil Kardava (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15961344)	15961344	1380	W44	W7	W23	W5	4.0	198.88
	Wentao Wu								

3	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16629782)	16629782	1472	W24	D11	W29	W13	3.5	111.00
4	Frederick Hope (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12646004)	12646004	1646	W19	W15	W16	L1	3.0	
5	Zachary Filler (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14040236)	14040236	1609	W20	W10	W18	L2	3.0	
6	Luke Widjaja (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16010621)	16010621	1527	L23	W36	W17	W16	3.0	
7	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1517	W42	L2	W34	W18	3.0	
8	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1513	W28	L16	W19	W21	3.0	
9	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1463	W36	L21	W20	W23	3.0	
10	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	12872385	1408	W39	L5	W26	W25	3.0	
11	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1299	W41	D3	W27	H---	3.0	
12	Carliteau Leger (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12841454)	12841454	1487	D29	L23	W28	W22	2.5	
13	Aaron Ng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14302925)	14302925	1455	W38	D27	W14	L3	2.5	
14	Abhi Kulgod (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13306912)	13306912	1317	D30	W31	L13	W29	2.5	
15	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1433	X43	L4	L25	W37	2.0	
16	Greg Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16183296)	16183296	1389	W40	W8	L4	L6	2.0	
17	Matthew Perez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16711456)	16711456	1230	W25	L1	L6	W38	2.0	
18	Cj Apel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16165833)	16165833	1223	W26	W33	L5	L7	2.0	
19	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	1185	L4	W37	L8	W40	2.0	
20	Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)	13377410	1179	L5	W39	L9	W31	2.0	
21	Shiv Sohal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30032729)	30032729	1168	W31	W9	L1	L8	2.0	
22	Austin Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144712)	17144712	1153	L32	W44	W33	L12	2.0	
23	Justin Brunet (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30055583)	30055583	1096	W6	W12	L2	L9	2.0	
24	Arjun Muthukumaran (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30018527)	30018527	909	L3	L26	W39	W33	2.0	
25	Jay Phatak (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30220271)	30220271	unr.	L17	W35	W15	L10	2.0	
26	Aaron Metyko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30209636)	30209636	unr.	L18	W24	L10	W34	2.0	
27	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1789	W34	D13	L11	U---	1.5	
28	Noah Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30182833)	30182833	1015	L8	W40	L12	H---	1.5	

29	**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	30164211	1013	D12	W30	L3	L14	1.5	
30	**Bradley Patterson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30167485)**	30167485	unr.	D14	L29	L31	W42	1.5	
31	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	12844781	1609	L21	L14	W30	L20	1.0	
32	**Dylan Tang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551237)**	16551237	1595	W22	U---	U---	U---	1.0	
33	**Daniel Marcus (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12905558)**	12905558	1458	W37	L18	L22	L24	1.0	
34	**Sean Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16802870)**	16802870	1206	L27	W38	L7	L26	1.0	
35	**Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)**	30118209	1007	L1	L25	W43	U---	1.0	
36	**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	17005685	660	L9	L6	L40	B---	1.0	
37	**Eli Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16707438)**	16707438	491	L33	L19	B---	L15	1.0	
38	**Luka Vyatkin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30209432)**	30209432	unr.	L13	L34	W42	L17	1.0	
39	**Elizabeth Denhup (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161536)**	30161536	unr.	L10	L20	L24	W43	1.0	
40	**Tyler Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30212590)**	30212590	unr.	L16	L28	W36	L19	1.0	
41	**Alexia Laffin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30211880)**	30211880	unr.	L11	W42	U---	U---	1.0	
42	**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	16716976	1050	L7	L41	L38	L30	0.0	
43	**Bolorkhuu Chadraabal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30231347)**	30231347	unr.	F15	U---	L35	L39	0.0	
44	**Eric Castro (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30229549)**	30229549	unr.	L2	L22	U---	U---	0.0	

Tuesday Night Marathon Round 2 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The big screen inside the chess room broadcasts our 10 DGT boards for viewers inside

Round 2 of the TNM finished leaving the top section completely up for grabs as seven players are at the top with 1.5/2. Abhinav Penagalapati drew with IM Elliott Winslow on board 1 and Christophe Bambou drew with NM Siddharth Arun. After receiving a half point bye for round 1, Nicholas Weng won in a tough game against Chelsea Zhou when she flagged in what lookd like a drawn endgame. With 5 rounds to go, the top section is still wide open for anyone to make a move towards the top.

The top four boards do battle, including Abhinav Pebagalapati from the San Jose Chess Club against IM Elliott Winslow

In the under 2000 section, some rising young stars and a veteran Mechanics' player occupy the top four spots in the standings with 2/2. Leon Quin, Adam Stafford and Kevin Sun won their games and are 2/2 representing youth, while veteran Albert Starr got a point by virtue of a no-show. Kevin used a great tactical shot to defeat Marty Cortinas, showing that the kid is definitely studying his tactics.

In the under 1600 section, Dominic Zirbel, Sebby Suarez, David Nichol, and Isaac Sterling are all perfect with 2/2.

Sebby Suarez (white) gets the win against Tobias Rex

Here are some games from round 2, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(5) Penagalapati,Abhi (2078) - Winslow,Elliott (2278) [D00]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.1), 20.07.2021

[Winslow,E]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 g6 [3...e6; 3...Bf5] **4.e3** [4.Qd2!?; 4.h4!?] **4...Bg7** [4...c6; 4...a6; 4...c5!?] **5.h4!?**

When I first saw this in some game or other my thought was "how can that work together with e2-e3?" But a lot of other (or the same?) people also thought "maybe I should stop h4-h5." And the results keep poring in, there is no formula. **5...0-0?!** Refusing to believe. [5...h5 is probably more circumspect, and is Stockfish's choice. 6.Be2 0-0 7.Nf3 c5 8.dxc5 (8.Ne5 Nc6 9.Qd2 cxd4 10.exd4 Nd7 11.Nf3 (White chickens out) *(11.Nxd5 Ndxe5 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.0-0-0 Be6 14.Ne3 Qb6 15.c3 Rfd8 16.Qc2 Bxa2 17.Rxd8+ Rxd8 18.Rd1 Rc8 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.Rxd5 Qxf2 21.Qe4 Nc6 22.g4 Nb4! 23.Rd1 Bxc3! 24.bxc3 Na2*+ 0-1 (24) Bentley,J (2211)-Lalic,B (2503) Halifax 2003*)* 11...Nf6 12.Ne5 Nd7 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Bh6 Bxh6 15.Qxh6 e5 16.dxe5 Nxe5 17.Qg5 Bf5 18.Qxd8 Rfxd8 19.0-0-0 Rab8 20.Na4 Re8 21.b3 Kg7 22.Rde1 Nd7 23.Kd2 c5 24.Ba6 Be6 25.Be2 Red8 26.Rd1 Rbc8 27.Kc1 Nf6 28.f3 Rc7 29.Rhe1 d4 30.Nb2 Nd5 31.Bc4 Nc3 32.Bxe6 Nxd1 33.Kxd1 fxe6 34.Rxe6 Rdd7 35.Nc4 Re7 36.Ra6 Rc8 37.Nd6 Rf8 38.Ne4 Rf4 39.Nxc5 Rxh4 40.Ne6+ Kh6 41.Nf8 Rg7 42.Re6 Rh2 43.Re2 h4 44.Ke1 h3 45.Kf1 Rxg2 46.Rxg2 hxg2+ 47.Kxg2 Re7 0-1 (47) Sjugirov,S (2661)-Guseinov,G (2665) 34th Leon Blitz op, Chess.com 2021.07.07. Two weeks ago! Hard to keep up. :-)) 8...Qa5 9.0-0 Qxc5 10.Nb5 a6 11.Nc7 Ra7 12.Nb5 axb5 13.Bxb8 Ra8 14.Be5 b4 15.Bd4 Qa5 16.c3 Bg4 17.Qb3 bxc3 18.Bxc3 Qc7 19.Rac1 Qd8 20.Rfd1 e6 21.Bb4 Re8 22.Bb5 Nd7 23.e4 Bxf3 24.Qxf3 Ne5 25.Qh3 Nc6 26.exd5 exd5 27.Rxc6 bxc6 28.Bxc6 Rxa2 29.Bxd5 Kh7 30.Qf3 Rxb2 31.Bxf7 Rxb4 32.Rxd8 Rxd8 33.g3 Rb6 34.Bxg6+ Rxg6 35.Qxh5+ Rh6 36.Qf5+ Kh8 37.Kg2 Rf6 38.Qh5+ Kg8 39.Qe2 Rdf8 40.Qc2 Rxf2+ 41.Qxf2 Rxf2+ 42.Kxf2 ½-½ (42) Naiditsch,A (2702)-Carlsen,M (2838) Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden 2017. Carlsen not winning. Not like him.] **6.h5 c5 7.hxg6** [7.Nb5!?; 7.Qd2!? Nxh5 8.Bxb8 Rxb8 9.dxc5 Nf6 10.f3 Qc7 11.g4 Qxc5 12.0-0-0 b5 13.Kb1 b4 14.Nce2 e5 15.Ng3 h6 16.N1e2 e4 17.g5 hxg5 18.fxe4 Bg4 19.e5 Ne4 20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Qd4 Qxe5 22.Qxe5 Bxe5 23.Rg1 f5 24.Rd5 Bf6 25.Ng3 Rbd8 26.Bc4 Rxd5 27.Bxd5+ Kg7 28.Nxe4 Rd8 29.Nxf6 Kxf6 30.e4 Bh3 31.c4 bxc3 32.bxc3 f4 33.Kc2 g4 34.Kd3 g3 35.Kd4 Kg5 36.c4 Kh4 37.Rh1 g2 38.Rb1 f3 39.Ke3 Kg3 40.c5 f2 41.Bc4 g1Q 42.Rxg1+ fxg1Q+ 43.Ke2 Qf2# 0-1 (43) Pranav,V (2311)-Rahul,S (2391) New Delhi 2018] **7...hxg6** This could be a bit too daring. [But after 7...fxg6 8.dxc5!? *(8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Ne5 cxd4 10.exd4 Qb6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Rb1 Ng4 13.Be3 e5 14.Na4 Qc7 15.Qd2 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 exd4 17.Qg3 Qa5+ 18.b4 Qxa4 19.Qh4 Qxc2 20.Qxh7+ Kf7* 0-1 (20) Rosen,E (2466)-Niemann,H (2956) Titled Tuesday, Chess. com 2020.04.21. A fast win by the Bay Area's prodigal prodigy, who promises to return (at least for a visit)*.)* 8...Nc6 *(8...b6?! 9.cxb6 Qxb6 10.Rb1 Nc6* was a Nepo experiment in 2017. He lost two, a quickie and a long ending, to Aronian.*)* 9.Nf3 Bg4 looks pretty loose 10.Qd2 Qa5 11.Ne5 Rad8 12.f3 Be6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Ne2 Qa4 15.Qd4 Qa5+ 16.b4 Qa3 17.Be5 a5 18.Nf4 Bf7 19.b5 cxb5 20.Bxb5 Rb8 21.Rb1 Rbc8 22.c6 Qxa2 23.0-0 Qxc2 24.Rfc1 Qf5 25.Bd3 Qg5 26.Ba6 Nh5 27.Bxg7 Nxg7 28.Bxc8 Rxc8 29.c7 Nf5 30.Qe5 1-0 (30) Mueller,D (2252)-Schulz,L (2293) Magdeburg 2020] **8.Qd2**

8...Ne4!? [8...Nc6 has mostly been played, and is engine-favored, which doesn't prove anything in these new lines. 9.0-0-0 c4!? 10.f3 b5 11.g4 b4 12.Na4 b3 13.axb3 cxb3 14.cxb3 Bd7 15.Qh4 was wild: 15...Nb4 16.Bh6 Rc8+ 17.Kb1 Rc2 18.Ne2 Bxa4 19.Bxg7 Nh5 20.bxa4 Qd7 21.Bxf8 Qxa4 22.Nc3 Rxc3 23.bxc3 Qb3+ 24.Kc1 Qxc3+ 25.Kb1 Qb3+ 26.Kc1 Qc3+ 1/2-1/2 (26) Kulaots,K (2577)-Wan,Y (2482) Riga 2017] **9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.0-0-0 Qb6 11.Bh6 Bxh6!?** [11...Bf5 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Ne2 Nd7 14.Ng3 Bg4 15.Be2 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 Nf6 17.dxc5 Qxc5 18.Rd4 e5 19.Rc4 Qb5 20.a4 Qa6 21.Rb4 Qxe2 22.Nxe2 b6 23.Nc3 Rac8 24.a5 Rh8 25.Rxh8 Rxh8 26.axb6 axb6 27.Rxb6 Rh2 28.Kd2 Rxg2 29.Ke2 Ng4 30.Nxe4 f5 31.Kf3 Rh2 32.c4 Rh3+ 33.Kg2 Rh2+ 34.Kg3 Rh1 35.Nd2 Rg1+ 36.Kf3 e4+ 37.Ke2 Rg2 38.c5 Rxf2+ 39.Ke1 Rh2 40.c6 *(40.Nc4!? Rc2 41.b3 Nxe3 42.Nxe3 Rxc5+/- /+/=)* 40...Rh1+ 41.Ke2 Rh2+ 42.Ke1 Rh1+ 43.Ke2 ½-½ (43) Kaufman,R (2269)-Canessa,J (1962) John Donaldson TNM, San Francisco 2019.12.21. A local game.] **12.Rxh6 Nd7 13.Rh4 Nf6 14.Nh3 Bxh3 15.Rxh3 Kg7 16.Be2 Rh8 17.Rdh1 Rxh3 18.Rxh3 Rh8 19.Rxh8 Kxh8 20.Qc3 cxd4 21.exd4 Kg7 22.Qc5 Qd6 23.Qxd6 exd6 24.c4 Kf8 25.Kd2 d5 26.b3 Ke7 27.Kc3 Ne8 28.c5 Nc7 29.b4 f5 30.a4 Kd7 31.g3 g5 32.b5 b6 33.cxb6 axb6 34.Bh5 Kd6 35.Kb4 Ne6 36.Kc3**

36...f4? [36...g4!-+] **37.Bg4 e3?!=** I thought I was winning! But White can get back and hold it together. [37...Nd8 38.Kd2 Nb7=/+; 37...Nc7 38.Kb4 f3=/+; 37...Ng7 38.Kd2 Ne8 39.Bc8 Nf6=/+] **38.fxe3 fxg3 39.Bf3 g4 40.Bg2 Ng7 41.Kd3 Nf5 42.Ke2 Ke6** [42...Nh4 43.Kf1 Nf5 44.Ke2 would be a rep.] **43.Bh1!**

43...Nd6 44.Bg2 Nc4 45.e4!? The move I didn't want to see. **45...dxe4 46.Bxe4 Kd6 47.Bf5**

47...g2 48.Kf2 g3+ 49.Kg1! Kd5 50.Bd7 Kxd4 51.Kxg2 Kc5 52.Kxg3 It's just a draw. **52...Kb4 53.Kf2 Kxa4 54.Ke2 Kb4 55.Kd1 Na3 56.Kc1 Nxb5 57.Kb2** 1/2-1/2 **1/2-1/2**

(3) Weng,Nicholas (2013) - Zhou,Chelsea (1879) [B80]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.3), 20.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 [Trying to avoid 6.Be3 Ng4] **6...e6** [6...e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3] **7.Be3 Be7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.g4** Nicholas plays the English Attack with real aggression. [9.0-0-0] **9...b5** [9...Nc6 10.0-0-0 Nd7 11.h4 Nde5 12.Qf2 Bd7 13.Kb1 Na5 14.g5 Nec4 15.Bc1 b5 16.f4 b4 17.Nce2 Qb6 18.Rh2 was about equal in Leko-Morozevich, San Luis 2005. 1/2 (39)-1/2 (68)] **10.g5 b4**

11.Na4N [11.Nce2 is a reasonalble alternative] **11...Nfd7 12.h4 Qa5 13.b3 Bb7 14.Bh3 d5**

15.f4 e5?! [15...dxe4 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Bxe6+ Kh8 18.Bxd7 Rd8 19.Bb6 e3 20.Qh2 seems to favor White; 15...Nc5 may be best] **16.Nf5 Re8 17.Bg2** [17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.0-0-0] **17...dxe4?!** [17...Bf8] **18.Nxe7+ Rxe7 19.f5**

White has an aggressive attacking position with the two bishops and advanced kingside pawns. **19...Nc6 20.Bxe4** [20.f6!] **20...Qc7 21.Qg2 Rb8 22.0-0?!** [22.0-0-0!] **22...Nd4 23.f6 Re6 24.fxg7 Bxe4 25.Qxe4 Qxc2 26.Qxc2?!** [26.Qg4] **26...Nxc2 27.Ba7 Nxa1 28.Bxb8 Nxb8 29.Rxa1 Kxg7**

Black has an extra pawn in the ending but it's not easy to win. **30.Kg2 a5 31.Re1 h6 32.Kf3 hxg5 33.hxg5 Kg6 34.Nc5 Re7 35.Kg4 Nc6 36.Rf1!** Nicholas gets some counterplay **36...Nd4 37.Rf6+ Kg7 38.Ne4 Rd7 39.Nd6 Ne6 40.Nf5+ Kg8 41.Nh6+ Kg7 42.Kf5 e4! 43.Kg4 Nc5 44.Nf5+ Kg8 45.Kf4 Rd2?!** Chelsea starts to go wrong here. Letting the f-pawn go leaves White with a dangerous passed g-pawn **46.Nh6+ Kf8 47.Rxf7+ Ke8 48.Rf5 Rf2+?!** [48...Ne6+! 49.Kxe4 Rxa2 is equal] **49.Ke3 Rxf5 50.Nxf5 Nd3 51.Kxe4 Nc1 52.g6 Nxa2 53.Ke5** Black lost (presumably on time.) After 53...Nc3 there are reasonable drawing chances. **1-0**

(4) Liu,Richard (1824) - Heidari,Ako (1964) [E38]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.4), 20.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5 5.Nf3 [5.dxc5] **5...cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nc6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e3 0-0 9.Bd3 e5 10.0-0 d5** Black is doing fine at this point. **11.b3 e4?!** Black didn't have to comprise his center at this point. He had natural developing moves: [11...Re8; 11...Be6] **12.Be2**

12...Bg4? [12...Ng4! all but forces a draw at least, but maybe Ako wanted more. 13.cxd5 Nxh2! 14.Kxh2 Qh4+ 15.Kg1 Bd6 went it's a perpetual after either pawn move 16.f4 *(16.g3 Bxg3=)* 16...exf3 17.Rxf3 Qh2+ 18.Kf2 Qh4+ 19.Kf1 *(19.Kg1; 19.g3?? Qh2+ 20.Ke1 Bg4-+)*] **13.Bb2+/- Rc8?**

Stockfish's three top moves are bishop retreats! **14.Rfd1?!** [14.Nxe4! works nicely!] **14...Qd7 15.Bxg4 Qxg4 16.Ne2!** It mght look like Black is okay, but White gets to the key squares quickly. **16...Rfd8 17.Rac1 h5?! 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.h3!** An important escape for the king **19...Qg5?! 20.cxd5 Rxd5** [20...cxd5 21.Qxc8 Rxc8 22.Rxc8+ Kg7 23.Nf4 is too much for Black to survive.] **21.Qxe4** Sadly Black's pawn structure is shattered. There is little hope here. **21...Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Bf8 23.Ng3 a5 24.Qf3 h4 25.Ne4 Qg6 26.Nxf6+ Kh8 27.Rd4** Ouch **27...Be7 28.Rxh4+ Kg7 29.Rh7+ Qxh7 30.Nxh7 Rh8 31.Ng5** [31.Qg4+ Kxh7 32.Qe4+ Kg7 33.Qxe7 doesn't even let it get interesting.] **31...Bxg5 32.Qg3 Kh6 33.Qd6+ Kg7 34.Qxc6 Bf6 35.Qf3 Rd8 36.g3** The queer is just too powerful. It takes a while but there is really no chance for Black. **36...Rd2 37.Qg4+ Kf8 38.Qa4 Bc3 39.Qa3+ Bb4 40.Qa4 Kg8 41.a3 Ra2 42.Qe8+ Bf8 43.a4 Rb2 44.Qa8 Rxb3 45.Qxa5 Ra3 46.Qa8 Kg7 47.a5 Ra2 48.a6 Ra1+ 49.Kg2 Bc5 50.Qd5 Rc1 51.Qa2 Rd1 52.a7 Bxa7 53.Qxa7 Rd6 54.Qd4+** A game with some fine points. **1-0**

(1) Talamantez,Abel (1646) - Starr,Albert (1609) [A85]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM: Extra Game San Francisco (2.9), 20.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Bf4 An unusual but reasonable move. It has themes from the London System. **5...0-0 6.e3 d6 7.Be2 Be6?!** This is certainly provacative. 7...c6 would be safer. **8.Ng5 Bd7**

9.h4 A good positional move, but [9.c5! Kh8 *(9...h6 10.Qb3+ d5 11.Nxd5)* 10.Qb3 would win at least a pawn for White] **9...h6 10.Nf3 Be8 11.Qb3 b6 12.d5 Nbd7 13.Nd4 Nc5 14.Qc2 a5** White has the edge with the strong knight on d4 and the soft black light squares on e6 and c6. **15.f3 Bf7 16.0-0-0!?** Abel plays aggressivley! The game is heating up. **16...e5 17.dxe6 Nxe6 18.g4!** A fine move, not worrying about the doubled f-pawns that arise. **18...Nxf4 19.exf4 Qc8?!** [19...fxg4 20.fxg4 Qd7 21.Rhg1 is very good for White but material stays equal] **20.gxf5 c5! 21.fxg6! cxd4 22.gxf7+ Rxf7 23.Rxd4 Ne8 24.Re4 Nc7 25.Rg1**

With the two extra pawns and safer king White is winning. Albert makes it a fight though. **25...Kh8 26.Bd3 Ne6 27.Nb5?!** [27.Nd5] **27...Qc5! 28.Rge1** [28.Rg6 Nxf4 29.Nxd6!] **28...Nxf4 29.Re8+ Rxe8 30.Rxe8+ Rf8 31.Re1?!** [31.Rxf8+ Bxf8 32.Qd2 would keep a big edge] **31...Nxd3+ 32.Qxd3 Qf2** [32...Bxb2+!] **33.Re2 Qf1+ 34.Kc2 Be5 35.Qd2 Rf6 36.Rxe5?**

A bit of a panic move to force the issue. White is still fine after [36.Nc3] **36...Qxc4+!** The zwischenzug crosses White up. Now Black gets a clear edge. **37.Kb1?!** [37.Nc3] **37...dxe5 38.Qd8+ Kg7 39.Qe7+ Qf7 40.Qxe5 Qg6+ 41.Kc1 Qg1+ 42.Kd2 Qf2+** Nice technique by Albert. Collecting the f-pawn makes the ending an easy win. **43.Kd3 Qxf3+ 44.Kd2 Qf4+ 45.Qxf4 Rxf4 46.h5 Rb4 0-1**

(2) Clemens,Kristian (1997) - Argo,Guy (1928) [E16]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM: 2000+ San Francisco (2.6), 20.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.Nf3 f5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bd2

Does this have a name? Some combination of Nimzo and Bogo followed by Dutch seems like it gets there. **5...Bxc3 6.Bxc3 Ne4 7.Qc2 0-0 8.g3 Nxc3?!** There should be no rush to trade off the strong knight right away. **9.Qxc3 b6 10.Bg2 Bb7 11.0-0 d6 12.Rfd1 Qf6 13.Rac1 a5?!**

Weakening the queenside. [13...Nd7 Development was called for.] **14.c5!** In an otherwise quiet game so far, White opens lines to capitalize on his better development. **14...Na6** [14...dxc5 15.dxc5 Qxc3 16.Rxc3] **15.cxb6 cxb6 16.Qb3?!** [16.a3! first stops Black from an interim defense of b6.] **16...Nb4!** Back to the center. Now Black is close to equality. **17.Nd2 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Qe7** [18...f4! peeks into White's kingside and leaves White with no advantage.] **19.Nc4 Rab8 20.a3 Na6?!** [20...Nd5 21.Ne3! is better, but not by much.] **21.Kg1?!** White had more useful things to do. **21...Nc7 22.Nd2** And here: [22.Rc2; 22.Qf3] **22...f4 23.Rc6 Nd5 24.Ne4 Rbd8**

25.Nc3? [25.Qd3 keeps the advantage.] **25...fxg3 26.hxg3 Nf4?** Black sees a mirage -- [26...Qf7 27.f3 Ne3-/+] **27.gxf4 Rxf4 28.Rd3** -- and is lost. [28.f3!] **28...Rdf8 29.Nd1 Qf7 30.Rf3** This really dampens the attack. **30...Qg6+ 31.Rg3 Qe4 32.Qc2 Qxc2 33.Rxc2 Rxd4 34.Ne3 b5 35.Rc7 Rf7 36.Rc8+ Rf8 37.Rc2 h5 38.Rg5 Rdf4 39.Rc7 R8f7 40.Rxf7 Kxf7 41.Rxb5 d5 42.Rxa5 g5**

43.Nxd5 Not necessary, and objectively giving away some of his advantage, but the simplification should convince Black to resign. **43...exd5 44.Rxd5 Kf6 45.Rd3 g4 46.Rd5 Kg6 47.b4 Rc4 48.Rc5 Rd4 49.b5 Rd2 50.e3 h4 51.b6 Rb2 52.Rc6+ Kf5 53.a4 Ke4 54.Rc4+ Kf5 55.Rf4+ Kg5 56.a5 h3 57.Kh2 Kh4 58.e4 Rxf2+!** At least Guy throws in a scare. It doesn't work though. **59.Rxf2 g3+ 60.Kg1 gxf2+ 61.Kxf2 1-0**

Here are the current standings

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 2000+

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1-7	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	2278	W8	D4	H---	H---				1.5
2		NM Siddharth Arun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13206647)	2253	W14	D3				H---	H---	1.5
3		NM Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)	2121	W9	D2						1.5
4		Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	2078	W12	D1						1.5
5		Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	2013	H---	W10			H---			1.5
6		Richard Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14823351)	1824	H---	W11						1.5
7		Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	1818	H---	W13						1.5
8	8-10	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	1997	L1	W14						1.0
9		Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	1900	L3	B---						1.0
10		Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	1879	B---	L5				H---		1.0
11	11-13	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	1964	H---	L6						0.5
12		Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)	1885	L4	H---						0.5
13		Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	1828	H---	L7						0.5
14	14	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	1928	L2	L8						0.0

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under2000

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1-4	Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)	1611	W14	W10						2.0
2		Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	1609	W9	X13						2.0

3		**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	1517	W24	W12		H---				2.0
4		**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	1473	W25	W15						2.0
5	5-8	**Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)**	1795	D7	W19						1.5
6		**Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)**	1577	W16	H---					H---	1.5
7		**Daniel Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)**	1555	D5	W18						1.5
8		**Nursultan\ Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	1513	W17	H---						1.5
9	9-14	**Luiz Uribe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839860)**	1856	L2	W21						1.0
10		**Amitoj Singh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12907156)**	1819	W20	L1						1.0
11		**Ted Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	1789	D21	H---	H---					1.0
12		**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	W22	L3						1.0
13		**Frederick Hope (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12646004)**	1646	W23	F2						1.0
14		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	1408	L1	B---						1.0
15	15-23	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	1879	D19	L4						0.5
16		**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	1800	L6	H---	H---					0.5
17		**Gregory Rousso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17073094)**	1745	L8	D22						0.5
18		**David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)**	1622	H---	L7						0.5
19		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1610	D15	L5						0.5
20		**Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	L10	H---	H---	H---				0.5
21		**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	1532	D11	L9						0.5
22		**Anvi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315087)**	1485	L12	D17						0.5
23		**Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	1483	L13	H---						0.5
24	24-25	**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	1776	L3	U---						0.0
25		**Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)**	1612	L4	U---						0.0

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: u/1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total

1	1-4	**Dominic Zirbel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13356345)**	1481	W17	W14							2.0
2		**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	1433	W18	W13							2.0
3		**Isaac Sterling (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14316046)**	1236	X---	W23							2.0
4		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	435	B---	W11							2.0
5	5-9	**Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)**	1490	W15	H---							1.5
6		**Claudio Bastiani-Fonck (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16874166)**	1377	W27	D9							1.5
7		**Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)**	1368	W21	H---							1.5
8		**Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)**	1322	W30	H---							1.5
9		**Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)**	unr.	W25	D6							1.5
10	10-23	**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	1586	L13	W26							1.0
11		**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	1400	W31	L4							1.0
12		**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	1296	H---	H---			H---				1.0
13		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1013	W10	L2							1.0
14		**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	948	W28	L1	H---						1.0
15		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	826	L5	W31							1.0
16		**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)**	825	H---	H---							1.0
17		**Romeo Nehme (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16271243)**	795	L1	W30						H---	1.0
18		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	660	L2	W28							1.0
19		**Kevin Nguyen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30234551)**	unr.	H---	H---							1.0
20		**James Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30209892)**	unr.	H---	H---		H---	H---				1.0
21		**Tony Kachakji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228920)**	unr.	L7	W29							1.0
22		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	unr.	D24	H---							1.0
23		**Iven Yarovoy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17131276)**	unr.	W29	L3	H---						1.0
24	24-27	**Peter Borah (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12883291)**	1232	D22	U---							0.5
25		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	1050	L9	D27							0.5

26		**Thomas Dobbs (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30230850)**	unr.	H---	L10						0.5
27		**Tyler Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30212590)**	unr.	L6	D25						0.5
28	28-31	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	1569	L14	L18						0.0
29		**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	1228	L23	L21						0.0
30		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	unr.	L8	L17						0.0
31		**Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)**	unr.	L11	L15		H---	H---			0.0

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games - JulyAugTNM

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
1	1-5	**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	1900	U---	W2	1.0
2		**Juan Cendejas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12717746)**	1718	W6	L1	1.0
3		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1609	U---	W7	1.0
4		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	435	W9	U---	1.0
5		**Kevin Nguyen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30234551)**	unr.	U---	W8	1.0
6	6-9	**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)**	1866	L2	U---	0.0
7		**Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)**	1800	U---	L3	0.0
8		**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)**	825	U---	L5	0.0
9		**Benjamin Grant**	unr.	L4	U---	0.0

Tony's Teasers

Here is a mate in four from longtime Mechanics' Institute player Tony Lama. This should occupy a good chunk of your time this weekend!

White to move and mate in 4 Francis C. Collins 1881

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute July Blitz Championship Online: July 24, 6:30PM PT. 8SS G/5+2: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-blitz-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-monthly-online-blitz-championship)

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Marathon Online: July 29-August 19, 6:30PM PT. 8SS G/35+5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-jul-aug-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-jul-aug-2021)

20th Pafnutieff Memorial Championship: July 31, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-pafnutieff-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-pafnutieff-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated, monthly publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003805/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

Solution To Tony's Teaser

1. Qf6+!! Kb4 2. Qd4+ Kb5 3. Qc5+ Ka4 4. Qc4#

1. Qf6+!! Kb4 2. Qd4+ Kb5 3. Qc5+ Ka6 4. Qxa5#

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 #979

July 31, 2021

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 3 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The top section of the Tuesday Night Marathon was still wide open entering the evening's round, as already there were no perfect scores remaining after two rounds. However, three players delivered decisive results to create a little seperation in the competition.

NM Siddharth Arun won an impressive game against Nicholas Weng on the top board, and Richard Liu showed amazing defensive poise in holding what looked like an inferior position for much of the game against Christophe Bambou to find his opportunity and get the win. Abhi Pebagalapati, fresh off a dominant 5/5 win in the open section at the San Jose Chess Club Summer Championship the previous weekend, won a quick game against Anthony Acosta. All three of those players lead the section with 2.5/3.

In the under 2000 section, Kevin Sun won the battle of unbeatens as he defeated Leon Quin. Adam Stafford had a quick decisive result against Albert Starr, leaving Sun and Stafford as the only remaining perfect scores in the section.

In the under 1600 section, Isaac Sterling won against Sebby Suarez in what was the final completed game of the evening after over four hours. David Nichol defeated Dominic Zirbel on the broadcast board, leaving Nichol and Sterling as the only perfect scores in that section.

With four rounds still left to play, there is plenty of time for players to make a move up the standings. It was a great atmosphere inside the Mechanics' Institute, as for the first time in well over a year, the Chess Annex was alive with blitz, game analysis, and plenty of conversation. It was great to see Tuesday nights regain the lively vibe of chess play and discussion, the re-emergence of the spirit of San Francisco chess.

Earlier in the afternoon right before the round, Paul and I took a walk to North Beach, where he gave me a brief tour of some of the cafes, restaurants, and bars that have been part of the local city chess scene. San Francisco has a great deal of cultural chess history, from local policeman playing on the street, to the Market street chess tables, to regular gatherings for casual play around the City simply for conversation, comaraderie, and for the pure enjoyment and love of the game. This chess scene, seperate from the world of rated games and competition, is of particular interest to me and something I would love to learn and share. If anyone would like to write something about this for the newsletter, or has some good stories to tell about the San Francisco non-tournament chess scene, please let me know by reaching out to atalamantez@milibrary.org.

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) NM Arun,Siddharth (2253) - Weng,Nicholas (2013) [A47]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (3.1), 27.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 The Nimzovich/Larsen Attack is a good alternative to the usual center pawn advances. **2...g6 3.Bb2 Bg7 4.e3 c5 5.d4** Siddharth switches to classical central control. This is fully justified by opening principles. **5...b6 6.Nbd2 Bb7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.c4 e6 9.Rc1 d6 10.Qe2 Nbd7 11.0-0 Qc7**

12.Ne1?! There is nothing too wrong with this move, but knights don't belong in the back. **12...Rad8** [12...cxd4 13.exd4 e5! would be a direct way to take advantage of White's knight move] **13.Nc2 d5 14.f4 Qb8 15.Nf3 Ne4!? 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Ne5 cxd4 18.exd4 f6! 19.Nxd7 Rxd7** Black has an edge due to the bishop pair and a bit more pawn control of the center. **20.c5 Rfd8 21.Qb5 bxc5** [21...Bd5! immediately wouldn't give White the d4 square to use. 22.c6 a6!] **22.dxc5 Bd5 23.Qa6 Rc7 24.Ne3 Qb4?** Oops. A blunder losing an important pawn. Instead Black would be fine after [24...Qc8] **25.Nxd5 exd5 26.Bxf6 Bxf6 27.Qxf6 Re8 28.Qd6 Qd4+ 29.Kh1 Rec8**

30.b4 This trades the b-pawn for the black d-pawn and keeps a clear edge. 30 f5 was also good. **30...Qxb4 31.Qxd5+ Kg7 32.Rc4 Qb7 33.Qxe4?!** allowing a rook and pawn ending with many drawing chances [33.Qe5+ Kg8 34.Qe6+ Kg7 35.f5 is strong] **33...Qxe4 34.Rxe4 Rxc5 35.Re7+ Kh6 36.Rxa7 Rc2 37.h3 Rd8 38.Re1 Rf2 39.Rf7 Rd4**

40.Ree7 Rdxf4 41.Rxh7+ Kg5 42.Ra7 Rd4 43.Ra5+ Kf6 44.Ra6+

44...Ke5? Nicholas gives up his g-pawn, and with it all drawing chances. The double rook ending is tricky and White would have a lot of work to do to win after [44...Kg5] **45.Re7+ Kd5 46.Rd7+ Ke4 47.Rxd4+ Kxd4 48.Rxg6** With the two connected passed pawns on the kingside it is an easy win. The rest needs no comment. **48...Rxa2 49.Rf6 Ke5 50.Rf1 Rb2 51.Kh2 Rb3 52.h4 1-0**

(2) Bambou,Christophe (2121) - Liu,Richard (1824) [B22]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (3.2), 27.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6!? 3.d4 cxd4 [3...Nf6] **4.cxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Bb5+** White has the classical pawn center and would have an edge after simple moves such as 7. Be2 or 7. h3. Instead Chrisopher immediately seeks complications. **7...Bd7 8.e5**

8...dxe5 9.dxe5 Ng4 10.Bf4 Qb6 11.Bxd7+ [11.Qe2! is a good alternative, keeping the cramping pawn on e5] **11...Nxd7 12.0-0** A reasonable pawn sacrifice for a lead in development **12...Ngxe5 13.Nxe5 Bxe5 14.Bxe5 Nxe5 15.Nd5 Qd6 16.Qa4+ Kf8 17.Rad1 Kg7 18.Rfe1 f6 19.Qb3**

with both rooks already mobilized White has good value for the pawn. **19...Qc5?!** [19...Rhc8 20.Qxb7 Rab8 21.Qxe7+ Qxe7 22.Nxe7 Rc2 is active play that would hold the balance] **20.Rc1 Qa5 21.Qxb7 Rae8 22.Nxe7** White has gotten two pawns back for the one invested. Richard is in trouble. **22...Nf7 23.b4 Qxa2 24.Rc7 Rhf8 25.h3 Rb8 26.Qe4 Qd2 27.Qe6! Rb6 28.Nc6 Qc3?!** Now the other white rook comes into play with tempo **29.Re3 Qc1+ 30.Kh2 Qc2**

31.Qd7? [31.Rf3 f5 32.Qe5+ Kh6 33.Qe7 Kg7 34.Ne5 should win for White. Giving away the f2 pawn makes the white king insecure] **31...Qxf2 32.Rf3 Qb2 33.Nd8?!** [33.Rxa7 still keeps the edge] **33...Qe5+ 34.Kg1?**

Suddenly White is in big trouble. 34. Rg3 would have kept even chances. **34...Rd6!** Now White loses the knight on d8. The aggressive looking white position just doesn't hold together. **35.Rd3** [35.Qe7 Qxe7 36.Rxe7 Rfxd8; 35.Nxf7 Qd4+ 36.Kh2 Rxd7] **35...Rxd7 36.Rdxd7**

36...Rxd8! The clean way to win! Richard is not afraid of a few checks. **37.Rxf7+ Kh6 38.Rxh7+ Kg5 39.Rc5 Rd1+ 40.Kf2 Rd2+ 41.Kf3 Rd5** Black saves the queen and the rest is easy. **42.h4+ Kf5 43.g4+ Ke6 44.Rc6+ Rd6 45.Rxd6+ Qxd6 46.h5 Qd3+ 47.Kg2 gxh5 48.Rxh5 Qd2+ 49.Kg3 Qxb4 50.Rf5 Qc3+ 51.Kh4 Qe1+ 52.Kh3 Qh1+ 53.Kg3 Qe4 54.Rf2 Qe3+ 55.Rf3 Qxf3+** very simple and decisive **56.Kxf3 a5 57.Ke3 Ke5 0-1**

(3) Zhou,Chelsea (1879) - Guo,Andrew (1885) [E61]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (3.5), 27.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 c5 3.e3 Chelsea chooses a restrained opening instead of 3. d5 which leads to a Benoni or Benko Gambit. This is a very practical choice. **3...cxd4 4.exd4 d6 5.Nc3 g6 6.g3 Bg7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.Nge2 Nc6 9.0-0 Bf5**

We have a King's Indian style position. Black has all the minor pieces out and stands equal. **10.a3 Qb6 11.b4 Rac8** This rook should be more effective on the d-file as 12. c5 is coming. **12.c5 dxc5 13.dxc5 Qd8 14.Bb2 Qc7?!** Too many move with the black queen give White the initiative. **15.Nb5 Qb8 16.Nbd4 Be4 17.Nxc6** [slightly better is 17.Bxe4 Nxe4 18.Qc2] **17...Bxc6 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Qa4 Rfd8 20.Rfd1 Nd5 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Rac1 Qe5 23.Re1 Rc7 24.Nf4 Qf5 25.Nxd5 Rxd5 26.Rcd1 Rcd7 27.Rxd5 Qxd5 28.Qc2 e6 29.a4 Rb7?!**

30.Rd1 [30.b5! cxb5 31.c6 Rc7 32.Qb2+ f6 33.axb5 is a nice edge to White] **30...Qe5 31.Rb1?**

31...Rxb4! 32.Rxb4 Qe1+ 33.Kg2 Qxb4 Andrew has scored a pawn with the tactic. Now Chelsea must try to hold a pawn down queen ending. **34.h4 h5 35.a5!? Qxa5?! 36.Qb2+ Kh7 37.Qb7! Qxc5 38.Qxf7+ Kh8 39.Qf6+ Kh7 40.Qf7+ Kh6 41.Qf4+** [41.Qf6!] **41...Kg7 42.Qc7+ Kf6 43.Qf4+ Ke7 44.Qc7+ Ke8 45.Qc8+ Kf7** Black stops the checks as 46. Qc7+ Qe7 blocks. It's still a long way to a win but Black won here (presumably on time). **0-1**

(4) Sun,Kevin (1517) - Quin,Leon (1611) [B23]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u2000 San Francisco (3.7), 27.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.d3 d5 6.Qe2 Nf6 7.e5 Nd7 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Rb8 11.b3 Nb6 12.Bb2 Ba6 13.a3 Qc8 14.Qd2 c4!

Trading off the doubled pawn ensures Black at least equality. The bishop pair is a plus here. **15.b4 cxd3 16.cxd3 c5 17.b5 Bb7 18.a4 d4?!** This advance gives White the e4 square. It was better to be more restrained and wait for the right time to advance in the center. **19.Ne4 Bxe4 20.Rxe4 Nd5 21.Rc1 Qb7 22.Ba1?!** The bishop is not very active here. 22. Rg4 was more aggressive. **22...a6! 23.Rb1 axb5 24.axb5 Nb4 25.Rg4 f5?!** Opening the kingside gives White play. More solid was [25...Qxb5] **26.exf6 Rxf6 27.Qg5 Rf7 28.Qe5 Qxb5 29.Qxe6**

29...Qxd3?? Oh no! With 29...Bf6 Black maintains an edge. After playing an excellent stratgic game Leon falls for a knight fork. **30.Qxf7+! Kxf7 31.Ne5+** Black resigned as he ends up a whole rook down. **1-0**

(5) Rex, Tobiahs (1569) - Thibault,William (1050) [A36]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u1600 San Francisco (3.28), 27.07.2021

[de Firmian]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 c5 5.e4 Richard plays the Botvinnik System of the English. (Perhaps we'll get some Botvinnik quotes next week from Richard at the Chess Cafe.) **5...e5** This move works better with the king's knight on e7 rather than f6. **6.Nge2 Nc6 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 d6 9.Be3 Be6 10.h3 Qd7 11.Kh2 a6**

12.Nd5 [12.f4 would be more aggressive. 12...b5? 13.f5! gxf5 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Bxc6 wins a piece] **12...Bxd5** [12...Rab8!?] **13.cxd5 Nd4 14.a4** White could get a slight edge on the queenside with [14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Bd2 Qb5 16.Qb3] **14...b5 15.Bxd4** The dark-squared bishop is a good piece, so I would have preferred to capture on d4 with the knight. **15...cxd4 16.axb5 axb5 17.Qd2 Rxa1 18.Rxa1 Qb7 19.b4** [19.Qb4!? Would have the virtue of annoying Black with the defense of the d-pawn.] **19...Ra8 20.Rxa8+ Qxa8 21.f4 Qc8 22.g4?!**

22...h5 [22...exf4! 23.Qxf4 Nxd5 24.Qxd6 Qc7 25.Qxc7 Nxc7 26.Nc1 Na6 27.Na2 Be5+ 28.Kg1 Bd6 wins a pawn. White should try to bail out to a bishops of opposite color ending with 29.e5! Bxe5 30.Bc6] **23.f5?! hxg4 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.Ng3 Kf7 26.Qa2 Bh6 27.Qa7+ Qd7 28.Qxd7+ Nxd7 29.hxg4 Bf4 30.Kh3 Bxg3** [30...Bd2 nets a clear pawn, but the game move is also good] **31.Kxg3 g5 32.Kf2**

The players agreed a draw, but White is in trouble. The knight is better than the bishop, and 32...Nb8! followed by 33...Na6 wins a pawn. William was probably happy to draw his experienced opponent, but objectively had all the chances to win. **1/2-1/2**

To watch the broadcast of round 3, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcuObSaNwzo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcuObSaNwzo)

Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 2000+

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	Pri
1	1-3	NM Siddharth Arun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13206647)	2253	W12	D5	W6			H---	H---	2.5	
2		Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	2078	W9	D4	W10	H---				2.5	
3		Richard Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14823351)	1824	H---	W11	W5					2.5	
4	4	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	2278	W7	D2	H---	H---				2.0	
5	5-10	Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)	2121	W8	D1	L3					1.5	
6		Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	2013	H---	W13	L1		H---			1.5	
7		Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	1997	L4	W12	D8					1.5	
8		Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	1900	L5	B---	D7					1.5	
9		Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)	1885	L2	H---	W13					1.5	
10		Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	1818	H---	W14	L2					1.5	
11	11-14	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	1964	H---	L3	D14					1.0	
12		Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	1928	L1	L7	B---					1.0	
13		Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	1879	B---	L6	L9			H---		1.0	
14		Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	1828	H---	L10	D11					1.0	

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under2000

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	Pri
1	1-2	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	1517	W25	W18	W7	H---				3.0	
2		Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	1473	W26	W9	W8					3.0	
3	3-4	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	1795	D4	W23	W15					2.5	
4		Daniel Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)	1555	D3	W12	W13		H---	H---		2.5	

5	5-8	**Luiz Uribe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839860)**	1856	L8	W14	W18					2.0	
6		**Amitoj Singh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12907156)**	1819	W20	L7	W19					2.0	
7		**Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)**	1611	W21	W6	L1					2.0	
8		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1609	W5	X19	L2					2.0	
9	9-16	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	1879	D23	L2	W21					1.5	
10		**Ted Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	1789	D14	H---	H---					1.5	
11		**Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)**	1761	H---	H---	H---					1.5	
12		**David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)**	1622	H---	L4	W24					1.5	
13		**Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)**	1577	W17	H---	L4				H---	1.5	
14		**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	1532	D10	L5	W22					1.5	
15		**Nursultan\ Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	1513	W22	H---	L3					1.5	
16		**Anvi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315087)**	1485	L18	D22	W23	H---				1.5	
17	17-21	**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	1800	L13	H---	H---					1.0	
18		**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	W16	L1	L5					1.0	
19		**Frederick Hope (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12646004)**	1646	W24	F8	L6					1.0	
20		**Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	L6	H---	H---	H---				1.0	
21		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	1408	L7	B---	L9					1.0	
22	22-24	**Gregory Rousso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17073094)**	1745	L15	D16	L14					0.5	
23		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1610	D9	L3	L16					0.5	
24		**Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	1483	L19	H---	L12					0.5	
25	25-26	**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	1776	L1	U---	U---					0.0	
26		**Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)**	1612	L2	U---	U---					0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: u/1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	Pri
1	1-2	**Isaac Sterling (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14316046)**	1236	X---	W19	W7					3.0	

2		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	435	B---	W22	W6					3.0	
3	3-5	**Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)**	1490	W10	H---	X20					2.5	
4		**Claudio Bastiani-Fonck (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16874166)**	1377	W30	D20	W23	H---				2.5	
5		**Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)**	1322	W25	H---	W21					2.5	
6	6-12	**Dominic Zirbel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13356345)**	1481	W12	W23	L2					2.0	
7		**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	1433	W15	W9	L1					2.0	
8		**Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)**	1368	W18	H---	H---					2.0	
9		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1013	W21	L7	X24					2.0	
10		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	826	L3	W27	B---					2.0	
11		**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)**	825	H---	H---	W26					2.0	
12		**Romeo Nehme (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16271243)**	795	L6	W25	W22				H---	2.0	
13	13-20	**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	1296	H---	H---	D15		H---			1.5	
14		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	1050	L20	D30	B---					1.5	
15		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	660	L7	W28	D13					1.5	
16		**Yuri Meseznik**	unr.	H---	H---	H---					1.5	
17		**Thomas Dobbs (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30230850)**	unr.	H---	L21	W30					1.5	
18		**Tony Kachakji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228920)**	unr.	L8	W31	H---					1.5	
19		**Iven Yarovoy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17131276)**	unr.	W31	L1	H---					1.5	
20		**Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)**	unr.	W14	D4	F3					1.5	
21	21-27	**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	1586	L9	W17	L5					1.0	
22		**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	1400	W27	L2	L12					1.0	
23		**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	948	W28	L6	L4					1.0	
24		**Kevin Nguyen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30234551)**	unr.	H---	H---	F9					1.0	
25		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	unr.	L5	L12	B---					1.0	
26		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	unr.	D29	H---	L11					1.0	
		Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?					H-	H-				

27		**30210917)**	unr.	L22	L10	W31	--	--			1.0	
28	28-30	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	1569	L23	L15	H---					0.5	
29		**Peter Borah (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12883291)**	1232	D26	U---	U---					0.5	
30		**Tyler Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30212590)**	unr.	L4	D14	L17					0.5	
31	31	**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	1228	L19	L18	L27					0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games - JulyAugTNM

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	1-8	**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	1900	U---	W4	U---	1.0	
2		**Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)**	1811	U---	U---	W11	1.0	
3		**Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)**	1800	U---	L5	W14	1.0	
4		**Juan Cendejas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12717746)**	1718	W12	L1	U---	1.0	
5		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1609	U---	W3	U---	1.0	
6		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	826	U---	U---	W16	1.0	
7		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	435	W15	U---	U---	1.0	
8		**Kevin Nguyen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30234551)**	unr.	U---	W13	U---	1.0	
9	9-10	**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	1050	U---	U---	D10	0.5	
10		**Tobias Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1013	U---	U---	D9	0.5	
11	11-16	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	1928	U---	U---	L2	0.0	
12		**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)**	1866	L4	U---	U---	0.0	
13		**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)**	825	U---	L8	U---	0.0	
14		**Tony Kachakji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228920)**	unr.	U---	U---	L3	0.0	
15		**Benjamin Grant**	unr.	L7	U---	U---	0.0	
16		**Yuri Meseznik**	unr.	U---	U---	L6	0.0	

Thursday Night Marathon Round 1&2 Report

The first 2 rounds are complete in the Thursday Night Marathon online, and the top players made it through the opening rounds. Kudos to Katherine Sunny Lu for a great performance in upsetting Sanjeev Anand and holding a draw against Nikunj Oza in a tough position.

To watch the entertaining broadcast of the first 2 rounds, please follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8pbRxulR0U (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8pbRxulR0U)

Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Standings. July-August Thurdsay Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2635	W15	W12	
2	IM Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)	Swarnapuri	30100858	2513	W24	W11	
3	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2171	W16	W14	
4	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	W25	W17	
5	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	vincitore51745	12814843	569	X7	W21	
6	Nikunj Oza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12497585)	Motif	12497585	1851	W26	D9	
7	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	H---	W23	
8	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1554	D23	W22	
9	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2Nf31-0	16425316	1152	W13	D6	
10	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	L17	X20	
11	Rithwik Narendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14903560)	rukja	14903560	1849	W18	L2	H---
12	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W19	L1	
13	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1753	L9	W25	
14	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1584	W27	L3	H---
15	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	Loltheawesomedude	16497860	1531	L1	W26	
16	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1360	L3	W27	
17	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1335	W10	L4	
18	Sarvagnya Brahmanapally (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16466227)	bsarvagnya	16466227	1287	L11	W24	
19	Austin Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144712)	austinjin666xd	17144712	1153	L12	B---	
20	Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	tobiahsrex	30164211	1013	H---	H---	
21	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	LudiMagisterJosephus	13742111	1700	D22	L5	
22	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1055	D21	L8	
23	Jonathan Rice (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205348)	ricejonathanc	30205348	unr.	D8	L7	
	Marina Xiao						

24	**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)**	**programmingmax**	16380642	1398	L2	L18	
25	**Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)**	**boozerrip**	13553308	1350	L4	L13	
26	**Andy Xu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16732301)**	**vivianandy**	16732301	1312	L6	L15	
27	**Jimolee Gray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30172836)**	**jgray43**	30172836	unr.	L14	L16	

Tony's Teasers

Here is a mate in three from longtime Mechanics' Institute player Tony Lama. This should occupy a good chunk of your time this weekend!

White to move and mate in 4

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Marathon Online: July 29-August 19, 6:30PM PT. 8SS G/35+5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-jul-aug-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-jul-aug-2021)

20th Pafnutieff Memorial Championship: July 31, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-pafnutieff-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-pafnutieff-memorial-championship-g45-person)

20th Bernardo Smith Memorial Championship: FIDE Rated. August 21-22, 9AM PT. 5SS G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/15th-smith-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/15th-smith-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013545/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 21: Botvinnik – Tal 1960

Botvinnik's next challenger was the crowd-pleasing attacking genius Mikhail Tal, the "Magician from Riga".

The challenger took the first game in his signature flashy style and never looked back, with the final score a convincing +6 -2 =13.

The youngest World Champion in history (until Kasparov in 1985) at the age of 23,

Tal's wonderful attacking play was nowhere more evident than in the following game, and his electrifying twenty first move:

Botvinnik – Tal, 6th Match Game 1960.

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 O-O 5.d4 d6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.O-O e5 8.e4 c6 9.h3 Qb6 10.d5 cxd5 11.cxd5 Nc5 12.Ne1 Bd7 13.Nd3 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Rfc8 15.Rb1 Nh5 16.Be3 Qb4 17.Qe2 Rc4 18.Rfc1 Rac8 19.Kh2 f5 20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Ra1.

21…Nf4!! 22.gxf4 exf4 23.Bd2 Qxb2 24.Rab1 f3 25.Rxb2 fxe2 26.Rb3 Rd4 27.Be1 Be5+ 28.Kg1 Bf4 29.Nxe2 Rxc1 30.Nxd4 Rxe1+ 31.Bf1 Be4 32.Ne2 Be5 33.f4 Bf6 34.Rxb7 Bxd5 35.Rc7 Bxa2 36.Rxa7 Bc4 37.Ra8+ Kf7 38.Ra7+ Ke6 39.Ra3 d5 40.Kf2 Bh4+ 41.Kg2 Kd6 42.Ng3 Bxg3 43.Bxc4 dxc4

44.Kxg3 Kd5 45.Ra7 c3 46.Rc7 Kd4 47.Rd7+ 0-1

Do yourself a favor: find Tal's book of the match for a deep analysis of this game. It remains one of the finest chess books ever written.

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1. Tal – Botvinnik, 7th Match Game 1960.

White moves. It's Tal's knight out.

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2. Botvinnik – Tal, 8th Match Game 1960.

White moves. 1.b7? Or something else?

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3. Tal – Botvinnik, 11th Match Game 1960.

White moves. Win a little something.

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4. Botvinnik – Tal, 12th Match Game 1960.

Black moves. Can he trade the queens with 1…Qf7+?

---

5. Tal – Botvinnik, 17th Match Game 1960.

White moves. School the champ.

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6. Tal – Botvinnik, 19th Match Game 1960.

White moves. A classic theme dispels all threats.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Sam Shankland Soars to the Top

American athletes are striving for gold at the Tokyo Olympics and have the focus of the world's attention. Yet in Soci, Russia another American is bringing glory to the USA – the Bay Area's own Sam Shankland. The World Cup started with 200 of the best players in the world and is now down to just eight. All of the other Americans have been eliminated, including an early exit by the number 2 player on the FIDE rating list, Fabiano Caruana. Sam has defeated former challenger Sergey Karjakin with the White pieces and seems set to advance to the semi-finals. He will be in the next Candidates Tournament if he can win that match and advance to the finals (the top 2 finishers of the World Cup become Candidates).

This performance is a tremendous boost to Sam's career. Indeed, it may have looked like his chess career was fading away a few months ago. The United States had imported top ten players Wesley So and now seemingly Levon Aronian to add to the star power of Caruana. Then there is world #15 Lenier Dominguez who came from Cuba 2 years ago and super-GM Hikaru Nakamura, the world's highest rated blitz player. This is already the top five players which make up the US Olympic team, and waiting in the wings is young Jeffery Xiong from Texas who is a 2700 player at only 20 years old. Thus at 29 years old it seemed Sam would never be able to catch up to the other top Americans.

The World Cup has drastically changed that. Sam's rating has jumped to 25th in the world and he is close to becoming one of the eight Candidates for the next World Championship cycle. Caruana, So and all the rest have not qualified for the Candidates and there are only a couple of spots left. We may soon see Sam as the leading American hope to become World Champion.

(1) Shankland,Sam - Karjakin,Sergey [A20]

World Cup, 28.07.2021

1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 This English Opening is like a 2.c3 Sicilian reversed. **3.Nf3 e4 4.Nd4 d5 5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.e3 Bc5 7.Nc3 Qe5 8.d3 exd3 9.Qxd3 Nf6** Karjakin is a very solid player with the Black pieces. His pawn structure is strong and there are no problems developing. **10.Bg2 0-0 11.0-0 Rd8 12.Nf3!?**

An interesting choice. Sam is playing for the win but just trades the queens into a level ending. **12...Rxd3 13.Nxe5 Rd8 14.b3 Be6 15.Bb2 Na6 16.Rad1 Be7 17.Ne2!** A good regrouping. Black can hold the balance, yet Karjakin starts to feel some pressure from the white knights. **17...Nb4 18.Nd4 Bd5** [18...Nxa2?! 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Bh3!] **19.a3 Na6 20.b4 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 c5** Actice play is best. If Black is passive White will slowly creep up on the kingside. **22.Nf5 Bf8 23.b5 Nc7 24.a4 Nfd5 25.Nc4 g6 26.Nh4 Nb6 27.Rxd8 Rxd8 28.Nxb6 axb6 29.Nf3** So far Karjakin has played accurately and seems in little danger. **29...Ra8 30.Be5 Ne8 31.Ra1 f6 32.Bc3 Kf7 33.Nd2 Bd6 34.Kf1 Ke6 35.Ke2 h5 36.Kd3 Bc7 37.f4 Nd6 38.e4**

Black has countered all of White's plans to go forward. Sam wants to press on the kingside but Black could play make waiting moves or try 38...g5 **38...f5?** It is desireable to put your pawns on the opposite color of your bishop, but here this is clearly outweighed by the protected passed pawn White gets on e5. **39.e5 Nf7 40.Kc4 Ke7 41.Nf1!** headed for the great central location a d5. **41...Nd8 42.Ne3 Ne6**

43.a5! Starting the breakthrough with a temporaty pawn sacrifice. **43...bxa5 44.b6 Bd8** [44...Bxb6? 45.Nd5+] **45.Rd1 Nd4** [45...a4 46.Rd6 a3? 47.Nd5+ Kf7 48.Rd7+ Ke8 49.Rxb7 a2 50.Ra7 wins for White] **46.Nd5+ Kf7 47.Bxd4 cxd4 48.Rxd4 Rc8+**

49.Nc7! Bxc7 50.Rd7+ Ke6 51.Rxc7 Rxc7+ 52.bxc7 Kd7 Though tricky, the pawn ending is a win for White with the protected passed e-pawn. **53.Kb5 Kxc7** [53...b6 54.Kxb6 a4 55.Kb7] **54.Kxa5 Kc6 55.Kb4 Kb6 56.Kc4 Kc6 57.Kd4 b5 58.h3** Kajakin resigned. Black is in zugswang and must give ground. On 58. ..Kb6 59 Kd5 b4 60. Kc4 either wins the black b-pawn or queens the e-pawn. **1-0**

(2) Shankland,Sam - Svidler,Peter [E60]

World Cup, 27.07.2021

Svidler is an 8 time Russian champion and a highly respected player by all the world's elite. He has beaten Carlsen a couple of times and would have been considered the pre-match favorite against Sam. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.h4!?** This move has been played several time before. It has ideas to get attacking chances when Black castles kingside, but Sam likely choose this to avoid 3. Nc3 d5, as Svidler loves the Grundfeld Defense and has tremendous experience with it. **3...Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 Nc6 6.Nge2 0-0 7.f3**

We have reached a Saemisch King's Indian, though White has played h2-h4 instead of the usual developing move Be3. **7...e5 8.d5 Nd4 9.Be3** [9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Qxd4 Nxe4! 11.Qxe4? Re8 wins the queen] **9...c5 10.dxc6 bxc6** Svidler plays for activity and sacrifices a pawn. This is reasonable play since White lags in development and his king is in the center. **11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Bxd4 Rb8 13.Qc2 c5 14.Bf2 Be6 15.0-0-0**

Svidler sacrifices a second pawn to bring forces over to the queenside where the white king lives. The two black bishops along with the knight, rook and queen make for a dangerous force. **15...Nd7 16.Rxd6 Qa5 17.Be1 Ne5 18.f4!?** Sam forces the central action to clarify the position. He could have played 18. b3, which may have been better but leaves the dangerous Black forces ready to pounce. **18...Nxc4 19.Bxc4 Bxc4 20.e5** Thus the dangerous King's Indian bishop is shut off from the queenside. **20...Rfd8** [20...Bxa2?! 21.Nd5 Qb5 22.Ne7+ Kh8 23.h5 Bb3? 24.hxg6! is a mating attack] **21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.h5 Bxa2 23.hxg6 hxg6 24.Ne4 Qb6?**

Svidler retreats the queen to the wrong square and White is able to get everything working. With 24...Qb5 Svidler could have held the game. **25.Bh4!** suddenly the bishop runs back to the kingside with deadly effect. **25...Rd4** [25...Bb3 26.Bxd8 attacks the black queen. This is one of the problems with 24...Qb6] **26.Nf6+ Kf8 27.Bf2! Bxf6** [The other problem is that 27...Rc4 28.Nd7+ is a fork] **28.exf6!** Calmly recapturing. The threat is 29. Rh8 mate. **28...Qxf6 29.Qxc5+ Rd6 30.Qc8+**

Black resigned. After 30...Rd8 31. Rh8+! Qh8 33. Qd8+ Kg7 34. Bd4+ wins **1-0**

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Tal – Botvinnik, 7th Match Game 1960.

After **1.Rxd7+!** White will emerge from the exchanges with 2 knights for a rook: **2…Nxd7 3.Rxd7+ Kxd7 4.Nf6+.** The point. **4… Kd6 5.Nxg8.** Now Botvinnik offers stiff resistance for a while, but ultimately succumbs to the challenger's accurate technique. **5… Rc5 6.Nh6 f6 7.Ng4 Bxc2 8.Nxf6 Bxb3 9.axb3 Rb5 10.Nxg5 Rxb3 11.f4 Rb1+ 12.Ke2 Rb2+ 13.Kf3 Rb3+ 14.Kg4 Rb2 15.g3 b5 16.Nfe4+ Kd5 17.f5 b4 18.f6 Ra2 19.f7 Ra8 20.Nh7 b3 21.Nd2 b2 22.Kf3 Kd4 23.Ke2 c5 24.f8=Q Rxf8 25.Nxf8 c4 26.Ne6+ Kd5 27.Nf4+ Kd4 28.Nb1 1-0**

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2. Botvinnik – Tal, 8th Match Game 1960.

1.Nf7+! 1-0. Tal resigned here at the adjournment, as **1…Kg7** (1…Kh7 2.d6 queens a pawn by force) **2.b7 Rb3 3.Nd8**! wins in all variations, for example: **3…Kf6** (Or trying to push the a-pawn: 3…a5 4.d6 a4 5.d7 a3 6.Ne6+ wins easily) **4.d6 a5 5.d7 Ke7 6.Nc6+ Kxd7 7.b8=Q Rxb8 8.Nxb8+ Kd6 9.h5,** and it's all over.

1.b7? would have been a terrible mistake, as after **1…Rb3 2.Nf7+ Kh7!** Is the move that makes all the difference here: Now **3.Nd8 a5 4.d6 a4 5.d7 a3 6.Ne6** (Without check!) **6…a2** and black wins!

---

3. Tal – Botvinnik, 11th Match Game 1960.

White snatched a pawn with **1.Bxh7+! Rxh7 2.Qg5+ Kh8 3.Qd8+ Kg7 4.Rxh7+ Kxh7.** Then he regained his piece: **5.Qxc7+ Kg6.** Then he took another pawn with **6.Qxb7.** This was all too much for the defense, and again the challenger's technique was more than sufficient to bring home the point: **6… Qe4 7.Qa6 Qb1+ 8.Kg2 Qe4+ 9.Kf1 Qb1+ 10.Ke2 Qc2+ 11.Kf3 Qf5+ 12.Ke3 Qg5+ 13.Ke2 Qh5+ 14.Kd2 Kf6 15.Qxc6 Qa5+ 16.Qc3 Qxa2+ 17.Ke3 Kf7 18.d5 exd5 19.Qc7+ Ke6 20.Qc6+ Ke7 21.Qxd5 Qa1 22.Qe4+ Kf7 23.Kf4 Qc1+ 24.Kg4 Qa1 25.Qd5+ Kf8 26.Kf5 Qb1+ 27.Kf6 1-0**

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4. Botvinnik – Tal, 12th Match Game 1960.

Tal played **1…Qf6+** and the game was drawn 21 moves later with Botvinnik having made almost zero progress: **2.Ke3 Kf8 3.Kd3 Qf1+ 4.Ke4 Qg2+ 5.Ke5 Qg5+ 6.Ke6 Qe7+ 7.Kf5 Qc7 8.Qa8+ Ke7 9.Qe4+ Kd8 10.Qh4+ Kc8 11.Qh8+ Kb7 12.Qe5 Qf7+ 13.Ke4 Qg6+ 14.Qf5 Qd6 15.Qf7+ Kc8 16.Qf5+ Kd8 17.Qa5+ Ke8 18.d5 Kd7 19.Qa7+ Kd8 20.Qa8+ Kd7 21.Kf5 Ke7 1/2 1/2**

1…Qf7+?? Would have been a grave error: **2.Qxf7+ Kxf7 3.Kf5!** takes the opposition and wins for white: **3…Ke7 4.Ke5 Kd7 5.Kd5!** etc.

---

5. Tal – Botvinnik, 17th Match Game 1960.

In mutual time-pressure Tal knocked Botvinnik out with the crushing **1.Rxa6+! Kb8** (If 1…Kxa6 2.Qb6#. Or 1…bxa6 2.Qb6+ Ka8 3.Qxa6+ Ra7 4.Qxc8#.) **2.Qa4 1-0.** White's threats are overwhelming.

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6. Tal – Botvinnik, 19th Match Game 1960.

Faced with the dire threat of 1…Rc1+ Tal uncorked the brilliant "interference" **1.Bc7!!** maintaining his material and positional advantage. Botvinnik could not take the bishop: 1…Rxc7? 2.Qe8+ Kg7 3.Qf8# and so found himself with little to play for: **1…Bf8 2.Qb5 Qe6 3.Be5 Qc6 4.Qa5 Ra8 5.Qd2 Rc8 6.Kg2 Qd7 7.h4 Qg4 1-0.** Botvinnik resigned at the adjournment, perhaps prematurely, but his position is quite bad: 8.Qd3 sets up queenside infiltration with Qa6 combined with possible king-side action. A non-forced but fun continuation might be 8…Qd7 9.h5 gxh5 10.Rf5 and black is falling apart.

Solution To Tony's Teaser

1. Rg4+!! Kd3 2. Qf5+ Ke2 3. Nd4+ Ke1 4. Qb1#

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 #980

August 7, 2021

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 4 Report

by Abel Talamantez

Round 4 of the TNM had some exciting games and matchups, with Richard Liu continuing his strong TNM run with a draw against NM Siddharth Arun. Liu was able to force a draw in a rooks and pawns endgame despite being down 3 pawns. Christophe Bambou grinded down a bishop and pawns endgame to defeat Andrew Guo on board 2. Nicholas Weng and Kristian Clemens also got wins in the top section. Arun, Abhi Penagalapati, and Richard Liu lead the section with 3/4.

In the under 2000 section, Samuel Bownlow continue to lead the section after a victory over Adam Stafford, and Leon Quin got a fine win against an always dangerous Adam Mercado. Daniel Perlov drew with Luiz Uribe and Amitoj Singh won a quick game against Albert Starr to round up the top scorers in the section. Kevin Sun had a bye in the 4th round, so he and Samuel Brownlow are in the lead with 3.4/4.

In the under 1600 section, Isaac Sterling is the only perfect score left in the tournament after winning against David Nichol. Some strong competition is lurking close behind, including Paul Reed who is only a half point behind.

As we did last week, Paul and I ventured into North Beach prior to the start of the TNM. Jude Acers emailed me about visiting Cafe Trieste, where he said he saw Francis Ford Coppola work on drafts of the Godfather there many years ago. Paul told me also it used to be a popular chess hangout, so we headed out.

I had a latte with one sugar and chocolate spinkled on top and Paul had his usual cappuccino. There is plenty of space inside if people ever wanted to head there to play some blitz while enjoying drinks. The inside walls are lined with pictures for people to enjoy its history and it definitely has that classical feel. The outdoor space is great as well.

We made our way back to Mechanics' Institute to get ready for the start of round 4, but not before stopping by Pizzelle di North Beach for slices of cheese and pepperoni. It was nice to get a quick slice, with parmesean, chili flakes, and oregano as condiments while watching Grand Torino on the TV inside.

Next week we will again tackle the local cafes and San Francisco street chess hotspots, seeing if we can spread the message of bringing communities together through chess and food and reviving the once great street chess culture of San Francisco through the Mechanics' Institute.

Here is the link to the broadcast: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eztHVCrEwhs (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eztHVCrEwhs)

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Liu,Richard (1824) - Arun,Siddharth (2253) [A60]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (4.1), 03.08.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.Nxd5 An unusual move. This seems to give away White's opening edge, but has the advantage of avoiding the complex lines of the Modern Benoni. [5.cxd5] **5...Nxd5 6.Qxd5 Nc6 7.Bd2 d6 8.Nf3 Be6 9.Qe4 Be7**

Black has a lead in development and has no opening problems. **10.e3 Bf6 11.Qc2 g5!?** Siddharth plays aggressively, but White can handle this advance. **12.Bc3! Bxc3+ 13.Qxc3 Kd7!? 14.Rd1 Kc7 15.Bd3 Qe7 16.Be4 Bd7 17.Bd5 Rhg8 18.a3!** Remembering that White needs to get play on the queenside where the black king resides. **18...a5 19.h4 g4 20.Nd2 g3 21.f3 Nd4 22.Ne4! Nf5 23.h5 Rge8 24.Rd3 Bc6**

25.Kd2! Richard is playing with inspiration and has gottern the edge with better control of the central squares. **25...Bxd5 26.Rxd5 Qe6 27.Re1 b5?! 28.Qf6!** A fine counter to Black's aggression. White threatens a lot himself. **28...Ne7 29.Qxe6** [29.Rxd6! Rad8 30.Qxe6 fxe6 31.Rxd8 Rxd8+ 32.Kc3 Is a clear pawn up in the endgame.] **29...fxe6 30.Rxd6 Nf5! 31.Rd3 bxc4 32.Rc3 Nd6 33.Nxd6 Kxd6 34.Rxc4 Rg8** White still has a pawn up double rook ending and all the winning chances. Rook ending are always tricky to win though. **35.Kc3 Rg5 36.Rd1+ Kc6 37.Rh4 Rf8 38.f4 Rg7 39.Rf1 Rd8 40.Rh3 c4 41.h6 Rgd7 42.Rxg3 Rd3+ 43.Kc2?!** [43.Kxc4! Rd2 Is a huge advantage for White 44.Kb3] **43...Rd2+ 44.Kc1**

44...c3! Now the black rooks controls the second rank with play against the white king. **45.bxc3 Ra2 46.Rgf3 Rdd2**

The doubled black rooks on the second rank guarantee Black a draw, desipite the three pawn disadvantage. **47.g4 Kc5 48.e4 Rg2 49.Kb1 Kc4 50.f5 Rgb2+ 51.Kc1 Rc2+ 52.Kb1 Rab2+ 1/2-1/2**

(2) Argo,Guy (1928) - Heidari,Ako (1964) [C02]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (4.5), 03.08.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.g3?! Rare -- the main three moves are [6.Bd3; 6.Be2; and 6.a3] **6...cxd4 7.cxd4 Nge7 8.Bh3 Nf5 9.Bxf5 exf5** It's interesting to trade the bishop for knight and double the pawns, but White needs to watch out for the light-squares now. **10.0-0 h6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.b3 Be7 13.Bb2**

13...f4!? 14.gxf4 0-0-0 15.Na4! Qc7 16.Rc1

16...g5! Black also gets attacking chances. **17.fxg5 Bh3 18.Re1 Rdg8 19.Re3 Kb8 20.b4 Qd7**

21.e6! Bxg5! 22.Nxg5 [22.exd7? Bxe3+ 23.Kh1 Bg2+ 24.Kg1 Bxf3+ 25.Kf1 Bxd1 wins] **22...Rxg5+ 23.Rg3 Rxg3+?!** [23...Qxe6! keeps White's pawns split] **24.hxg3 Qxe6 25.b5 Na5 26.Qe1?!** [26.Nc5] **26...Nc4 27.Qxe6 fxe6 28.Bc3 b6**

29.Be1?! [29.Bb4=] **29...h5 30.f4?** fixing the white pawns on a poor set up **30...Bf5** Black has the chances now. **31.Kh2 Rg8 32.Nc3 Kb7 33.a4 Rg4 34.Nd1 Rg7 35.Nc3 Rg8 36.Na2 Bg6 37.Nb4 Be8?! 38.f5! Bd7 39.fxe6 Bxe6** Now White is fine. **40.Nd3 Bf7 41.Nf4 Re8 42.Bb4 a5 43.bxa6+ Kxa6 44.Re1 Rxe1 45.Bxe1 Nb2 46.Kh3 Nxa4 47.Kh4 Nb2 48.Nxh5 Nd3 49.Bc3 b5 50.Nf4 b4 51.Bd2 Nxf4 52.gxf4?** The wrong recapture. 52. Bxf4 should just be a draw **52...Kb5!-+** Black is now winning on the board *and* has almost seven minutes to White's half a minute! **53.Kg5**

53...b3?= [53...Kc4 gains a lot of moves and is still winning] **54.Bc3 Kc4 55.Bb2** Now White is safe again in this bishops of opposite color ending. **55...Kd3 56.Kf6 Be8 57.f5 Kc2 58.Ba1 Kb1 59.Bc3 Kc2 60.Ba1 b2? 61.Bxb2 Kxb2 62.Ke6 Kc3 63.Kxd5 Bf7+**

64.Ke5? [64.Kc5! Kd3 65.d5 Ke4 66.d6 Be8 67.f6 Kf5 68.f7 Bxf7 69.d7 queens!] **64...Kc4 65.Kf6 Bd5 66.Ke5 Bf7 67.Ke4** Draw agreed. A hard fought and interesting battle! **1/2-1/2**

(3) Persidsky,Andre (1828) - Zhou,Chelsea (1879) [D46]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (4.6), 03.08.2021

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 c6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 dxc4 8.Bxc4 b5 9.Bd3 a6 10.a4 Bb7 11.axb5 cxb5 12.Qe2 0-0 13.e4

13...Be7 White has an opening edge due to the classic pawn center, but Chelsea is still pretty solid anyway. **14.e5 Nd5 15.Qe4 g6 16.Bh6 Re8 17.Qg4 Nxc3 18.bxc3 Nb6 19.Ng5 Bxg5!? 20.Bxg5 Qd7 21.Bf6** Black has to worry about the dark squares on the kingside. Chelsea proceeds carefuly. **21...Nd5! 22.Qg5 Nxf6 23.exf6 Qd6 24.h4** [24.Qh6 Qf8] **24...Qd5 25.Qg3 e5!** Now Black has leveled the game. **26.h5?! e4 27.hxg6 hxg6 28.Bc2 Qc6 29.Bb3 Qxf6 30.Rfe1 Rac8 31.Rac1 Kg7 32.Re3**

32...Qxd4! 33.Rd1 [33.cxd4 Rxc1+ 34.Kh2 Rh8+ wins] **33...Qf6 34.Rd6 Qe5?** [34...Qf5!] **35.Qxe5+ Rxe5 36.Rd7!** The endgame is salvation for White **36...Rb8 37.Rxf7+ Kh6 38.f4 Rf5 39.Rh3+ Rh5 40.Rg3 Rf5 41.Rh3+ Rh5 42.Re3 Rf5 43.Rh3+ 1/2-1/2**

(4) Kachakji,Tony - Thibault,William (983) [A36]

July Aug TNM San Francisco (4), 03.08.2021

1.e4 c5 2.c4 An interesting move! This may seem strange but has an excellent plan to transpose to a Botvinnik English with the iron grip on the d5 square. **2...Nc6 3.Nc3 e6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.d3 Nge7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0**

It's worth taking a look here. White has a very logical position (and presumeably one of his choosing). One cannot fault Black's play either - every move has been principled. **8...a6 9.Be3 Nd4 10.Rb1 Nec6!** Stopping the break 11. b2-b4. **11.b3** We may criticize this as being a bit slow. 11. a3 would be ready to bring action on the queenside with the plan of 12.b4. **11...Re8 12.Qd2 Ne5?! 13.h3?** [13.Nxd4 cxd4 14.Bxd4 Nf3+ 15.Bxf3 Bxd4 16.Ne2 Bg7 17.d4] **13...Nxe2+?** Missing the royal fork with either knight to f3, winning the white queen! **14.Nxe2 b6 15.f4 Nc6 16.g4 Bd4?!** This has a positional point to trade off White's "good" bishop (the one on the opposite color of the white pawns. Still, it is always risky to trade away the fianchettoed bishop that guards your king. **17.Bxd4 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 cxd4 19.e5 Ra7 20.Qf2!** White wins a pawn with this move. **20...Bb7 21.Bxb7 Rxb7 22.Qxd4 d6! 23.Qe4** [23.exd6 Rd7! gets the pawn back with play on the d-file] **23...d5** [23...Rd7] **24.Qf3 Rd7 25.Rbd1 f5 26.gxf5 exf5 27.Rd2 h5 28.Rg2 Kf7 29.Re1 Re6 30.Rd2 g5?** Aggressive but bad. This just gives away a pawn and allows White the attack. **31.Qxh5+ Rg6 32.Qh7+ Rg7 33.Qxf5+ Ke8 34.Rg2 gxf4 35.Qxf4** [35.Qh5+! will win a rook with check] **35...Rxg2+ 36.Kxg2 Rg7+**

37.Kf2?? Going from winning to losing in one move. [37.Kh2 Rf7 38.Qg3 is 3 pawns ahead with the safer king. One mistake is all it takes! Now the white queen gets pinned.] **37...Rf7! 38.Qxf7+ Kxf7 39.e6+ Ke7 40.Kf3**

40...Qf8+ It may seem White has chances with a rook and three pawns for a queen, but the black queen controls the board with checks. **41.Kg4 Qf2! 42.Re5 d4 43.h4 Qg2+ 44.Kf4 Qh3 45.h5 Qh4+ 46.Kf3 Qf6+ 47.Ke4**

47...Kd6! This works perfectly. The dangerous white pawns cannot advance due to the black threats. **48.Rd5+ Kxe6 49.Rxd4 Qe5+** White resigns as he loses the rook on d4. **0-1**

(5) Uribe,Luiz (1856) - Perlov,Daniel (1555) [B21]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u2000 San Francisco (4.8), 03.08.2021

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 Declining the Smith-Morrra Gambit is perfectly reasonable. Many players feel the need to take the pawn on c3, but this is fine. **4.c4 d6 5.Bxd3 Nf6 6.Nc3 g6 7.h3 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Be3 Nc6**

The diagram shows a common Smith-Morra Declined. White has a Marocy Bind where White has space but Black has good piece placement. **10.Qd2 Nb4 11.Be2 b6 12.a3 Na6 13.Rd1 Bb7 14.Qc2 Qc7?!** [14...Nc5] **15.b4!** It's lines with b2-b4 (and a2-a3 for support) that give Black the most problems in Maroczy Bind/Hedgehog formations. **15...Rfd8 16.0-0 Rac8 17.Rd2 Qb8** A standard maneuver, tucking the queen away. [Black could first use the square to reposition the knight: 17...Nb8!? But it gets complicated: 18.Nb5 Qd7 19.e5 Ne4 20.Nxa7!?] **18.Qa4?! Nc7** That knight is on a unusual track. **19.Qc2?!** [19.Bd3] **19...Qa8 20.Bd3**

20...b5! Nice. [20...d5!? is even possible.] **21.c5** [21.cxb5? Nxb5! 22.Bxb5 Nxe4; 21.Re1!?] **21...d5?** [21...dxc5 22.bxc5 a6 leaves the c-pawn weak.] **22.exd5 Nfxd5 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 24.Be2** It's pretty level now. **24...a6** [24...a5!?] **25.Rfd1 Bc6 26.Ne1 Ne6 27.Bf3** Now White starts to pull ahead **27...Bxf3 28.Nxf3 Rxd2 29.Rxd2 Rd8 30.Rxd8+ Nxd8 31.Nd4?** Queen to the d-file was a working plus. **31...e5?** [31...Bxd4 32.Bxd4 Qd5=] **32.Ne2** [32.Nb3!] **32...Qd5 33.a4 e4 34.axb5 axb5 35.Nc3 Qc4 36.Qxe4!** "Luft" comes in handy. No bank rank mates to worry about. **36...Qxe4 37.Nxe4 f5 38.Nd6 Bc3 39.Nxb5 Bxb4 40.Na7 Ba5 41.Bf4?! Ne6 42.Bd6?! Kf7?** [42...Bb4! shows the White bishop to be on the wrong square and wins the c-pawn] **43.c6 Bc7 44.Nb5 Bxd6 45.Nxd6+ Ke7 46.Nb5** Both players have 3:50 left and they agreed a draw. Unless you know something, you should play on as White with the extra pawn! **1/2-1/2**

Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 2000+

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	P
1	1-3	NM Siddharth Arun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13206647)	2253	W9	D5	W6	D3		H---	H---	3.0	
2		Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	2078	W11	D4	W14	H---				3.0	
3		Richard Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14823351)	1824	H---	W8	W5	D1		H---	H---	3.0	
4	4-7	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	2278	W7	D2	H---	H---				2.5	
5		Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)	2121	W10	D1	L3	W11				2.5	
6		Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	2013	H---	W12	L1	W10	H---			2.5	
7		Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	1997	L4	W9	D10	W14				2.5	
8	8-14	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	1964	H---	L3	D13	D9				1.5	
9		Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	1928	L1	L7	B---	D8				1.5	
10		Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	1900	L5	B---	D7	L6				1.5	
11		Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)	1885	L2	H---	W12	L5				1.5	
12		Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	1879	B---	L6	L11	D13		H---		1.5	
13		Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	1828	H---	L14	D8	D12				1.5	
14		Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	1818	H---	W13	L2	L7				1.5	

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under2000

				Rd	Rd	Rd	Rd	Rd	Rd	Rd		

#	Place	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	P
1	1-2	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	1795	D5	W16	W20	W6				3.5	
2		Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	1517	W25	W10	W4	H---				3.5	
3	3-6	Amitoj Singh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12907156)	1819	W17	L4	W11	W13				3.0	
4		Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)	1611	W23	W3	L2	W15				3.0	
5		Daniel Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)	1555	D1	W12	W18	D7	H---	H---		3.0	
6		Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	1473	W26	W15	W13	L1				3.0	
7	7-9	Luiz Uribe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839860)	1856	L13	W19	W10	D5				2.5	
8		Ted Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	1789	D19	H---	H---	W18				2.5	
9		Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	1761	H---	H---	H---	W19				2.5	
10	10-14	Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)	1720	W14	L2	L7	W20				2.0	
11		Frederick Hope (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12646004)	1646	W21	F13	L3	W23				2.0	
12		David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)	1622	H---	L5	W21	H---				2.0	
13		Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	1609	W7	X11	L6	L3				2.0	
14		Anvi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315087)	1485	L10	D24	W16	H---				2.0	
15	15-21	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	1879	D16	L6	W23	L4				1.5	
16		Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	1610	D15	L1	L14	B---				1.5	
17		Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	1600	L3	H---	H---	H---				1.5	
18		Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)	1577	W22	H---	L5	L8			H---	1.5	
19		Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	1532	D8	L7	W24	L9				1.5	
20		Nursultan\ Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	1513	W24	H---	L1	L10				1.5	
21		Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)	1483	L11	H---	L12	X24				1.5	
22	22-23	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	1800	L18	H---	H---	U---				1.0	
23		Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	1408	L4	B---	L15	L11				1.0	
24	24	Gregory Rousso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17073094)	1745	L20	D14	L19	F21				0.5	
25	25-26	Glenn Kaplan	1776	L2	U---	U---	U---				0.0	

25	25-26	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	1770	L2	U---	U---	U---						0.0
26		Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)	1612	L6	U---	U---	U---						0.0

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: u/1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	P
1	1	Isaac Sterling (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14316046)	1236	X---	W11	W4	W7				4.0	
2	2	Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)	1322	W18	H---	W12	W8				3.5	
3	3-7	Dominic Zirbel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13356345)	1481	W6	W15	L7	W16				3.0	
4		Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	1433	W21	W14	L1	W17				3.0	
5		Claudio Bastiani-Fonck (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16874166)	1377	W31	D25	W15	H---				3.0	
6		Romeo Nehme (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16271243)	795	L3	W18	W27	W14			H---	3.0	
7		David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)	435	B---	W27	W3	L1				3.0	
8	8-11	Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)	1490	W16	H---	X25	L2				2.5	
9		Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	1296	H---	H---	D21	W23	H---			2.5	
10		William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	1050	L25	D31	B---	W24				2.5	
11		Iven Yarovoy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17131276)	unr.	W28	L1	H---	X22				2.5	
12	12-19	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	1586	L14	W23	L2	W21				2.0	
13		Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	1368	W24	H---	H---	U---				2.0	
14		Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	1013	W12	L4	X---	L6				2.0	
15		Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	948	W20	L3	L5	X---				2.0	
16		Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	826	L8	W26	B---	L3				2.0	
17		Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	825	H---	H---	W19	L4				2.0	
18		Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)	unr.	L2	L6	B---	W27				2.0	
19		Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	unr.	D30	H---	L17	W29				2.0	
20	20-26	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	1569	L15	L21	H---	W31				1.5	
21		Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	660	L4	W20	D9	L12				1.5	
22		Yuri Meseznik (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	unr.	H---	H---	H---	F11				1.5	

		30241398)										
23		Thomas Dobbs (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30230850)	unr.	H---	L12	W31	L9				1.5	
24		Tony Kachakji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228920)	unr.	L13	W28	H---	L10				1.5	
25		Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)	unr.	W10	D5	F8	U---				1.5	
26		Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)	unr.	L27	L16	W28	H---	H---			1.5	
27	27-29	David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)	1400	W26	L7	L6	L18				1.0	
28		Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	1228	L11	L24	L26	B---				1.0	
29		Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818)	unr.	H---	H---	U---	L19				1.0	
30	30-31	Peter Borah (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12883291)	1232	D19	U---	U---	U---				0.5	
31		Tyler Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30212590)	unr.	L5	D10	L23	L20				0.5	

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games - JulyAugTNM

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1-2	Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	1811	U---	U---	W12	W14	2.0	
2		Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)	1800	U---	L5	W18	W15	2.0	
3	3-9	Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	1900	U---	W4	U---	U---	1.0	
4		Juan Cendejas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12717746)	1718	W13	L3	U---	U---	1.0	
5		Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	1609	U---	W2	U---	U---	1.0	
6		Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	1467	U---	U---	U---	W17	1.0	
7		Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	826	U---	U---	W20	U---	1.0	
8		David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)	435	W19	U---	U---	U---	1.0	
9		Kevin Nguyen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30234551)	unr.	U---	W16	U---	U---	1.0	
10	10-11	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	1050	U---	U---	D11	U---	0.5	
11		Tobias Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	1013	U---	U---	D10	U---	0.5	
12	12-20	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	1928	U---	U---	L1	U---	0.0	
13		Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	1866	L4	U---	U---	U---	0.0	
		Joel Carron							

14		(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	1676	U---	U---	U---	L1	0.0	
15		Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	1210	U---	U---	U---	L2	0.0	
16		Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	825	U---	L9	U---	U---	0.0	
17		Iven Yarovoy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17131276)	unr.	U---	U---	U---	L6	0.0	
18		Tony Kachakji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228920)	unr.	U---	U---	L2	U---	0.0	
19		Benjamin Grant	unr.	L8	U---	U---	U---	0.0	
20		Yuri Meseznik (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30241398)	unr.	U---	U---	L7	U---	0.0	

Thursday Night Marathon Report

by Abel Talamantez

The Thursday Night Marathon was broadcast live from the US Open, and it was a fun evening which included special guests WIM Dr. Alexey Root, Joshua Anserson from the Chess Journalists of America, and NM Evan Rabin from Premier Chess, all of which joined me live on the broadcast. GM Gadir Guseinov showed his dominance again with a positionally masterful performance against IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla. NM Michael Walder was able to hold Guseinov to a draw, and both Guseinov and Walder lead the tournament with 3.5/4 with 4 more rounds of play remaining.

Click here to watch the broadcast: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jugq6VQPzIc (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jugq6VQPzIc)

SwissSys Standings. July-August Thurdsay Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2635	W11	W5	D2
2	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2171	W28	W17	D1
3	IM Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)	Swarnapuri	30100858	2513	W24	W15	W4
4	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	W29	W30	L3
5	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W20	L1	W3
6	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1753	L14	W29	W1
7	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	L30	X21	D1
8	Nikunj Oza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12497585)	Motif	12497585	1851	W25	D14	W2
9	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	H---	H---	W2
10	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	H---	W31	W1
11	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	Loltheawesomedude	16497860	1531	L1	W25	W1
12	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1521	H---	H---	D7
13	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	D31	W26	H--

14	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2Nf31-0	16425316	1152	W6	D8	L1(
15	Rithwik Narendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14903560)	rukja	14903560	1849	W19	L3	H--
16	Ricnesh Ravind (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30181578)	Fi_Ricnesh	30181578	1651	H---	H---	W2
17	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1584	W32	L2	H--
18	Aaron D Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	aaroncraig602	12872385	1408	H---	H---	L1
19	Sarvagnya Brahmanapally (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16466227)	bsarvagnya	16466227	1287	L15	W24	L6
20	Austin Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144712)	austinjin666xd	17144712	1153	L5	B---	L1(
21	Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	tobiahsrex	30164211	1013	H---	H---	W2
22	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	vincitore51745	12814843	569	X10	W23	L8
23	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	LudiMagisterJosephus	13742111	1700	D26	L22	L2
24	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1554	L3	L19	D2
25	Andy Xu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16732301)	vivianandy	16732301	1312	L8	L11	D2
26	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1055	D23	L13	W3
27	Zerui Titus Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16959455)	thankfuifortune	16959455	984	H---	H---	H--
28	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1360	L2	W32	L9
29	Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)	boozerrip	13553308	1350	L4	L6	W3
30	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1335	W7	L4	L5
31	Jonathan Rice (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205348)	ricejonathanc	30205348	unr.	D13	L10	L2(
32	Jimolee Gray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30172836)	jgray43	30172836	unr.	L17	L28	L2

Northern California Making Waves! 2021 US Open Report Part 1

by Abel Talamantez

We have always known Northern California is talent rich when it comes to its players, and it was demonstrated in full force this week. Henry Deng won the Rockeller Tournament of Elementary Champions on tiebreaks, FM Vyom Vidyarthi won the Barber Tournament of Middle School Champions, NM Ruiyang Yan won the Haring Tournament of Girls Champions, and NM Milind Maiti placed 13th in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions with a score of 4/6 in a field that included GM Awonder Liang. IM Elliott Winslow placed 11th in the Irwin Tournament of Senior Champions with a score of 3.5/6. All together, their scores combined for 23/30 possible, the most of any state delegation. Congratualtions to all the players!

Incidentally, I arrived at the hotel late Wednesday evening in New Jersey as go to the elevator to head to my room, and I ran into Henry Deng and his dad. I congratulated him on his championship, after directing an event where he beat IM Josiah Stearman just a week before. This kid has some talent!

Henry Deng (left) and Ruiyang Yan (right) are among the new crop of national champions after winning their respective champion of champions events at the US Open in Cherry Hill, New Jersey

It is fun to come to the US Open literally on the other side of the country and still run into Mechanics' Institute players from the Bay Area. Here are some pictures of some local talent at Mechanics' east in Cherry Hill.

Ethan and Ella Guo (left) made the trip to Cherry Hill to play the main event, as did Omya and Vyom Vidyarthi. Vyom won the Barber Tournament of Middle School Champions and Omya finished tied for 3rd at the 2021 US Women's Open.

IM Elliott Winslow performed well in the Irwin Senior Champions event, and GM Timur Gareyev pitches in to keep the venue clean

Inside the main playing hall at the 2021 US Open

You can see full U.S. Open results here: http://www.uschess.org/results/2021/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=senior (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/results/2021/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=senior)

WIM Dr. Alexey Root

WIM Dr. Alexey Root has a newly released article on Chessbase online regarding the Northern California victory over Texas in the tournament of state champions at the US Open. Get her take on what had to be a difficult article to ride from the University of Texas at Dallas Instructor by following this link: https://en.chessbase.com/post/northern-california-bests-texas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/https://en.chessbase.com/post/northern-california-bests-texas)

I want to thank Alexey for being my partner on the Thursday Twitch broadcast live from the US Open!

TD Corner: Draw Offers

by Abel Talamantez

We had previously written that we expected some OTB rules to be forgotten, or at least players would need a refresher in certain instances since it had been so long since we had over the board play. Here is one example, and it happened in two different live OTB events less than a week apart at the Mechanics' Institute. How do you offer a draw according to USCF rules?

How you offer a draw is regulated, here is the rule:

14B1. Proper timing of draw offer. Except for a draw claim, which is an implicit draw offer (14), a player should make a proposal of a draw only after determining a move (9G) and before pressing the clock. The opponent may accept the proposal or may reject it either orally or by deliberately touching a piece (10B). In the interim, the player who made the offer cannot withdraw it. See also 9G3, Draw offers.

What happened in both games in question is that the player offering the draw did so on their own time, but before making a move on the board. In one case, the offer was made by a player in an inferior position while the opponent had seconds on the clock. The player then made a move on the board, but then the player had a brief second of confusion as he was processing whether the offer was valid. While this happened, he ran out of time and lost the game. The player who ran out of time does bear some responsibility, but clearly what happened was not the correct way it should have happened. In both cases, there did not seem to be any ill intent. According to the rule however, the offer is binding regardless of the circumstances. I reminded players before the start of the TNM round that if there is an apparent rule violation or question about the rules, players may pause the clock to find an arbiter. In any moment of doubt, please immediately call on an arbiter to assist. And yes, there are penalties that can be levied to players who pause the clock under the guise of finding an arbiter with a question that was not necessary.

So if you want to offer a draw, offer it BEFORE you press the clock on your own time, then make the move on the board, and then hit the clock.

I urge players to familiarize themselves with the USCF Rulebook HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/chessrules/US_Chess_Rule_Book-%20Online_Only_Edition_v7.1-1.2.11-7.19.19.pdf).

Tony's Teasers

Here is a mate in three from longtime Mechanics' Institute player Tony Lama. This should occupy a good chunk of your time this weekend!

White to move and mate in 3

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Marathon Online: July 29-August 19, 6:30PM PT. 8SS G/35+5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-jul-aug-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-jul-aug-2021)

Mechanics' Institute August Quads: August 14, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsAug2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsAug2021)

20th Bernardo Smith Memorial Championship: FIDE Rated. August 21-22, 9AM PT. 5SS G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/15th-smith-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/15th-smith-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129004309/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Paul's column will return next week

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

World Cup

The FIDE World Cup has reached its final match as all the players have lost except two. The actual first place finish is not so important – the great prize were the two spots in the next Candidate's Tournament. Those go to Poland's Jan-Krzystof Duda and the Russian Sergey Karjakin, who are now facing off in the finals. Duda's path in getting to the final was not likely, as he had to win in the semi-final match against non-other than World Champion Magnus Carlsen. Magnus had easily dealt with his opponents in the first 6 knock-out rounds and was certainly the betting favorite. Duda managed to hold two draws in the classical chess games, then struck with the black pieces in rapid chess to down the champ. We show below this important encounter which will tremendously boost the career of the talented young man from Poland.

Karjakin had a much more straightforward time in the semi-finals, due to a powerful performance with the White pieces in the classical chess game. Indeed, one could say that Karjakin had a very smooth journey to the finals and the precious Candidate's spot if not for the epic battle he had with Sam Shankland. Sam won the first game of the classical time control, forcing Karjakin to come back with a win of his own to make it to the rapid time control. Sam again won the first of the two rapid games, but Karjakin was lucky to come back and take the second rapid and move on to blitz. Sam finally went down in the blitz, so we must credit Karjakin for his cool nerves and fighting spirit. Sam showed though that he can play level with the best in the world and we hope that he will be encouraged to continue his quest to bring glory to chess in the Bay Area...

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Duda,Jan-Krzysztof [B52]

World Cup, 03.08.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.Qe2 Nc6 7.c3 This is common for Magnus. He chooses a slightly off-beat opening to get his opponent into a position where he/she has to think for themself. **7...e6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5! 10.e5 Ne4** This French Defense type of position should be positionally fine for Black with the light-squared bishops traded off. **11.Nbd2 Nxd2 12.Bxd2 Bb4**

looking for simplification. Duda would certainly be happy to make a quick draw with the black pieces against his illustrious opponent. **13.Bf4** Magnus keeps it complicated. **13...0-0 14.Qd3 Be7 15.a3 Rac8 16.g3?!** Magnus wants to advance on the kingside (with h4, etc) yet he puts his pawns on the same color of his bishop. **16...Na5 17.b3 Qc6 18.Bd2 Qb6 19.Rfb1 a6 20.Kg2 Nc6 21.Re1 Qb5!** Duda offers the endgame, which is usually nice for Black in a French Defense. Magnus contiues to play for a win and starts to get in trouble. **22.Qb1 Rc7 23.h4 Rfc8 24.Ra2 a5 25.Rh1 a4 26.b4?** Now the light-squares on the queenside become weak. Magnus is still thinking to keep the queenside blocked and attack on the kingside, but the attack is hard to do with the white queen and rook on queenside defensive squares. **26...h6 27.Be3 Na7!**

The black forces are all ready to infiltrate on the queenside. White also has a color complex problem with a bad bishop and weak light-squares. It's a very ususual site to see the champ with such positional troubles. **28.Bd2 Qe2 29.Re1 Qc4 30.Re3 Nb5 31.Rd3 Rc6 32.Rb2 Bd8 33.g4 Bb6 34.Be3 Nc3 35.Qf1 Qb5 36.Rc2 Ne4 37.Rxc6 Rxc6 38.Rd1 Rc4 39.Nd2 Nxd2 40.Rxd2 Qc6 41.Qe2 Rc3 42.Ra2 Bd8 43.g5 hxg5 44.hxg5 Qc4 45.Qxc4 dxc4** This is a position that no one can defend well. There are too many problems for White. Magnus decides to at least go down fighting. **46.d5!? exd5 47.Rd2 Rd3 48.Rxd3 cxd3 49.f4**

Black has a big edge in the bishop ending, but one slip could ruin it all. **49...Kf8?** [49...Kh7! 50.f5 g6! 51.f6 Bc7 should take the point. White gets a chance.] **50.Kf3 Ke7 51.Bc5+ Ke6 52.Ke3 Kf5 53.Kxd3! g6** [53...Kxf4 54.g6! fxg6 55.e6] **54.Be3 Bc7 55.b5?!** letting the black bishop get a route to the a3 pawn **55...Bd8 56.Kd4 Bb6+ 57.Kd3 Bd8 58.Kd4 Be7 59.Bc1 Ke6 60.Bb2 Bd8 61.Kc5 Ba5 62.Bc1?** [62.Bd4!] **62...Bc3! 63.b6** [63.Kb6 d4 64.Kxb7 d3 65.Ka6 d2 66.Bxd2 Bxd2 67.b6 Bxf4 68.b7 Bxe5 is just in time] **63...d4 64.Kc4 Kd7 65.Be3! Bb2! 66.Bxd4 Bxa3 67.Be3 Bb2 68.Kb4 a3 69.Kb3 Ke6 70.Ka2 Kd5 71.Kb3 Ke4 72.Bd2 Bd4 73.Kxa3 Bxb6 74.Kb4 Bf2**

Pawns are even but White resigned. The white kingside pawns all go down. This is the greatest win of Duda's career and sends him into the next Candidate's Tournament. **0-1**

(2) Karjakin,Sergey - Fedoseev,Vladimir [C93]

World Cup, 03.08.2021

Karjakin is of course familiar to the readers as the challenger for the World Championship in 2016. Fedoseev is not so well known and was the clear underdog in this match. **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 Bb7 10.d4 Re8 11.Nbd2**

A classic Ruy Lopez. Many modern grandmasters have switched to the Italian Game (3. Bc4) but Karjakin has done extremely well throughout his career with the Ruy. **11...Bf8 12.a3 h6 13.Bc2 d5?!** Fedoseev is eager to break and clarify the position, but White gains an edge after this. **14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Rxe5 16.Nf3 Re8 17.e5 Ne4 18.Bf4 c5 19.a4!** Keeping the pressure up over the entire board. Play will range over the queenside, center and kingside and offers rich possibilities. **19...f5 20.h4!?** [20.Nd2! Stockfish] **20...Be7 21.h5 Rf8 22.axb5 axb5 23.Rxa8 Bxa8 24.e6!** Time to open lines for the white pieces to move forward. **24...Re8?!** [24...Bd6!] **25.Ne5 Bg5 26.Ng6 d4 27.cxd4 Nxf2!? 28.Kxf2 Bxf4 29.Nxf4 Qh4+**

The position looks very complicated as White must lose the knight back. Karjakin shows he has everything under control. **30.Kg1 Qxf4 31.d5! Qg3 32.Re2** guarding the g2 pawn allows the terrible white center pawns to advance. Material is even yet Black has no salvation. **32...Qg5** [32...Qd6 33.Bxf5 Qxd5 34.Qxd5 Bxd5 35.e7 wins the exchange at least with an easy endgame win] **33.Qd2** Simple and powerful. In either the endgame or middle game the white center pawns will win a piece. Black resigned. **1-0**

Solution To Tony's Teaser

1. Rg1!! b4 2. Bg2 (whatever black's move, discovered mate next move Bf3. If Bh3, Bxh3#)

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Newsletter #981

August 14, 2021

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 5 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The Tuesday Night Marathon got off to a great start from the early morning on Tuesday. I noticed leaving the parking garage and walking towards Market Street that my favorite cafe had just reopened after nearly a year and a half: Mazarene at 720 Market Street. Previously I would peer at the cafe from a distance on my way to Mechanics' Institute, and it would always be dark, though the signs and equipment inside remained there, so there was always hope.

I usually get a latte, which they make to near perfection with a light sprinkle of sugar on top. My favorite breakfast of theirs is the avocado, bacon and egg toast, with pesto spread. The combination is a great treat to start a long day.

Now to the chess action. NM Siddharth Arun got a big win against a player that has been on fire lately, defeating Abhi Penagalapati. Richard Liu continues his fine TNM performance, holding IM Elliott Winslow to a draw. Christophe Bambou also is still in contention with a win over Kristian Clemens, potentiall setting up a big 6th round match next week between he and Arun for the top spot. Arun leads the section with 4/5, with Bambou and Liu right behind at 3,5/5.

View from inside the chess room during round 5 of the TNM. Christophe Bambou is shown playing white against Kristian Clemens

In the under 2000 section, Leon Quin and Luiz Uribe battled it out in a very tense game that went late into the evening. Just as it appeared Uribe was breaking through, winning material and gaining an advantage, Uribe blundered with under a minute left on his clock, getting his king and queen forked, and turning the tide of the game in Quin's favor. He certainly deserved better, such is the case when time pressure enters the mix. Kevin Sun remains on top of the section however, trapping the queen of Samuel Brownlow and getting the win. Kevin is in sole 1st place with 4.5/5, with Leon Quin and Adam Stafford right behind at 4/5.

FM Paul Whitehead having a little fun at the start if the round, as some players watch the screen of the 10 DGT board broadcast. Luiz Uribe and Leon Quin did battle in an epic game on board 9

In the under 1600 section, Isaac Sterling is running away from the field after another win against Paul Reed. He is a full point ahead of the field at 5/5, with Sebby Suarez, David Nichol, and Claudio Bastiani-Fonck right behind at 4/5.

Here are some game from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Penagalapati,Abhi (2078) - Arun,Siddharth (2253) [D00]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (5.1), 10.08.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 An old move, firmly sidelining the c-pawn for the moment, is on the resurge, especially in the London System where it is the Jobava Variation. **2...d5** Black squarely stops e2-e4, well... **3.Bf4** The Jobava. [3.e4 The even older Staunton Gambit, thought to be suspect these days.; 3.Bg5 is the less ancient Veresov System, still unrefuted (and why would it be?)] **3...a6!?**

Black appears to just say no to the Nc3-b5 nonsense, but there's more to it than that. (And not just that Carlsen has played it!) [3...c5 4.e3 a6 5.Nf3 e6 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Bd3 b5 was Niemann-Le below] **4.e3 e6 5.Nf3** [Carlsen has sent 5.g4!? Black's way in a few games, but the real champion has been Alekseenko.] **5...b5!?** Only seen a handful of times, but White is curiously badly placed to do anything about this brash advance -- and it scores well! [In fact 5...Nbd7!? scores even better, close to 3 to 1 for Black, but that is harder to explain!] **6.Bd3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Ne5 Bb7**

9.Rg1?? A hard move to stomach -- at least White recognizes that typical play won't cut it. But where is White to place his king now? [9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Qf3 Rc8 Black was already squarely better, and 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.Qg3 Nh5 13.Qg4 Nxf4 14.exf4-+ hasn't helped: 0-1 (69), Niemann,H (2459) - Le, Q (2709) chess24.com INT 2020 (just before Hans' six-month dash from 2500 to 2600!)] **9...d4!** On principle -- White turns out to be in big trouble. **10.exd4 Bxd4?!** [10...Qxd4! is winning, if you believe the latest Stockfish (14). 11.Bg3 Nc6 keeps moving forward. There's even a bit of tactics: 12.Qe2? Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Qxf2+! 14.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2 Ng4+ is a healthy pawn.] **11.Qd2 b4 12.Ne2** [12.Nd1 lets Black cover things and get castled, after 12...Qe7 13.Nc4 Bc5=/+ but isn't crushed.] **12...Bxb2 13.Rd1** [13.Rb1 Bxe5 14.Bxe5 Nc6 15.Ba1 0-0-+ when even the nice dark squared bishop comes nowhere near to compensating for White's having both rooks on knight one.] **13...Nd5! 14.Nc4 Bc3 15.Nxc3** [15.Nd6+!? Qxd6! 16.Bxd6 Bxd2+ 17.Kxd2 Nc6 with a clear advantage. The queens off partially relax White.] **15...bxc3 16.Qc1**

16...Qe7? A horrible move! [16...0-0-+ shows White how it's done (castling that is) and leaves White with all his problems and no compensation at all.] **17.Nd6+?** [17.Bd6+- stops castling for good without even permitting a "by-hand" version (unless Black wants to try something with ...f6) 17...Qh4 could be distracting, but 18.g3! Qxh2 19.Rf1 intends Be4 and bad things are happening. Stockfish 14: +5!] **17...Kf8=** Black's king slips away, he doesn't mind the trades of minor pieces, White might regain his pawn but meanwhile Black gets developed. **18.Nxb7?! Qxb7 19.Qa3+ Kg8 20.Be4 Nc6 21.Bxd5 exd5 22.Qxc3 Re8+ 23.Kd2 Qb6**

[23...h6=/+; or even 23...h5!?=/+ -- if the bishop backs to g3 there will be ...Rh6 *and* ...h4] **24.Bg3?!** [24.Kc1! is a sneakier defense: 24...Qxf2? 25.Rgf1 Qb6 26.Rfe1! Rxe1 27.Qxe1! h6 28.Qe8+ Kh7 29.Qxf7+/- and Black is kept busy defending d-pawn and king.] **24...d4** [24...Rc8!] **25.Qb3?**

[25.Qa3 is a much safer square.] **25...Qc5?!** [25...Qa5+ 26.Kc1 h5 27.Bf4 h4!-+ 28.Qc4 Nb4 and whose king is safer now?] **26.Kc1?!-+** [26.Rge1 Rc8 27.Ke2!=/+ surprises Black by heading the other way.] **26...h6** [26...h5!] **27.Rge1 Kh7-/+** [27...Rc8!?] **28.Rxe8** [28.Qd3+ g6 29.a3-/+] **28...Rxe8 29.a3 Rc8?**

[29...Kg8!-+] **30.Rd2?** Short on time, Abhi walks into a simple tactic. [30.Qd3+ Kg8 31.Re1-/+ tries to hold on.] **30...Na5 31.Qb4?** [31.Qd3+ g6 32.Re2 Qd5-+ aims at a2 and g2.] **31...Qxb4 32.axb4 Nb3+** An assortment of ups and downs, but in all a fascinating 21st Century battle. **0-1**

(2) Winslow,Elliott (2278) - Liu,Richard (1824) [D53]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (5.2), 10.08.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Qc2 h6 8.Bf4 Nh5 9.Be5

Now Black caves positionally. **9...dxc4?! 10.Bxc4 Nb6? 11.Bb3+-** The new Stockfish 14 puts this on the low end of "winning". [As is 11.Be2!?] **11...Nf6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Rfd1 Nfd7?!**

14.Ne4? [Just (sorry Sam) 14.Bg3! leaves Black horribly jammed up. Perhaps the sequence 14...c5? 15.dxc5 Bxc5 16.Ne4 Be7 17.Bc7! Qe8 18.Nd6 , which wins the Exchange, wasn't noticed; coupled with crushing lead in development, SF14 makes it almost +7.] **14...Nxe5 15.Nxe5?** [White should have completely forgotten about everything else and locked up d6 and the d-file: 15.dxe5] **15...Qc7 16.Rac1 Rd8 17.a3** Stockfish prefers to throw a pawn at Black's king: [17.f4; or 17.g4] **17...Nd5 18.Ba2 a5?! 19.Bb1** Well, this is rather annoying actually. **19...f5 20.Nd2 Bf6 21.Ndf3**

21...Bd7 [Was it time to burn every bridge and launch with 21...g5!?] **22.g4?!** Fun, but long-term kingside problems will come back to haunt White (even if they're just ghosts!). [22.e4 (the better break) 22...Ne7 23.Ba2 Kh7 24.Nd3 is best (SF14) and a bit of a joke, since forking knights goes nowhere: 24...fxe4 25.Nc5] **22...Ne7 23.h4 Bxe5 24.Nxe5 Be8 25.Ba2 Nd5 26.gxf5 Qe7 27.Qe4** Chess Bomb (where the DGT-board games can be seen, along with engine analysis, Stockfish 11 on a leash) thought this was a mistake, but version 14 sees through that. **27...Bh5**

28.f3?! But this weakens e3 and gets precarious. [28.Rd3 would be better, and best; were it not for 28.fxe6! Bxd1 29.Rxd1 Re8 (29...Rd6 30.Qg4 Rf8 *(30...Qxe6? 31.Qg2* änd 32.e4 "no matter what.") 31.e4 Nf4 32.h5 and it will be a flood of pawns in the center shortly.) 30.Qg4 Qxe6? 31.Qg2] **28...Kh8** [28...exf5 would have been normal when 29.Qxf5 Qxh4 30.Rd2 Rf8 31.Qe4 Qf6 32.Rg2! Bxf3 33.Nxf3 Qxf3 34.Qxf3 Rxf3 35.e4 will be good enough.; 28...Rf8!? is a bit more sophisticated, but White has an equally fancy retort: 29.fxe6 Qxe6 30.Nxc6! Qxe4 31.fxe4 Bxd1 32.exd5 and White's pawns overrun Black in the center again.] **29.fxe6** White ate up his time advantage and then some to at least still be winning. **29...Qxe6 30.Bb1** [30.Kh2! and Rg1 should put an end to Black's hopes.] **30...g6 31.Kf2 Rf8?!** This doesn't really hold **32.Rg1** [32.Nxg6+ Qxg6 33.Qe5+ Qf6 34.Qxh5 Qe6 35.Qe5+] **32...Rf6**

[32...Rae8 33.Nxg6+ Bxg6 34.Qxe6 Rxe6 35.Rxg6 is the game via a different route of the Black rook] **33.Rg3?** [33.Nxg6+ is curtains: 33...Rxg6 34.Rxg6 Qxg6 35.Qxg6 Bxg6 36.Bxg6 takes all the fun out of the ending.] **33...Raf8 34.Nxg6+** Better late than never, but White was shaking his head that he hadn't played it on either of the previous moves! **34...Bxg6 35.Qxe6 Rxe6 36.Rxg6 Rxe3 37.Rxh6+ Kg8** [37...Kg7 38.Rh7+ Kf6 39.Rxb7 Ke6? 40.Rxc6#] **38.Rg1+ Kf7 39.Re1?** Seeing Black's next move -- the moment he let go of the rook.

[39.Rh7+ Ke8 *(39...Ke6 40.Rg6+ Rf6 41.Rxf6+ Kxf6 42.Rxb7* White is up a boring three pawns*)* 40.Bg6+ Kd8 41.Rf7 (White missed this curious defense of f3) 41...Rxf7 42.Bxf7 with a won ending: 42...Rb3 43.Bxd5 Rxb2+ 44.Kg3 cxd5 45.Re1! cuts off the king, queens the h-pawn. *(45.h5* is good enough*)*] **39...Rxf3+ 40.Kxf3 Kg7+ 41.Kg4 Kxh6 42.Re6+** White is still winning, bu it's no longer easy at all. **42...Kg7 43.Rd6?** [43.Rg6+ Kh8 (43...Kf7 44.Rg5 *(44.Kg5 Re8 45.Rh6)* 44...Nf6+ 45.Kf5 Ne8 -- no, White wins.)] **43...Rf4+?** [43...Rf1! is very annoying for White's ambitions! 44.Bd3 *(or 44.Rd7+* are both some tiny edge, but not enough to speak of.*)*] **44.Kg5 Rf1 45.Rd7+ Kf8**

46.Be4 [46.Bg6] **46...Rg1+** Did Black miss something!? [46...Nf6!? It turns out no: 47.Bd3 *(47.Bg2 Rf2 48.Rxb7 Nh7+ 49.Rxh7 Rxg2+ 50.Kf6 Rf2+ 51.Ke6 Rxb2* is lost*)* 47...Nxd7 48.Bxf1 when Black's king has to deal with the h-pawn, so White's heads to the queenside for the win.] **47.Kf5 Ne3+**

48.Ke6? [48.Kf4 Nc4 and all White's moves win: 49.h5 *(49.Rxb7; 49.b3 Nxa3 50.h5* "Wrong rook-pawn/bishop" means nothing here.*)*] **48...Rg4** Black correctly eliminates the rook pawn, when White's winning chances drop. **49.Bh7?!** [49.Bb1 Rxh4 50.Rxb7 Rxd4 and who knows, rook and bishop vs. rook?] **49...Rxh4 50.Rf7+?!** [50.Bg6 is still something to play with.] **50...Ke8 51.Bg6** [51.Rxb7 Rh6+ 52.Ke5 Nc4+=] **51...Rh6** [51...Kd8] **52.Kf6 Kd8 53.Rxb7 Nd5+** [53...Rh4; 53...Nc4 54.d5 cxd5 55.Rb5 Kc7] **54.Kg5 Rh2 55.Be4 Kc8 56.Ra7 Rxb2 57.Rxa5 Rb3 58.Bxd5 cxd5 59.Kf4 Kc7** White makes a few moves (after Black offered a draw -- bad etiquette the books say) -- but maybe shouldn't have assumed Black knows the Philidor Defense... **60.Ke5 Kb6 61.Ra8 Kc6 62.Rc8+ Kd7 63.Ra8 Kc6 64.Ra6+ Kb7 65.Ra5 Kb6 66.Rc5 Rxa3 67.Kxd5 Rh3 68.Rc6+ Kb7 69.Rc2 Rh5+ 70.Ke6 Rh6+ 71.Kf5 Rh5+ 72.Kg4 Rd5 73.Rc4 Kb6** 1/2-1/2 **1/2-1/2**

(3) Porlares,Ted (1789) - Hao,Max (1761) [E14]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u2000 San Francisco (5.11), 10.08.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 On the surface passive, but some strong players are resorting to it for less charted waters. **4...Be7 5.Bd3 0-0 6.Nc3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7** and it's become a Queen's Indian, with White's deployment a favorite of legendary Estonian Paul Keres. **8.Ne5** White jumps to establish a Pillsbury attacking formation. [8.b3 would be more circumspect, developing first.; And there's 8.cxd5 exd5 9.b3 Nbd7 10.Bb2 Re8 11.Rc1 c6 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Rc8 14.Re1 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Nf6 16.Bf5 1-0 (33) Nihal,S (2620) -Sarana,A (2654) chess.com INT 2020] **8...Nbd7 9.f4 Ne4 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Bc4** This has all been seen over the ages. **12...Nf6**

13.g4?! Probably too much. Various moves have been played here [Previously seen the other knight pawn: 13.b4N Bd5 14.Qb3 Bxc4 15.Qxc4 Qd5 16.Bd2 Bd6 17.Qxd5 Nxd5 18.Nc6 f5 1/2-1/2 (32) Sadilek,M (2194)-Matt,F (2277) Vienna 2017; 13.Bd2 has been most popular, with a slight advantage for White.] **13...c5?** [13...Nd5 14.g5 f6!-/+ shows up the deficiency to White's "attack."] **14.g5?!** [14.dxc5! Bxc5 15.b4! leaves the game up in the air, but White is doing okay.] **14...Nd5 15.h4? cxd4 16.exd4**

16...f6!-+ And again: White is in trouble. **17.Ng4 Rc8 18.Qb3 Kh8 19.Ne3 Nxe3?** [19...Nb4! White's kingside (and d4!) are exposed for rickety.] **20.Bxe3 fxg5 21.hxg5=** White has consolidated there are no shots now. **21...h6?!** Selfmate!? **22.gxh6?!**

22...gxh6 [22...g5!? 23.Be6 gxf4! 24.Rxf4!=] **23.Be6 Bh4?** [23...Bd6 24.Rf2 *(24.Bxc8?? Qxc8-+)* 24...Rc7=] **24.d5!** and White is on top now **24...Ba6**

25.Bd4+? [25.Rfd1+/=; 25.Rac1!+/- Qf6 26.Bxc8 Qg6+ 27.Kh1 Bxf1 28.Rxf1 Rxc8 29.Bd4+ Bf6 30.Qh3+-] **25...Bf6! 26.Bxf6+ Qxf6 27.Rf2 Rc7 28.Qe3** [28.Qh3!?=] **28...Rg7+ 29.Kh1 Qh4+ 30.Rh2 Rxf4 31.Rxh4?** [31.Rg1 Qf6 32.Rxg7=] **31...Rxh4+ 32.Bh3 Bc8 33.Kh2 Rxh3+ 34.Qxh3 Bxh3 35.Kxh3 Rd7?!** [35...Kg8!-/+] **36.Rd1 e3 37.Kg3 e2 38.Re1 Rxd5 39.Rxe2** Black is a pawn up with winning chances, but the game was concluded here. **1/2-1/2**

(4) Zhou,Chelsea (1879) - Argo,Guy (1928) [A25]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (5.5), 10.08.2021

[de Firmian]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 f5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.d3 Bb4 6.Bd2 This English Opening is like a Sicilian Grand Prix Attack reversed. **6...a5 7.Nf3 0-0 8.e3 d6 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Qe8 11.Re1 Nd8?!** This is a bit passive. Developing the bishop would be more normal. **12.Nd2** [12.c5! would open lines on the queenside and give White a good opening edge] **12...Bd7 13.f4 Bc6 14.Bxc6 Nxc6 15.Qf3 e4 16.dxe4 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 fxe4 18.Qg4 Qf7**

White is strong on the dark square while Black has more control of the light squares. It is easier to play White, but Black can maintain equality with accurate play. **19.Rad1 g6** [19...Nb4! 20.a3 Nd3 gets the knight to a powerful square] **20.Rd5!? Nb4 21.Rg5 Nxa2 22.Bd2 c5?** This is too slow and Chelsea now quickly builds a powerful attack. Black needed to get the knight back righ away with [22...Nb4] **23.Ra1 Nb4**

24.h4! The h-pawn joins the fray and suddenly the white rook, queen and bishop can do their work. **24...Nc6 25.h5 Ne7 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Bc3 Qxc4** [The defense is too difficult. Slightly better but losing anyway is 27...Qh7 28.Kg2 Kf7 29.Rh1 Qg8 30.f5] **28.Rxg6+ Kf7 29.Rxd6 Ke8 30.Qd7+ 1-0**

(5) Sun,Kevin (1517) - Brownlow,Samuel (1795) [B23]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u2000 San Francisco (5.7), 10.08.2021

[de Firmian]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 The Grand Prix Attack is practical against the Sicilian - you don't need to know too many variations. **3...Nc6 4.Nf3 g6 5.Bc4 Bg7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d3 0-0 8.Be3** There's nothing wrong with this move, though [8.Kh1 and 9. Qe1 is thematic.] **8...a6 9.a4 Na5?! 10.Ba2 Ng4** Sam seems to like attacking the bishops with his knights. They just move to good safe squares though. **11.Bd2 c4 12.dxc4** [12.d4! Simply gives White a strong center and no worries at all. Kevin has a trick planned with his move.] **12...Qb6+ 13.Kh1**

13...Nf2+? [13...Qxb2! 14.Rb1 Qa3 is about equal. Sam couldn't resist taking the exchange and gets punished for greed.] **14.Rxf2 Qxf2 15.Nd5!**

Suddenly White has multiple threats, which can't all be dealt with. The knight on a5 is hanging, the e-pawn is attacked and also... **15...e6?! 16.Be3** the black queen was threatened to be trapped, which has happened. **16...Qxf3 17.Ne7+!** Kevin is winning anyway after taking the queen, but plays accuarately to save the knight. **17...Kh8 18.gxf3 Bd7 19.Qxd6**

White has a queen for a rook and the rest needs no comment. **19...Bxa4 20.Qb4 Nc6 21.Qxa4 Nxe7 22.Qb4 Nc6 23.Qa4 Ne7 24.Qb4 Bf6** [24...Nc6 25.Qxb7] **25.e5 Bh4 26.Qxb7 Rab8 27.Qxa6 Rxb2 28.Bb3 1-0**

(6) Uribe,Luiz (1856) - Quin,Leon (1611) [E60]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u2000 San Francisco (5.9), 10.08.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 Nbd7 7.c4 c6 8.Nbd2 Re8 9.e4 e5 10.0-0 Qc7 [10...exd4 11.Nxd4 Nc5 12.Qc2 Qb6 13.Rfe1 a5] **11.Qc2** A King's Indian Defense, Fianchetto Variation where White has put the dark-squared bishop on b2. Sensible play by both players. **11...Nh5!? 12.Rad1 Nf8?!**

13.c5! Breaking down the black pawn chain in the center. White gains a clear edge now. **13...exd4** [13...dxc5 14.dxe5] **14.cxd6 Qxd6 15.Nc4 Qc7 16.Bxd4 Be6 17.Nd6 Red8** [17...Qxd6 18.Bxg7 Qe7 19.Bb2 would leave major dark square troubles] **18.e5 f6 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.Bxf6** [20.Ne4 would be a little more aggressive] **20...Nxf6 21.Nb5** [21.Nc4!?] **21...Qe7?!** [21...Qb6 or; 21...Qa5 would avoid the queen being hit by a rook on the e-file] **22.Nbd4 Bd5 23.Rfe1 Qd6 24.Ne2** [Black has played tough defense. Here 24.Ng5 would be a better way to invade the black camp] **24...Ne6 25.Nc3 Re8 26.Ne5 Nc7 27.Nxd5 Ncxd5 28.Nc4 Qb4 29.Ne5 Qd6 30.f4 Re7 31.h3 Rae8 32.Kh2 Qb4 33.Qf2 a6 34.Nd3 Qd6 35.Rxe7 Rxe7 36.Ne5 Re8 37.Qd4 a5!? 38.Qa7** White invades and wins a pawn. Black gets some activity in compensation. **38...Qb4 39.Rd4 Qb5 40.Ra4 Re7 41.Rxa5 Qe2 42.Qb8+?!** [42.Qg1 Ne3 43.Kh1] **42...Kg7 43.Ra8**

43...Re8? [43...Ne8 44.Qd8 g5 45.Ra4 gxf4 46.gxf4 Rxe5! 47.fxe5 Qxe5+ 48.Kg1 Qe3+ 49.Kh2 Qe5+ would be a draw] **44.Qxb7+ Re7 45.Qxc6 Ne3 46.Qf3 Qe1 47.Rd8 Rc7 48.Nd3 Qd2**

49.Qf2?? Oh no! Luiz makes a blunder in a winning position. After [49.Nc5! Qc1 50.Ne6+ Kf7 51.Nxc7 Qxc7 52.Rd2 It's a trivial win with the exchange and 3 pawns ahead.] **49...Nfg4+!** The ups and downs of a chess battle. **0-1**

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 2000+

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1	**NM Siddharth Arun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13206647)**	2253	W12	D2	W6	D3	W5	H---	H---	4.0
2	2-3	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**	2121	W9	D1	L3	W13	W7			3.5
3		**Richard Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14823351)**	1824	H---	W8	W2	D1	D4	H---	H---	3.5
4	4-6	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	2278	W7	D5	H---	H---	D3			3.0
5		**Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)**	2078	W13	D4	W11	H---	L1			3.0
6		**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	2013	H---	W10	L1	W9	H---			3.0
7	7-11	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	1997	L4	W12	D9	W11	L2			2.5

8		**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	1964	H---	L3	D14	D12	W13			2.5
9		**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	1900	L2	B---	D7	L6	W14			2.5
10		**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)**	1879	B---	L6	L13	D14	W12	H---		2.5
11		**Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)**	1818	H---	W14	L5	L7	B---			2.5
12	12-14	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	1928	L1	L7	B---	D8	L10			1.5
13		**Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)**	1885	L5	H---	W10	L2	L8			1.5
14		**Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)**	1828	H---	L11	D8	D10	L9			1.5

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under2000

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	1517	W25	W12	W2	H---	W4			4.5
2	2-3	**Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)**	1611	W19	W6	L1	W10	W11			4.0
3		**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	1473	W26	W10	W17	L4	W6			4.0
4	4-5	**Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)**	1795	D5	W14	W16	W3	L1			3.5
5		**Daniel Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)**	1555	D4	W9	W15	D11	H---	H---		3.5
6	6-9	**Amitoj Singh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12907156)**	1819	W20	L2	W13	W17	L3			3.0
7		**Ted Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	1789	D21	H---	H---	W15	D8			3.0
8		**Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)**	1761	H---	H---	H---	W21	D7			3.0
9		**David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)**	1622	H---	L5	W22	H---	W17			3.0
10	10-16	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	1879	D14	L3	W19	L2	W18			2.5
11		**Luiz Uribe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839860)**	1856	L17	W21	W12	D5	L2			2.5
12		**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	W18	L1	L11	W16	H---			2.5
13		**Frederick Hope (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12646004)**	1646	W22	F17	L6	W19	H---			2.5
14		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1610	D10	L4	L18	B---	W21			2.5
15		**Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)**	1577	W23	H---	L5	L7	W22		H---	2.5
16		**Nursultan\ Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	1513	W24	H---	L4	L12	W20			2.5

17	17-19	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1609	W11	X13	L3	L6	L9			2.0
18		**Anvi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315087)**	1485	L12	D24	W14	H---	L10			2.0
19		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	1408	L2	B---	L10	L13	X24			2.0
20	20-22	**Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	L6	H---	H---	H---	L16			1.5
21		**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	1532	D7	L11	W24	L8	L14			1.5
22		**Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	1483	L13	H---	L9	X24	L15			1.5
23	23	**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	1800	L15	H---	H---	U---	U---			1.0
24	24	**Gregory Rousso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17073094)**	1745	L16	D18	L21	F22	F19			0.5
25	25-26	**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	1776	L1	U---	U---	U---	U---			0.0
26		**Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)**	1612	L3	U---	U---	U---	U---			0.0

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: u/1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1	**Isaac Sterling (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14316046)**	1236	X---	W6	W2	W4	W5			5.0
2	2-4	**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	1433	W25	W15	L1	W11	X12	H---	U---	4.0
3		**Claudio Bastiani-Fonck (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16874166)**	1377	W28	D29	W10	H---	W7			4.0
4		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	435	B---	W19	W7	L1	X14			4.0
5	5-6	**Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)**	1322	W17	H---	W18	W14	L1			3.5
6		**Iven Yarovoy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17131276)**	unr.	W30	L1	H---	X26	W18			3.5
7	7-12	**Dominic Zirbel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13356345)**	1481	W12	W10	L4	W21	L3			3.0
8		**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	1296	H---	H---	D25	W27	H---			3.0
9		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	1050	L29	D28	B---	W16	H---			3.0
10		**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	948	W13	L7	L3	X---	W23			3.0
11		**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)**	825	H---	H---	W23	L2	W21			3.0
12		**Romeo Nehme (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16271243)**	795	L7	W17	W19	W15	F2		H---	3.0
13	13-17	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	1569	L10	L25	H---	W28	W27			2.5
		Valerie Jade									

14		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)**	1490	W21	H---	X29	L5	F4			2.5
15		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1013	W18	L2	X---	L12	D17			2.5
16		**Tony Kachakji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228920)**	unr.	L20	W30	H---	L9	W26			2.5
17		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	unr.	L5	L12	B---	W19	D15			2.5
18	18-24	**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	1586	L15	W27	L5	W25	L6			2.0
19		**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	1400	W24	L4	L12	L17	W25			2.0
20		**Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)**	1368	W16	H---	H---	U---	U---			2.0
21		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	826	L14	W24	B---	L7	L11			2.0
22		**Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818)**	unr.	H---	H---	U---	L23	W30			2.0
23		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	unr.	D31	H---	L11	W22	L10			2.0
24		**Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)**	unr.	L19	L21	W30	H---	H---			2.0
25	25-29	**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	660	L2	W13	D8	L18	L19			1.5
26		**Yuri Meseznik (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30241398)**	unr.	H---	H---	H---	F6	L16			1.5
27		**Thomas Dobbs (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30230850)**	unr.	H---	L18	W28	L8	L13			1.5
28		**Tyler Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30212590)**	unr.	L3	D9	L27	L13	B---			1.5
29		**Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)**	unr.	W9	D3	F14	U---	U---			1.5
30	30	**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	1228	L6	L16	L24	B---	L22			1.0
31	31	**Peter Borah (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12883291)**	1232	D23	U---	U---	U---	U---			0.5

Thursday Night Marathon Report

by Abel Talamantez

The Thursday Night Marathon did not have major upsets at the top, but IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla delivered the evening's action in both games, first against NM Michael Walder and then an action packed game against Nikunj Oza. Here is the link to that game if you would like to watch it: https://www.chess.com/live#a=57906 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/https://www.chess.com/live#a=57906)

GM Gadir Guseinov leads the tournament with 5.5/6, a half point over Dhulipalla at 5/6. NM Mike Walder right behind in sole 3rd place with 4.5/6.

To watch the evenings broadcast, click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7iuOM8ults (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7iuOM8ults)

Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Standings. July-August Thurdsay Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3

1	GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	gguseinov	17343590	2635	W11	W5	D3
2	IM Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)	Swarnapuri	30100858	2513	W16	W14	W4
3	NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)	FlightsOfFancy	10345120	2171	W27	W23	D1
4	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	Mangonel	14006141	1940	W28	W29	L2
5	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W20	L1	W2
6	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1753	L21	W28	W1
7	Ricnesh Ravind (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30181578)	Fi_Ricnesh	30181578	1651	H---	H---	W2
8	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	H---	W32	W2
9	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	L29	X30	D1
10	Nikunj Oza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12497585)	Motif	12497585	1851	W13	D21	W2
11	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	Loltheawesomedude	16497860	1531	L1	W13	W1
12	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	D32	W31	H--
13	Andy Xu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16732301)	vivianandy	16732301	1312	L10	L11	D1
14	Rithwik Narendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14903560)	rukja	14903560	1849	W19	L2	H--
15	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1783	H---	H---	W2
16	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1554	L2	L19	D1
17	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1521	H---	H---	D9
18	Aaron D Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	aaroncraig602	12872385	1408	H---	H---	L1
19	Sarvagnya Brahmanapally (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16466227)	bsarvagnya	16466227	1287	L14	W16	L6
20	Austin Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144712)	austinjin666xd	17144712	1153	L5	B---	L7
21	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2Nf31-0	16425316	1152	W6	D10	L8
22	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	vincitore51745	12814843	569	X8	W26	L1
23	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1584	W33	L3	H--
24	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1161	H---	H---	H--
25	Zerui Titus Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16959455)	thankfuifortune	16959455	984	H---	H---	H--
26	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	LudiMagisterJosephus	13742111	1700	D31	L22	L3

	13742111)						
27	**Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)**	**pjkrizzle**	16897133	1360	L3	W33	L1
28	**Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)**	**boozerrip**	13553308	1350	L4	L6	W3
29	**Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)**	**ivanzong**	30131397	1335	W9	L4	L5
30	**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	**tobiahsrex**	30164211	1013	H---	H---	W2
31	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	**Bruce_Hedman**	17344551	1055	D26	L12	W3
32	**Jonathan Rice (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205348)**	**ricejonathanc**	30205348	unr.	D12	L8	L3
33	**Jimolee Gray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30172836)**	**jgray43**	30172836	unr.	L23	L27	L2

2021 US Open Report Part 2

by Abel Talamantez

GM Alexander Lenderman won the 2021 US Open outright with a score of 8.5/9 and the $8000 1st prize. He went into the final round 8/8 and a full point ahead of the nearest player. The weekend was buzzing whether or not Lenderman would take down the US Open with a perfect score, but he needed only a draw to secure clear 1st. Although making history is incredibly tempting, securing 1st was the goal, and he did so with a final round draw against GM Benjamin Gledura. Congratulations to Lenderman, who has participated both in our Tuesday and Thursday Night Marathons online! I was able to capture this photo of him playing GM Hans Niemann.

GM Alex Lenderman is playing white against GM Hans Niemann as Niemann is about to make a move. This game is annotated in Alexey Root's article by NM Mike Walder later in this newsletter. GM Timur Gareyev is playing black next to them

Another part of the US Open festivities is the annual awards. I was the recepient of this year's Organizer of the Year award from US Chess. My good friend from the Bay Area Lauren Goodkind also received an award from US Chess for Meritorious Service for her work in the community promoting women and girls in chess.

While it was fun being at the US Open and following the action of the games and connecting with people, I was able to take a few ours and go into Philadelphia, where I got to see the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall while taking some time for lunch and have an authentic philly cheeseteak. That's mozzarella cheese in case anyone is wondering.

Congratulations to GM Alex Lenderman on the championship win, and it was great to see everyone from the Bay Area community in Cherry Hill!

Here are the US Open final results: https://www.uschess.org/results/2021/usopen/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/https://www.uschess.org/results/2021/usopen/)

WIM Dr. Alexey Root

WIM Dr. Alexey Root wrote a US Open recap article for ChessBase, you can read it by following this link: https://en.chessbase.com/post/u-s-open-chess-games-awards-signings-meetings (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/https://en.chessbase.com/post/u-s-open-chess-games-awards-signings-meetings)

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this problem, white to move and mate in 3.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute August Quads: August 14, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsAug2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsAug2021)

20th Bernardo Smith Memorial Championship: FIDE Rated. August 21-22, 9AM PT. 5SS G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/15th-smith-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/15th-smith-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129014248/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Champions

Taking a break from the World Championship matches, here's ten examples of the World Champions destroying hapless opponents with some sparkling tactics and crushing shots.

Reiner - Steinitz 1860. Black moves.

Botvinnik - Stepanov 1931. White moves.

Alekhine - Reshevsky 1937. White moves.

Spassky - Petrosian 1967. White moves.

Fischer - Miagmasuren 1967. White moves.

Karpov - Korchnoi 1978. White moves.

Petrosian - Ivkov 1979. White moves.

Tal - Rantanen 1979. White moves.

Kasparov - Karpov 1985. White moves.

Topalov – Kramnik 1995. Black moves.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Who's on Top in America?

The Sinquefeld Grand Chess Tour in St. Louis has started now with a super field of ten top players of the world. What is amazing at this time is that six of these players are Americans, showing the dramatic rise of top level chess in the US. The question though is which one of the Americans is the top dog? That seems to be very disputable these days. The last few years had seen Caruana as the clear top American since he was world #2 and challenger to Magnus's throne. Yet Fabiano has slipped a bit with his rating now under 2800, and Ding Liren has edged him out for the #2 rating spot. Wesley So could make a strong claim to be the real threat to become an American world champion as he is already world champion at Fischer Random Chess, having smashed Carlsen in the final. The rapid matches Wesley has had this year with Carlsen have been evenly split and closely fought. This would give him great bragging rights except that his rating is only #9 in the world and he hasn't qualified for the Candidates Tournament (which has only 2 spots left). Thus Wesley may not get the chance to battle for the title now matter how well he does against Carlsen.

There is always the argument to go with the young, promising talent no matter what sport you are in. Here Jeffrey Xiong wins the argument as most promising American as he is 2700 rated and only 20 years old. The other five Americans we are considering are all in the late 20's or 30's. Maybe it will be Jeffery's time to make a move and show the US how promising he really is. Speaking of making a move, our own Sam Shankland has shown in the world cup that he takes a back seat to no one. Though Sam is 29 he seems extremely focused and motivated.

We consider also the players in their 30's. The world's #1 rated blitz player (and #3 rapid) is Hikaru Nakamura. Naka is still ready to rumble with anyone, particularly in fast chess, yet his drive to become world champion seems to have waned. His energy seems more directed to becoming an internet influencer than planning a championship run. The 6th American in the tournament is world #13, Lenier Dominguez. Dominguez is a super-grandmaster who will beat anyone on a good day, yet still needs to step up a bit if he would play for the title. We give below a couple of games from the St. Louis event, which may show us who is striving now to be top dog.

(1) Le,Quang Liem - Caruana,Fabiano [D02]

Grand Chess Tour St. Louis Rapid, 11.08.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 Le Quang Liem is a super-grandmaster from Vietnam. He chooses the popular London System in this game. **3...e6 4.e3 Bd6 5.Nbd2 c5 6.c3 0-0 7.Bg3 b6 8.Bd3 Ba6!** Trading the light-squared bishop, which would be blocked on the a8-h1 diagonal. **9.Bxa6 Nxa6 10.Qe2 Nb8 11.Ne5 Qc7 12.0-0 Nc6**

I must put a diagram here as Fabiano has played a model opening against the London System and has full equality and an easy game to play. Readers should take note if you have trouble against the London. **13.f4 Ne7 14.Bh4 Nd7 15.Rad1 cxd4 16.exd4 Nf5 17.Bf2 Be7 18.Nd3?!** This retreat gives Caruana the initiative. The white knight was strong on e5. **18...Nf6 19.Rde1 Rae8 20.g4 Nd6!** Fine knight play by Fabiano. Black has the edge since White has no light-squared bishop to contest the e4 square. **21.Bg3 Nfe4 22.Kg2 Nxd2 23.Qxd2 Ne4 24.Qd1 Bd6 25.g5 f5 26.gxf6?** This opens up the game and Black wins a pawn shortly. Better chances for White to hold were in keeping the position blocked. **26...Rxf6 27.Nf2** The black knight on e4 is too strong and must be exchanged, though this loses a pawn. **27...Nxf2 28.Rxf2 Bxf4 29.Rxf4 Rxf4 30.Qe2 Qf7 31.Bxf4 Qxf4 32.Rf1 Qd6 33.Qh5 Qe7 34.Qe5 b5 35.Rf3 a6 36.a3 h6 37.h3 Rf8 38.Re3**

How to make progress in this pawn up position? **38...Kh8! 39.Qxe6 Qg5+** The attack is worth more than a pawn. **40.Rg3 Qd2+ 41.Kh1 Rf1+ 42.Rg1 Rxg1+ 43.Kxg1 Qc1+ 44.Kg2 Qxb2+ 45.Kg1 Qc1+ 46.Kf2 Qd2+ 47.Kf1 Qxc3 48.Qxd5**

48...Qc4+! Precisely calculating the king and pawn ending! **49.Qxc4 bxc4 50.Ke2 g5 51.d5 Kg7 52.Ke3 h5 53.Kd4 g4 54.d6 Kf7** Black stops the white d-pawn while the black pawns cannot be stopped. **0-1**

(2) Dominguez Perez,Lenier - Xiong,Jeffery [C54]

Grand Chess Tour St. Louis Rapid, 11.08.2021

This is the game between our youngest star, 20 year old Jeffery Xiong, and our oldest star, 37 year old Dominguez. Is it time for youth to assert itself? **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Re1** A common position from the Italian Game. **7...Ne7 8.d4 Bb6 9.a4 c6 10.dxe5 Ng4 11.Rf1 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Qxd8!** Simply trading into the endgame. Of course older players like endgames, but Dominguez has more point than simply trading. **13...Rxd8 14.a5 Bc7 15.Be3**

One should note the relative strenth of the pieces, especially the bishops. The two white bishops exert pressure on strong diagonals. **15...Bd7 16.Rd1 Bg4 17.Rxd8+ Rxd8 18.Nd2 Nc8 19.f3 Bd7 20.b4** White has more queenside space and more aggressive pawns on that side. **20...Kf8 21.Kf1 Ke7 22.Ke2 f6 23.Kd1 Be6 24.Bxe6 Kxe6 25.Kc2 g6 26.Nb3 b6?** Black errs under pressure. It was hard to play, but opening the a-file gives White a road into the Black camp. **27.axb6 axb6 28.Ra6 f5 29.Nd2 Kd7 30.Nc4 b5 31.Nd2!** Simply retreating and relocating the white knight brings White a decisive advantage. **31...Nd6 32.Nb3 Nb7?! 33.Ra7 Kc8**

34.Na5! The breakthrough move. Black can't refuse the exchange but the white a-pawn becomes a monster. **34...Nxa5 35.bxa5 fxe4 36.fxe4 Rf8** [36...Kb8 37.a6 h5 38.Rb7+ Kc8 39.Bc5 g5 40.c4 bxc4 41.Rb1 wins with the a-pawn] **37.Ra8+ Bb8 38.a6** Jeffery resigned. It looks like it will be a while longer before he usurps the older players ranking. **1-0**

Solution to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Reiner - Steinitz 1860.

1…Qxh2+!! is a tactic not to be missed - or forgotten. **2.Rxh2 Rg1# 0-1.**

Botvinnik - Stepanov 1931.

1.Bxf7+! Rxf7 and now did you see **2.Nc4!** snagging the black queen? **1-0** after black dragged it out for a while.

Alekhine - Reshevsky 1937.

1.Qxe5+! and it's lights out. **1-0.** 1…fxe5 2.Rf8+ and it's mate in 2.

Spassky - Petrosian 1967.

1.Qxd4+! 1-0. 1…Rxd4 2.b6#.

Fischer - Miagmasuren 1967.

1.Qxh7+!! 1-0. After 1…Kxh7 2.hxg6+ Kxg6 (or 2…Kg8 3.Rh8#) 3.Be4#.

Karpov - Korchnoi 1978.

1.Nd8+! was the way to go. **1-0.** All king moves are met by 2.Qf8#.

Petrosian - Ivkov 1979.

1.Rxd4! 1-0. After 1…exd4 2.Re5+! forces 2…Kxg4 then either 3.h3# or 3.f3#.

Tal - Rantanen 1979.

1.Bh8!! is the way through, threatening 2.Qxh7#. **1…Kxf7** (If 1…h5 2.Qxf6 and mates next move) **2.Qxf6# Kg8 3.Qg7#.**

Kasparov - Karpov 1985.

1.Qxd7!! was a very pretty shot, exploiting black's back-rank weakness. **1…Rxd7 2.Re8+ Kh7 3.Be4+! 1-0.** After 3…g6 4.Rxd7 black loses another piece, as 4…Ba6 fails to 5.Bxc6 Qxc6 6.Rxf7#.

Topalov – Kramnik 1995.

1…Bc3+!! was what the Doctor ordered, and the white queen is lost. **2.Nxc3 a5+! 3.Kxb5 Qxc3 0-1.**

Solution To Tony's Teaser

1. Qd2!! exd2 2. Nxd6 (will be mate next move no matter what) d1=Q 3. Ne4#

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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August 21, 2021

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Berkeley Visit

by Abel Talamantez

For those that don't know, I lived for a little more than three years in Albany, a city right next to Berkeley, when I attended UC Berkeley from 1999-2002. For many years after, I would come back to Berkeley and visit the campus, and also went to some of my favorite spots. Tops among those were Picante, a Mexican restaurant by University Village, and Zachary's Pizza, with its deep dish mushroom and spinach. It had been quite some time since I had visited Berkeley for fun, and I got the opportunity to do that this past week as I met with my predecessor IM John Donaldson at Espresso Roma Cafe off of Hopkins. What stood out about this place, in addition to the fine latte, was its quiet suburban feel amidst the busy streets. Parking was plentiful (not something easily found in Berkeley), and the ambiance was very enjoyable, an outside seating area busy with people. One older gentlemen seated by us was yelling on speaker phone with someone that they were ruining his cappuccino by being on the phone. It was a valuable and enjoyable couple of hours of conversation, and I do reccommend a visit to this cafe if you are ever in Berkeley. They have a delicious looking selection of food and the outdoor area is a great environment to unwind.

After, I swung by Emeryville on my way back home to San Jose hungry, and I had to go with simple, but simply good. I stopped by Super Duper Burger for a mini burger combo with garlic fries. It hit the spot, and took my mind off the fact that I had a dentist appointment an hour later. Fortunately I was able to teach my MI member beginner's class in the evening, despite half my mouth still being numb.

A very busy day, but a great day sans the dentist.

Tuesday Night Marathon Round 6 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The Tuesday Night Marathon delivered perhaps the most exciting game of the tournament and perhaps the year thus far, even as three of its top players took byes for the round. The action was delivered on board 8 in a battle between David Rakonitz and Teodoro Porlares that left GM Nick de Firmian and myself glued to the game to the point that we skipped our planned break from the broadcast to continue coverage. The game was an ode to club players everywhere, and is was a game where the element of extreme complexity mixed with the daring and fallability of under 2000 players added high drama. This game is annotated below, and it is definitely worth a look. While we all appreciate the skill and precision of the top players, the night belonged to these club regulars, as they showed there can exist beauty and passion amidst chaos.

David Rakonitz and Teodoro Porlares (left picture) gave viewers an exciting evening of chess. Adam Mercado and Nikhil Pimpalkhare closed the evening as the last game

In the top section, NM Siddharth Arun had requested byes in the final two rounds, and thus has secured at least a share of 1st place with a final score of 5/7. IM Elliott Winslow defeated Christophe Bambou, so Winslow is the only player in position to share 1st place with Arun with a victory in next week's final round. Richard Liu has 4 points also, but he has a bye in the final round so he will finish with 4.5/7. There will be a battle for 2nd-3rd next week as Bambou, Kristian Clemens and Kayven Riese are close behind at 3.5/6.

In the under 2000 section, Kevin Sun maintains a half point lead in first place over Samuel Brownlow and Adam Stafford. Sun was put under a lot of pressure against Stafford, but he was able to foce a perpetual check to kep his section lead.

In the under 1600 section, Isaac Sterling has locked up 1st place with yet another victory, this time against Claudio Bastiani-Fonck. He is a perfect 6/6 and is 1.5 points ahead of Sebby Suarez and Iven Yarovoy, both players he has already defeated.

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Rakonitz,David (1622) - Porlares,Ted (1789) [D55]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u2000 San Francisco (6.8), 17.08.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 A classic Queen's Gambit Declined in a game between two of our club's good players. **6...b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 Bg4** This could leave the light squares on the queenside a little weak. [More usual is 8...Bb7] **9.h3 Bh5 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Rc1 c6 12.Qe2N h6 13.Bh4** [13.Bf4 would be a nice square now. White would have the opening advantage then.] **13...b5** [13...Ne4! 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 is about equal] **14.Rfd1 Re8 15.Bg3 Nh7 16.e4?!**

16...Bg5! White broke open the game after fully developing, but this alert reaction makes some trouble in the white ranks. **17.Rc2 dxe4 18.Nxe4 f5**

19.Rxc6? The very aggressive move loses at least one piece. I almost didn't give it a question mark as it leads to a fascinating position. 19. Be5 fxe4 20. Qxe4 would have only been slightly worse for White. **19...fxe4 20.Bxb5 exf3**

White is two pieces down and objectively lost, but the board is wide open and the white pieces active. So there are real practical chances. David is usually careful with his material and here it is nice seeing him play like Tal. **21.Qc4+ Kh8 22.Rd3 Qe7 23.Rc7!** Black has material and is getting some checks. Still the best course of action is to go for maximum couterplay and the rook on the seventh rank gives hope for the future. **23...Qe1+ 24.Kh2 fxg2 25.Kxg2 Qe4+** [25...Be2! 26.Rxd7 Qf1+ 27.Kh2 Bf4! would be really tough for White.] **26.Kh2 Nb6 27.Qb3 Bf4 28.Bc6** Two piece down, White fights to control center squares. The position is confusing to play. **28...Bxg3+ 29.Rxg3 Qf4 30.Bxe8**

This changes the material so White is "only" down three pieces for a rook and two pawns. It is still lost for White but not as much as earlier. **30...Rxe8** [30...Qxf2+ 31.Rg2 Qf4+ 32.Qg3! Qxg3+ 33.Rxg3 Rxe8 34.Rgxg7] **31.Rcxg7 Qxf2+** [31...Ng5! would cut the line between the two rooks and solve the defensive issues (as well as attacking)] **32.Rg2 Qf4+ 33.Qg3 Qxg3+ 34.R2xg3 Re2+ 35.Kg1 Ng5** The resulting endgame is still objectively winning for Black with the three pieces for the rook, but practically it is hard to play. The white rooks have an easier time finding the right squares. **36.Rxa7 Nf3+ 37.Kf1 Nd2+** [37...Nxd4!] **38.Kg1 Re1+ 39.Kg2 Re2+ 40.Kg1 Ne4?!** This attacks the rook but loses some coordination of the black forces. Better was [40...Bf3] **41.Rgg7 Ng5 42.Rgb7 Nxh3+?!** snatching a pawn but placing the knight on a less active square. Chances are back to even now! **43.Kf1 Re6?!** [43...Nd5 44.Ra8+ Re8 45.Rxe8+ Bxe8 46.Rb8 Nf6 is roughly equal] **44.Rb8+ Be8 45.a4?!** [45.Ra6! wins the knight on b6] **45...Nc4! 46.Kg2 Nf4+ 47.Kf3** The white king also fighting even though it is in danger. **47...Nd5 48.b4 Nd6 49.b5 Re3+ 50.Kf2 Ne4+ 51.Kf1** The black rook and knights swarm around the white king. Very dangerous but there is no checkmate. **51...Ng3+ 52.Kf2 Ne4+ 53.Kf1 Ng3+ 54.Kf2 Nf5?!** Not wanting to make a draw yet Teodoro moves the knight to a different square. Now White is starting to get winning chances. **55.Rd8 Nf6?** [55...Nf4 would keep the attack strong enough for a draw] **56.b6** White is making fast progress with the queenside pawns. It's time for Black to look for perpetual check. **56...Ne4+ 57.Kf1 Nd2+ 58.Kf2 Ne4+**

59.Kf1 David decides to repeat moves after a long crazy battle. In fact White is now winning if he runs well with the king - [59.Kg2! Rg3+ 60.Kf1 Rf3+ 61.Ke1 Re3+ 62.Kd1 and the powerful white rooks and queenside pawns should take home the point] **59...Nd2+** draw agreed. A wonderful and entertaining game! **1/2-1/2**

(2) Bambou,Christophe (2121) - Winslow,Elliott (2278) [B22]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (6.1), 17.08.2021

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.exd6 e6 6.g3 Bxd6 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.d4

9...b6 After both sides blitzed out moves, Black is the first for a long thing, followed by White in response [Relevant: 9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Bc7 12.Nd2 Bb6 13.Qd3 Nf4 14.Qxd8 Ne2+ 15.Kh1 Rxd8 16.Nc4 Nxc1 17.Raxc1 Bc7 18.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Kf8 20.Kg1 Ke7 21.Kf1 Rb8 22.b4 b6 23.Ke1 Ba6 24.Ne3 Be5 25.Rc1 Rc8 26.Kd2 Rd8+ 27.Kc2 Bd3+ 28.Kb3 Bg6 29.Rd1 Rxd1 30.Nxd1 Bc7 31.a4 Bd3 32.Nb2 Be2 33.Kc2 f5 34.Kd2 Ba6 35.Nd1 g6 36.Ne3 f4 37.Nc2 h5 38.Nd4 fxg3 39.fxg3 Abdusattorov,N (2627) -Andreikin,D (2726) chess.com INT 2020 0-1 (73)] **10.c4** As so often in the Alapin, it comes out feeling more like a queenpawn opening than a kingpawn, in this case a Catalan. It's about solving the question of the Black's light-

squared bishop. White has pressure on the long diagonal but doesn't manage to make anything of it -- and in fact it is that diagonal that ends up costing him the game. **10...Nde7 11.Nc3** [On the forthright 11.d5 exd5 12.cxd5 Nb4 13.Nc3 Bf5 14.Ne1 c4 would be Black's intention.] **11...Bb7 12.dxc5** [12.d5 exd5 13.cxd5 Nb4 14.Ne1 Qd7 still seems okay for Black.; 12.Nb5 cxd4 *(12...Nxd4!? 13.Nfxd4 Bxg2 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Kxg2 Nf5* is only slightly uncomfortable.*)* 13.Nfxd4 *(13.Nxd6? Qxd6 14.Nxd4 Rad8 15.Be3 Nxd4 16.Bxb7 Qc7* and there's the c-pawn hanging.*)* 13...Be5!? 14.Bg5 Qc8! 15.Nf3! Bb8! 16.Rc1! seems to be some pressure.] **12...Bxc5 13.Ne4 Nd4** [13...Nf5!? 14.Nxc5 bxc5 15.Qxd8 Rfxd8 16.g4 Ncd4! 17.Nxd4 Bxg2 18.Nxe6 Bxf1 19.Nxd8 Bxc4 keeps the balance. So often it's the c-pawn at the end of a long series of captures.] **14.Nxd4?!** [14.Nxc5 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 bxc5 17.Bg5!? Qc7 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Rfd1= gives White some tiny plus for getting to the d-file first, but not enough to claim must of anything.] **14...Bxd4**

And now it's Black with the long diagonal pressure! White plays too bluntly to handle that, and the original long diagonal becomes sensitive after all. **15.Qc2N** [Predecessor: 15.Bg5 f6 16.Qg4 f5 17.Qh4 Ng6 18.Bxd8 Nxh4 19.Bxh4 Bxe4 20.Bxe4 fxe4 21.Rae1 e3 22.fxe3 Rxf1+ 23.Kxf1 Bxb2 24.Rd1 h6 25.Rd8+ Rxd8 26.Bxd8 Be5 27.Be7 Kf7 28.Bb4 Ke8 29.Ke2 Kd7 30.Kd3 Kc6 31.Bf8 Bf6 32.g4 Kd7 33.Ke4 Bc3 34.h3 Bf6 35.Kd3 Kc6 36.a4 a6 37.Kc2 b5 38.cxb5+ axb5 39.axb5+ Kxb5 40.Kd3 Kc6 41.Ke4 Kd7 42.Bc5 Bd8 43.Bd4 g6 44.Bc3 Ke8 Chadaev,N (2577)-Tilicheev,V (2361) Moscow 2011 1/2-1/2] **15...Qc7 16.Bd2**

16...f5!? 17.Ng5?! [17.Bc3!? Bxc3 18.Nxc3 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Qxc4 grabs that pawn, with maybe even money to convert.] **17...Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Qc6+**

19.Kg1? [19.f3?! h6 20.Nh3 Rac8 21.Rac1 e5 when Black has a lot of better pieces but no clear win in sight.; 19.Nf3!? walks into a dangerous pin: 19...Ng6 20.Qb3 Ne5 21.Bf4 Nxf3 22.Qxf3 Black now has various ways to win a pawn, when White puts up difficult resistance.] **19...h6 20.Nh3 Ng6-+**

21.Nf4 [21.Bf4 at least keeps Black's knight from overrunning White's kingside.] **21...Ne5 22.Ng2 Qxc4!** Stockfish 14 concurs: simply claiming the ending is the best plan. **23.Rfc1** [23.Qxc4 Nxc4 24.Bc3 *(24.Bb4 Bxb2!)* 24...Bxc3 25.bxc3 Kf7 for example.] **23...Nf3+** [23...Rac8 24.Qd1 Qd3 is the computer choice; Black keeps it human.] **24.Kh1 Qxc2** [24...Qd5] **25.Rxc2 Rac8 26.Rac1 Rxc2 27.Rxc2 Rd8**

28.Be3?! [28.Ne1 Nxd2 29.Rxd2 Bf6-+ it fairly routine if you know something about endings.] **28...Bxb2! 29.Rxb2 Rd1+ 30.Ne1 Nxe1 31.Re2 e5 32.h4 f4**

[32...Nf3+ 33.Kg2 e4 is in fact crushing (...g5 is coming), but Black was lured away by the domination of the bishop on an open board. The choice was fairly irrelevant in terms of allowing White any chance.] **33.gxf4 exf4 34.Bxb6 axb6 35.Re6 b5 36.Rb6 b4 37.Kh2 Nd3 38.f3 Rd2+ 39.Kh3 h5** White can now dream of sacrificing the a-pawn and the rook for a stalemate... **40.a4 Ra2 41.a5 Rxa5 42.Rb7 Ra3 43.Re7 b3 44.Re2 b2 45.Rd2 b1Q 46.Ra2! Qh1+ 0-1**

(3) Clemens,Kristian (1997) - Weng,Nicholas (2013) [A34]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (6.2), 17.08.2021

[de Firmian]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 The Grunfeld pattern for Black is certainly playable, but less effective against the English Opening for the obvious reason: how do you attack White's center pawns if White hasn't advanced them yet? **4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.g3** White proceeds classically, as is Kristian's general preference. Over the years of the current century so far White has thrown all sorts of curious plans Black's way: [5.Qa4+; 5.e4; 5.Qb3; Even 5.Qc2 has a plan (to play 6.e4 Nxc3 7.dxc3 without allowing a queen trade).; But certainly the biggest development has been 5.h4!? , the sort of move Bent Larsen was fond of playing half a century earlier, and now rabidly taken up by the super-GMs of today.] **5...Bg7 6.Bg2 c5 7.Qb3** White chooses this moment to shine a light on Black's knight. [It's not too late for 7.h4 apparently: 7...h6 8.0-0 Nc6 9.d3 0-0 10.Bd2 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bg4 12.Rb1 Qd7 13.Re1 Rad8= 14.Qc2?! b6-/+ 1/2-1/2 (29) Grischuk,A (2777)-Svidler,P (2723) Chess.com INT 2020; And there's always just 7.0-0] **7...Nb6?!** Black's coordination starts to suffer. [7...Nc7!? has an interesting intention: 8.Qc4 b6 9.Ng5 does indeed win the Exchange, which Black readily allows with 9...0-0 10.Bxa8 Nxa8 11.0-0 Nc6 Black has full compensation.] **8.d3 0-0 9.Be3**

9...N6d7N Black is going to have some serious untangling to do if he's going to equalize after this. [Predecessor: 9...Na6 10.Rc1 Be6 11.Qa3 c4 12.Ng5 Bc8 13.0-0 cxd3 14.exd3 e5 15.Nge4 Re8 16.Qd6 f5 17.Bg5 Qd7 18.Qxd7 Bxd7 19.Nd6 Re6 20.Nxb7 h6 21.Be3 Rb8 22.Na5 Nb4 23.Rfd1 Rd6 24.Bc5 1-0 (24) Ilic,Z-Djurovic,S Skender Vakuf (Knezevo) 1980] **10.0-0 Nc6 11.Rac1 b6?!**

12.Rfd1?! [12.d4!+/- cxd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.Bxc6 Bxe3 15.fxe3 Nc5 16.Qb4 Bb7 17.Bxb7 Nxb7 18.Rfd1 White may have the worse pawn structure, but it's Black who gets caught in the center. 18...Qe8 19.Nd5+-] **12...e5?!** Black tries to put his bind in order, but White's way ahead of him. **13.Nb5?**

[13.Bg5! first is essentially winning.] **13...a6?** [13...Nf6! almost equalizes, in that 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxa8?? *(15.d4!* might, confusingly, lead to some advantage for White!*)* runs into 15...Be6] **14.Nd6+- Qe7 15.Qd5 Ndb8**

These poor knights don't seem to understand, the idea is to go *forward*. **16.Nxc8! Rxc8 17.Ng5?** Letting quite a chunk of White's advantage get away. [17.b4!+- breaks down Black's position nicely: 17...cxb4 18.Bxb6 Ït might not look like much at first, but Black is getting overrun.] **17...Ra7 18.Qb3 Nd8??** [18...h6 19.Nxf7 Kh7!? leaves White little choice than to make it a piece sac (but for a handful of pawns): 20.Qxb6 Qxf7 21.Qxc5 Black has a good chance of holding after 21...Rac7] **19.Qxb6** Now Black falls apart completely. Clemens plays it for certainty, in the form o a two-pawn up ending (with the two bishops as well), and it's as good as over. That there are more than that many moves still to come is besides the point. **19...Rd7 20.Rxc5 Rxc5 21.Qxc5** Keeping the queens on probably favored White but White has his plan. **21...Qxc5 22.Bxc5 h6 23.Ne4 Ne6 24.Be3 Rc7 25.Rc1** Rooks too. **25...Rxc1+ 26.Bxc1 Nd4 27.Kf1 Kf8 28.e3 Ndc6 29.Ke2 Ke7 30.Bd2 f5 31.Nc3 Kd6 32.Nd5 a5 33.Nb6 Kc5 34.Nc4 Kb5 35.Bc3 Nb4 36.Bxe5 Bxe5 37.Nxe5 Nxa2 38.Nxg6 Nb4 39.Ne5 N8a6 40.d4** A master class in the English by Clemens. And Weng's answer to the English is needing some work! **1-0**

(4) Uzakbaev,Nursultan"] (1513) - Starr,Albert (1609) [A85]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u2000 San Francisco (6.13), 17.08.2021

[de Firmian]

1.d4 f5 Albert uses his usual Dutch Defense. He likes using the wing pawns rather than direct central confrontation. **2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 g6 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Nc3 c6 7.Be2 d6 8.Qb3 Qb6** Offering the endgame, which is alright for Black. **9.Qc2 Re8**

10.c5!? Nursultan plays an aggressive pawn sacrifice to open up the a2-g8 diagonal. This is a fair choice - it's just a matter of style. **10...dxc5 11.0-0 cxd4 12.exd4 Nd5 13.Be5** White has better development for the pawn and Black has a few weak squares. Chances are equal. **13...Bxe5 14.dxe5 Nxc3** perhaps 14...Na6 developing would be safer **15.Qxc3 Be6?!** This gives White a tempo to attack the bishop, making the gambit more dangerous. Again ...Na6 would be a good move. **16.Ng5! Bd5 17.e6 Rf8?** [17...h6! is really needed here to drive the knight away. White could retreat or go forward with 18.Bh5 gxh5 19.Nf7 Bxe6 20.Qh8+ Kxf7 21.Qh7+ but this looks like only a draw] **18.Qh3 h5**

19.Bxh5! Kg7 the best defense [19...gxh5 20.Qxh5 Kg7 21.Qh7+ Kf6 22.Qh6+ is an easy win] **20.Bxg6!** Nursultan is inspired! The attack is worth more than the material. **20...Kxg6 21.Qh7+ Kf6** [21...Kxg5 22.Rae1! is a mating attack *(22.Qxe7+ Kg6 23.Qxf8* is also good*)*] **22.Qh6+ Ke5 23.Rfe1+ Kd4** [23...Be4 24.Rad1!] **24.Qxf8**

With extra material and the black king in the center White is easily winning. **24...c5 25.Rac1 c4 26.Qxe7 Be4 27.Nxe4 fxe4 28.Rcd1+ Ke5 29.Qg7+ Kxe6 30.Rxe4+ Kf5 31.Qg4+** [31.Re5+ Kf4 32.Qg5#] **31...Kf6 32.Rf4+ Ke7 33.Qg7+** Black resigned. Great attack from Nursultan! **1-0**

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 2000+

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tota
1	1	NM Siddharth Arun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13206647)	2253	W11	D4	W8	D3	W7	H---	H---	4.5
2	2-3	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	2278	W5	D7	H---	H---	D3	W4		4.0
3		Richard Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14823351)	1824	H---	W10	W4	D1	D2	H---	H---	4.0
4	4-6	Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)	2121	W6	D1	L3	W13	W5	L2		3.5
5		Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	1997	L2	W11	D6	W12	L4	W8		3.5
6		Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	1900	L4	B---	D5	L8	W14	W10		3.5
7	7-9	Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	2078	W13	D2	W12	H---	L1	U---		3.0
8		Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	2013	H---	W9	L1	W6	H---	L5		3.0
9		Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	1879	B---	L8	L13	D14	W11	H---		3.0
10	10-12	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	1964	H---	L3	D14	D11	W13	L6		2.5
11		Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	1928	L1	L5	B---	D10	L9	W12		2.5
12		Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	1818	H---	W14	L7	L5	B---	L11		2.5
13	13-14	Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)	1885	L7	H---	W9	L4	L10	D14		2.0
14		Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	1828	H---	L12	D10	D9	L6	D13		2.0

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under2000

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tota
1	1	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	1517	W25	W15	W5	H---	W2	D3		5.0
2	2-3	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	1795	D6	W9	W10	W3	L1	W12		4.5
3		Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	1473	W26	W11	W19	L2	W12	D1		4.5
4	4-6	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	1761	H---	H---	H---	W17	D7	X14		4.0
5		Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)	1611	W21	W12	L1	W11	W14	U---	U---	4.0
6		Daniel Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)	1555	D2	W8	W13	D14	H---	H---		4.0
		Ted Porlares									

7	7-10	**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	1789	D17	H---	H---	W13	D4	D8		3.5
8		**David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)**	1622	H---	L6	W18	H---	W19	D7		3.5
9		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1610	D11	L2	L20	B---	W17	W15		3.5
10		**Nursultan\ Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	1513	W24	H---	L2	L15	W22	W19		3.5
11	11-13	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	1879	D9	L3	W21	L5	W20	D13		3.0
12		**Amitoj Singh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12907156)**	1819	W22	L5	W16	W19	L3	L2		3.0
13		**Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)**	1577	W23	H---	L6	L7	W18	D11	H---	3.0
14	14-18	**Luiz Uribe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839860)**	1856	L19	W17	W15	D6	L5	F4		2.5
15		**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	W20	L1	L14	W10	H---	L9		2.5
16		**Frederick Hope (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12646004)**	1646	W18	F19	L12	W21	H---	U---		2.5
17		**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	1532	D7	L14	W24	L4	L9	W21		2.5
18		**Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	1483	L16	H---	L8	X24	L13	W22		2.5
19	19-21	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1609	W14	X16	L3	L12	L8	L10		2.0
20		**Anvi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315087)**	1485	L15	D24	W9	H---	L11	U---		2.0
21		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	1408	L5	B---	L11	L16	X24	L17		2.0
22	22	**Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	L12	H---	H---	H---	L10	L18		1.5
23	23	**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	1800	L13	H---	H---	U---	U---	U---		1.0
24	24	**Gregory Rousso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17073094)**	1745	L10	D20	L17	F18	F21	U---		0.5
25	25-26	**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	1776	L1	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---		0.0
26		**Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)**	1612	L3	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---		0.0

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: u/1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tota
1	1	**Isaac Sterling (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14316046)**	1236	X---	W3	W2	W7	W9	W5		6.0
2	2-3	**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	1433	W20	W10	L1	W15	X16	H---	U---	4.5
3		**Iven Yarovoy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17131276)**	unr.	W25	L1	H---	X21	W12	W7		4.5
4	4-7	**Dominic Zirbel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	1481	W16	W6	L7	W26	L5	W14		4.0

		13356345)									
5		Claudio Bastiani-Fonck (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16874166)	1377	W29	D30	W6	H---	W4	L1		4.0
6		Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	948	W8	L4	L5	X---	W18	W13		4.0
7		David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)	435	B---	W23	W4	L1	X19	L3		4.0
8	8-11	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	1569	L6	L20	H---	W29	W28	W15		3.5
9		Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)	1322	W11	H---	W12	W19	L1	U---		3.5
10		Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	1013	W12	L2	X---	L16	D11	X22		3.5
11		Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)	unr.	L9	L16	B---	W23	D10	X19		3.5
12	12-18	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	1586	L10	W28	L9	W20	L3	X27		3.0
13		Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	1296	H---	H---	D20	W28	H---	L6		3.0
14		William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	1050	L30	D29	B---	W22	H---	L4		3.0
15		Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	825	H---	H---	W18	L2	W26	L8		3.0
16		Romeo Nehme (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16271243)	795	L4	W11	W23	W10	F2	U---	H---	3.0
17		Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818)	unr.	H---	H---	U---	L18	W25	W23		3.0
18		Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	unr.	D31	H---	L15	W17	L6	X26		3.0
19	19-22	Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)	1490	W26	H---	X30	L9	F7	F11		2.5
20		Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	660	L2	W8	D13	L12	L23	B---		2.5
21		Yuri Meseznik (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30241398)	unr.	H---	H---	H---	F3	L22	W28		2.5
22		Tony Kachakji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228920)	unr.	L24	W25	H---	L14	W21	F10	U---	2.5
23	23-27	David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)	1400	W27	L7	L16	L11	W20	L17		2.0
24		Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	1368	W22	H---	H---	U---	U---	U---		2.0
25		Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	1228	L3	L22	L27	B---	L17	W29		2.0
26		Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	826	L19	W27	B---	L4	L15	F18		2.0
27		Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)	unr.	L23	L26	W25	H---	H---	F12	U---	2.0
28	28-30	Thomas Dobbs (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30230850)	unr.	H---	L12	W29	L13	L8	L21		1.5
29		Tyler Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	unr.	L5	D14	L28	L8	B---	L25		1.5

		30212590)									
30		**Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)**	unr.	W14	D5	F19	U---	U---	U---		1.5
31	31	**Peter Borah (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12883291)**	1232	D18	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---		0.5

Mechanics' Championship Quads Report

We held our 1st Championship Quads event since our return to over the board play and it was met with great success, with 42 players in total, and the top 3 quads featuring players 1800+, with the top quad all players 2000+. We even had Mechanics' Institute Trustee GM Patrick Wolff stop by and check in on the action. For full results, please click on this link:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

GM Patrick Wolff (left photo) looks at the top table at the Championship Quads. Sebby Suarez and Kevin Sun (right photo) two young rising players face off

Thursday Night Marathon Report

by Abel Talamantez

The Thursday Night Marathon concluded with the top 3 players holding on to their lead and finishing far ahead of the rest of the field. GM Gadir Guseinov, IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla, and NM Mike Walder finished 1st-3rd, with Guseinov winning with 7.5/8. Congratulations to him on yet another ThNM win.

The night was not without its drama, as Napa's Jeff Anderson had Guseinov beaten in his game, but fell into time pressure late. This caused him to blunder with less than a minute left, leading to to him getting mated in a beautiful mating net with knight and bishop. It was a tough loss, as he had Guseinov at nearly +3 before the mistake. Here is the game here: https://www.chess.com/game/live/23161851967?username=zenwabi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/https://www.chess.com/game/live/23161851967?username=zenwabi)

Dhulipalla also saw a tough fight in his game against Sanjeev Anand in the final round, but the IM's skill eventually prevailed. Congratulations to all the participants!

It was a fun broadcast as well, as we discussed chess, movies, music, and much more. I dare say it is worth viewing even if you are not a chess fan. We experienced technical difficulties at the beginning, but finished the broadcast very strong in my humble opinion. Here is the link for your enjoyment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzw_l8HGGb0 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzw_l8HGGb0)

Final standings are here:

SwissSys Standings. July-August Thurdsay Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1	**GM Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	**gguseinov**	17343590	2635	W10	W14	D3
2	**IM Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)**	**Swarnapuri**	30100858	2513	W16	W5	W4
3	**NM Michael Walder (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10345120)**	**FlightsOfFancy**	10345120	2171	W17	W22	D1
4	**Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)**	**Mangonel**	14006141	1940	W32	W18	L2
5	**Rithwik Narendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14903560)**	**rukja**	14903560	1849	W19	L2	H--
6	**Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)**	**chessappeals**	17254586	1783	H---	H---	W1
	Nikunj Oza						

7	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12497585)	Motif	12497585	1851	W12	D13	W2
8	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1753	L13	W32	W1
9	Ricnesh Ravind (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30181578)	Fi_Ricnesh	30181578	1651	H---	H---	W2
10	Akshaj Pulijala (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16497860)	Loltheawesomedude	16497860	1531	L1	W12	W1
11	Aaron D Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	aaroncraig602	12872385	1408	H---	H---	L1(
12	Andy Xu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16732301)	vivianandy	16732301	1312	L7	L10	D1(
13	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2Nf31-0	16425316	1152	W8	D7	L15
14	Aaron Nicoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12797931)	KingSmasher35	12797931	1789	W20	L1	W1
15	Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)	zenwabi	11296106	1643	H---	W30	W1
16	Marina Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380642)	programmingmax	16380642	1554	L2	L19	D1
17	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	pjkrizzle	16897133	1360	L3	W29	L6
18	Ivan Zong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30131397)	ivanzong	30131397	1335	W21	L4	L14
19	Sarvagnya Brahmanapally (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16466227)	bsarvagnya	16466227	1287	L5	W16	L8
20	Austin Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144712)	austinjin666xd	17144712	1153	L14	B---	L9
21	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturner	12463327	1853	L18	X33	D2
22	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1584	W29	L3	H--
23	Michael Xiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380636)	swimgrass	16380636	1363	D30	W28	H--
24	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	kevin_mx_sun	16898540	1521	H---	H---	D2
25	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1161	H---	H---	H--
26	Zerui Titus Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16959455)	thankfuifortune	16959455	984	H---	H---	H--
27	Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)	vincitore51745	12814843	569	X15	W31	L7
28	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1055	D31	L23	W3
29	Jimolee Gray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30172836)	jgray43	30172836	unr.	L22	L17	L32
30	Jonathan Rice (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205348)	ricejonathanc	30205348	unr.	D23	L15	L28
31	Christopher Nelson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13742111)	LudiMagisterJosephus	13742111	1700	D28	L27	L33
32	Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)	boozerrip	13553308	1350	L4	L8	W2

33	**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	**tobiahsrex**	30164211	1013	H---	H---	W3

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this problem, white to move and mate in 3.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute September ThNM Online. September 2-September 16, 6:30PM PT. 6 Games G/35+5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-sep-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-sep-2021)

Mechanics' Institute September/October TNM: FIDE Rated. September 7-October 19, 6:30PM PT. Games G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person)

20th Howard Donnelly Memorial Championship: FIDE Rated. September 18-19, 9AM PT. 5SS G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-donnelly-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-donnelly-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129003211/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

Solution To Tony's Teaser

1. Bh8!! Bc1 2. Bc4 Qxh8 3. Nf3#

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/20220129003211/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #983

August 28, 2021

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 7 Report

by Abel Talamantez

Veteran IM Elliott Winslow caught up to NM Siddharth Arun by winning his final round game against Kayven Riese to tie for 1st in the top section of the Tuesday Night Marathon. He won his final two rounds, matching Arun who took two half point byes in the final two rounds. Richard Liu finished in 3rd place with 4.5/7, which was a very impressive performance by the high school student, particularly considering he scored draws with the top 2 finishers and took 3 half point byes.

In the under 2000 section, wins by Samuel Brownlow and Adam Stafford in the final round propelled them to a share of 1st place with Kevin Sun, who drew with Max Hao creating a three-way tie.

In the under 1600 section, Isaac Sterling ran away with 1st place, securing the top spot last week a full point and a half ahead of the field and put his stamp on the event by winning the final round for a perfect 7/7. Iven Yarovoy finished in 2nd with 5.5/7 and David Nichol took 3rd with 5/7.

Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to all the players who participated. The event concluded with the final game on Tuesday night with an exciting time scramble in a game between Chelsea Zhou and Kristian Clemens. Click on this link to watch: https://www.facebook.com/mechanicschess/videos/365311121810685 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/https://www.facebook.com/mechanicschess/videos/365311121810685)

Here are some games from the final round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(4) Riese,Kayven (1900) - Winslow,Elliott (2278) [B99]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (7.1), 24.08.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 The old Main Line. [In the 1950s or so it supplanted 6.Be2; (and lesser moves, like 6.g3; and 6.f4); In the 1980s 6.Bg5 started to lose its head position in popularity thanks to 6.Be3 , the English Attack.; Or perhaps 6.f3 first, to avoid ...Ng4.; 6.a4 had its interesting adherents; Then more recently a return to 6.h3 , where all kinds of wonderful possibilities have been uncovered in the last few years. And even more recently the explosion in almost every move imaginable!; 6.Rg1; 6.Qf3; 6.Qd3; 6.Bd3; 6.a3] **6...e6** Both players keep to the traditional path. [6...Nbd7 , an old/new move, has captured attention and continues to be advanced. 7.Qe2!?] **7.f4 Be7** No Poisoned Pawn -- or Polugaevsky Variation for that matter! **8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7** [9...h6 Could be played here or anywhere earlier, but then 10.Bh4 Nbd7 it is well established that the most trouble comes from 11.Be2! The weakened h5-e8 diagonal actually matters in some lines.] **10.Bd3** [10.g4 is at least as often played, but Kayven has shown a preference for the smooth development with Rhe1 and possible knight sacs on d5 and/or f5.] **10...h6 11.Bh4 g5!?** Known as the Browne System but really, it was earlier called the Kavelek Variation. The appeal is the e5-square as an outpost; the danger is, of course, the risk that White finds some breakthrough and mates Black all too quickly. **12.fxg5 Ne5 13.Qe2 Nfg4**

14.h3 The more positional treatment. [14.Nf3!? hxg5 *(14...Nxf3* keeps things more controlled but is less critical.*)* 15.Bg3 (15.Bxg5!? Bxg5+ 16.Nxg5 Qc5 17.Nf3!? *(17.Nh3 b5!?* "This has only been played a few times but it appears quite promising." Ftacnik in his Grandmaster Preparation opus on the Sicilian Defense for Black.*)* 17...Nf2 18.Nxe5 *(18.Na4 Nexd3+!)* 18...Nxd1! 19.Nxf7 is frightfully complicated.) 15...Bd7 *(15...Nxf3)* 16.h3 *(16.Rdf1; 16.Rhf1)* 16...Nf6 17.Nxe5 dxe5 18.Bf2 Bc6 19.Rhf1 Nh5 20.g3 0-0-0 is fine for Black.] **14...hxg5 15.Bg3** [15.hxg4 Rxh4 16.Nf3 Rxh1 17.Rxh1 Bf6 is the sort of game Black looks for in this line.] **15...Nf6 16.Nf3** Here Stockfish starts to express opinions. [>=16.Kb1 and indeed while it's been played a fraction of the time (less than 10%), it scores best.] **16...Nh5! 17.Bh2 Bd7** [17...b5!? "gives Black active prospects on both sides of the board" (Ftacnik).] **18.Kb1** [18.Rhf1!? White got a big, winning advantage before blundering deep in the game; 0-1 (69) Maiti,M (2016)-Winslow,E (2330) Berkeley 2016] **18...0-0-0** SF14 doesn't like it; [18...Nf4= keeps the balance. 19.Bxf4 gxf4] **19.Rhf1 Rh7**

Other moves have been played, successfully even. **20.Qd2?!N** Both players start showing uncertainty. [20.Qe3 looks best, when a pawn is lost -- but Black will always have at least somecompensation in dark square play. 20...Rg8 21.Be2 f6 22.Nxe5 dxe5 23.Bxh5 Rxh5 24.Bg3 Rf8 25.Rd2 Rh7 26.Rfd1 looks uncomfortable (note 26...Bc6 27.Nd5) ½-½ (61) Rein,A-Mueller,G Germany 1989] **20...Rg7 21.g4 Nf4** Black tried to find a way *not* to give up the pawn but in the end just allowed it to happen. **22.Bxf4 gxf4 23.Qxf4 Rh8 24.Qg3** [White should play 24.Nxe5+/- dxe5 25.Qg3] **24...Rgh7** [Black might try 24...Bf6!?+/=] **25.Rh1** [25.Nxe5+/- dxe5 26.Rf3] **25...Qc5** [Black was just missing the fairly obvious idea of putting the bishop well: 25...Bf6= feels stronger.] **26.Nxe5 Qxe5**

Providing White an opportunity to head for a static, passive position. **27.Qxe5?!** Long diagonal or not, White should keep the queens on. **27...dxe5 28.Bf1 Bc6 29.Bg2?!** [29.Rh2; 29.Rg1] **29...f5!?** Black plays to confuse White. **30.gxf5 exf5 31.Nd5 f4 32.c4?!** [32.Bf3!=] **32...Bd8!** Black has compensation in his passed pawn and two bishops, staying now as they do out of reach of White's knight. **33.Rd3 Bd7 34.b4 Rg7 35.Bf1 Rhg8 36.Rf3?** Loses the game. [36.Be2!=/+ keeps from collapsing.] **36...Rg1 37.Rxg1 Rxg1 38.Kc2 Be8** Note the bishops on e8 and d8. **39.h4**

Curiously even this passed pawn is a sort of liability; White tries to give it away and activate his rook and bishop, but Black sees through that. **39...Bh5!** [39...Bxh4? 40.Rh3=] **40.Bh3+?!** Clogging the h-file. [40.Rf2-/+] **40...Kb8-+ 41.Rc3?!**

[41.Rf1 Rg3 42.Be6] **41...Bxh4?** Note the bishops on h5 and h4. [41...Rh1 sets up ...f3 and wins immediately.] **42.c5 Bd1+ 43.Kb2** intending c6. **43...Be1** And now there they are on e1 and d1! **44.Rd3** [44.Rc1 wouldn't be a whole lot better after 44...Bd2 45.Rb1 f3!] **44...Be2** Black is clearly winning. **45.Ra3 Bd2**

...Bc1+ is the strong threat. [45...f3] **46.Ra5** [46.Kc2 Be1! *(46...Bc1 47.Rc3* is messy.*)*] **46...Bd3** Threatening mate! **47.Nc3 Rg3 48.Bd7?! Bxc3+** Leave it to the computer to point out all the better moves Black had. **49.Kxc3 Bb5+** Kd4. Weighted Error Value: White=0.68/Black=0.32 **0-1**

(5) Weng,Nicholas (2013) - Bambou,Christophe (2121) [B01]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM 2000+ San Francisco (7.2), 24.08.2021

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 The old main line, still the most common. [Nowadays one sees Tiviakov's 3...Qd6; and the anti-commital 3...Qd8] **4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd2** [And here, much more common is 5.Nf3; while 5.Bc4 may or may not transpose.] **5...Bg4!?** To take f3 from White's knight. [Mostly one sees 5...c6 to provide the universal hideout on c7 for the queen. (Note that she can get there from a5,d6, and d8 -- so there are a lot of transpositions!) 6.Bc4 when there is a slight problem -- if Black continues with the orderly development so popular in the Center Counter, 6...Bf5 then 7.Nd5!? creates doubled pawns for Black. Double-edged!] **6.f3 Bd7** [6...Bf5!? continues to be provocative, encouraging g2-g4.] **7.Bc4** [7.f4!? is the computer suggestion, still looking for Nf3] **7...Qb6! 8.Nge2** White rolls with the times and keeps developing. **8...e6 9.Bb3** as played by Anand against van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2013, but more pertinent plans have overtaken it in practice. [9.0-0 is most popular, and it's hard to see why it hasn't scored as well.; The fairly rare 9.a4!?+/= looks to harass the queen and has done the best.; while 9.Be3!? reorganizes to patch up the dark squares and has done well.] **9...Be7** [9...Nc6 10.Be3 Na5 11.0-0 Nxb3 12.axb3 Black took the time to eliminate a bishop for a knight; Anand found an interesting way to reorganize: 12...Be7 13.Nf4 0-0 14.Re1 Rfd8 15.Nd3 Qd6 16.Bf2 Bc6 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.fxe4 f5?! 19.exf5 exf5 20.c4 and out of nowhere, the center was all White pawns. 1-0 (37) Anand,V (2772)-Van Wely,L (2679) Wijk aan Zee 2013.] **10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2**

11...c5!?N Black doesn't let passivity infect him, and attacks White's key point in the center. [In the one game to have reached this position, Black prepared such play with 11...Na6 12.0-0 Rfd8 13.Bf2 c5 14.Qf4 Rac8 15.d5 exd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Bf6 0-1 (38) Orlovska,M (2021)-Ramiro Ovejero,J (2370) Cambados 2008. It worked out well but the knight seems a bit lost on a6.] **12.d5?!** [Stockfish 14 settles on 12.0-0-0=] **12...exd5=/+** Black comes out of the central play well. **13.Bxd5** [13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 *(14.Bxd5 Qxb2 15.0-0 Bc6* Black is fine with his extra pawn, 14...Be6 15.Qe4 Bxb3 16.Qxe7 Na6!-/+ takes nice advantage of White's loose position (and here the knight on a6 does just fine). 17.axb3 Rae8 18.Qg5 h6 19.Qf4 Nb4! 20.0-0-0 Qg6! 21.Rd2 Qa6! Quite a complicated line! But Black's attack is worth more than the piece.] **13...Rd8**

14.Qc1?! [14.0-0-0=/+ shouldn't be too bad: 14...Bc6 15.Nf4 g5!? 16.Qe1! gxf4 17.Bxf4 Kf8 when it's White sacrificing a piece for a strong initiative. *(17...Bf8? 18.Qg3+ Bg7 19.Bc7)*] **14...Nc6** [14...Bb5! stops castling for now 15.Bb3 Bxe2 16.Nxe2 Bd6-/+ as in the game.] **15.0-0 Nd4** [15...Bd6 and ...Be5 first perhaps.] **16.Nf4?!** [16.Bc4 Bf5 17.Ng3 Bxc2 18.Nce4 isn't really promising enough.] **16...Bd6** Black just keeps improving his pieces' positions, and White gets into more and more trouble. **17.Re1** [17.Kh1-/+ Bxf4 18.Bxf4 Bb5 19.Nxb5 Nxd5] **17...Qc7**

[17...Re8-+ ...Bxf4 is the strong threat. 18.Be4 Nxe4 19.fxe4 Qd8 *(19...Bxf4 20.Bxf4 Bc6* is also problematic for White.*)* 20.Bxd4 cxd4 21.Ncd5 Bc6 22.Qd2 Rc8 At least White has d5 for a knight, but the computers make this excellent for Black otherwise.] **18.Ne4!** White was worried (pacing the room even) but fights back, and sets a trap. **18...Nxd5?!** [18...Bf5 19.Nxf6+ *(19.Nxd6 Rxd6)* 19...gxf6 20.c4 Nc2 21.Nh5 fights back with a mess; 18...Nxe4!? 19.fxe4 Ba4 20.b3 Bc6 White has his share of central control, but not quite equality.] **19.Nxd5=/+**

19...Bxh2+?! Now Black will be off-balance. [19...Qc6!= 20.c4 Bf8 followed by ... Be6.] **20.Kh1+/= Qe5 21.Bxd4! Qxd5!**

[Much worse is 21...Qxd4 22.Qg5+-] **22.Bxg7!+/-** The game turns! Quite surprising to see that it's Black's dark squares that end up in trouble. **22...Kxg7 23.Kxh2 Rac8?** [Black needed to cove those squares better: 23...Qh5++/= 24.Kg1 Qe5] **24.Qf4+-** +- Now that White has gotten there, the problems become insurmountable, in practice certainly as well as in fact. **24...Qh5+** [24...Qf5 25.Qg3+ Qg6 26.Qe5+ Kg8 27.Nf6+ Kf8 28.Rad1 and in the end, it's the original weaknesses in Black's camp (the bishop on d7, the pawn on c5) that cost him. 28...Be6 29.Rxd8+ Rxd8 30.Qxc5+] **25.Kg1 Rc6 26.Rad1!**

An annoying pin! **26...Rg6 27.Kf2** Safety first (avoiding any ...B/Qh3 tries) but also with a devious attacking idea -- which in fact comes to fruition. Note that Black's taking the h-pawn made this possible. **27...c4 28.Rh1 Qa5**

29.Rxh7+!! A nice, classic deflection sacrifice! Black falls apart. **29...Kxh7 30.Qxf7+ Kh6 31.Rh1+ Qh5 32.Qf4+ Rg5 33.Qxg5+** A superlative comeback by Nicholas from an uncomfortable position! And Bambou is to be credited for his sophisticated early play, until he was lured away by the h-pawn. **1-0**

(1) Mercado,Adam (1879) - Uzakbaev,Nursultan"] (1513) [B15]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u2000 San Francisco (7.11), 24.08.2021

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6?! 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 White is a tempo up over a usual French Defense since Black played ...c6 and then ...c5. **6...h6 7.Bd3 c5 8.0-0 Nc6**

9.f5! Charging ahead while Black lags in development. The risk for White is that the central pawn chain becomes weak. **9...cxd4?** [Black needed to play 9...exf5 10.Bxf5 cxd4 11.Nxd5 Nc5 which avoids any big trouble] **10.fxe6 dxc3**

11.exf7+! Much better to take the pawn than the knight! White gets a ferocious attack. **11...Ke7 12.Qe1?** many other moves are winning, but this allows Black a chance **12...Nc5** [12...cxb2! 13.Bxb2 *(13.Qh4+ Kxf7!* works for Black despite the riskly appearance*)* 13...Qb6+ 14.Kh1 Qxb2 15.Qh4+ g5 16.Nxg5 Ndxe5! looks dangerous but seems quite ok for Black] **13.Bg6** [13.Nh4!] **13...Be6**

[13...cxb2!] **14.b4!** A shot from the other side of the board gives Black too much to handle. **14...Na4 15.b5 Nb4?!** [15...Qb6+ 16.Be3 Qxb5 17.Rb1 Qa5 18.Rxb7+ Kd8 19.Nd4 Nxd4 20.Qh4+ Kc8 21.Re7! gives White too many threats] **16.a3** Now White gets the piece back along with the raging attack. Black is done for. **16...Nxc2 17.Bxc2 Nb6 18.Nd4 Bxf7 19.e6 Qb8 20.exf7+ Kd7 21.Qe6+** Black resigns. It seems Adam was in a very violent mood for this round! **1-0**

(2) Perlov,Daniel (1555) - Stafford,Adam (1473) [D09]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u2000 San Francisco (7.7), 24.08.2021

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 The aggressive Albin Counter Gambit. Always good for a lively game. **3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.g3 Be6 6.b3** [A better way to defend the c-pawn is with the developing 6.Nbd2] **6...Qd7 7.Bg2 Bh3 8.0-0 Bxg2 9.Kxg2 0-0-0 10.Bb2 Bc5** [Black should consider 10...h5; or 10...Nge7] **11.Qc2** [11.a3!] **11...f6 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Na3 Rhe8** [13...h5 14.h4 Rhe8] **14.Rad1 Qe7 15.Nb5** [15.Qf5+! Kb8 16.Nb5 gets rid of the powerful black d-pawn and gets a clear advantage] **15...Qe4!**

Now Black guards the d-pawn and has equal chances in the ending **16.Qxe4 Rxe4 17.Rfe1 a6 18.Na3 Rde8?!** [18...Bb4 19.Nd2 Re6 20.Nc2 Bc3 is a more active continuation] **19.Nc2 Rxe2 20.Rxe2 Rxe2 21.Bxd4** [Here 21.Rd2! Rxd2 22.Nxd2 leaves White with the advantage as the black d-pawn is weak being so close to the white king] **21...Nxd4 22.Ncxd4?!** [Better to take with the other knight - 22.Nfxd4 Bxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxa2 24.Ne6] **22...Rxa2 23.Rd3?! Ng4?!** [23...Ne4! 24.Ne6 Rxf2+ 25.Kh3 Be7 26.Nxg7 Rb2 puts White in real trouble] **24.Ne6! Be7** [24...Rxf2+? 25.Kh3 threatens both the knight and mate on d8] **25.Rd2 Rxd2 26.Nxd2 Bf6 27.h3 Ne5** We have reached an endgame of even material. The battle is just getting started. **28.Ne4 Kd7?!** offering the h-pawn to get the black knight in the corner. An aggressive and interesting idea, but White has a good continuation. **29.Nxf6+?!** [29.Nf8+ Ke7 30.Nxh7 is just good for White] **29...gxf6**

30.Nf8+? now Daniel plays into Adams idea and this just doesn't work for Black. **30...Ke7 31.Nxh7**

31...Nxc4! [31...Kf7 trapping the knight is also good. Adam makes use of the white knight being out of play to win on the queenside.] **32.f4** [32.bxc4 a5 just runs and makes a queen. Neither the white king or the white knight can get back to stop the a-pawn.] **32...Nd2 33.b4 c5!** once again trying to get a passed a-pawn, 34. bxc5 a5 just queens. White is in a desperate situation. **34.Kf2 cxb4 35.Ke2 Ne4 36.g4 b3 37.Kd3 b2?!** This makes winning much more difficult. With [37...a5! Black can defend the advanced b-pawn while the knight on e4 cannot be taken due to queening.] **38.Kc2 Nf2?!** [38...Kf7 39.g5 f5 40.Kxb2 Kg7 wins easily] **39.Kxb2?!** [39.g5! would be a good try 39...f5 40.Nf6 Nxh3 41.Nd5+ gives White serious drawing chances] **39...Nxh3 40.g5 fxg5?!** giving White serious chances again for a draw [40...f5! wins the f-pawn for free] **41.fxg5 Kf7 42.Kb3 Kg6 43.Nf6?** [43.Nf8+! Kxg5 44.Ne6+ Kf6 45.Nc5 would win a pawn and make a draw] **43...Nxg5 44.Nd7 Ne6 45.Kb4 Kf7 46.Ka5 Ke7** now Black is in control again **47.Nb8 Nc7?** [47...Nc5! 48.Kb6 Nd7+! 49.Kxb7 Nxb8 wins] **48.Kb6! Kd6 49.Kxb7 a5 50.Nc6 a4 51.Kb6 a3**

52.Nb4? The last mistake. White could draw with [52.Nd4 a2 53.Nc2 Nd5+ 54.Ka5 Kc5 55.Ka4 Nb4 56.Kb3] **52...Nd5+ 53.Kb5 Nxb4 54.Kc4 a2 55.Kb3 a1R** White resigned. A great endgame struggle! Both players probably learned a lot from playing this game. **0-1**

(3) Sterling,Isaac (1236) - Zirbel,Dominic (1481) [D02]

Mechanics' Jul-Aug TNM u1600 San Francisco (7.10), 24.08.2021

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 Nc6 5.d4 A Grunfeld Reversed! That's quite a good and aggressive opening for White. **5...Bf5 6.c3** [6.c4! dxc4 7.Qa4 would put Black under pressure.] **6...e6 7.Nh4 Be4 8.f3 Bg6 9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.b3 cxd4 11.cxd4 Rc8 12.Bb2 Nb4 13.Na3?!** [Just the natural 13.Nc3 followed by 14. a3 would make Black's knight move seem useless] **13...a6 14.e4 dxe4 15.fxe4 e5?!**

This is a lot of action, but not the right time. Black should get developed and castled before opening the center. **16.Qf3?!** [16.Nc4! exd4 17.e5 would be trouble for Black] **16...Rc7?** [16...Nc6! 17.dxe5 Bxa3 18.Bxa3 Nxe5] **17.dxe5!** Now Black is in trouble, having lost control of the central squares. **17...Bc5+ 18.Kh1 Nh5 19.Rad1 Qg5?!**

Black is threatening to win with 20...Nxg3+ **20.g4!** The only move to keep the advantage. This wins a piece and stops the Black threats. **20...Qh4 21.gxh5 Rxh5 22.h3 g5 23.e6! f6**

24.Bxf6! White crashes through with a mating attack. Black never gets a chance to play ...g4 to trouble the white king. **24...gxf6 25.Qxf6 Nc6 26.Qg6+ Ke7 27.Qf7#** Nice attack from Isaac! **1-0**

Here are the final results:

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 2000+

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	To
1	1-2	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	2278	W7	D10	H---	H---	D3	W6	W9	5.0
2		NM Siddharth Arun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13206647)	2253	W13	D6	W4	D3	W10	H---	H---	5.0
3	3	Richard Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14823351)	1824	H---	W8	W6	D2	D1	H---	H---	4.5
4	4-5	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	2013	H---	W5	L2	W9	H---	L7	W6	4.0
5		Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)	1879	B---	L4	L11	D12	W13	H---	W7	4.0
6	6-9	Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)	2121	W9	D2	L3	W11	W7	L1	L4	3.5
7		Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	1997	L1	W13	D9	W14	L6	W4	L5	3.5
8		Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	1964	H---	L3	D12	D13	W11	L9	W14	3.5
9		Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	1900	L6	B---	D7	L4	W12	W8	L1	3.5
10	10-12	Abhi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)	2078	W11	D1	W14	H---	L2	U---	U---	3.0
11		Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)	1885	L10	H---	W5	L6	L8	D12	W13	3.0
12		Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	1828	H---	L14	D8	D5	L9	D11	B---	3.0
13	13-14	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	1928	L2	L7	B---	D8	L5	W14	L11	2.5
14		Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	1818	H---	W12	L10	L7	B---	L13	L8	2.5

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under2000

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	To
1	1-3	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	1795	D8	W10	W13	W3	L2	W14	W9	5.5
2		Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	1517	W25	W15	W7	H---	W1	D3	D4	5.5
3		Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	1473	W26	W6	W21	L1	W14	D2	W8	5.5
4	4-5	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	1761	H---	H---	H---	W12	D9	X18	D2	4.5
		David Rakonitz									

5		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12931024)**	1622	H---	L8	W16	H---	W21	D9	X10	4.5
6	6-8	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	1879	D10	L3	W17	L7	W22	D11	W13	4.0
7		**Leon Quin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191497)**	1611	W17	W14	L2	W6	W18	U---	U---	4.0
8		**Daniel Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)**	1555	D1	W5	W11	D18	H---	H---	L3	4.0
9	9-13	**Ted Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	1789	D12	H---	H---	W11	D4	D5	L1	3.5
10		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1610	D6	L1	L22	B---	W12	W15	F5	3.5
11		**Nikhil Pimpalkhare (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30179081)**	1577	W23	H---	L8	L9	W16	D6	H---	3.5
12		**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	1532	D9	L18	W24	L4	L10	W17	W19	3.5
13		**Nursultan\ Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	1513	W24	H---	L1	L15	W20	W21	L6	3.5
14	14-17	**Amitoj Singh (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12907156)**	1819	W20	L7	W19	W21	L3	L1	F18	3.0
15		**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	W22	L2	L18	W13	H---	L10	D16	3.0
16		**Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	1483	L19	H---	L5	X24	L11	W20	D15	3.0
17		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	1408	L7	B---	L6	L19	X24	L12	W21	3.0
18	18-20	**Luiz Uribe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839860)**	1856	L21	W12	W15	D8	L7	F4	F14	2.5
19		**Frederick Hope (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12646004)**	1646	W16	F21	L14	W17	H---	U---	L12	2.5
20		**Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	L14	H---	H---	H---	L13	L16	B---	2.5
21	21-22	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1609	W18	X19	L3	L14	L5	L13	L17	2.0
22		**Anvi Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315087)**	1485	L15	D24	W10	H---	L6	U---	U---	2.0
23	23	**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	1800	L11	H---	H---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
24	24	**Gregory Rousso (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17073094)**	1745	L13	D22	L12	F16	F17	U---	U---	0.5
25	25-26	**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	1776	L2	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
26		**Jim Cohee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12423364)**	1612	L3	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: u/1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	To
1	1	**Isaac Sterling (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14316046)**	1236	X---	W2	W4	W3	W5	W9	W8	7.0
		Iven Yarovoy									

2	2	**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17131276)**	unr.	W26	L1	H---	X17	W7	W3	X9	5.5
3	3	**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	435	B---	W18	W8	L1	X22	L2	W11	5.0
4	4-6	**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	1433	W16	W14	L1	W20	X15	H---	U---	4.5
5		**Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)**	1322	W6	H---	W7	W22	L1	U---	W14	4.5
6		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	unr.	L5	L15	B---	W18	D14	X22	X13	4.5
7	7-12	**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	1586	L14	W29	L5	W16	L2	X28	W20	4.0
8		**Dominic Zirbel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13356345)**	1481	W15	W11	L3	W27	L9	W19	L1	4.0
9		**Claudio Bastiani-Fonck (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16874166)**	1377	W23	D30	W11	H---	W8	L1	F2	4.0
10		**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	1296	H---	H---	D16	W29	H---	L11	W21	4.0
11		**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	948	W13	L8	L9	X---	W12	W10	L3	4.0
12		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	unr.	D31	H---	L20	W21	L11	X27	X19	4.0
13	13-17	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	1569	L11	L16	H---	W23	W29	W20	F6	3.5
14		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1013	W7	L4	X---	L15	D6	X24	L5	3.5
15		**Romeo Nehme (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16271243)**	795	L8	W6	W18	W14	F4	U---	H---	3.5
16		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	660	L4	W13	D10	L7	L18	B---	W26	3.5
17		**Yuri Meseznik (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30241398)**	unr.	H---	H---	H---	F2	L24	W29	X22	3.5
18	18-21	**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	1400	W28	L3	L15	L6	W16	L21	W29	3.0
19		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	1050	L30	D23	B---	W24	H---	L8	F12	3.0
20		**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)**	825	H---	H---	W12	L4	W27	L13	L7	3.0
21		**Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818)**	unr.	H---	H---	U---	L12	W26	W18	L10	3.0
22	22-24	**Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)**	1490	W27	H---	X30	L5	F3	F6	F17	2.5
23		**Tyler Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30212590)**	unr.	L9	D19	L29	L13	B---	L26	X27	2.5
24		**Tony Kachakji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228920)**	unr.	L25	W26	H---	L19	W17	F14	U---	2.5
25	25-28	**Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)**	1368	W24	H---	H---	U---	U---	U---	U---	2.0
26		**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	1228	L2	L24	L28	B---	L21	W23	L16	2.0
		Andrejs Gulbis									

27		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	826	L22	W28	B---	L8	L20	F12	F23	2.0
28		**Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)**	unr.	L18	L27	W26	H---	H---	F7	U---	2.0
29	29-30	**Thomas Dobbs (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30230850)**	unr.	H---	L7	W23	L10	L13	L17	L18	1.5
30		**Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)**	unr.	W19	D9	F22	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.5
31	31	**Peter Borah (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12883291)**	1232	D12	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.5

SwissSys Standings. Jul-Aug 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games - JulyAugTNM

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	To
1	1	**Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)**	1800	U---	L12	W33	W27	U---	U---	W24	3.0
2	2	**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	unr.	U---	U---	U---	U---	D6	W30	W31	2.5
3	3-4	**Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)**	1811	U---	U---	W21	W23	U---	L8	U---	2.0
4		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	unr.	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W35	W32	2.0
5	5-6	**Tobias Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1013	U---	U---	D20	U---	U---	W25	U---	1.5
6		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	435	W34	U---	U---	U---	D2	U---	U---	1.5
7	7-17	**Stuart Collins (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12735730)**	1940	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W36	U---	1.0
8		**Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)**	1922	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W3	U---	1.0
9		**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	1900	U---	W11	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
10		**Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)**	1818	U---	U---	U---	U---	W31	U---	U---	1.0
11		**Juan Cendejas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12717746)**	1718	W22	L9	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
12		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1609	U---	W1	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
13		**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	1467	U---	U---	U---	W32	U---	U---	U---	1.0
14		**Sebby Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	1294	U---	U---	U---	U---	W26	U---	U---	1.0
15		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	826	U---	U---	W17	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
16		**Kevin Nguyen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30234551)**	unr.	U---	W29	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
17		**Yuri Meseznik (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30241398)**	unr.	U---	U---	L15	U---	U---	U---	W28	1.0
18	18-20	**TONY A LAMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)**	1805	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	D19	0.5
19		**David Rakonitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	1622	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	D18	0.5

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20		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	1050	U---	U---	D5	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.5
21	21-36	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	1928	U---	U---	L3	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
22		**Chelsea Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15239016)**	1866	L11	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
23		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1676	U---	U---	U---	L3	U---	U---	U---	0.0
24		**Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L1	0.0
25		**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	1504	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L5	U---	0.0
26		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	1416	U---	U---	U---	U---	L14	U---	U---	0.0
27		**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	1210	U---	U---	U---	L1	U---	U---	U---	0.0
28		**JUDIT SZTARAY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	853	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L17	0.0
29		**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)**	825	U---	L16	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
30		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	744	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L2	U---	0.0
31		**Tyler Johnson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30212590)**	659	U---	U---	U---	U---	L10	U---	L2	0.0
32		**Iven Yarovoy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17131276)**	unr.	U---	U---	U---	L13	U---	U---	L4	0.0
33		**Tony Kachakji (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30228920)**	unr.	U---	U---	L1	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
34		**Benjamin Grant**	unr.	L6	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
35		**Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)**	unr.	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L4	U---	0.0
36		**Harry Elworthy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30256579)**	unr.	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L7	U---	0.0

Bernardo Smith Memorial Report

by Abel Talamantez

The Mechanics' Institute held its first two-day FIDE rated weekend event in over a year and a half with the 15th Bernardo Smith Memorial. We had 47 players in total, which was an outstanding turnout considering the event was held on the same weekend as the Central California Open in Fresno. Special shoutout to Mechanics' player Cailen Melville, who won the under 2100 section there and $1000. We will forgive his choice of event last weekend.

In the top section, FM Baasansuren Erdene won sole 1st place with 4.5/5, winning his final round game against Advay Bansal and getting help from Abhinav Penagalapati, who defeated Christophe Bambou, whom he was tied with headed into the final round. Abhinav finished in sole 2nd place with that win at 4/5 and Christophe and Alan Finkelstein finished tied for 3rd with 3.5/5.

In the 1600-1999 section, Teodoro Porlares had an outstanding tournament, surviving a time scramble and a few long games to take clear first with 4.5/5. Neil Bhaduri and Greg Zhou shared 2nd and 3rd place with 3.5/5.

In the under 1600 section, Kian Jamali was tops in the section with 4.5/5 and clear 1st, followed by Jashith Karthi and Axel Joseph, who finished at 3.5.5.

It was a fun event and great to see many familiar faces. All sections were FIDE rated. We look forward to the next big weekend event next month with the Howard Donnelly Memorial, information can be found here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-donnelly-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-donnelly-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5)

Here are the final standings:

SwissSys Standings. 20th Smith Memorial Championship: Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	1	**FM Baasansuren Erdene (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30236853)**	2294	W16	W4	W2	D3	W10	4.5	300.00
2	2	**Abhinav Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15467440)**	2096	W7	W13	L1	W8	W3	4.0	200.00
3	3-4	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**	2099	W11	W15	W5	D1	L2	3.5	87.50
4		**Alan Finkelstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14958842)**	2025	W18	L1	W10	D6	W12	3.5	87.50
5	5-7	**NM Michael Aigner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	2206	H---	W8	L3	D7	W13	3.0	

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6		Theodore Coyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13848228)	2136	D10	D17	W14	D4	H---	3.0	
7		Sricharan Pullela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15580337)	1919	L2	W16	H---	D5	W15	3.0	75.00
8	8-12	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	2006	W14	L5	W15	L2	D11	2.5	
9		Aditya Naganath (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12791560)	1979	H---	L10	W13	L12	W17	2.5	
10		Advay Bansal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16068511)	1929	D6	W9	L4	W11	L1	2.5	
11		Rithwik Narendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14903560)	1927	L3	W18	W17	L10	D8	2.5	
12		Sadia Qureshi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14024572)	1900	L13	H---	W18	W9	L4	2.5	
13	13-15	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	2049	W12	L2	L9	W14	L5	2.0	
14		Adway Sane (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15955692)	1874	L8	B---	L6	L13	W18	2.0	
15		Nikunj Oza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12497585)	1851	B---	L3	L8	W17	L7	2.0	
16	16	Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)	1966	L1	L7	H---	L18	B---	1.5	
17	17-18	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	1922	H---	D6	L11	L15	L9	1.0	
18		Alan Bokiev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15180467)	1886	L4	L11	L12	W16	L14	1.0	

SwissSys Standings. 20th Smith Memorial Championship: 1600-1999

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	1	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	1749	W13	W6	H---	W8	W4	4.5	200.00
2	2-3	Neil Bhaduri (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16717750)	1471	L11	B---	D7	W12	W10	3.5	100.00
3		Greg Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16183296)	1389	W9	D5	D11	D7	W8	3.5	100.00
4	4-7	Vikrant Ganesan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16786952)	1546	L7	W13	W6	W11	L1	3.0	25.00
5		Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	1521	W14	D3	H---	H---	D7	3.0	25.00
6		Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	1446	W15	L1	L4	W14	W11	3.0	25.00
7		Anish Dara (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15295667)	1420	W4	D11	D2	D3	D5	3.0	25.00
8	8-10	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	1793	H---	W12	W10	L1	L3	2.5	
9		Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	1543	L3	W15	H---	L10	W14	2.5	
10		Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	1416	H---	W14	L8	W9	L2	2.5	

11	11	**Jeff Andersen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11296106)**	1643	W2	D7	D3	L4	L6	2.0	
12	12-13	**Tom Boyd (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10495768)**	1631	H---	L8	W15	L2	U---	1.5	
13		**Ross Gordon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17035795)**	1527	L1	L4	L14	W15	H---	1.5	
14	14	**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	1662	L5	L10	W13	L6	L9	1.0	
15	15	**Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)**	1583	L6	L9	L12	L13	U---	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. 20th Smith Memorial Championship: Under 1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	1	**Kian Jamali (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761438)**	1283	W7	W10	W3	W6	D4	4.5	200.00
2	2-3	**Jashith Karthi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30016333)**	1429	W5	D6	W12	D3	H---	3.5	100.00
3		**Axel Joseph (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30240086)**	unr.	W11	W4	L1	D2	W9	3.5	100.00
4	4-6	**Dominic Zirbel (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13356345)**	1481	D9	L3	W10	W12	D1	3.0	
5		**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	1288	L2	W8	W11	L9	W12	3.0	50.00
6		**Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)**	896	B---	D2	W9	L1	D8	3.0	50.00
7	7-9	**John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	1546	L1	L9	W13	W10	H---	2.5	
8		**Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)**	1260	L10	L5	B---	W11	D6	2.5	
9		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1178	D4	W7	L6	W5	L3	2.5	
10	10-11	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1500	W8	L1	L4	L7	B---	2.0	
11		**Michelle Hamdani (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16591888)**	unr.	L3	B---	L5	L8	W13	2.0	
12	12-13	**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	1467	H---	W13	L2	L4	L5	1.5	
13		**Joshua Hua (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191695)**	157	H---	L12	L7	B---	L11	1.5	

SwissSys Standings. 20th Smith Memorial Championship: Extra Games in the Smith Memorial

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
1	1-2	**Nikunz Oza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12497585)**	1851	W2	U---	1.0
2		**Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)**	1800	L1	W5	1.0
3	3-4	**JUDIT SZTARAY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	853	U---	D4	0.5
4		**Joshua Hua (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30191695)**	157	U---	D3	0.5
5	5	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1500	U---	L2	0.0

TD Corner

by Abel Talamantez

We had a situation during the Bernardo Smith Memorial where there was uncertainty to the organizers (Mechanics' Institute staff) on the result of a game. A very common thing we are starting to see, and I imagine it is happening in many areas with live over-the-board play with many new players playing for the first time, is newer and/or younger players learning to notate. While it is required to notate, there is some flexibility and TD discretion on this, as there is an understanding that there is a learning curve for newer or younger players. Two issues that result from this are first, how do you reconcile the unfair advantage a player not notating has with regards to the clock (since they are not taking time to notate). Secondly, what happens when there is a dispute regarding the result? Here are our answers.

The FIDE rule is here*: 8.1 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 legibily as possible, in the algebraic notation (See Appendix C), on the scoresheet prescribed for the competition.*

In the case of a player not knowing or is learning to notate, we lean on the USCF rule a bit and give some discretion for newer players. Here is the USCF rule regarding players unable to keep score:

15A1. Players unable to keep score. a. Players determined by the director to be unable to keep score due to physical handicaps may have assistance in scorekeeping as described in 35F, Rules for visually impaired and disabled players, and should be excused from scorekeeping if such assistance is unavailable. b. Players determined by the director to be unable to keep score for religious reasons may be excused from scorekeeping or permitted to have assistance as in 35F, Rules for visually impaired and disabled players, at the director's discretion. c. Beginners who have not learned to keep score may be excused from scorekeeping, at the director's discretion. Players excused from scorekeeping are not entitled to make claims that require scoresheets; those who have assistance retain such rights. TD TIP: Directors often deduct time from the clocks of players at the start of the game whom they excuse from keeping score (the most common example would be that of a player excused from keeping score for genuine religious reasons). Their opponents will need to give up thinking time in order to keep score, which the excused player need not do. A good rule of thumb is to deduct 5% of the total game time allotted for each individual player, up to 10 minutes, from the player's clock that is excused from keeping score.

So in the case if a player unbale to keep score, we can deduct time at the start of the game following the USCF good rule of thumb, to make up for the fact that the notating player is taking time to notate. What we usually do is make a player mark on a scoresheet that a move has been played with a checkmark. This at least keeps track of the number of moves and imposes a requirement to mark the scoresheet. This however does not allow for draw claims, as we need recorded moves for that. We do explain to newer players the value and necessity of notating, which leads to the next case.

When there is a dispute on the result, the scoresheet is absolutley key. Also, the scoresheet is the property of the organizer, not the player. Here is the FIDE rule, which is also the USCF rule:

8.3 The scoresheets are the property of the organisers of the event.

This also comes to play when a player on their own time asks to see the opponents scoresheet to correct notation. A player may refuse to allow that (not typically done), but the organizer may allow it and the player must comply. More importantly, the scoresheet is used as the determinant of a result.

8.7 At the conclusion of the game both players shall sign both scoresheets, indicating the result of the game. Even if incorrect, this result shall stand, unless the arbiter decides otherwise.

I've seen cases where players refuse to sign scoresheets, which I consider bad sportsmanship and I personally don't understand why someone wouldn't unless there was a physical incapacity or inconvenience to do do. In those cases however, I'll sign the scoresheet to verify the result and let things go.

Things get complicated however when it is uncertain what the result of a game was, or if there are two differing accounts as to what happened. In the case of last weekend, there was confusion on our part as to the result of a game, because the result was not marked and neither player kept score. We contacted both players and the result was verified, but Judit and I once had a situation where two players disputed the result of a game, and one player had notated while the other did not. Since the result was marked and that scoresheet signed, that result stood, despite the fact that playing the gane out on the scoresheet suggested the result may have been different than was marked.

So please, keep accurate notation and make sure the correct result is marked before signing. We encourage players to take the time after the game to get a signature on the scoresheet, or at least have the TD sign and verify. For mor einformation on the FIDE and USCF rules, follow these links:

https://www.fide.com/FIDE/handbook/LawsOfChess.pdf (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/https://www.fide.com/FIDE/handbook/LawsOfChess.pdf)

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/20220129013018/http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/chessrules/US_Chess_Rule_Book-%20Online_Only_Edition_v7.1-1.2.11-7.19.19.pdf)

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this problem, white to move and mate in 2.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute September ThNM Online. September 2-September 16, 6:30PM PT. 6 Games G/35+5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-sep-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-sep-2021)

Mechanics' Institute September/October TNM: FIDE Rated. September 7-October 19, 6:30PM PT. Games G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person)

Mechanics' Institute August Quads: September 11, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

20th Howard Donnelly Memorial Championship: FIDE Rated. September 18-19, 9AM PT. 5SS G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-donnelly-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-donnelly-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129013018/https://conta.cc/3zAGuAi) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Finishing Tactics from the World Championship Matches 22: Tal – Botvinnik 1961

Their return match in 1961 was a triumph for “Mr. Soviet Chess” (Mikhail Botvinnik(over the “Magician from Riga” (Mikhail Tal). The final score of +10 -5 =6 meant that Botvinnik had now won the World Championship three times, while drawing twice and losing twice.

Would this ever end?

Tal hardly sparkled in 1961, but heavy drinking and heavy smoking, plus a kidney operation will slow down even the most talented genius. The games were tense and hard fought, but seemed to lack that glamorous pizzazz Tal usually brought to the table. Full credit must go to Botvinnik for de-clawing his wild opponent.

Tal said: “I think I lost to him because he beat me!” A neither here-nor-there statement of fact, and a cheeky tongue-in-cheek acceptance of one’s fate.

Tal brought back to life the Advance Variation **3.e5** against the Caro-Kann Defense, and the following position arose five times in the match after **3…Bf5 4.h4**:

In this position Botvinnik played **4…h6** three times, and **4…h5** and **4…c5** once. Why not **4…e6?**

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1. Tal – Botvinnik, 2nd Match Game 1961.

White moves. Precision needed.

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2. Botvinnik – Tal, 7th Match Game 1961.

White moves. Dispel all hope.

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3. Tal Botvinnik, 8th Match Game 1961.

White moves. Do you see the follow-through?

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4. Tal – Botvinnik, 12th Match Game 1961.

White moves. A classic theme.

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5. Tal – Botvinnik, 14th Match Game 1961.

Black moves. Extrication needed.

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6. Botvinnik – Tal, 21st Match Game 1961.

White moves. It's all over.

Sinquefield Cup

The strongest tournament of the year in the United States is close to the finish. The Sinquefield Grand Chess Tour in St. Louis is like a grand slam tournament in tennis – an event with top players and highest quality games. These relatively rare American round robin classical tournaments are special events, often with historical significance. The great New York tournaments of the 1920's are very well remembered and players today love to play through the games those events. Capablanca, Lasker and Alekhine battling the other top players of a century ago produced a trove of chess classics. In the 1980's and 90's the great international round robin tournaments in the US were the Pan-Pacific events organized by the Mechanics' Institute. These are well and fondly remembered by our club players to this day.

Yet St. Louis has the great advantage over the rest of the country with its billionaire sponsor Rex Sinquefield, who has transformed top level American chess. The current Sinquefield Cup has world top players Maxim Vachier-Lagrave, Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So, Peter Svidler and six other top grandmasters. The new "Sinquefield" age has many American players at the top of the world rating list, and hence the Americans are placing well, with Caruana, So and Lenier Dominguez pushing for the top spot. The leader though (at this writing) is the Frenchman, Vachier-Lagrave, who would gain further top status with a victory here.

We may be forgiven for rooting for our local hero, Sam Shankland. Unfortunately Sam is not winning this event, being stuck behind the leaders after a slow start. He will probably finish even in rating points, yet we hoped for more after his recent successes. Below we give a game of his against Mamedyarov and the encounter between So and Svidler.

(1) Shankland,Sam - Mamedyarov,Shak [C65]

Sinquefield Cup, 22.08.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Our man Sam decides not the allow the "Berlin" endgame that arises after 4. 0-0 Nxe4 5. d4 Nd6 6. Bxc6 dxc6 7. dxe5 Nf5 8. Qxd8+ Kxd8 **4...Bc5 5.c3 d5 6.exd5 Qxd5 7.Bc4 Qd8 8.Bg5 h6** The white bishops are active so Shak decides to push this one back. As usual he plays actively and dosen't worry much about his pawns going forward causing loose pawn structure. **9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 e4 11.Qe2 Qe7 12.dxe4 Nxe4 13.Nbd2 Nxg3 14.Qxe7+ Bxe7**

15.fxg3!? Sam makes the unusual capture away from the center. This opens the f-file which he makes good use of. **15...Bf5 16.0-0 Bg6 17.Bb5!?** Another creative choice, planning to give up both bishops and play with two knights. **17...0-0-0 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Nb3 Rd5 20.Rae1 Bf6 21.Nfd4** [21.Nh4!? gxh4 22.Rxf6 was also a good continuation.] **21...Bxd4+ 22.Nxd4** White has made Black trade one of the bishops, so there is not the worry of playing against the dreaded bishop pair. This position is just a slight edge for White. **22...Kb7** [22...c5 23.Nc6! gives the knight some good squares] **23.Nb3 Kb6?!** [23...Rhd8! would have kept it close to equal] **24.c4! Rd7?!** not the best square due to Sam's reply **25.a4!** White now threatens 26. a5+ followed by a knight fork on c5. **25...a5 26.Rf6 Ra8 27.Re5!**

The white rooks pressure the queenside. White will win a pawn now. **27...Rd1+ 28.Kf2 Ra6 29.Rb5+ Ka7 30.Rxa5 Rxa5?** Black needed to play 30...Rb1 to fight for a draw. This gives the white knight a tempo and Sam wins two pawns now. **31.Nxa5 Rd2+ 32.Kf3 Rxb2 33.Nxc6+ Ka8 34.Ne5! Bc2 35.Nxf7** both sides take pawns, but White stays ahead by two of them **35...h5 36.Nxg5 Bd1+ 37.Ke3 Re2+ 38.Kd4 Rxg2 39.a5 Rxh2 40.Ne6 h4 41.Nxc7+ Kb8 42.Nb5 hxg3 43.a6!**

Advancing the a-pawn gets it closer to queening and here also threatens 44. Rf8 mate. **43...Rh8** Black resigned after playing this move. White picks up the g-pawn with 44. Rg6 and wins without effort on the queenside. A powerful performance by Sam against one of the world's top players. **1-0**

(2) So,Wesley - Svidler,Peter [A37]

Sinquefield Cup, 19.08.2021

Wesley So is afraid of no one in the world. He meets the great Peter Svidler, eight time Russian champion. Yet Wesley has no respect. **1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 c5 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nc6** We start out with a symmetrical English Opening, which is a rather quite, positional beginning. Don't be fooled though, So is out for blood. **5.Nf3 e5** This Botvinnik set-up against the English was popularized by Swedish GM Tom Wedberg 40 years ago. Now it is very popular. Black is a bit weak on the light squares and strong on the central dark squares. **6.a3 a5 7.d3 Nge7 8.Nd2!**

Instead of routinely castling Wesley keys in on the important central d5 square. This knight maneuver is the most effective plan here for White. **8...d6 9.Nf1 0-0 10.Ne3 Rb8 11.Rb1 Nd4 12.Bd2 Bd7 13.0-0 Bc6?!** Usually you want to keep your fianchettoed bishop near your king. Here though the trade will highlight Black's light square weakenesses. **14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 cxb4?!** A concession giving Black an isolated b-pawn which White can target. **16.Rxb4 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Qd7 18.Ned5 Nec6 19.Rb6** White has great squares on the queenside. Black doesn't have anything to target in the white camp. May as well try for a kingside advance yes? **19...f5 20.f3** keeping pawns on white squares and slowing any Black plans on the kingside **20...Rf7 21.Be3 h5 22.Qd2 Ne6 23.Rfb1 Kh7 24.h4 f4?!**

It was hard to resist this move - it goes forward and seems to attack things on the kingside. The drawback is that White now gets another great square for a knight. The black bishop is a bad piece as it only runs into the black pawns and can't fight the white knights. **25.gxf4 exf4 26.Bf2 Ncd4 27.Bxd4!** Trading this good bishop for a knight allows So to complete his strategy of completely controlling the central light squares. **27...Bxd4 28.Ne4!**

The two fantastic white knights dominate from the middle of the board. Black cannot capture the rook on b6 due to the royal fork on f6. If 28...Be5 White has 29. Rxd6!, again because of the knight for on f6. After looking for a bit, Svidler resigned, not seeing any good way to continue. This was another powerful performance by Wesley So, making Svidler look almost like an amateur. **1-0**

Solution to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1. Tal – Botvinnik, 2nd Match Game 1961.

White simultaneously wins a piece and the dangerous b-pawn with **1.Qa4! 1-0.** If 1…Qxa4 2.Bxa4 Nb6 3.Bxb3 Kf7 4.Ba4 Ke7 5.Bc6 +- Or 1…Qe1+ 2.Bf1 Nc7 3.Qxb3 +-.

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2. Botvinnik – Tal, 7th Match Game 1961.

White squelched all hope with **1.R1a4! 1-0.** The twin threats of 2.Rb4# and 2.R7a5# are just too much for black.

----

3. Tal Botvinnik, 8th Match Game 1961.

The splendid **1.Nd7+! 1-0** wins in all variations: If 1…Kc7 2.b6+ then 3.cxb7 +-. The pretty line arises after 1…Bxd7 2.cxd7 Rd8 and now 3.Rc8+! Rxc8 4.Ra8+! is a sequence worth remembering.

----

4. Tal – Botvinnik, 12th Match Game 1961.

White used the "desperado" tactic **1.Qxh8!** to go ahead the Exchange after **1…Rxh8 2.Bb2!** when the black queen is lost. Careful technique brought Tal the full point: **2…Qxf3+ 19.gxf3 Ng6 20.h4 Ngxe5 21.h5 Nf7 22.f4 Nd6 23.Rb3 Ne4 24.Ke1 Rh6 25.Be2 Be8 26.Rd3 Nf6 27.Bxd4 Nxd4 28.Rxd4 Bxh5 29.Rd3 Rh7 30.Rdh3 Bg6 31.Rxh7+ Nxh7 32.Rh6 Nf8 33.Rh8 Nd7 34.Rg8 Bf7 35.Rg7 Be8 36.Re7 Kd8 37.Rxe6 Bf7 38.Rh6 Ke7 39.Bd3 Be6 40.Rh5 Nf6 41.Rg5 1-0.**

---

5. Tal – Botvinnik, 14th Match Game 1961.

Ignoring white's threats, black boldly counter-attacked with **1…Rxb2! 2.Nf5+ Kf6 3.Nxh6 Rdd2!** White sidestepped with the clever **4.Kg1 Rxf2 5.Rf1** but black still kept the jump on him with **5…Rxf1+ 6.Kxf1** Kg7! and the lost minor piece was regained. After **7.Rxa7 Kxh6 8.Rxf7** the players split the point **1/2-1/2.**

---

6. Botvinnik – Tal, 21st Match Game 1961.

The match ended not with a bang, but a whimper**: 1.d6+ 1-0.** If 1…Kb7/c6 then 2.Be4+ Or 1…Kd8 2.Rxf8+.

Solution To Tony's Teaser

1. Qb3!! Rxb3 2. Ne3#

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/20220129013018/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #984

September 4, 2021

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- Events/Class Schedule
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- GM Nick de Firmian's Column
- Submit your piece or feedback

Tuesday Night Marathon Begins Tuesday September 7

The next Tuesday Night Marathon live at the Mechanics' Institute begins this coming Tuesday, September 7. Register now to play in this 2-section 7-round FIDE rated event, with a time control of G/120;d5. Sections based on USCF rating; 1800+ and under 1800. Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonSepOct2021) to register. For full tournament information, click on our event page here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person).

We will broadcast the top 10 boards live on our Twitch channel starting at 7pm PDT with commentary by GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead. Follow our channel by going to this link: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, live from downtown San Francisco!

Thursday Night Marathon Report

by Abel Talamantez

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Thursday Night Marathon are complete, and the four titled players in the tournament crusied through the first couple of rounds unscathed, though Stewart Katz did put forth an applaudible resistance in round 2 against GM Gadir Guseinov. GM Guseinov, IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla, FM Ezra Chambers, and FM Max Gedajlovic move into next week with 2/2, along with expert Sheel Dandekar. We must give a shoutout to Austin Jin, who was the first to provide an upset with his first round win against Robert Smith. There should be exciting clashes over the next two weeks, as the top players in the tournament will play each other, and we will find out if any of the remaining titled players can find a way to unseat Guseinov from ThNM supremacy. I would be remiss if I didn't give a special shoutout to Judit Sztaray and Victor Beauchamp for providing an action packed extra rated game in round 2, which was followed with excitement on our live broadcast. You can watch it now here:

Tune in next Thursday at 7:00pm PDT for rounds 3&4 of the Thursday Night Marathon online on our Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

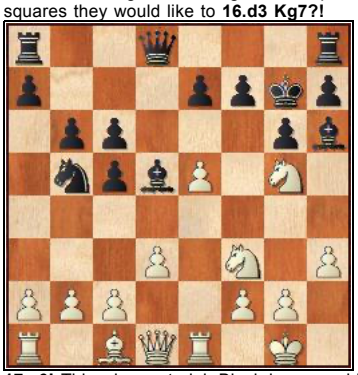
Watch the broadcast from Thursday here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gH1KgpInmcY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gH1KgpInmcY)

Here are couple of games from Thursday night, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

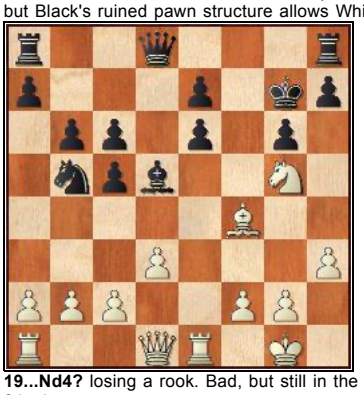
(1) FM Ezra Chambers 2314(SelfishShellfish) - Casimir Dudek 1649 (Thechesskid2021) [B31] Live Chess Chess.com

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nc3 Nc7! [7...Nxc3 8.dxc3 0-0 9.Bg5 Is simply a pleasant opening for White] **8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.Ne4 b6!?**

[9...Ne6 is the spot the knight wants to go to and it defends the c5 pawn. Thechesskid offers SelfishShellfish the chance to disrupt castling.] **10.Nf6+ Kf8** [10...exf6 11.exf6+ Kf8 12.fxg7+ Kxg7 13.b3 leaves White strong on the dark squares and the black king feeling unsafe] **11.Ne4 Bg4 12.Nc3 Bh6?!** Losing the right to castle really hasn't hurt Black much. Simply 12...Ne6 would be about an even game. Moving the bishop to h6 isn't great as this important fianchettoed bishop can get traded off. **13.h3 Be6 14.Ne4 Nb5 15.Neg5 Bd5?!** The black pieces are not on the squares they would like to **16.d3 Kg7?!**



17.e6! This wins material. Black has a problem that some white piece will cause big trouble on f7. **17...Bxg5** [17...f6 18.Nf7 or; 17...Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Bxg5 19.Qxf7+] **18.Nxg5 fxe6** The best try, but Black's ruined pawn structure allows White to win material. **19.Bf4**



19...Nd4? losing a rook. Bad, but still in the game was [19...Rf8 20.Be5+ Kg8 21.c4 or *(21.Qg4)*] **20.Be5+ Kg8 21.Bxh8 Nf5** [21...Kxh8 22.Nf7+ wins the queen] **22.Bc3 Qd6 23.Be5 Qd7 24.c4**

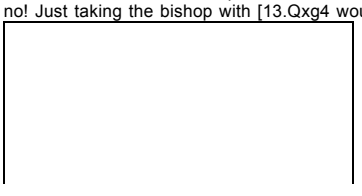
24...Bxg2 [24...h6 is a little better but 25.cxd5 hxg5 26.dxe6 Qxe6 27.Qg4 is still very convincing] **25.Kxg2 Nh4+ 26.Kh2 Nf3+** Black resigned **1-0**

(2) Victor Beauchamp 889 (Greatboomer) - Judit Sztaray 807 (JuditSztaray) [C29]

Live Chess Chess.com

Our tournament director, Dr. Judit Sztaray, decides she will try to play a game while directing to make games for everyone entered. A challenging task! **1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4** The Vienna Game is an old but classic opening which can give the opponent unexpected difficulties. **3...exf4** [3...d5! is the easiest plan for Black here] **4.e5 Ng8 5.Nf3 d6 6.d4 Bg4 7.Bxf4 dxe5 8.Bxe5**

White has gotten good development and a nice edge from the opening. Problaby 8...Nd7 would be best here. **8...f6 9.Bg3 Bb4 10.Qd3 c5?** This leads to trouble as Black opens up the game while White is better developed. **11.0-0-0! Nc6?!** [11...Ne7 12.Nb5 is also tough for Black] **12.Qe4+!** winning a piece. Thus far Greatboomer has played superb chess. **12...Nge7 13.Nd5?** Oh no! Just taking the bishop with [13.Qxg4 would be great. No need to worry about 13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 Qa5 as the white king is safe enough] **13...Qxd5 14.Qxg4 Qxa2!**



Now the game is double-edged with both kings exposed to attack. **15.Nd2** [15.c3!] **15...Bxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Qxb2 17.Bd3 cxd4 18.Rhe1 Nb4?**

Judit gets a little impatient to attack. Just bringing the king to safety with 18...0-0 would be very good. **19.Qh5+** [White can sacrifice for a decisive attack - 19.Rxe7+! Kxe7 20.Qxg7+ Ke6 21.Re1+ Kd5 22.Qd7+ Kc5 23.Qb5#] **19...Kd7 20.Qg4+ Kd8 21.Ke2?!** [21.Bc7+! Kxc7 22.Rxe7+] **21...Nxd3! 22.Kxd3 Rc8!** Suddenly it is Black who has the attack! **23.Qxd4+ Qxd4+ 24.Kxd4 Rxc2 25.Ke3+ Kc8**

We have reached the endgame, though there are still a few tactics left. Black has three extra pawns, so should win if she keeps her king safe. **26.Rc1 Rxc1 27.Rxc1+ Kd7?!** [27...Nc6!] **28.Rc7+ Ke6 29.Ke4 Nf5 30.Rxb7 Nxg3+ 31.hxg3 Ra8!** The black a-pawn becomes more and more a force the further it advances. **32.g4?!** [32.Rxg7 a5 33.Rxh7 a4 34.Rh1 a3 35.Ra1 a2 36.g4 Kf7! should be a winning ending for Black. At least White has even pawns here and some hope.] **32...g5 33.Rxh7 a5 34.Rh1 a4 35.Re1 a3! 36.Kd3+ Kd5 37.Kc2 Ra4 38.Kb3 Rxg4 39.Kxa3 Rxg2**

Two connected passed pawns up is a win. Judit shows good technique. **40.Rf1 Ke5 41.Kb3 Rg3+ 42.Kc2 f5 43.Kd2 f4 44.Ke2 Ke4 45.Ra1 Rg2+ 46.Kf1 Rh2 47.Ra4+ Kf5 48.Kg1 Rh4 49.Kf2 Rh2+ 50.Kg1** [50.Kf3 g4#] **50...Rc2! 51.Ra5+ Kg4 52.Ra3 f3 53.Kf1 Kg3 54.Re3 g4 55.Ke1 Kg2 56.Re4 f2+ 57.Kd1 Ra2 58.Rxg4+ Kf3 59.Rg1 fxg1Q# 0-1**

Here are the standings after 2 rounds:

SwissSys Standings. September 2021 Thursday Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
1	**Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	**gguseinov**	17343590	2563	W14	W7	2.0
2	**Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)**	**Swarnapuri**	30100858	2475	W15	W10	2.0
3	**Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101)**	**Selfishshellfish**	15191101	2314	W16	W11	2.0

4	Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	MMSanchez	14947382	2264	X19	W12	2.0
5	Sheel Dandekar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12604772)	sdandek	12604772	2034	W17	W13	2.0
6	Austin Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144712)	austinjin666xd	17144712	1318	W8	D9	1.5
7	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	knvsback	12458563	1856	W21	L1	1.0
8	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	maturer	12463327	1853	L6	W20	1.0
9	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	chessappeals	17254586	1750	D20	D6	1.0
10	Matthew Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12541333)	hip_hop_99	12541333	1658	W22	L2	1.0
11	Casimir Dudek (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101045)	thechesskid2021	30101045	1649	W23	L3	1.0
12	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	fiddleleaf	12839763	1574	W18	L4	1.0
13	James Hamlett (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12374510)	James_Hamlett_IV	12374510	1561	W24	L5	1.0
14	Joseph Flowers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12691490)	CoachJoeF	12691490	1494	L1	W21	1.0
15	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	aaroncraig602	12872385	1451	L2	W22	1.0
16	Jimolee Gray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30172836)	jgray43	30172836	1442	L3	W23	1.0
17	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	2Nf31-0	16425316	1390	L5	W24	1.0
18	Victor Beauchamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30154650)	Greatboomer	30154650	889	L12	B---	1.0
19	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	chuckchess	12448028	1426	F4	H---	0.5
20	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1161	D9	L8	0.5
21	Stephen Sikes (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13058987)	Raindog2	13058987	1339	L7	L14	0.0
22	Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	1087	L10	L15	0.0
23	Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)	MrRap9	30118209	1055	L11	L16	0.0
24	Francisco Ostolaza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30266747)	ostolaza4	30266747	unr.	L13	L17	0.0

SwissSys Standings. September 2021 Thursday Night Marathon Online: Extra Games

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Total
1	Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)	juditsztaray	14708926	807	W2	1.0
2	Victor Beauchamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30154650)	Greatboomer	30154650	889	L1	0.0

Chess and Body Language

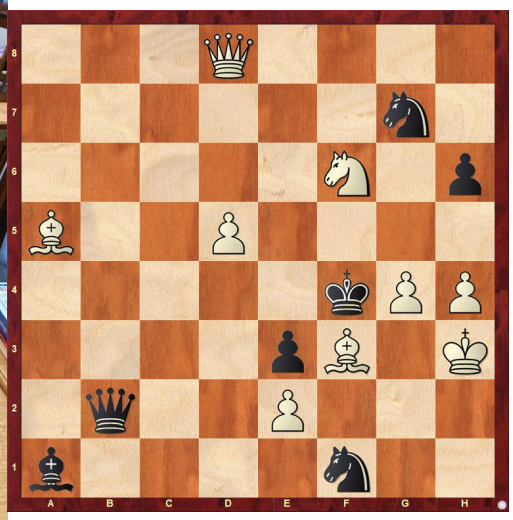
by Abel Talamantez

Body language can tell you a lot, sometimes even more than words could say. For being such a quiet sport, chess is a game where players often cannot control the raw emotion going on inside them, outwardly reflecting in their posture at the table. We can sometimes know how a game is going simply by looking at how a player is seated at their table. In this new series installment, we chess players will poke some fun at ourselves by looking at the body language of a player while seeing the corresponding chess position. As chess players, we know this too well, and we all understand. That is what makes this entertaining, and is done with the highest respect to all players.

In this game from the Bernardo Smith Memorial, Alan Finkelstein is playing black against eventual tournament winner FM Baasansuren Erdene. Finkelstein had a solid tournament, scoring 3.5/5 in a tough open section. In this 2nd round game however, a slumped Finkelstein reveals things may not have been going so well. Can anyone guess by looking at the position on the board and the body language the computer analysis advantage for white? The answer at the end of the newsletter.

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this problem, white to move and mate in 3.



Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute September ThNM Online. September 2-September 16, 6:30PM PT. 6 Games G/35+5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-sep-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-sep-2021)

Mechanics' Institute September/October TNM: FIDE Rated. September 7-October 19, 6:30PM PT. Games G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person)

Mechanics' Institute August Quads: September 11, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

20th Howard Donnelly Memorial Championship: FIDE Rated. September 18-19, 9AM PT. 5SS G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-donnelly-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-donnelly-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Scholastic Bulletin #4 is out!

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220129021905/https://conta.cc/3gLHRV2) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Aron Nimzowitsch and the Three Zugzwangs

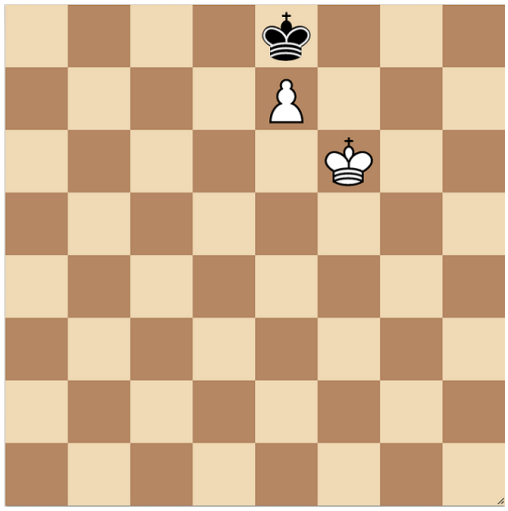
Aron Nimzowitsch (1886 - 1935) was a fascinating individual, well known for his eccentric (and quite sound) ideas in chess. **My System** and **Blockade** both authored in 1925, were followed by **Chess Praxis** in 1929. An original voice and playing style had risen to the top of the chess world, and although he couldn't quite crack through the **Lasker/Capablanca/Alekhine** trifecta, he was among the very best players of his day.

Concepts like **over-protection**, **blockade** and **prophylaxis** were coined and codified by this Latvian born and Danish naturalized citizen, and chess titans **Bent Larsen** and World Champion **Tigran Petrosian** counted themselves as his disciples.

As a chess player I am fascinated by certain patterns that arise in that world, where a player repeatedly finds himself in certain situations. Why does **Viswanathan Anand** like the Knights, while **Bobby Fischer** favored the Bishops? How come **Geza Maroczy** was the greatest Queen endgame player who ever lived? What makes Petrosian march his King all over the board, and why was **Mikhail Botvinnik** hell-bent on crashing through the center?

Seeing these themes repeated endlessly, I hope to find the patterns that increase my own understanding.

In 1923 Nimzowitsch conducted the "Immortal Zugzwang Game", tying up his opponent **Friedrich Saemisch** in knots and forcing his helpless opponent to resign with the board full of pieces on the 25th move. It was zugzwang on the board, and in case you are unfamiliar with the concept here is the simplest example, with black to move:



The word comes from German Zug 'move' + Zwang 'compulsion', so that Zugzwang means 'being forced to make a move'. (Wikipedia).

Black MUST play **1…Kd7** allowing white to force a new queen with **2. Kf7** and wins,

etc.

Here is the "Immortal Zugzwang Game". Annotating the game in **My System**, Nimzowitsch gives himself a double-exclamation mark after 25…h6!!

and concludes: "A brilliant move that announces the zugzwang. White has not a move left. If, e.g., Kh2 or g4, then R5f3. Black can now make waiting moves with his king, and White must, willy-nilly, eventually throw himself upon the sword".

Friedrich Saemisch – Aron Nimzowitsch, Copenhagen 1923.

Queen's Indian Defense

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. g3 Bb7 5. Bg2 Be7 6. Nc3 O-O 7. O-O d5 8. Ne5 c6 9. cxd5 cxd5 10. Bf4 a6 11. Rc1 b5 12. Qb3 Nc6 13. Nxc6 Bxc6 14. h3 Qd7 15. Kh2 Nh5 16. Bd2 f5 17. Qd1 b4 18. Nb1 Bb5 19. Rg1 Bd6 20. e4 fxe4 21. Qxh5 Rxf2 22. Qg5 Raf8 23. Kh1 R8f5 24. Qe3 Bd3 25. Rce1 h6 0-1.

A great game, and a beautiful illustration of Zugzwang.

But now we come to one of those strange conundrums, those unexplained mysteries, for it came to pass that Nimzowitsch himself fell victim to a masterpiece of the Zugzwang theme: not once, but twice!

The first time was to a model squeeze by Capablanca, the standing World Champion at the time.

Aron Nimzowitsch – Jose Capablanca, New York 1927.

Caro-Kann Defense

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Bd3 Bxd3 5. Qxd3 e6 6. Nc3 Qb6 7. Nge2 c5

8. dxc5 Bxc5 9. O-O Ne7 10. Na4 Qc6 11. Nxc5 Qxc5 12. Be3 Qc7 13. f4 Nf5

14. c3 Nc6 15. Rad1 g6 16. g4 Nxe3 17. Qxe3 h5 18. g5 O-O 19. Nd4 Qb6 20. Rf2 Rfc8 21. a3 Rc7

22. Rd3 Na5 23. Re2 Re8 24. Kg2 Nc6 25. Red2 Rec8 26. Re2 Ne7

27. Red2 Rc4 28. Qh3 Kg7 29. Rf2 a5 30. Re2 Nf5 31. Nxf5+ gxf5 32. Qf3 Kg6 33. Red2 Re4 34. Rd4 Rc4 35. Qf2 Qb5 36. Kg3 Rcxd4 37. cxd4 Qc4 38. Kg2 b5 39. Kg1 b4 40. axb4

axb4 41. Kg2 Qc1 42. Kg3 Qh1 43. Rd3 Re1 44. Rf3 Rd1 45. b3 Rc1.

Zugzwang!

46. Re3 Rf1 0-1.

A game played and won in the style of Aron Nimzowitsch himself!

And then, three years later, incredibly, another classic loss to another standing World Champion. This game seems remarkably like the victory over Saemisch in that the Zugzwang occurs in the middle-game, and features the famous “Alekhine’s Gun” theme as well, with the Queen backing up the doubled-Rooks:

Alexander Alekhine – Aron Nimzowitsch, San Remo 1930.

French Defense

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. Bd2 Ne7 6. Nb5 Bxd2+ 7. Qxd2 O-O 8. c3 b6 9. f4 Ba6 10. Nf3 Qd7 11. a4 Nbc6 12. b4 cxb4 13. cxb4 Bb7 14. Nd6 f5 15. a5 Nc8 16. Nxb7 Qxb7 17. a6

Qf7 18. Bb5 N8e7 19. O-O h6 20. Rfc1 Rfc8 21. Rc2 Qe8 22. Rac1 Rab8 23. Qe3 Rc7 24. Rc3 Qd7 25. R1c2 Kf8 26. Qc1 Rbc8 27. Ba4 b5 28. Bxb5 Ke8 29. Ba4 Kd8 30. h4 1-0.

Zugzwang! As you can work out for yourself.

This leaves us with the (perhaps) unanswerable mystery: just what was it about Nimzowitsch and Zugzwang? Like so many patterns and connections one sees in chess, this kind of question both puzzles and mesmerizes, prompting yet more investigations…

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Bobby Fischer and His World

The games of the World Champions are always of great interest to club and tournament players. They keep their appeal through time as we love to look back and see what ideas they discovered to advance the game of chess and conquer all other players of their time. We see in Paul's writings for this newsletter the wonderful examples of the champions 100, 80 or 60 years ago. Someone who has been a living inspiration to many of our veteran chess players is Bobby Fischer – but Fischer's career is now so long ago that he is being relegated to a "historical" world champion. His delightful games are still very instructive and entertaining to see, yet we place him now alongside Capablanca, Botvinnik and Alekhine.

There is no better way to learn of the career of Bobby Fischer than reading John Donaldson's tome "Bobby Fischer and His World." This 642-page work is comprehensive to say the least. If you miss hearing the entertaining stories that our former MI chess director would tell you on Tuesday evenings (before the TNM games) then you definitely want to read his book. John covers the development of Fischer as a boy so we see how he developed his game in the early years. We give below first a game which developed the young Fischer, a loss to Viktors Pupols in a US Junior Championship. Viktors though is still playing touraments and one of the dwindling living connections to the glorious Fischer times.

We are most interested though to see the games when Fischer became superman, and mercilessly crushed all opposition. Bobby played many superb and forceful games from the late 50's to his capture of the chess throne in 1972. We give a couple of those below. Many more wonderful Fischer creations are in John Donaldson's book, along with a lot of the stories told in John's engaging style.

(1) Fischer,Robert James - Pupols,Viktors [C40]

USA-ch U18 USA, 1955

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 The Latvian Gambit! Victors shows his heritage with this opening. **3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6 5.Nc4 fxe4 6.Nc3 Qg6 7.Ne3 Nf6 8.Bc4 c6!**

Black has gotten a complex and reasonable game. A Latvian success. **9.d5 Be7 10.a4 Nbd7 11.a5?** Young Bobby is losing time with pawn moves. He is confused in this opening as normal people are and he drifts into a bad defensive position. **11...Ne5 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Kh1 Kh8 15.Nc4 Nfg4 16.Qe1?!** [16.Nxe5] **16...Rf7 17.h3 Nf6** [17...Nf3! (John Donaldson)] **18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.Bc4 Rff8 20.Be3 Nh5 21.Kh2 Bd6 22.Bb3 Nf4 23.Bxf4?** 23. Rg1 was needed. This opens up Black's bishops. **23...exf4 24.Qxe4?** [24.f3] **24...f3+ 25.g3 Bf5?** [25...Qh5! 26.h4 Rae8] **26.Qh4 Rae8 27.Rae1 Be5 28.Qb4?** The queen should have stayed on the kingside. **28...Qh6 29.h4 g5 30.Rh1?** White needs to give up the exchange with 30. Rxe5! to defend. **30...gxh4 31.Kg1 h3?!** [31...Bxg3!] **32.dxc6 bxc6 33.Qc5 Qg7** [33...Bxg3!] **34.Kh2 Qf6 35.Qxa7 Bd4 36.Qc7 Bxf2 37.Rxe8 Rxe8 38.Rf1 Bd4 39.Rxf3 Bxc3 40.bxc3 Re2+ 41.Kh1 Be4 42.Qc8+ Kg7**

43.Qg4+?! [43.Qd7+ Kg6 44.Qg4+ is a perpetual check] **43...Qg6 44.Qd7+?** [44.Qf4] **44...Kh6** White resigns as 45. Qxh3+ Qh5 trades the queens and wins the rook due to the pin. A wild and crazy game which taught Bobby a lot about tactics, but didn't yet show the world how talented he was. At this point in his career he seemed like a lot of normal players. That was to change very soon. **0-1**

(2) Fischer,Robert James - Reshevsky,Samuel Herman [B35]

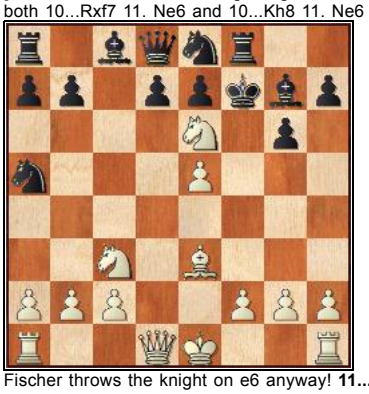
USA-ch New York (6), 1958

Very soon though Fischer showed he was a major talent. At just 15 years old he smashes one of the best players in the country. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Bb3** An Accelerated Dragon, which should transpose into a normal Dragon with 9...d6. Reshevsky though decides to chase down the light-squared bishop and runs into tactics. **8...Na5? 9.e5!**

Seizing the moment! We see how quickly Fischer has learned complicated tactics. Such enormous improvement over the game against Pupols. **9...Ne8**

?

[9...Nxb3 10.exf6 Nxa1 11.fxg7 Kxg7 12.Qxa1 is clearly better for White.; 9...Nh5 10.g4 wins a piece] This move looks alright for Black doesn't it? **10.Bxf7+!! Kxf7** Black loses the queen after both 10...Rxf7 11. Ne6 and 10...Kh8 11. Ne6 **11.Ne6!**



Fischer throws the knight on e6 anyway! **11...dxe6** [Reshevsky sees he will be mated after 11...Kxe6 12.Qd5+ Kf5 13.g4+ Kxg4 14.Rg1+ Kh5 15.Qd1+ Kh4 16.Qg4#] He gives up the queen and struggles on for many moves in a hopeless position. Young Fischer's technique could have been a bit better, but he wraps it up with no real trouble. **12.Qxd8 Nc6 13.Qd2 Bxe5 14.0-0 Nd6 15.Bf4 Nc4 16.Qe2 Bxf4 17.Qxc4 Kg7 18.Ne4 Bc7 19.Nc5 Rf6 20.c3 e5 21.Rad1 Nd8 22.Nd7 Rc6 23.Qh4 Re6 24.Nc5 Rf6 25.Ne4 Rf4 26.Qxe7+ Rf7 27.Qa3 Nc6 28.Nd6 Bxd6 29.Rxd6 Bf5 30.b4 Rff8 31.b5 Nd8 32.Rd5 Nf7 33.Rc5 a6 34.b6 Be4 35.Re1 Bc6**

36.Rxc6! bxc6 37.b7 Rab8 38.Qxa6 Nd8 39.Rb1 Rf7 40.h3 Rfxb7 41.Rxb7+ Rxb7 42.Qa8 Reshevsky finally resigns. The white a-pawn will cost a piece. **1-0**

(3) Robert James Fischer - Pal Benko [B09]

US Championship 1963/64 New York, NY USA (10), 30.12.1963

Soon Fischer became dominant in the US and was headed for the chess crown. He would make mincemeat of strong grandmasters. **1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4** A great opening player, Fischer would always choose sharp, aggressive variations. **4...Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bd3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nc6 9.Be3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.f5!**

Looking to get a strong kindside bind with 12. g4 **11...gxf5?!** weakening the squares on the kingside. Black would have done better with 11...Nd4 **12.Qxf5 Nd4 13.Qf2 Ne8 14.0-0 Nd6 15.Qg3 Kh8 16.Qg4 c6?!** Black is in more trouble than he realizes, and this move is slow. 16...c5 was better. **17.Qh5 Qe8?** [17...c5] **18.Bxd4 exd4**

White to move and win **19.Rf6!!** Blocking the advance of the f-pawn. 19...Bxf6 20. e5 will be mate on h7. **19...Kg8 20.e5 h6 21.Ne2** simple and crushing. If 21...Bxf6 22. Qxh6 mates. If the knight on d6 moves then Qf5 mates. So White wins a clear piece. Benko resigned. **1-0**

Body Language Analysis

Depending on the engine, but this particular body language means a 1.72 disadvantage for black.

Solution To Tony's Teaser

1. Of8!! Qxf6 2. Bc7 Be5 3. Qb4#

1. Qf8!! Ne6 2. Qd6+ Qe5 3. Nh5#

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 #985

September 11, 2021

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Championship Quads Saturday September 11

Join us this Saturday for our Championship Quads starting at 3pm. This event is for players of all level, from master to novice for 3 rounds of USCF rated G/30;d5 action against similarly skilled players. Register now by following this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsSep2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsSep2021).

Chess Clubs and Bringing Communities Together

by Abel Talamantez

I am honored to have been selected to chair the US Chess Clubs Committee for this 2021-2022 year. Our committee, which reports to the US Chess Executive Board, is charged with promoting and developing chess clubs across the country, as well as finding ways to make it easier for people to find chess clubs. I've always felt a chess club is much more than a place for tournaments, or somewhere you lay boards and sets down and play. A chess club reflects the values and ideals of a community and can be a focal point where people feel free to come together and engage, compete, socialize, and become one. It can be quite a valuable thing, adding to the vibrancy of a community's culture. For this reason, we will be committed to promoting chess clubs with this ideal. I believe we have done that at the Mechanics' Institute. I hope that we have continued its August history by putting our own flavor on it for the present, preserving the triumphs of those who came before us while setting the course for what we hope is its storied future. We are truly lucky in San Francisco, because we feel the energy and history in the club, with its people, and we are welcoming many new members regularly. It is largely because of this fusion of the past present and future that makes me excited to help other clubs towards this same ideal. Though all chess clubs will have differences, I believe thinking of them in this way provides a solid foundation for long term success. Anyone can call themselves a chess club or organization, but its sustaiability is predicated on the community beliveing it reflects their values.

I am especially excited about helping grassroots chess clubs get started, those that will first meet in diners or coffee houses, or seek affordable rentals from a churches or ther like spaces. There are also clubs that gather to raise money or awareness for causes, as well as college chess clubs. The possibilities are endless, and more support is needed for these smaller clubs to be able to sustain, prosper and flourish, and while doing that, elevating their corresponding communities. I remember starting my own chess club nearly a decade ago, with all the struggles and challenges. It is a very exciting time, but also avery tenuous time, and I'm hoping we can provide critical help to these clubs.

In earlier newsletters I wrote about some chess clubs from around the country, and I hope to continue that periodically. I think it is great to showcase different clubs and how and when they meet, all the while learning more about the places they represent. One of the things I'm hoping is for people to reach out with stories about their clubs. If you or someone you know has a story about a chess club that meets, I'd love to hear about it.

Here is one example. WFM Kimberly Liu, who is originally from the Bay Area and now attends Cornell University in New York wrote me this promo regarding the Cornell Chess Club, which resumed meetings recently. There is no greater advocate than Kimmy, who also Twitch streams under the handle kimmyliu18. https://www.twitch.tv/kimmyliu18 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://www.twitch.tv/kimmyliu18)

The transition from an online 2D board to a real 3D chess board wasn't easy, but we all took the first step together on August 28, 2021 at the Cornell Chess Club. Over 50 motivated players showed up for a showdown as they battled it out over a board. We actually didn't have enough boards to satisfy all the demand! Luckily, some players stayed scrappy and played each other on their phones, iPads, or pocket checkers (?) sets.

We couldn't have been happier with all the energy and positivity in the room. Today, we were reminded of how we're all connected by a shared love for an ancient board game. We're all trying to improve, whether it is to get revenge on that friend who kept winning against you 10 years ago, or just to make yourself feel more confident in life. Either way, Cornell Chess Club is here to help you by working on the following points:

- with this turnout rate, we need 2 rooms to safely accommodate all the people!

- Room 1: for lectures and educational chess. Lecture topics will be chosen by popular vote and prepared by one of our master / expert players. Materials and optional homework will be posted in our chess.com forum so people can review it even if they missed the live lecture.

- Room 2: casual games with banter and trashtalk ;)

- if there is sufficient interest and time, we may implement group mentorship programs in which an advanced player volunteers to coach several others who are enthusiastic about improving!

- outreach programs in which club volunteers have an opportunity to teach and inspire local Ithaca elementary school students through chess :)

Hope to see everyone again next week in Phillips Hall from 6-9pm! Stay on the chess grind ~

Reach out and share your story, perhaps we will share it with our community through our newsletter or perhaps elsewhere. Email me at chessroom@milibrary.org with any stories, comments o questions.

Tuesday Night Marathon

by Abel Talamantez

The first round of the Tuesday Night Marathon got off to an exciting start. Former MI Chess Director and US Olympiad team coach IM John Donaldson give a lecture prior to the start about his book *Bobby Fischer and His World*. The turnout was strong, and it is always great to see John back at the club.

The TNM saw the return of Webster University student FM Ezra Chambers, who is also coaching for Mechanics' for our scholastic programs. He won a hard fought game against Mark Drury, while on board 2, IM Elliott Winslow crusied to victory with a quick win against Anthony Acosta. Congratulations to two players in the top section for grinding out upset wins. Sean Kelly defeated Ako Heidari and Ilia Gimelfarb defeated Kristian Clemens.

In the under 1800 section, many strong contenders opened with a win, including Teodoro Porlares, Sebby Suarez, and Marty Cortinas. We welcomed a few new players to the Mechanics' Institute, something that is always very exciting to see.

Click here to watch the broadcast of round 1: Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP4JtIYjags (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP4JtIYjags)

Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZplLJnHe64 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZplLJnHe64)

Here are some games from the 1st round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(1) Weng,Nicholas (2001) - Mercado,Adam (1793) [C02]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (1.4), 07.09.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+?! This move is suspect. The dark-squared bishop is a good piece for Black so it shouldn't venture out where is can be traded. **7.Bd2 Nge7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Bd3 Nf5 10.Bxf5 exf5 11.0-0 Be7 12.Qb3**

12...g5?! Black has troubles in any case, so Adam decides to lash out with the kingside pawns. Objectively better was [12...Rb8 13.Nxd5 Be6 14.Nxe7+ Nxe7 when Black has at least control over the central light squares.] **13.Nxd5 g4 14.Nxe7+ Nxe7 15.Ne1** [15.Nh4! is a more active square, which would make it very tough for Black.] **15...Qd7?!** [15...Qxd4!] **16.d5?** [16.Bb4 is just a good pawn ahead] **16...Qxd5 17.Bc3 Qe4** Adam avoids the trade of queens, which is risky. The endgame would have been fine for Black. **18.Rd1 Be6 19.Qa3 Ng6 20.Rd4 Qxe5!?**

Bold play! There is no strong discovered attack for White here. **21.Rxg4?!** [21.Nd3] **21...Qe2! 22.Rxg6+?! fxg6?** The wrong recapture. White has strong control of the dark squares for the exchange sacrifice, but Black would have a clear edge after [22...hxg6 23.Nf3 Rfd8] **23.Nf3 Rfe8 24.Re1 Qc4?!** [24...Qd3 stops White's next move] **25.Qd6! Qd5**

26.Rxe6! giving the second exchange turbo charges the White attack. Note the White covers the back rank squares so there is no counter attack for Black. **26...Qxe6 27.Qd4 Qe7 28.Qh8+ Kf7 29.Qxh7+ Ke6 30.Qxg6+ Kd7 31.Qxf5+** White has three pawns for the two exchanges and still an attack on the black king. **31...Qe6 32.Qb5+ Qc6?** giving back one exchange leaves Black material down along with the difficult position. More hope is offered with [32...Kc8 33.h4 a5] **33.Ne5+ Rxe5 34.Qxe5 Re8 35.Qd4+ Qd6 36.Qxd6+** The endgame is easily winning with the three passed pawns. **36...Kxd6 37.h4 Ke6 38.g4 Kf7 39.Kg2 Rd8 40.Kg3 Kg6 41.h5+ Kh6 42.Kh4 Rd1 43.g5+ Kh7 44.f4 Rg1 45.f5**

The three advanced pawns with the bishop's support are unstopable. **45...Rg2 46.h6 b5 47.Bg7 a5 48.g6+ Kg8 49.Be5 1-0**

(2) Sun,Kevin (1622) - Riese,Kayven (1900) [C02]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (1.9), 07.09.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 f6 Attacking the head of the pawn chain is unusual. 6...Qb6 is the most common move. **7.Bf4** White overprotects e5. Simply castling would be a good alternative. **7...Qb6 8.Qd2?!**

8...0-0-0?! Kayven plays for wild, open play. The black king is not very safe on the queenside though. Better to play 8...g5! and 9...g4 to disrupt the protectors of the e5 pawn. **9.dxc5** [9.exf6 Nxf6 10.0-0 is safe and good for White] **9...Bxc5 10.0-0 h6?** This is just too slow. Black should be first to push the pieces around with pawns - 10...g5! gives him an edge. **11.b4! Be7 12.a4!** The white queenside pawns charge toward the black king and gain time on the way attacking other black pieces. **12...g5 13.Be3 Qc7 14.exf6 Bxf6** [14...Nxf6 gets everything developed] **15.b5 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.g3** [17.a5! Bxh2+ 18.Kh1 Bf4 19.b6 is very strong] **17...Kb8 18.a5 Qd6 19.Re1 Ne7 20.Bd3?!** [20.Bd4 Bxd4 21.cxd4 h5 22.Nc3 h4 23.Bg4 Nf5 24.Re5 keeps a good edge. Now Black gets more chances.] **20...Nf5 21.Bxf5 exf5 22.Bxa7+?**

22...Ka8? Kevin's bold combination had a fatal flaw (which is difficult to see). [22...Kxa7 23.Qe3+ d4! 24.Qxe5

24...Rhe8! 25.Qxd6 Rxe1+ 26.Kg2 Bc6+ 27.bxc6 Rxd6 would be a winning ending for Black. He would have the exchange up and the pin on the first rank.] **23.Bd4** Now White has snatched a key queenside pawn and comes back to the center. **23...Bxd4 24.Qxd4 Bxb5 25.Na3 Ba6 26.Reb1** [26.Nc2] **26...Rhe8 27.Rb6 Qc7?!** White now gets the attack. Black should have looked for a queen trade with [27...Qe5] **28.Nb5 Qb8?!** The final mistake. Black is struggling but has chances after [28...Bxb5 29.Rxb5 Re6 30.Rb6 Rdd6] **29.Qf6 Bxb5**

30.a6! This fine shot by Kevin destroys the black king's cover. **30...bxa6 31.Rbxa6+ Kb7 32.Rb6+ Kc7 33.Rxb8 Rxb8 34.Ra7+ Kc8** [34...Rb7 35.Qg7+] **35.Qxf5+ Kd8 36.Qxd5+ Kc8 37.Qc5+** A wonderful battle with some very surprising moves! **1-0**

(3) Drury,Mark (1830) - FM Chambers,Ezra (2314) [A03]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (1.1), 07.09.2021

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.d4 c5 5.c3 Bg7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 The Stonewall, or Dutch Reversed, or Classical Defence to Bird's Opening, or something. **7...b6 8.Qe2 a5** Black forces the exchange of White's better bishop. Not that White's bishop was any glorious attacking piece in the fianchetto defence! **9.a4 Ba6 10.Bxa6** [Relevant: 10.Ne5 Bxd3 11.Nxd3 Nbd7 12.Nd2 Qc7 13.b3 cxd4 14.cxd4 Qc2 15.Nf2 Rfc8 16.Ba3 Bf8 17.Rac1 Qa2 18.Ra1 Qc2 19.Rac1 Qa2 20.Ra1 Qc2 ½-½ (73), Tsoi,D (2321)-Bluebaum,M (2644) Moscow 2019] **10...Nxa6 11.Nbd2 Nc7 12.Ne5** White returns to another main point of the Stonewall: a knight on e5. [12.b3!? right away was better. Not too long from now White will be reconsidering...] **12...Nce8**

Black also concentrates on his knight outpost -- but his can't be pushed out by a pawn move like White's can. **13.b3N** Modern handling of this sort of position has White going this way with the "bad" bishop, often finding excellent play via the c4 break. [Predecessor: 13.Ndf3 Nd6 14.Bd2 c4 15.Be1 Qc7 16.Bh4 Another signature Stonewall maneuver. 16...b5!? and Black generates queenside play. 0-1 (42), Sharaibi,O (2103)-Bacallao Alonso,Y (2467) Badalona 2009] **13...Nd6 14.Ba3 Rc8 15.Rac1 Nfe4**

Black has held on to some plus, but not much. **16.Nef3?!** White needed to get on with the break: [16.c4=/+; 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.c4=/+] **16...Qd7** Black meanwhile keeps moving forward. **17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Nd2? Nd6?!** [18...Nxd2 19.Qxd2 c4 20.Qc2 (to hold the a-pawn) 20...cxb3 21.Qxb3 Qe6 22.Rce1 Qe4! As so often: the Stonewall has holes.] **19.Rfd1 Qe6 20.Re1 Rfd8 21.Kf1** [21.Qa6!?] **21...Qf5 22.Qf3 e6 23.g4 Qf6 24.Kg2 Qe7** [24...g5!] **25.Rh1 cxd4 26.cxd4 Bf8 27.Qe2 Qb7**

28.Bxd6?! Whatever else happens, Black's bishop will outperform White's knight. **28...Bxd6** [28...Rxd6! does a better job of the c-file.] **29.Nf3 Ba3** chasing the rook off the c-file. Black's edge starts to build. **30.Ra1** [30.Rxc8 Rxc8 31.Rd1 Rc3 32.Rd3 Qa6 33.Ne5 Rxb3 wins a good pawn] **30...Qe7 31.Rhd1?** Now Black takes full control. Needed was [31.Qa2 Bb4 32.Rhc1 when White is worse but has chances to hold the draw.] **31...Rc3-+ 32.Rd3 Rdc8 33.Rxc3 Rxc3 34.Qa2** This comes to late. Black owns the c-file. **34...Bb4 35.Kf2 Qc7 36.Kg3 Rxe3 37.Qf2 Qc3 38.Rb1 Bd6**

39.Re1 A tactical mistake but it didn't matter anyway. Ezra had White tied up like Capablanca used to do. **39...Rxf3+ 40.Qxf3 Qxe1+** White resigns. Strong, calm play by Ezram but Mark can be happy he kept the game close to even for thirty moves. **0-1**

(4) IM Winslow,Elliott C (2269) - Acosta,Anthony (1818) [B01]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (1.2), 07.09.2021

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd2

5...Bg4!? We saw this on Board 2 of the previous TNM, where Nicholas Weng edged out Christophe Bambou. **6.f3 Bh5?!** [That game featured the topical 6...Bd7!? 7.Bc4 Qb6! and Black even had some advantage, before he grabeed a somewhat poisoned h-pawn and not that long later got mated via the h-file (!).; 6...Bf5 7.g4! can be the same position. after 7...Bg6 *(7...Bd7 8.g5!* is quite disruptive.*)*] **7.Bc4** Most common, [But better is 7.g4! Bg6 when 8.f4 is quite dangerous for Black if White plays accurately. This is in fact all featured in Negi's repertoire book on "Minor Lines," where he makes it look problematic for Black. But it's a lot of gambits and sacrifices!] **7...c6 8.g4 Bg6 9.h4** [9.f4! and engines make it already winning.] **9...h5 10.g5** In fact, here too --

Black's knight doesn't really want to move. **10...Nfd7** [10...b5 When Stockfish says this is the best move, then it's bad. 11.Nxb5 Qb6 12.Nc3+-] **11.Nd5! Qd8 12.Nf4** Black is caught undeveloped. **12...Qc7** [12...Bf5 13.g6! fxg6 14.Ngh3 Nb6 15.Be6! Qxd4 16.Ng5! Qe5+ 17.Kf2 The bind is permanent.] **13.Nxg6 Qg3+ 14.Kf1 fxg6 15.Qe1!?** White doesn't mind an ending if it means Black remains stuck. **15...Qd6** [15...Qxe1+ isn't much better a try.] **16.Qe6!?** [The computer naturally wants to keep queens on: 16.Qe4] **16...Nb6?** [16...Qxe6 17.Bxe6 Na6 isn't much of a better try either.] **17.Qf7+ Kd8 18.Bd3?!** [18.Be6!] **18...Nd5?!** [18...Qxd4 -- Black might as well at least not be down a pawn also.] **19.Bxg6 b5 20.a4** There is a certain resemblance to Kasparov's last game against Deep Blue -- except White hasn't even given up a piece. **20...Kc8 21.axb5 Nd7** [21...cxb5 22.Qe8+ is no escape.] **22.c4 Nc7 23.bxc6** [Damn the computers, full steam ahead! 23.Ne2 they prefer.] **23...Ne5 24.Qf5+ Kb8 25.Qxe5 Qxg6 26.d5 e6 27.Bf4**

These days you can't just play the Center Counter and hope to bring your pieces out; White shakes the tree early. [27.Bf4 Qf7 White intended 28.dxe6 and 29.Qb5+] **1-0**

(5) Ahrens,Richard (1210) - Hancock,Trent [E11]

MI Sep-Oct TNM u1800 San Francisco (1.26), 07.09.2021

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 b6 4.e3 Bb7 5.Be2 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qe7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nc3 c5 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Na6

11.dxc5!? Nxc5 12.Bxf6! Qxf6?! Black just loses the d-pawn, whether intentional or not. **13.b4 Ne4 14.Qxd7 Nc3?! 15.Qxb7! Nxe2+ 16.Kh1+-** White has grabbed the pawn and seems is getting away with it. **16...Rfb8** [16...Qb2!?] **17.Qe4** [17.Qa6!?] **17...Nc3**

18.Qe5? This lets Black almost completely off the hook! [18.Qc2 Rc8 19.Rac1 Nd5 *(19...Rxc4? 20.Nd2! Rc6 21.Ne4* wins*)* 20.Qe4 *(20.h3; 20.Rfd1)* 20...Ne7 21.Kg1 with the extra pawn and a dominating position] **18...Qxe5?!** [18...Rc8! 19.Qxf6 gxf6 The weakened kingside is less of a concern with queens off. 20.Nd2 a5+/= /= -- White will come under fire via some file or another.] **19.Nxe5+/- Rc8 20.Rfc1 Ne4 21.Kg1?** [21.f3!+/- f6 Both sides should be, in classic Steinitzian form, kicking the knights out of their respective central squares. 22.fxe4 fxe5 23.Kg1] **21...Rc7?!** [21...f6! 22.Nf3+/= *(22.f3 Nd6)*] **22.Rc2?!** [22.f3] **22...Rac8?!** [22...f6] **23.Rac1 Nd6+-**

If White had let it slip away, it is now back. **24.b5?** Woops! It's bad enough that it cripples White's extra-pawn majority -- but it also has an instant tactical refutation. White Black misses: [24.c5!; 24.Rd2!] **24...Rc5?** [24...Nxb5!-/+ turns it right around.] **25.Nc6!+/- Rc7?!** [25...Ra8] **26.Rd1+-** pushing Black into a passive situation. **26...Nb7 27.Rcd2?!** [27.Kf1 -- get back in the game!] **27...f6**

28.Nd8 [28.Rc2 admits the mistake.] **28...Nxd8 29.Rxd8+ Kf7 30.R8d7+ Kg6?!** [30...Kf8] **31.Rxc7 Rxc7 32.Rc1 Kf5?!** [32...a6!? 33.bxa6 Ra7 although even here White has real chances.] **33.f3** [33.Kf1! heads directly for d3, freeing the rook: still good winning chances.] **33...Ke5 34.Kf2 Kd6 35.Ke2 Kc5 36.Kd3**

36...f5? [36...a6 again, to get some play via the *a*-file; or even 36...a5; 36...Rd7+?! 37.Kc3] **37.g3?!** Now Black can get in ...Rd7, ...e4, ...Rd3 **37...Rd7+ 38.Kc3**

[38.Ke2 e5 39.g4 g6 40.g5=] **38...g5?** [38...e5! 39.Rf1 g6! maintains total equality. *(39...e4?? 40.fxe4 fxe4 41.Rf5+)*] **39.h3?!** [39.f4! is the best of many **STILL**-winning moves.] **39...h5?!** [39...h6!+/-] **40.a4 e5?!**

[40...Rg7+/- 41.g4; 40...Rh7 41.Rg1!+-] **41.h4?** [41.Rf1] **41...gxh4 42.gxh4 e4!= 43.f4??** Losing a precious tempo in the rook activation race. [43.fxe4 fxe4 44.Rg1 Rd3+ 45.Kc2 White has enough counterplay going on with Rg7 or Rg5+ to keep the balance.] But now Black is way ahead: **43...Rd3+ 44.Kb2 Rxe3 45.Rc3 Rf3!** Convincing. Quite a battle, and hopefully a lesson in handling pawns. **0-1**

Here are the current standings:

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	Prize
1	1-9	FM Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101)	2314	W15							1.0	
2		IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	2269	W16							1.0	
3		Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	2049	W17							1.0	
4		Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	2001	W18							1.0	
5		Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	1992	W19			H---				1.0	
6		Sean Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962568)	1786	W11							1.0	
7		Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)	1752	W12							1.0	
8		Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	1665	W13							1.0	
9		Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	1622	W14							1.0	
10	10	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	1766	H---							0.5	
11	11-19	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	1996	L6							0.0	
12		Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	1994	L7						H---	0.0	

13		**Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)**	1936	L8								0.0	
14		**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	1900	L9								0.0	
15		**Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)**	1830	L1								0.0	
16		**Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)**	1818	L2			H---					0.0	
17		**Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)**	1795	L3								0.0	
18		**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	1793	L4								0.0	
19		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1676	L5					H---			0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under 1800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	Prize
1	1-19	**Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	1749	W28							1.0	
2		**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	X21							1.0	
3		**Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)**	1581	W29							1.0	
4		**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	1544	W30							1.0	
5		**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	1543	W31							1.0	
6		**Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)**	1538	W32							1.0	
7		**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	1520	W33							1.0	
8		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	1451	W34							1.0	
9		**Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)**	1440	W35							1.0	
10		**Christopher Dessert (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15048166)**	1418	W36							1.0	
11		**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	1400	W37							1.0	
12		**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	1389	W38							1.0	
13		**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	1318	W39							1.0	
14		**Jp Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)**	1177	W40							1.0	
15		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1173	W41							1.0	
16		**Deandr Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)**	unr.	W24							1.0	

17		**Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)**	unr.	W25							1.0	
18		**Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)**	unr.	W26							1.0	
19		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	unr.	W27							1.0	
20	20-23	**Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)**	1583	H---							0.5	
21		**Damien Seperi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757144)**	1083	H---							0.5	
22		**James Dorsch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30249167)**	unr.	H---	H---						0.5	
23		**Adam Laskowitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30258766)**	unr.	H---							0.5	
24	24-41	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1500	L16							0.0	
25		**Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)**	1418	L17							0.0	
26		**Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)**	1306	L18				H---			0.0	
27		**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	1210	L19							0.0	
28		**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)**	1139	L1							0.0	
29		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	1029	L3							0.0	
30		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	983	L4							0.0	
31		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	768	L5							0.0	
32		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	546	L6							0.0	
33		**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)**	unr.	L7							0.0	
34		**Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)**	unr.	L8							0.0	
35		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	unr.	L9							0.0	
36		**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	unr.	L10						H---	0.0	
37		**Ryan Gill (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30240310)**	unr.	L11							0.0	
38		**Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)**	unr.	L12							0.0	
39		**Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818)**	unr.	L13							0.0	
40		**Harry Elworthy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30256579)**	unr.	L14							0.0	
41		**Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966)**	unr.	L15	H---					H---	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Game

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Total	Prize
1	1-3	Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)	1720	W4	1.0	
2		ROMEO BE BARREYRO (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)	1702	W5	1.0	
3		JERRY MORGAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)	1462	W6	1.0	
4	4-6	TONY A LAMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)	1805	L1	0.0	
5		NICK CASARES JR (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	1600	L2	0.0	
6		JOHN CHAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	1500	L3	0.0	

Thursday Night Marathon Report

by Abel Talamantez

Round 3 of the Thursday Night Marathon Online saw two big matchups on the top two boards, with GM Gadir Guseinov defeating FM Max Gedajlovic and IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla winning a very exciting game against FM Ezra Chambers. Both of the defeated players would come back with wins in round 4, and GM Guseinov and IM Dhulipalla drew their game, which was a theoretical improvement by the IM from a similarly played game from the previous ThNM. Lookout for Casimir Dudek and Bryan Hood as the move up the standings, they will no doubt face stif competition next week in the final 2 rounds.

Watch the broadcast from rounds 3&4 by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXpdFWDDro4 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXpdFWDDro4)

Here are the standings after four rounds:

SwissSys Standings. September 2021 Thursday Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)	17343590	2563	W12	W9	W4	D2	3.5	
2	Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)	30100858	2475	W19	W8	W3	D1	3.5	
3	Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101)	15191101	2314	W21	W5	L2	W12	3.0	
4	Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)	14947382	2264	X13	W6	L1	W7	3.0	
5	Casimir Dudek (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101045)	30101045	1649	W24	L3	W19	W16	3.0	
6	Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)	12839763	1574	W18	L4	W22	W11	3.0	
7	Sheel Dandekar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12604772)	12604772	2034	W14	W20	D16	L4	2.5	
8	Matthew Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12541333)	12541333	1658	W23	L2	D14	W18	2.5	
9	Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)	12458563	1856	W15	L1	H---	H---	2.0	
10	Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)	12463327	1853	L16	W17	H---	H---	2.0	
11	Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)	17254586	1750	D17	D16	W21	L6	2.0	
12	Joseph Flowers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12691490)	12691490	1494	L1	W15	W25	L3	2.0	
13	Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)	12448028	1426	F4	H---	D17	W23	2.0	

14	**Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)**	16425316	1390	L7	W26	D8	D19	2.0	
15	**Stephen Sikes (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13058987)**	13058987	1339	L9	L12	W24	W22	2.0	
16	**Austin Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144712)**	17144712	1318	W10	D11	D7	L5	2.0	
17	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	16738735	1161	D11	L10	D13	W21	2.0	
18	**Victor Beauchamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30154650)**	30154650	889	L6	B---	X20	L8	2.0	
19	**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	12872385	1451	L2	W23	L5	D14	1.5	
20	**James Hamlett (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12374510)**	12374510	1561	W26	L7	F18	U---	1.0	
21	**Jimolee Gray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30172836)**	30172836	1442	L3	W24	L11	L17	1.0	
22	**Alex C Durig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12729479)**	12729479	1290	H---	H---	L6	L15	1.0	
23	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	1087	L8	L19	X26	L13	1.0	
24	**Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)**	30118209	1055	L5	L21	L15	W25	1.0	
25	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	12814843	524	H---	H---	L12	L24	1.0	
26	**Francisco Ostolaza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30266747)**	30266747	unr.	L20	L14	F23	U---	0.0	

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this problem, white to move and mate in 3.

White to move and mate in 3

In honor of Tony Lama, we are offering this additional mate in three moves problem which is rumored even to have stumped Steinitz and Capablanca. Take your shot at solving it, solution at the end of the newsletter.

White to move and mate in 3. Dietrich E.L. Wassman, 1863

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute September ThNM Online. September 2-September 16, 6:30PM PT. 6 Games G/35+5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-sep-2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/thursday-night-marathon-online-sep-2021)

Mechanics' Institute September/October TNM: FIDE Rated. September 7-October 19, 6:30PM PT. Games G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person)

Mechanics' Institute August Quads: September 11, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

20th Howard Donnelly Memorial Championship: FIDE Rated. September 18-19, 9AM PT. 5SS G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-donnelly-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-donnelly-memorial-championship-person-fide-g120d5)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Scholastic Bulletin #4 is out!

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122143355/https://conta.cc/3gLHRV2) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Refresh Your Chess

For those starting out, and for those who think they know everything.

In the following diagrams you will be given two tasks. First you need to define the issue(s) and figure out what is required in the position: it might be how to force the win of material, queen a pawn, or even to deliver checkmate. It may simply be a continuation that maintains the equilibrium or forces a draw. There may be more than one road to follow – chess is a complicated game!

Secondly, you are given three or four choices – call them “candidate moves” or possibilities - on a sliding scale of excellent to disastrous. You may even come up with a perfectly fine - or horrible – move of your own! Chess gives us a dizzying array of choices, and separating the wheat from the chaff is our responsibility.

Were you able to fulfill the requirements of the position?

The answers are given below.

Choose wisely!

---

1. This may be the most important position in chess, literally reached thousands of times a day around the world!

Black moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 1…Kd8

B) 1…Ke8

C) 1…Kf8

---

2. This position arises from Philidor's Defense after **1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3.d4.**

Black moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 3…g6

B) 3…Nf6

C) 3…exd4

D) 3…Bg4

---

3. From a game of one of my students. White has just jumped in with **1.Ne5**. These kinds of positions can seem very confusing.

Black moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 1…Bxe5

B) 1…Nxe5

C) 1…Ne4

----

4. This position arises out of the Cambridge Springs Variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined: **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.cxd5 exd5.**

White moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 5.Nf3

B) 5.Nxd5

C) 5.e3

D) 5.Bxf6

----

5. In the endgame precision is needed, and the result – win, loss, or draw - can hang on every move.

Black moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 1…Kc2

B) 1…Kd3

C) 1…Kd4

----

6. Precision is also needed in the conduct of an attack on the king. White is a piece down and needs to get something going.

White moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 1.Qh8+

B) 1.Qh7+

C) 1.Qg6

D) 1.g6

----

7. Making direct threats is a big part of the game, but again we must try to discern the best possible way forward.

White moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 1.g5

B) 1.Nb5

C) 1.Nd5

D) 1.e5

----

8. Another typical position arising out of the opening, in this case a Ruy Lopez: **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.d4.**

Black moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 9...Bg4

B) 9...Be6

C) 9...Nb8

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

The Greats

In all sports, the competition is always for the best. There are always excellent players that compete for championships, and each year we spectators enjoy rooting for our favorites. Yet about once in a generation there arises a truly great champion who seems to be above all others like a superhuman. Just now we have the US Open in Tennis being played. This is one of the four Grand Slam events of the year. One thinks it will be a battle between the best players to win the event, but that is not so. It is a battle of Novak Djokovic (tennis #1) against everyone else. Djokovic has won the last three Grand Slams and is favored to win this US Open. In golf there was Tiger Woods in his heyday and Arnold Palmer a generation (or two) before that. They simply dominated everyone else. Boxing saw Muhammad Ali and Lenox Lewis (who is a fine chess player). Team sports are a little different as a superman like Lebron James may still lose to a better team (like the Warriors for three years).

This brings us to chess, where we always have an official world champion but don't always have a superman at the top. We appreciate the marvelous games from the former World Champions Euwe, Smyslov, Petrosian, Anand, Kramnik and others, yet these tremendous players didn't give us the feeling they were superhuman. Petrosian described himself as "first among equals." That modest self evaluation was rather accurate as Petrosian was often not the favorite to win a tournament even when he was World Champion. That is a different kind of World Champion than Alekhine, who won the great San Remo 1930 tournament with 14 points in 15 games against most of the world's best players.

The current World Chess Champion though is one of those superhumans. When Magnus plays in any event it is an upset if he doesn't win it. The battle will always be fierce against the top competitors, but Magnus will usually end on top. He has held the #1 ranking for 11 years now and isn't letting up. He just won the Aim Chess Tournament (US event of the Grand Chess Tour), beating one of the best veteran players (Aronian) in the semi-finals and crushing one of the best young talents (Artemiev) in the finals. He will be here in San Francisco in later September for the final of the Grand Chess Tour. Your Mechanics' Institute staff will give you more details on this as soon as we get them.

(1) Aronian,Levon - Carlsen,Magnus [C88]

Aimchess Semifinal, 01.09.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a4 This Anti-Marshall move is safer than 8. c3 d5 when Black gets the intitiative for a pawn. **8...Bb7 9.d3 Re8 10.Bd2!?** looking at the queenside squares. The move seems a little passive however. **10...b4 11.Bg5 Na5 12.Ba2 h6 13.Bh4 d6 14.Nbd2 c5 15.Bxf6!? Bxf6 16.Nc4 Nxc4 17.Bxc4**

An interesting idea from Aronian. He has given the bishop pair to get more light-square control. He may hope to trade light-squared bishops and get good knight against bad bishop. Magnus plays to accentuate Black's positives. **17...a5 18.g3?!** [18.c3 was probably a better plan. White looks for kingside squares but loosens the king shelter.] **18...g6 19.h4 h5! 20.Nd2 Bg7 21.Nf1 Bh6** So both Black bishops are working well. **22.Qf3 Rf8 23.Ne3**

23...Ra7! This wonderful move is like Petrosian or Nimzovich. White controls the d5 square which is some advantage, but Black looks to the opening of the kingside which is more important. **24.Nd5 Kg7 25.Rf1 f5** Black has taken over the initiative. The d5 square is not enough for White to control the game. **26.exf5 Rxf5 27.Qe2 Bc6 28.Rae1 Qa8!**

Aronian has only made a few passive moves and he is now forced to the defensive in a difficult position. Magnus has played like the hyper-moderns with pressure from the flanks. **29.Ne3 Bf3 30.Qd2 d5 31.Ba2 Rf8 32.c3** There's nothing to be done about ..d4. Black is winning a piece. **32...d4 33.cxd4 exd4 34.Qc2 dxe3 35.fxe3 Rc7 36.Qc4 Bg4** Black has a winning material advantage. Aronian looks for shots, but there are none. **37.Rxf8 Qxf8 38.d4 Kh7 39.e4 Bg7 40.Rf1 Bxd4+ 41.Kg2** [41.Qxd4 Qxf1+ 42.Kxf1 cxd4] **41...Qc8 42.Rf7+ Rxf7 43.Qxf7+ Bg7** All is safe for Black now. The extra bishop easily decides. **44.e5 Qf5 0-1**

(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Artemiev,Vladislav [B92]

Aimchess Final, 03.09.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 g6 The Dragon-dorf. A kind of hybrid Dragon-Najdorf. Many players on the White side get confused on how to meet this variation. **7.g4! h6 8.Be3 Bg7 9.f3** White simply has more space on the kingside. **9...b5 10.a3 Bb7 11.Qd2 Nc6 12.0-0-0 b4?!**

Aggressive, but White can handle the queenside threats because of better development. **13.Nxc6! Bxc6** [13...bxc3 14.Qxc3 Qc7 15.Na5 Qxc3 16.bxc3 is a pawn up (even if doubled) along with more control of the queenside] **14.axb4 Qb8 15.Nd5** Control of the center means White can handle the queenside threats. White is simply a pawn ahead. **15...Bxd5?!** [15...Nxd5 16.exd5 Bb5 gives more hope] **16.exd5 a5 17.b5** of course White must keep the queenside closed with his king over there **17...a4 18.Bd4 0-0 19.Kb1 a3 20.b3** simple. Keep it blocked near your king. **20...Qc8 21.c4 a2+ 22.Ka1 Re8 23.Rhe1 e5** trying to break through. That's hard to do with all the white queenside pawns. **24.dxe6 Rxe6 25.Bd3 d5 26.Qb2! dxc4 27.Bxc4 Rxe1 28.Rxe1**

It may seem that Black should have compensation for just one pawn with the troublemaker down on a2. Yet the white pieces control the center and there is little Black can do. **28...Qd8 29.h4 g5 30.hxg5 hxg5 31.f4 gxf4 32.g5**

32...Qxd4! The best try. This is a real "Dragon" move to make trouble on the long dark diagonal. **33.Qxd4 Ng4**

34.Bxf7+! The flaw in Black's setup. He can't properly follow through with his threats due the the counter checks. **34...Kf8** [34...Kxf7 35.Re7+ Kxe7 36.Qxg7+ is easy] **35.Re8+! Rxe8 36.Qxg7+ Kxg7 37.Bxe8** After all the flurry of tactics White is up only a simple pawn, yet it is completely winning as the white bishop can deal with passed pawns better than the slower black knight. **37...f3 38.b6 Ne3 39.b7 Nc2+ 40.Kxa2 Nb4+ 41.Ka3 Na6 42.Bb5 Nb8 43.Bd3 Nd7 44.Kb4 f2 45.Kb5 Kf7 46.b4 Ke6 47.Ka6 Kd6 48.Ka7 Kc7 49.g6**

Black resigns **1-0**

Solutions To Tony's Teaser

1. Bc5!! Bxd7 2. Bxb4 Qxc8 3. Be7#

1. Bc5!! Rxd7+ 2. cxd7 Bxd7 3. Rxb4#

---

1. Qd1!! Kd6 2. Qxa4 (mate on d7 next move.

1. Qd1!! Ke6 2. Qxa4 Kf7 3. Qe8#

1. Qd1!! Kc6 2. Qg4 Kb7 3. Qc8#

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

1.

Your task is to stop the white pawn from queening, and **B) 1…Ke8**! takes the "opposition" and does the trick. After 2.Kd6 (Or 2.Kf6 Kf8! – not 2…Kd8?? 3.Kf7 and wins – 3.e7+ Ke8 4.Ke6. Stalemate.) 2…Kd8! 3.e7+ Ke8 4.Ke6. Stalemate. **A) 1…Kd8??** Is a bad mistake and white forces a new queen with 2.Kd6 Ke8 3.e7 Kf7 4.Kd7. Black loses in the same way if he chooses **C) 1…Kf8??** 2.Kf6, etc.

2.

Your task is to develop your pieces, but **A) 3…g6?** Trying to develop the bishop on g7 simply drops a pawn after 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Nxe5. **B) 3…Nf6** attacking the white pawn at e4 and **C) 3…exd4** trading in the center are both good moves. **D) 3…Bg4?!** was played in the famous "Opera Game" with Paul Morphy as white against the Duke of Brunswick and Count Isouard in consultation. It develops a piece yes, but contributes inevitably to white's development. The game featured a spectacular conclusion: 4.dxe5 Bxf3 (forced, if black doesn't want to lose a pawn, and the problem with black's 3rd move) 5.Qxf3 dxe5 6.Bc4 (threatens 7.Qxf7 mate) 6…Nf6 7.Qb3! Qe7 8.Nc3 (spurning the gain of a pawn with 8.Qxb7 Qb4+ allowing black to trade queens) 8…c6 9.Bg5 (white's pieces leap out of the box) 9…b5 10.Nxb5! cxb5 11.Bxb5+ Nbd7 12.0-0-0 Rd8 13.Rxd7! Rxd7 14.Rd1 Qe6 15.Bxd7+ Nxd7 16.Qb8+!! (a brilliant finish) 16…Nxb8 17.Rd8 mate.

3.

Your task is to expel the knight that sits on e5 and cramps your game, but **B) 1…Nxe5??** was not the way to do it, and after 2.dxe5 the bishop at d6 and knight at f6 were forked and black lost a piece**. A) 1…Bxe5?!** is better, but is a needless trade. **C) 1…Ne4!** Is positive and looks right: black occupies the center himself and prepares to boot out the knight with …f6.

4.

Your task is to develop, and to look before you leap. **A) 5.Nf3** brings the knight out, and alternatively **C) 5.e3** would be good to develop the bishop at f1. **D) 5.Bxf6?!** accomplishes nothing and only helps black to develop after 5…Nxf6, and the tempting **B) 5.Nxd5??** falls into a famous trap after black unexpectedly releases the pinned knight with 5…Nxd5! 6.Bxd8 Bb4+ (The point) 7.Qd2 (forced) 7…Bxd2+ 8.Kxd2 Kxd8. Black has won a piece for a pawn.

5.

Your task is to stop the pawn from queening, and **A) 1…Kc2?** is clearly apropos of nothing. **B) 1…Kd3?** at least staggers in the right direction, but also fails after 2.h5. Only **C) 1…Kd4!** does the trick. The black king moves into the “square” of the pawn and captures it.

6.

Your task is to checkmate the black king. Both **A) 1.Qh8+?** and **B) 1.Qh7+?** are tempting but fail as the black king escapes after 1…Kf7. **C) 1.Qg6?** trying for 2.Rh7 leads to nothing after 1…Bxg5 eliminating the dangerous g-pawn, which might lead you to **D) 1.g6!** as the correct move. The pawn assists in the attack, and to prevent 2.Qh7 mate black must play 1…Nf6 but then comes 2.Qh8 mate.

7.

Your task is to win material, and only **D) 1.e5!** forking the knight and bishop, works. White wins. **B) 1.Nb5?** Bb8 leaves white with the problem of how to defend the pawns at e4 and g4, while **C) 1.Nd5+?** Nxd5 2. exd5trades into an inferior ending: the pawn at d5 is weak and the bishop is superior to the knight here. **A) 1.g5** does little after black simply moves away with 1…Nh5.

8.

Your task is to finish your development, and the simple **A) 9…Bg4** accomplishes that with no problems. **B) 9…Be6??** is a blunder, walking into a pawn fork with 10.d5 winning for white, while with **C) 9…Nb8?** Black is confusing this position with the Breyer Variation, and is down a pawn with zero compensation after 10.dxe5.

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/20220122143355/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #986

September 18, 2021

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 2 Report

by Abel Talamantez

Round 2 of the TNM saw the underdogs continue strong play, with Ilia Gimelfarb securing a draw against IM Elliott Winslow in a game he was likely winning. Sean Kelly also looked like he was in a winning position against Nathan Fong, but the UC Berkeley grad fought back to hold the position and also draw. Alex Chin fought hard all the way to the end of the night against FM Ezra Chambers, but Chambers got the win to stay on top with 2/2 in the section along with Nicholas Weng. Guy Argo had an exciting win against Kevin Sun giving him 1.5/2.

FM Paul Whitehead chimes in at the conclusion of the Chambers-Chin game. TD Judit Sztaray getting in on some chess action with an extra rated game against William Thibault.

A strong group of nine players are tied in the under 1800 section with 2/2, which includes Marty Cortinas, Georgios Tsolias, Sebby Suarez and Christopher Dessert, who had a fine win against Teodoro Porlares.

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(2) Chambers,Ezra (2314) - Chin,Alex (1992) [B01]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (2.1), 14.09.2012

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Quite unambitious. White is content to have the more advanced center, not trying to take advantage of Black's queen bishop possibly getting in trouble. [A sharp line, recommended by Shaw in his repertoire book, is 4.Bb5+ Nbd7 *(*You don't want to fall for *4...c6? 5.dxc6 Bxd1?? 6.c7*+ 1-0, Winslow-Childress, Mechanics' Wilkerson Memorial TNM, Feb 2020.*)* 5.f3 Bf5 6.Nc3 a6 7.Ba4 b5 8.Bb3 Nb6 finally recovering the pawn, but White still has significant pressure.] **4...Bxe2 5.Nxe2 Qxd5 6.0-0 Nc6!** 0.72/21 [6...e6= 0.26/23] **7.c3** -0.28/20 [At least 7.Be3!+/- develops, plus keeps open the option of a knight to c3 attacking the queen. 0.72/21] **7...e5=** Black has no problems. **8.dxe5**

-0.84/20 [8.h3= -0.20/23] **8...0-0-0N** -0.31/24 [Black could head for total equality or better: 8...Qxd1 9.Rxd1 Nxe5 10.Bf4 Nfd7 11.Nd2 0-0-0 12.Nb3 Bd6 13.Nbd4 Rhe8 14.b4 Nc4 15.Bxd6 Nxd6 White never found time for Nb5. ½-½ (43) Breja,S (2135)-Krajnak,M (2220) Slovakia 2002] **9.Qxd5=/+** This is fine as well. **9...Nxd5 10.e6!?**

10...fxe6?! Black accepts a pawn weakness, which plagues him until the end. [10...f6 could round it up later;; But 10...Re8! takes advantage of a pin to capture it with the rook, again with the better side of the balance.] **11.Nd2** Not that White has anything here **11...g5?!** But here the younger player gets a bit loose with his pawns. [11...Ne5 heads right away for d3.] **12.Nf3** [12.Ne4! is the better central outpost -- not as far into Black's position, but less assailable.] **12...h6 13.Ned4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Rd6 15.Nb5** [15.a4 first is sensible] **15...Ra6 16.Re1 Bg7** [16...Bc5!? (f2 could be a target)] **17.Kf1 Rd8 18.Re4 Rb6** [Unexpectedly 18...e5!? first could then send the knight to the edge.] **19.Nd4 Kd7?!** 0.57/22 [Black should play 19...Bxd4!?=/+ -0.34/23 20.Rxd4 e5 leaves Black with some little plusses.] **20.Nb3+/= Ke7 21.h4**

and sure enough, White hits those pawns, and stays focused until the end. **21...Rbd6?** [%wdl 997,3,0] 3.17/18 [21...Bf6+/= 0.68/21] **22.Bd2?** 0.60/20 [It's hard to say why Chambers didn't just take the pawn (with quite a won position): 22.hxg5+- [%wdl 997,3,0] 3.17/18 22...hxg5 23.Bxg5+ Bf6 and almost every bishop move still leaves White winning. (24.Bf4 might give Black some chance with the bishop for the knight but still)] **22...Kf6?** Traffic jam on f6! 2.87/20 [22...Nf6!+/= 0.60/20 23.Re2 gxh4] And here the DGT board, sending the moves to the Internet, lost its way (but the scoresheets still provided the conclusion). **23.Rae1 Ne7?!** 4.07/20 [23...Kg6 "unblocks the box" but it's still bad after 1.86/22 24.hxg5 *(24.Rxe6+ Rxe6 25.Rxe6+ Kf5+/=)* 24...hxg5 25.Rxe6+] **24.Be3 Nf5 25.hxg5+ hxg5 26.Bc5 Rc6 27.g4** Chin must be wondering what he did wrong (after such a promising opening)! **27...Nh4 28.Bd4+ Kf7 29.Bxg7 Kxg7**

30.Nd4! wins the exchange when it's just a question of getting the rooks into Black's position. **30...Rxd4 31.Rxd4+- Kf6 32.Re3 Ng6 33.Ree4 b5 34.Rd3 Ne5 35.Rd2 Nc4 36.Rde2 Rd6 37.Kg2 Nb6 38.f4 Nd5 39.fxg5+ Kxg5** intending ...Nf4+. **40.Kg3 Kf6 41.Rh2 Kg7 42.Rf2 c5 43.c4 bxc4 44.Rxc4 Nf6 45.Rcf4 e5**

A relaxed "higher rated player wins without effort" but with flaws and instructional moments. [and Alex resigned -- or maybe Ezra had played 45...e5 46.Rxf6! but it didn't make it to the scoresheets: 46...Rxf6 47.Rxf6 Kxf6 48.Kf3 is a classic king and pawn ending, where White's king easily heads for the queenside while Black has to first eliminate the outside passed pawn.] **1-0**

(3) Gimelfarb,Ilia (1752) - Winslow,Elliott (2269) [B22]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (2.2), 14.09.2012

1.e4 c5 2.c3 The quieter, less theory-intensive Alapin Variation stilll leads to interesting positions with winning chances for both sides. **2...Nf6** Black has other ways to play [like 2...d5 (which also tries to take advantage of White's not being able to hit the queen with Nc3)] **3.e5 Nd5** Like the Alekhine Defense, Black draws White's center pawns forward and hopes to take advantage of holes left. **4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 c4!?** Sooner or later White will be compelled to trade off this pawn. **7.Bc2 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Bg4 10.Qe2 e6** [In the highest-level game played here White had his pawn problems: 10...0-0-0 11.Na3 Qe6 12.Qxe6+ Bxe6 13.b3 Bd5 14.bxc4 Nxc4 15.Nxc4 Bxc4 16.Re1 Bd3 17.Bxd3 Rxd3 18.Re3 Rd7 19.Ba3 e5 20.Bxf8 Rxf8 21.h4 f6 22.h5 Rfd8 23.Kf1 b6 24.g3 Kb7 25.Kg2 Ne7 26.Re4 Rd3 0-1 (57) Nakamura,H (2736)-Dubov,D (2699) Lindores Abbey Rapid, Final 8, chess24.com 2.06/0] **11.Na3 Qc5**

0.96/22 [11...Qf4!?= remains equal. 0.00/24] **12.d4?!N** -0.31/23 [Predecessor: 12.h3 Bh5 *(12...Bxf3 13.Qxf3* with b3 or b4 to come*)* 13.b4 cxb3 14.axb3 Be7 15.b4 Qd6 16.d4 0-0 17.Bd2 Rfc8 18.g4 1/2-1/2 (77) Bombek,P (2228)-Petenyi,T (2393) Slovakia 2011; 12.b3 is fine too, as ...Qh5 is no concern...] **12...cxd3=/+ 13.Bxd3 Rd8**

0.49/24 [while here 13...Qh5= looks to damage White's pawns somewhere, with a bit of plus. -0.11/23] **14.h3?** -0.82/23 [14.Be4+/= stays ahead. 0.49/24] **14...Bxf3-/+ 15.Qxf3 Ne5 16.Bb5+**

The players head into a forcing line... **16...Qxb5! 17.Nxb5 Nxf3+ 18.gxf3 a6 19.Nd4 Bc5!? 20.Be3**

Now Black neglected to give White's next proper credit. **20...Nc4?** -0.16/25 [20...Na4-/+ -0.88/23 ; 20...Rd5-/+ also will turn out to be useful (while stopping White's idea).] **21.Nxe6!= fxe6** The only move [Much worse is 21...Nxe3? 22.Nxd8 Nxf1 23.Nxb7+-] **22.Bxc5 Nxb2?!** [22...Rd5!? 23.Ba7 *(23.Ba3? Nxa3 24.bxa3 0-0* White might be a pawn up for the moment, but it's Black with all the winning chances*.)* 23...Rf8 and Black is no worse. *(or 23...0-0)*] **23.Rfe1! Kf7?!** 1.19/22 [23...Kd7= 0.25/26] **24.Rab1+/- Nd3 25.Rxb7+ Kg6?** After a few instances of "move A is bad, so I'll play move B and *really* be lost," it should be over... 4.97/21 [25...Kf6+/- is a better chance. 1.27/23 26.Be7+ Double Attack 26...Kf5 27.Re3! still favors White.] **26.Rxe6++-**

26...Kf5 27.Rc6 The move Black missed. **27...Ne5 28.Rxa6 g5** 8.11/21 [>=28...Rb8 5.08/24 ; Black wanted to play 28...Nxf3+ 29.Kg2 Nh4+ 30.Kg3 Rd3+ 31.Kxh4?? *(31.Be3* and it's Black in danger of mate*)* 31...g5+ 32.Kh5 Rxh3#] **29.Kg2!** So much for any problems for White! **29...Ra8 30.Rxa8 Rxa8 31.Rxh7 Rxa2** This should be an easy win. But as is often the case, the inexperienced player loses his way in the ending. **32.Be3 Rc2**

33.Rh5? Wasting no time getting in a pickle. 0.18/24 [Better is 33.Rc7+- , holding the best pawn and aiming for Rc5. 5.50/22 33...Kf6 34.Bd4] **33...Nf7!=** And now ...Kg6 would even win! **34.f4 Kg6 35.Rxg5+ Nxg5 36.fxg5 Rxc3** Those diligent readers of the Newsletter will perhaps remember Weng-Mercado from last week, where (with a- and b-pawns for both sides) the very same unusual material happened. There Nicholas won easily; the big difference is there is no trading in the rook for all the kingside pawns (since the other pawns guarantee a win). Also, here, the unfortunate pawn on g5 gives Black's king some great squares. **37.Kg3 Kh5 38.Kg2 Kh4 39.g6?!** Short on time (four minutes or so) White overlooks that this pawn is just lost. **39...Rc6 40.Bf4** [40.g7 keeps more tension. 40...Rg6+ 41.Kh2 Rxg7 42.f3 Rf7 43.Bf2+] **40...Rxg6+ 41.Bg3+ Kg5 42.f4+ Kf5 43.Kf3 Ra6 44.Bf2 Rh6 45.h4 Rh8 46.Bg3 Rh7** White offered a draw. Everybody looking at this game thought Black should keep playing! White was down to a few minutes while Black had almost an hour, and the "trend" was in his favor. But the honorable action is to accept -- and getting a half point was achievement enough! Well-played by Ilia (until the unfortunate ending)! **1/2-1/2**

(4) Sztaray,Judit (807) - Thibault,William (983) [B51]

MI Sep-Oct TNM Extra Games San Francisco (2.36), 14.09.2012

Judit has been on a roll lately. This game was bound to be a good battle. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+** A good way to avoid the myriad variations of the Open Sicilian. You have to be Mike Walder to play those well. **3...Nc6 4.0-0 Bd7 5.Qe2 e5** I like this move by Black which firmly stakes out the center and prepares to develop the dark-squared bishop. The d5 square is slightly weak, but there are now no worries about White pushing the e-pawn to cause trouble. **6.c3 a6 7.Bxc6!** Playing for development as Morphy would do. White could also retreat the bishop and play a kind of Ruy Lopez position. **7...Bxc6 8.d4**

8...d5? breaking too early with White developed. [8...cxd4! would force White to play a gambit with 9.Rd1 since *(9.cxd4? Bb5* skeweres the queen and rook*)*] **9.exd5 Bxd5 10.Qxe5+** Netting a clear pawn at least. **10...Ne7 11.Bg5?!** [11.dxc5 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Qd5 13.Qe4 is clearly better for White] **11...Bxf3**

[11...f6! 12.Qg3 fxg5 13.Re1 leaves White some compensation for a piece but not enough.] **12.Bxe7!** not giving Black any second chances for a fork with f7-f6 **12...Qxe7 13.Qxe7+ Bxe7 14.gxf3 cxd4 15.cxd4** White is a pawn up but Black can win it back since d4 is weak. **15...Rd8** [15...0-0-0!] **16.Rd1 Bf6 17.Nc3 Rxd4?** Capturing with the wrong piece - 17...Bxd4 was equal. It looks like it doesn't matter, but Judit finds a neat tactical trick. **18.Rxd4 Bxd4**

19.Re1+! This intermediate check before attacking the black bishop swings the game to a big white advantage. The black king must hide on f8 since going to the d-file lets white pin and win the bishop. **19...Kf8 20.Rd1 Bf6** [20...Bxc3? 21.Rd8+ Ke7 22.Rxh8] **21.Rd7** The invasion on the seventh rank wins a pawn. Meanwhile it takes some time for the Black rook to get out. **21...h5 22.Rxb7 Rh6 23.Nd5 g5?**

23...Bd8 was needed. Black stops checkmate with the last move, yet now White wins with the right idea. **24.Rb6! Kg7** forced [24...Bg7 25.Rb8#] **25.Nxf6! Rxf6 26.Rxf6 Kxf6 27.Kf1** Well evaluated. White has doubled pawns on the kingside but it doesn't matter. The thing that counts is that White has an extra pawn on the queenside in the king ending. **27...Kf5 28.Ke2 Kf4 29.b4 Ke5 30.Ke3 f5 31.a4 Kd5 32.Kd3 g4 33.f4 h4**

34.b5! a5 [34...axb5 35.axb5 Kc5 36.b6 Kxb6 37.Kd4 Kc6 38.Ke5 is an easy win as the white king mops up the black pawns] **35.b6 Kc6 36.b7 Kxb7 37.Kd4 Kc6 38.Ke5 Kc5 39.Kxf5 Kb4 40.Kxg4 Kxa4 41.f5** White queens **41...Kb3 42.f6 a4 43.f7 a3 44.f8Q** Black resigns. **1-0**

(5) Fairchild,JP. (1177) - Hack,Richard (1543) [A87]

MI Sep-Oct TNM u1800 San Francisco (2.17), 14.09.2012

1.d4 f5 Richard has developed a liking for the imbalanced Dutch Defense. **2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3** Classical play by both sides in this Leningrad Variation. (Note - the name of the variation has survived even though the city is back to its rightful name of St. Petersburg.) **7...Qe8 8.d5 a5 9.Nb5** looks aggressive but **9...Na6** Black defends c7 with this fine developing move. The black knight probably wanted to go to a6 even if it didn't have to defend c7. **10.Ng5**

The white knights are hopping around! **10...c6?!** It was probably better to kick the other knight first with 10...h6. Now both white knights can focus on the soft e6 square. **11.Nd4?!** [11.dxc6! bxc6 12.Nd4 Bd7 13.Nde6! is a clear advantage for White] **11...cxd5! 12.Nde6?!**

12...Bxe6?! [12...h6! wins a pawn since White must play 13.Nxg7 *(13.Nxf8? hxg5* leaves the white knight trapped on f8*)* 13...Kxg7 14.Nf3] **13.Nxe6 Rf7 14.Bxd5** [14.cxd5!] **14...Nxd5 15.Qxd5 Qc8?** [15...Qc6! keeps material even] **16.Ng5! e6** The best defense. Better to give up a pawn than the exchange. **17.Nxe6?**

Natural, but wrong. 17. Qxd6 is clearly better for White. **17...Nc7?!** [17...Nb4! 18.Qxd6 Ra6 19.Qd8+ Qxd8 20.Nxd8 Rd7 21.Bg5 h6! 22.Bh4 g5 would win a piece for a couple pawns] **18.Nxc7 Qxc7 19.Be3** [The slow developing 19.Rb1 would keep the extra pawn for White.] **19...Bxb2 20.Rab1 Ba3 21.Rxb7?** After having played a fine game Fairchild miscounts. The black rook is pinned on f7 but it won't be after **21...Qxb7 22.Qxd6?** compounding the mistake, though it doesn't matter much [22.Qxb7 Rxb7 (no more pin from the white queen) is an easily winning rook up ending.] **22...Bxd6** An interesting game ended by an unfortunate tactical mistake. **0-1**

Watch the broadcast by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DYzFI9H1hY (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DYzFI9H1hY)

Here are the current standings headed into round 3 next week:

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	Prize
1	1-2	**FM Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101)**	2314	W20	W10						2.0	
2		**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	2001	W13	W14						2.0	
3	3-8	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	2269	W12	D8						1.5	
4		**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	2049	W16	D7						1.5	
5		**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	1938	H---	W15						1.5	
6		**Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)**	1805	H---	X17						1.5	
7		**Sean Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962568)**	1786	W9	D4						1.5	
8		**Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)**	1752	W18	D3						1.5	
9	9-15	**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	1996	L7	W20						1.0	
10		**Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)**	1992	W21	L1		H---				1.0	
11		**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	1900	L15	W21						1.0	
12		**Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)**	1818	L3	W18		H---				1.0	
13		**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	1793	L2	W19						1.0	
14		**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	1665	W19	L2						1.0	
15		**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	1622	W11	L5						1.0	
16	16-17	**Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)**	1795	L4	H---						0.5	
17		**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	1766	H---	F6						0.5	
18	18-21	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	1994	L8	L12					H---	0.0	

19		**Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)**	1936	L14	L13						0.0	
20		**Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)**	1830	L1	L9						0.0	
21		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1676	L10	L11				H---		0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under 1800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	Prize
1	1-9	**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	B---	W16						2.0	
2		**Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)**	1581	W36	W17						2.0	
3		**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	1544	W22	W18						2.0	
4		**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	1543	W23	W20						2.0	
5		**Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)**	1538	W43	W25						2.0	
6		**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	1520	W24	W27						2.0	
7		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	1451	W26	W32						2.0	
8		**Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)**	1440	W44	W31						2.0	
9		**Christopher Dessert (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15048166)**	1418	W37	W14						2.0	
10	10-13	**Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)**	1702	H---	W21						1.5	
11		**John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	1500	H---	W38						1.5	
12		**Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	1462	H---	W33						1.5	
13		**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815)**	unr.	H---	X34						1.5	
14	14-32	**Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	1749	W42	L9						1.0	
15		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1500	L25	X35						1.0	
16		**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	1400	W45	L1						1.0	
17		**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	1389	W29	L2						1.0	
18		**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	1318	W30	L3						1.0	
19		**Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)**	1306	L31	W44			H---			1.0	
20		**Jp Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)**	1177	W46	L4						1.0	

21		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1173	W39	L10						1.0	
22		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	983	L3	X45						1.0	
23		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	768	L4	W46						1.0	
24		**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)**	unr.	L6	X40						1.0	
25		**Deandr Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)**	unr.	W15	L5						1.0	
26		**Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)**	unr.	L7	W41						1.0	
27		**Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)**	unr.	W40	L6						1.0	
28		**James Dorsch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30249167)**	unr.	H---	H---						1.0	
29		**Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)**	unr.	L17	W42						1.0	
30		**Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818)**	unr.	L18	W43						1.0	
31		**Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)**	unr.	W19	L8						1.0	
32		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	unr.	W41	L7						1.0	
33	33-39	**Nick Casares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	H---	L12						0.5	
34		**Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)**	1583	H---	F13						0.5	
35		**Damien Seperi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757144)**	1083	H---	F15						0.5	
36		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	1029	L2	H---						0.5	
37		**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	unr.	L9	H---					H---	0.5	
38		**Adam Laskowitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30258766)**	unr.	H---	L11						0.5	
39		**Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966)**	unr.	L21	H---					H---	0.5	
40	40-46	**Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)**	1418	L27	F24						0.0	
41		**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	1210	L32	L26						0.0	
42		**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)**	1139	L14	L29						0.0	
43		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	546	L5	L30						0.0	
44		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	unr.	L8	L19						0.0	
45		**Ryan Gill (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	unr.	L16	F22						0.0	

		30240310)										
46		Harry Elworthy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30256579)	unr.	L20	L23						0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Game

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total	Prize
1	1-7	Brendyn Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)	2052	U---	W13	1.0	
2		Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	1893	U---	W10	1.0	
3		Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)	1720	W11	U---	1.0	
4		ROMEO BE BARREYRO (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)	1702	W12	U---	1.0	
5		JERRY MORGAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)	1462	W14	U---	1.0	
6		Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)	807	U---	W15	1.0	
7		Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)	unr.	U---	W11	1.0	
8	8-9	Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815)	unr.	U---	D9	0.5	
9		Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)	unr.	U---	D8	0.5	
10	10-15	Alex Silvestre (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446526)	2131	U---	L2	0.0	
11		TONY A LAMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)	1805	L3	L7	0.0	
12		NICK CASARES JR (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	1600	L4	U---	0.0	
13		Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	1500	U---	L1	0.0	
14		JOHN CHAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	1500	L5	U---	0.0	
15		William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	983	U---	L6	0.0	

Thursday Night Marathon Report

by Abel Talamantez

The final two rounds of the Thursday Night Marathon online finished with the defending champion coming out on top once again. GM Gadir Guseinov won both games, defeating a game FM Ezra Chambers in round 5 and winning round 6 against Sheel Dandekar to take 1st place with 5.5/6. Guseinov was playing with fire a bit in the final round, as he allowed Dandekar to achieve an even position in the endgame. But Dandekar, rated 2034, had only seconds on his clock, and got mated in the time scramble.

The game of the tournament was played by FM Max Gedajlovic, who defeated IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla in round 5 to help him take clear 2nd with 5/6. The game is annoated below by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) FM Max Gedajlovic (MMSANCHEZ) (2290) - IM Bala Chandra Dhulipalla (Swarnapuri) (2436) [D31]

Live Chess Chess.com, 17.09.2021

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 a6 A trendy move now. **4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4** Transposing into a version of the Exchange Variation makes sense for White with the pawn on a6. **5...Nf6 6.e3 c5** Black seeks active play in the style of a Tarrasch. Reasonable, yet White gets a target on d5. **7.Nf3 c4 8.Ne5 b5 9.a3 Bb7**

10.g4! Black has expanded on the queenside so White charges up on the kingside. The g-pawn can kick the knight on f6 at some opportune moment. **10...Nc6 11.Bg2 Na5?!+/-** [11...Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Ne4 would be just a slight edge for White] **12.g5! Ne4 13.Nxe4** [13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.Qh5 g6 15.Qg4 is also good] **13...dxe4+/- 14.Qc2** [14.Qh5 g6 15.Qg4 is again a good plan] **14...Nb3?!+/-** The black knight looks good here but doesn't do much. **15.Rd1 Qd5**

16.f3! Suddenly the game is opening up and Black is in trouble on the long diagonal. **16...Qe6** [simply losing is 16...exf3? 17.Bxf3] **17.fxe4 f6 18.d5! Qb6 19.Ng4?!** giving Black a chance [19.gxf6 gxf6 20.Nc6! is simply winning with the power of the two white bishops along with the great control of the central squares] **19...fxg5 20.Bxg5 Qg6!** Black is still in big trouble but this makes a fight of it. White has to worry about the pieces on the g-file. **21.h4 Bd6** [21...h6 22.Ne5! Qd6 23.Bf4 is easy] **22.0-0!** The key move to mobilize the white pieces and get the king to (relative) saftey. **22...Nc5**

[Probably Black should have tried 22...h6 though 23.Bf4! saves the piece and consolidates with the extra center pawns] **23.Nf6+!** A hard shot! Black has no way to recover here. **23...Kd8** [23...gxf6 24.Rxf6 Qg7 25.Rxd6 is materially and positionally winning for White] **24.Qc3! h6 25.e5** The action is happening as both sides take pieces. The big difference is the fully develped white pieces and central control. **25...hxg5 26.exd6 gxf6 27.Rxf6 Qg7 28.Rdf1!**

28...Kc8 [no better is 28...gxh4 29.Rf8+! Qxf8 30.Rxf8+ Rxf8 31.Qg7 Nd7 32.Bh3 with mate in a few moves] **29.Qa5** striking from the other side of the board too **29...Kb8 30.Rf7 Qxf7** Black resigned **1-0**

Special shououts go to Bryan Hood and Casimir Dudek, who both had strong tournaments, and to Katherine Sunny Lu, who is a rising player whom we will be looking forward to following her progress.

Here are the tentative final standings, pending cpmpletion of the fair play review. Watch the live broadcast of the round here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvXHxNbsipw (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvXHxNbsipw)

SwissSys Standings. September 2021 Thursday Night Marathon Online: Open

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	P
1	**Gadir Guseinov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17343590)**	17343590	2563	W11	W18	W2	D3	W4	W6	5.5	
2	**Max Gedajlovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14947382)**	14947382	2264	X13	W5	L1	W6	W3	W8	5.0	
3	**Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30100858)**	30100858	2475	W12	W7	W4	D1	L2	W11	4.5	
4	**Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101)**	15191101	2314	W19	W8	L3	W11	L1	W13	4.0	
5	**Bryan Hood (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12839763)**	12839763	1574	W22	L2	W20	W16	D8	H---	4.0	
6	**Sheel Dandekar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12604772)**	12604772	2034	W9	W23	D14	L2	W7	L1	3.5	
7	**Matthew Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12541333)**	12541333	1658	W24	L3	D9	W22	L6	W17	3.5	
8	**Casimir Dudek (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101045)**	30101045	1649	W21	L4	W12	W14	D5	L2	3.5	
9	**Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)**	16425316	1390	L6	W26	D7	D12	D10	W16	3.5	
10	**Robert Smith (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12463327)**	12463327	1853	L14	W15	H---	H---	D9	D12	3.0	
11	**Joseph Flowers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12691490)**	12691490	1494	L1	W17	W25	L4	W14	L3	3.0	
12	**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	12872385	1451	L3	W24	L8	D9	W15	D10	3.0	
13	**Charles James (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12448028)**	12448028	1426	F2	H---	D15	W24	X18	L4	3.0	
14	**Austin Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144712)**	17144712	1318	W10	D16	D6	L8	L11	W19	3.0	
15	**Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)**	16738735	1161	D16	L10	D13	W19	L12	W21	3.0	
16	**Kevin M Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17254586)**	17254586	1750	D15	D14	W19	L5	D17	L9	2.5	
17	**Stephen Sikes (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13058987)**	13058987	1339	L18	L11	W21	W20	D16	L7	2.5	
18	**Stewart Katz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12458563)**	12458563	1856	W17	L1	H---	H---	F13	U---	2.0	
19	**Jimolee Gray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30172836)**	30172836	1442	L4	W21	L16	L15	W24	L14	2.0	
20	**Alex C Durig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12729479)**	12729479	1290	H---	H---	L5	L17	L21	W24	2.0	
21	**Rehaan Malhotra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30118209)**	30118209	1055	L8	L19	L17	W25	W20	L15	2.0	
22	**Victor Beauchamp (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30154650)**	30154650	889	L5	B---	X23	L7	U---	U---	2.0	
23	**James Hamlett (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	12374510	1561	W26	L6	F22	U---	U---	U---	1.0	

	12374510)									
24	**Bruce Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)**	17344551	1087	L7	L12	X26	L13	L19	L20	1.0
25	**Cleveland W Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12814843)**	12814843	524	H---	H---	L11	L21	U---	U---	1.0
26	**Francisco Ostolaza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30266747)**	30266747	unr.	L23	L9	F24	U---	U---	U---	0.0

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this problem, white to move and mate in 4.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute September/October TNM: FIDE Rated. September 7-October 19, 6:30PM PT. Games G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person)

20th JJ Dolan Memorial Championship: USCF Rated. October 2, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-jj-dolan-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-jj-dolan-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute October Quads: October 9, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Scholastic Bulletin #4 is out!

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160552/https://conta.cc/3gLHRV2) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Refresh Your Chess

For those starting out, and for those who think they know everything.

In the following diagrams you will be given two tasks.

First you need to define the issue(s) and figure out what is required in the position: it might be how to force the win of material, queen a pawn, or even to deliver checkmate. It may simply be a continuation that maintains the equilibrium or forces a draw. There may be more than one road to follow – chess is a complicated game!

Secondly, you are given three or four choices – call them “candidate moves” or possibilities - on a sliding scale of excellent to disastrous. You may even come up with a perfectly fine - or horrible – move of your own! Chess gives us a dizzying array of choices, and separating the wheat from the chaff is our responsibility.

Were you able to fulfill the requirements of the position?

The answers are given below.

Choose wisely!

---

1. It is good practice to keep drilling these positions into your head, no matter how easy they seem.

White moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 1.e6

B) 1.Ke6

C) 1.Kc7

---

2. This position arises from the Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation after 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.Nxe5.

Black moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 5…Bd6

B) 5…Nf6

C) 5…Qd4

---

3. King and pawn endings are tricky, but knowing these basic positions can bring home the bacon – or save your hide.

White moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 1.Ke2

B) 1.Kf3

C) 1.Kf2

---

4. After 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Ne7, this position was reached from the Ruy Lopez, Berlin Variation in the game Carlsen vs. Rapport, Norway 2021.

White moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 5.Nxe5

B) 5.h3

C) 5.0-0

---

5. Another king and pawn ending, and another idea well worth knowing.

White moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 1.a4

B) 1.Kf5

C) 1.Kf6

---

6. The Ruy Lopez again, and this position might occur after 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.dxe5 Nxe4.

White moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 8.Bxf7+

B) 8.0-0

C) 8.Qd5

---

7. Another important concept in king and pawn endings is illustrated here, in Carlsen – Naiditsch, Russia 2007.

White moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 1.g6

B) 1.f6

C) 1.Kd3

---

8. This position might arise out of the Open Variation of the Ruy Lopez after 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.Nd4 Qd7.

White moves. What is your task? What is your move?

A) 12.Nxc6

B) 12.Kh1

C) 12.Nxe6

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Nick's column will return next week.

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. Rb6!! Ka7 2. Rb5 Ka6 3. Rb4 e5 4. Kb3#

Solutions to FM Paul Whitehead's Column

Solutions

1.

Your task is to usher in the pawn to queen, and **A) 1.e6?** jumps the gun. After 1…Kd8! Black has the opposition and draws after 2.e7+ Ke8 3.Ke6 stalemate. **B) 1.Ke6!** is counter-intuitive (the king steps in front of his own pawn) but white seizes the opposition after 1…Kd8 (or 1…Kf8 2.Kf6) 2.Kd6 and it's all over after 2…Ke8 3.e7 Kf7 4.Kd7 followed by 5.e8=Q etc. **C) 1.Kc7?** is wrong-headed: black captures the pawn with 1…Ke7.

2.

Your task is to regain your pawn, and **A) 5…Bd6?** While developing a piece, falls short. White simply replies 6.Nf3 or 6.Nc4 and is a healthy pawn ahead. Likewise, after **B) 5…Nf6?** 6.d3. **C) 5…Qd4**! Is excellent (and full credit for 5…Qg5! Hitting the knight at e5 and the pawn at g2). Although it violates the "rule" against bringing one's queen out too early, here it is perfectly justified. After 5.Nf3 Qxe4+ 6.Qe2 Qxe2+ 7.Kxe2 the position is equal.

3.

Your task is to stop black from queening, and both **A) 1.Ke2?** and **B) 1.Kf3**? fail miserably after the simple 1…Kg2 followed by 2…h2 and 3…h1=Q. The clever **C) 1.Kf2!** either leads to stalemate for black after 1…h2 2.Kf1, or stalemate for white after 1…Kh2 2.Kf1 Kg3 3.Kg1 h2+ 4.Kh1! Kh3. Draw!

4.

Your task is to continue your development as Carlsen did with **C) 5.0-0**. The game continued calmly, both players developing in typical fashion with 5…c6 6.Ba4 Ng6 7.Re1 Be7 8.d4 d6 9.c3 0 0 10.Nbd2 etc. **B) 5.h3**, while not strictly a mistake, is unnecessary prophylaxis at this point. 4…Ne7 is the Mortimer Defense and also an opening trap: **C) 5.Nxe5?** is a mistake that costs a piece after 5…c6! 6.Nc4 (if 6.Ba4 then 6…Qa5+! picks off the knight at e5) 6…d6! (but not the greedy 6…cxb5?? 7.Nd6 mate!) 6…b5 and black should win.

5.

Your task is to make sure the black king cannot stop your pawn, and **B) 1.Kf5!** "shoulders" the black king away. After 1…Ke3 2.Ke5! Kd3 3.Kd5 Kc3 4.Kc5 followed by 5.a4 and the pawn will go in to queen. **A) 1.a4?** is a mistake, allowing black's king to move inside the "square" of the white pawn, and after 1…Ke4 the pawn is caught: 2.a5 Kd5 3.a6 Kc6 4.a7 Kb7**. C) 1.Kf6?** does absolutely nothing: 1…Ke4 as in the last variation, and draws.

6.

Your task is to take advantage of the loose knight at e4 and black's uncastled king to win material, and **A) 8.Bxf7+** is a good move that does both. After 1…Kxf7 2.Qd5+ Ke8 3.Qxe4 white has won a pawn and black can't castle. This is excellent, but as the saying goes: "If you see a good move, look again. There may be a better one", and that's the case here. After **C) 8.Qd5!** black will lose an entire piece. Mate at f7 is threatened, and the knight at e4 is hanging. Black is dead lost**. B) 8.0-0?** Is just too lukewarm. Black also castles, and the moment has been lost.

7.

Your task is to queen a pawn! In fact, Naiditsch had resigned a couple of moves earlier. Both **A) 1.g6!** and **B) 1.f6!** force a queen using a classic breakthrough sacrifice: after 1.g6 Kd6 2.f6! gxf6 3.g7, etc. Or 1.f6! gxf6 2.g7. **C) 1.Kd3?** misses the point and the game is a draw after 1…Kd5 2.f6 (too late!) 2…gxf6 3.gxf6 (3.g6 Ke6 4.g7 Kf7 and the pawn is caught.) 3…Ke6 4.Kc4 Kxf6 5.Kxc5.

8.

Your task is to win a piece! This is the famous Tarrasch Trap, where 11…Qd7?? was a bad mistake. **A) 12.Nxc6?!** However, does little except trade knights. Black is fine after 12…Qxc6 – white has no follow-up. **B) 12.Kh1??** means that white has fallen asleep, but 12…Nxf2+! should wake him up. White loses his queen after his senseless move. Surprisingly **C) 12.Nxe6!** wins a piece as black is caught in two deadly pins. The first is revealed after 12…Qxe6 13.Rxe4! dxe4 14.Bxe6 winning, and the second after 12…fxe6 and again 13.Rxe4! and if 13…fxe4 14.Qxd7.

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 3 Report

by Abel Talamantez

FM Ezra Chambers won the battle of unbeatens in the top section of the TNM, taking advantage of a blunder by Nicholas Weng under time pressure and thus saving a losing position to take the point. It was an exciting positional game that had swings back and forth. Chambers' experience prevailed though, giving him the clear lead in the tournament with 3/3. Sean Kelly continues his very strong run with a win over Guy Argo. IM Elliott Winslow scored a victory over our favorite mate in 3 problemist Tony Lama. Both Kelly and Winslow are a half point behind Chambers at 2.5/3.

Spectators gather around board 1 for the conclusion of the battle between Nicholas Weng and FM Ezra Chambers. IM Elliott Winslow and Tony Lama face off on board 11

In the u/1800 section, the 47-player section is left with five undefeated players after three rounds, including Marty Cortinas, who scored an impressive win against Sebby Suarez, Daniel Wang, Stephen Parsons, Richard Hack, and Christopher Dessert. Next week should see some tough games at the top, with the section standouts facing each other.

Alex Chin waits as Adam Mercado ponders his next move. GM Nick de Firmian and FM Paul Whitehead provided live commentary on our Twitch channel https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/https://www.twitch.tv/mechanicschess)

It was a calm night inside the chess room, and it is starting to fill up again as more and more players are feeling comfortable coming back for live chess. We have been able to hold all games inside the main room, and it has been progressively filling up. I'm excited to see many of our players back in action, as well as welcoming many new faces to the Institute. It was nice to have the windows open, the sounds of the quiet battles over the board with the white noise of the city outside; the street cars, the pigeons, and the sounds of chess clocks being pressed. It is comforting to see and hear our vibrant chess community back again.

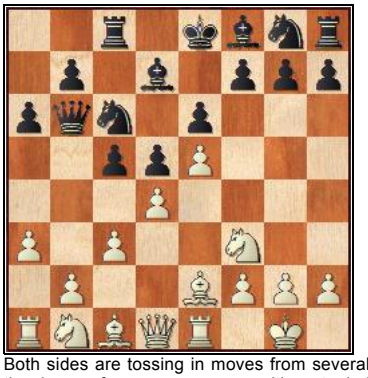
Watch the broadcast by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5o6DcgxbUIs (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5o6DcgxbUIs)

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

(4) Weng,Nicholas (2001) - Chambers,Ezra (2314) [C02]

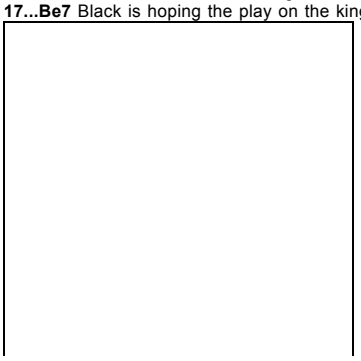
MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (3.1), 22.09.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 The French Defence can lead to quiet, positional struggles.. . **3.e5** Or full-scale hard-core battles. And the Advance Variation tends towards those. **3...c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 Rc8 7.0-0 a6 8.Re1 Qb6 9.a3**



Both sides are tossing in moves from several plans, thus leading to a fairly rare position. **9...c4?!N** And with this commital move they reach one that is unique. [Previously Black played to fix the d-pawn for some pressure, with mutual chances: 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Nge7 11.Nc3 Nf5 12.Na4 Qa7 13.Be3 b5 14.Nc3 Be7 15.Kh1 but here Black acquiesced to the exchange on e3, 15...Nxe3 16.fxe3 strengthening White's pawns but securing the Two Bishops. It was ½-½ (120)(!), Lyell,M (2274)-Farkas,T (2237) Kecskemet 2013] **10.Nbd2+/- Na5** Other than the rook on c8 this is one of the oldest plans for Black, but it's never been terribly convincing. **11.Bf1** [How about some full-court prophylaxis with 11.h4 h6 12.Rb1] **11...Ne7 12.h4 Nec6** [12...h6+/=] **13.Nh2**

[13.h5+/-] **13...Kd8!?+/=** Interestingly Stockfish 14's top move by no small amount, suggesting that Ezra learned something in St. Louis! The king spends the time to get to the safest neighborhood, not worrying about time as nothing much is happening. **14.h5 h6** To avoid any holes on the kingside. [He could keep walking: 14...Kc7+/= 15.h6 Kb8] **15.Ng4** [15.b4!? cxb3 16.Rb1 is the time-worn maneuver.] **15...Kc7 16.Ne3** [16.Rb1+/-] **16...Kb8! 17.f4?!** The computer is adamant: this is not where White should be advancing just now. [Broken record: 17.Rb1+/=] **17...Be7** Black is hoping the play on the kingside will just be in his own interest. **18.Qg4** [18.Rb1=] **18...Qc7!-/+**

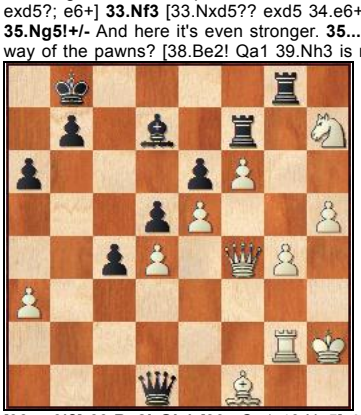


19.Qxg7?! Objectively a disastrous pawn grab! But it does lead to dangerous passed pawns -- at a price though! The queen is in trouble... [Better to step aside for the pawns to lead any advance: 19.Qh3-/+] **19...Rcg8-+ 20.Qxf7 Bh4!** (So that ...Nd8 doesn't hang the bishop) **21.Nf3**

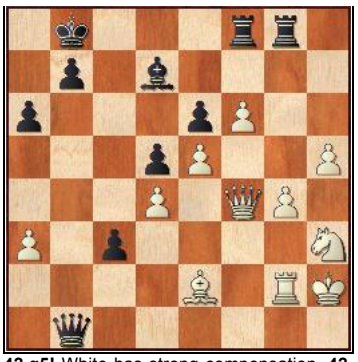
White looks for a lot of material in compensation. **21...Bxe1?!** [Here Chambers should just take out the queen: 21...Nd8 22.Qxg8 Rxg8 23.Nxh4 Nb3 24.Rb1 Be8 25.Be2 Qe7!-+ and White comes further undone across the whole board.] **22.Nxe1 Nb3 23.Rb1 Rf8** [23...Qd8!?] **24.Qg7 Rhg8 25.Qxh6 Qb6!** The knight sacs on d4 are good. Preparing is even better. **26.f5**

The big question is: will White's pawns overwhelm Black? [26.Qh7 Be8-/+] **26...Nxc1?** A mirror of the exchange on e1, this lets a big chunk of advantage slip away. [26...Ncxd4!-+ 27.cxd4 Qxd4 28.f6 Be8 is complicated, but still offers good chances to come out on top. So often center pawns on the march are the best.] **27.Rxc1=/+ Qxb2 28.Rc2 Qb1** [28...Qxa3=/+ is the greedy computer's move; still, it will be a while before the passed queenside pawns matter. 29.Nf3!? *(29.fxe6 Rh8-/+; 29.g4 exf5-/+; 29.f6!?)*] **29.Re2** [29.Nf3=/+ Ne7; 29.Kf2!?=] **29...Nd8** [29...Rh8-/+ 30.Qf4 Rxh5] **30.f6 Nf7 31.Qf4 Ng5 32.g4**

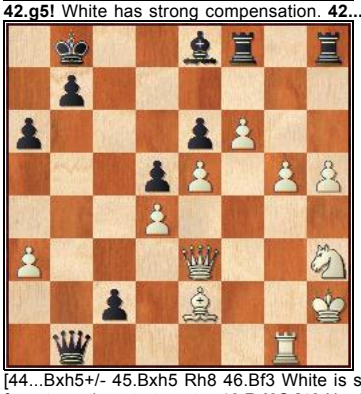
White again saves his queen from a threat and has one of his own finally. **32...Ne4?!<=>** Black is not holding back, but White gets some momentum now. [32...Be8 is a deft avoidance of Nxd5 exd5?; e6+] **33.Nf3** [33.Nxd5?? exd5 34.e6+ Ka7 35.exd7 Rxf6 leaves White in ruins.] **33...Nxc3** [33...Be8= is still after all important.] **34.Rg2 Be8** [34...Ka7 has its problems, i.e. 35.Ng5+/=] **35.Ng5!+/-** And here it's even stronger. **35...Bd7** [>=35...Qb6] **36.Kh2! Nd1?** [36...Ka7+/-] **37.Nxd1+-** The game has completely turned around now. White is winning. **37...Qxd1 38.Nh7** In the way of the pawns? [38.Be2! Qa1 39.Nh3 is ready to march!] **38...Rf7**



[38...c3!?] **39.Be2! Qb1** [39...Qe1 40.Ng5] **40.Ng5 Rff8 41.Nh3** [41.f7 Rh8 42.Qe3 thinks about both attack and defence] **41...c3!?**



42.g5! White has strong compensation. **42...Be8 43.Qe3 c2 44.Rg1+/-** The only move, but it holds the line at c1. **44...Rh8?**



[44...Bxh5+/- 45.Bxh5 Rh8 46.Bf3 White is still looking good.] **45.Nf4??** [45.g6+- is totally winning.] **45...Rfg8!-/+** And the game turns completely around once more! The pawns go once again from torpedoes to targets. **46.Bd3?** [46.Nxe6?? Bxh5-+; 46.Qc1-/+ is the best try, although 46...Qb6 holds onto an advantage.] **46...Qb2-+ 47.Bxc2** and if Rg2 works, White does fine. **47...Bxh5** [47...Qxc2+ 48.Rg2 Qf5] **48.Nxh5 Rxh5+ 49.Kg2 Rhxg5+** A thoroughly uncompromising and wild game! Eventually it was the cooler and more experienced head that prevailed, but with time Weng will grow more and more dangerous. **0-1**

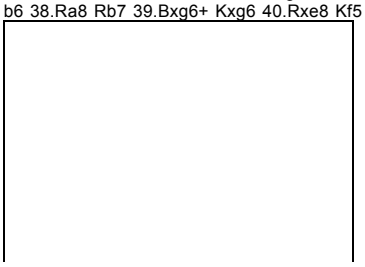
(5) Winslow,Elliott (2269) - Lama,Tony (1805) [C06]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (3.11), 22.09.2021

Tony has recently come back to tournament chess. Here he get's a good workout against one of the tournament favorites. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 Qb6** [8...f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 *(9...Qxf6 10.Nf3 h6 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Be3 0-0 13.Rc1)*] **9.Nf3 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Bxd2+?!** Tony makes it too easy for Elliott to get control of the dark squares. 10...f6 is more of a fighting move. **11.Qxd2 Qb4 12.Rc1 Qxd2+** [12...f6!?] **13.Kxd2**

This is simply a nice endgame for White. **13...0-0** [Previously seen was 13...Nb6 14.b3 Bd7 15.Nf4 0-0 16.h4 f6 17.g3+- SF14 (+/= Shaw 2018) 17...a6 18.h5 Rae8 19.Ke3 Re7 20.h6! g6 21.exf6 Rxf6 22.Ne5!

22...Rf8 23.Ne2 Nc8 24.f4 Nd6 25.g4 Nf7 26.g5 Nfxe5 27.dxe5 Ref7 28.Rh4 Rd8 29.Nd4 Nxd4 30.Kxd4 Bc6 31.a4 Rc8 32.b4 Rfc7 33.b5 axb5 34.axb5 Be8 35.Rxc7 Rxc7 36.Rh1 Kf7 37.Ra1 b6 38.Ra8 Rb7 39.Bxg6+ Kxg6 40.Rxe8 Kf5 41.Rf8+ Kg4 42.Rf6 Re7 43.f5 exf5 44.g6 hxg6 45.Rxg6+ 1-0 (45) Korneev,O (2615)-Moskalenko,V (2470) Barcelona 1999] **14.Bb5 Ne7?**

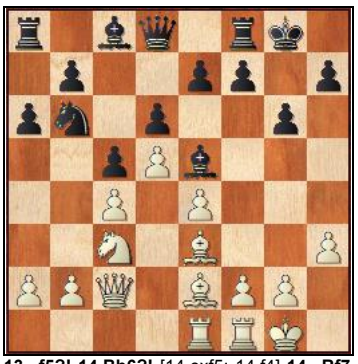


[14...Na5; 14...Ndb8] **15.Rxc8! Raxc8 16.Bxd7** With two pieces for a rook IM Winslow has no problem converting the advantage. **16...Rc7** [16...Rc4 17.Nc3 *(17.b3 Rb4 18.Rc1)*] **17.Bb5 Rfc8 18.Bd3 Ng6 19.h4 Nf8 20.h5 h6 21.g4 Nh7 22.Nh4 Ng5 23.Ng3!** Stopping any ideas of tricks based on ...Ne4+. **23...f5?!** A desparate try before being pushed back by 24. f4 **24.gxf5 exf5 25.Bxf5 Rf8 26.f4 Ne4+ 27.Nxe4 dxe4 28.Be6+ Kh7 29.Ng6 Rfc8?! 30.Bxc8** We predict Tony will be much tougher for their next encounter. **1-0**

(6) Clemens,Kristian (1994) - Kaplan,Glenn (1766) [E91]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (3.2), 22.09.2021

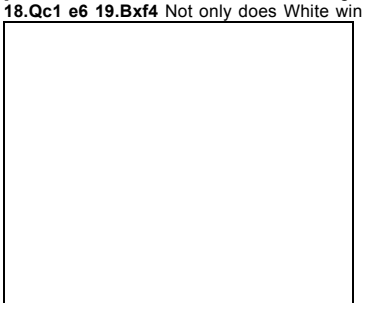
1.Nf3 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.e4 0-0 6.Be2 The Classical King's Indian. **6...Nbd7** [The overwhelmingly most common move is 6...e5 , tactically justified.; 6...Bg4 is a favorite of Gadi Guseinov, where it has appeared in his games from the Thursday Night Marathon.] **7.0-0 c5?!** This is played too often -- it's just too clumsy. **8.d5 a6 9.Qc2** [9.a4 is the auto-response to ...a6, and indeed the most frequent here.] **9...Nb6 10.h3 Nfd7 11.Be3 Ne5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Rae1**



13...f5?! 14.Bh6?! [14.exf5; 14.f4] **14...Rf7**

[14...f4! is probably worth it!] **15.Bd3?** [15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Qd2+- Black has permanent problems.] **15...f4!-/+ 16.f3** The critical moment of the game. **16...Nd7?**

[16...e6 17.Ne2 exd5 18.exd5 Qh4! 19.Bxg6 Qxh6 20.Bxf7+ Kxf7 is a huge advantage for Black as the white rooks are not effective.] **17.Ne2!+/-** Now that advanced pawn is in trouble. **17...Nb6 18.Qc1 e6 19.Bxf4** Not only does White win the pawn, the bishop gets back in the game and White begins to take over the kingside. **19...Bg7 20.Bd2 exd5 21.exd5+-**



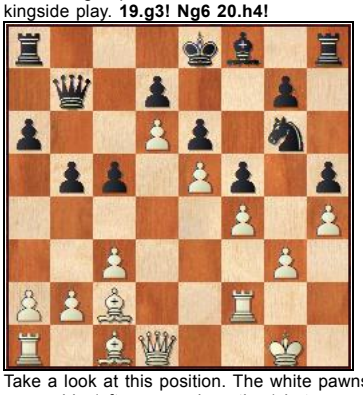
21...Qh4? 22.Bg5 Qh5 23.Ng3 That's it. The black queen is trapped **23...Bxb2 24.Re8+ Rf8 25.Rxf8+ Kxf8 26.Qf4+ Bf5 27.Nxh5 Be5 28.Bh6+ Kf7 29.Qd2 Bxh3 30.gxh3 gxh5 31.Bf4 Rg8+ 32.Kh2 Bd4 33.Bxd6 Nd7 34.Qf4+ Ke8 35.Qe4+ Kd8 36.Qe7+ Kc8 37.Bf5 Rd8 38.Bxd7+ Rxd7 39.Qe8+ Rd8 40.Qe6+ Rd7 41.Rb1 Kd8 42.Qg8#** Black had his chance, but needed to grab the moment. Other than that, nice play by Kristian! **1-0**

(1) Chin,Alex (1992) - Mercado,Adam (1793) [B30]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (3.5), 22.09.2021

This is a game with some mistakes, but it is an absolutely fascinating battle. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5** We are seeing a lot of the Rossolimo Variation these days. **3...e6 4.0-0 Nge7 5.c3 a6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bc2 Bb7 8.d4 Ng6 9.d5** Aggressively grabbing space. It's also probably the best move. **9...Nce5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.f4 Ng6** [11...Nc4 would be better place to stop White's pawn advances] **12.d6!?** [12.f5 exf5 13.exf5 Ne5 14.Nd2 would be a nice edge for White] **12...Qb6 13.e5 Nh4**

Black has played a positionally risky line but one that gives him counterplay. The white pawn chain d6, e5, f4 is seriously cramping. Meanwhile Black has play on the long white diagonal. If White can shut that down it would be positionally winning. **14.Rf2 h5 15.Nd2 f5 16.Nb3 Qc6?** A serious error. Did Adam just miss White's next move? Black would have been a little worse in a double-edged position after 16...Rc8 or 16...Kf7. **17.Na5 Qb6 18.Nxb7 Qxb7** Suddenly Black has lost all counterplay on the long light-squared diagonal. This allows Alex to shut down the kingside play. **19.g3! Ng6 20.h4!**



Take a look at this position. The white pawns form a wall on the kingside and center that block out the black bishop, rook and knight. Black could eventually get the rook and knight to the queenside (after a very long time) but never the bishop. White needs only the open the queenside and invade there. **20...Rh7 21.Qf3 Qc8 22.Be3 Rb8 23.Rc1** This is a little slow. Just 23. a4 opens lines on the queenside. **23...Nh8!** The best move in this lost position. From this square the knight can find a path to the queenside. **24.b4 c4 25.a4 Nf7 26.Ra1 g6 27.Bd1 Nd8 28.axb5 axb5 29.Qg2 Nc6 30.Bf3 Bh6 31.Rfa2?!** This is still very good for White but it complicates things. 32. Bc5 would leave the black bishop trapped on the queenside. **31...Nxe5!** Adam will have to deal with the White invasion yet he has a pawn and his bishop will now be useful on the long diagonal. **32.Ra8 Kf7 33.Bc5?!** [33.R1a7! would set up tactical problems for Black that couldn't be solved. Alex plays a natural move instead and Black is right back in the game. 33...Rh8 34.Bd5! Re8 35.Bc5 exd5 36.Qxd5+ Kf8 37.Rxb8 Qxb8 38.fxe5 Qc8 39.e6 crashes through] **33...Nxf3+ 34.Qxf3 Rh8 35.R8a7 Rd8?** Aiming to give the black queen for two rooks. Better was 35...Qe8 **36.Rc7 Ra8 37.Rxc8?!** [37.Ba7! wins the queen for less material] **37...Rxa1+ 38.Kf2 Rxc8 39.Qb7 Rca8 40.Qxd7+ Kg8 41.Qxe6+ Kh7**

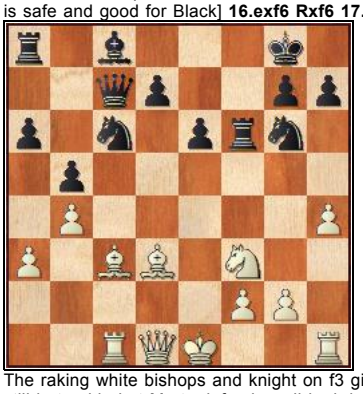
It looks as if Black will be able to make a draw with 42. R8a2+ followed by perpetual check with the rook on the first rank. It looks as if the white king has nowhere to hide. However.... **42.g4!** A great move by Alex. The white king finds the safe g3 square since the bishop guards g1. Now White has time to press home a winning attack. **42...R8a2+** [42...hxg4 43.Qf7+ Bg7 44.Bd4 Rg8 45.h5! is finished] **43.Kg3 Rd1 44.gxf5 Rd3+ 45.Be3 gxf5 46.Qxf5+ Kh8 47.Qe5+ Kh7** [47...Bg7 48.Qxh5+ Kg8 49.Qe8+ Kh7 50.d7] **48.d7! Re2 49.Kf3** The d-pawn wins the game. **49...Rexe3+ 50.Qxe3 Rxd7 51.Qe4+ Kh8** [51...Kg7 52.Qe5+ Kf7 53.Qf5+ Ke7 54.Qh7+ wins the bishop] **52.Qe8+** Black resigns. A terrific battle. **1-0**

(2) Suarez,Sebastian (1520) - Cortinas,Marty (1720) [B21]

MI Sep-Oct TNM u1800 San Francisco (3.9), 22.09.2021

This is a game of youth versus experience. **1.e4 c5 2.d4!** Young players should try these gamit lines. Usually they love to have the attacking side. **2...cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 e6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bf4!?** Rather unusual. The standard 6. Bc4 is probably better. **6...Bb4** [6...d6] **7.Bd2?!** This has an idea to play 8. a3 yet one should not lose time after gambiting a pawn. **7...Nge7** [7...Nf6 8.Bd3 d5!] **8.a3 Ba5 9.b4 Bc7** [9...Bb6! is a better square as 10. Na4 Bc7 is then good] **10.Nb5 a6 11.Nxc7+ Qxc7 12.Rc1 0-0 13.Bd3**

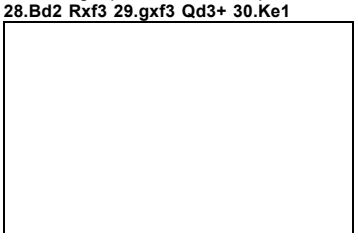
So we arrive at a type of position we might expect from these players. White has the bishop pair and some attacking chances and Black has an extra pawn. Chances are even. **13...b5 14.e5?** With ideas of a possible Bxh7+, but this is too direct. The e5 pawn becomes weak. **14...Ng6 15.h4 f5?** Marty gets nervous and reacts to the attacking move. The cool [15...Bb7 16.h5? Ngxe5 is safe and good for Black] **16.exf6 Rxf6 17.Bc3**

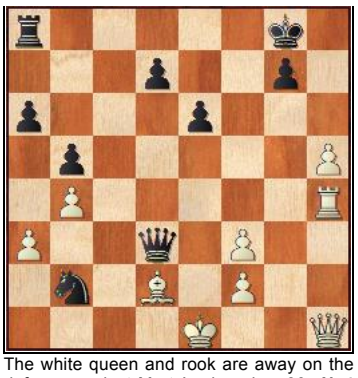


The raking white bishops and knight on f3 give White a powerful attack. **17...Rf7 18.Bxg6?!** [18.Ng5! is a strong attacking move than wins at least the exchange] **18...hxg6 19.h5 Qf4!** Black is still in trouble but Marty defends well by bringing the queen into the thick of the battle. **20.Rh4 Qf5 21.Bd2?** [The bishop is well placed on the long diagonal. White would keep a good edge with 21.h6!] **21...Ne5!**

suddenly Black also has attacking chances. Trading off the important white knight on f3 turns the tide of the battle in Black's favor. **22.Rc3?!** [22.hxg6 Nxg6 23.Rd4 e5 24.Rc5 Bb7 25.Be3 has better defensive chances] **22...Nd3+?** [22...g5! 23.Rd4 Bb7 is all developed and super for Black] **23.Ke2** [23.Rxd3! Qxd3 24.Ne5! gives the advantage back to White] **23...Nb2 24.Qh1 g5! 25.Bxg5 Bb7 26.Bc1?**

The wrong square for the bishop. 26. h6 would have pressed the attack. **26...Bxf3+! 27.Rxf3** [slightly better, though still losing is 27.gxf3 Na4 28.Re3 Rc8 29.Bd2 Rc2 30.Rd4 Nb2!] **27...Qc2+ 28.Bd2 Rxf3 29.gxf3 Qd3+ 30.Ke1**





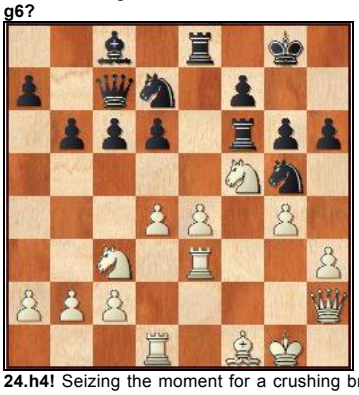
The white queen and rook are away on the kingside while the black pieces move in on the white king. Here 30...Rc8 planning 31...Rc1+32 Bxc1 Qd1 mate would be quick, yet there is no defense against Marty's plan also. **30...Nc4 31.Bc1 Ne5 32.Rf4 Rc8 33.Be3 Qb1+ 34.Ke2 Qxh1 35.h6 Rc2+ 36.Bd2 Rxd2+ 37.Kxd2 Qxh6 38.Ke3 Ng6 39.a4 Qxf4+ 40.Kd3 Qxb4 41.f4 Nxf4+ 42.Ke3 e5 43.f3 Qd4#** An entertaining game. We look forward to seeing future encounters as Sebby continues to learn more from each tournament. **0-1**

(3) Kelly,Sean (1786) - Argo,Guy (1938) [B07]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (3.3), 22.09.2021

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.g3 e5 5.Nge2 c6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 Qc7 8.h3 h6 9.f4 b6 10.Be3 Ba6 11.Re1 Rd8 12.Qd2 0-0 13.g4

Sean has got an advantage in space yet the Black position is resilient if you watch for breakthroughs. **13...Nh7! 14.Rad1 Bh4 15.Bf2 Bxf2+ 16.Kxf2 exf4?!** This gives up the e5 point in the center. White gets more freedom to maneuver. **17.Qxf4 Rde8?!** [17...Rfe8 18.Ng3 Ndf8!] **18.Ng3 Re6 19.Nf5 Rfe8 20.Kg1 Rf6 21.Bf1?!** [21.Qg3!] **21...Bc8?!** [21...Bxf1] **22.Qh2 Ng5 23.Re3 g6?**



24.h4! Seizing the moment for a crushing breakthrough. **24...gxf5 25.hxg5 hxg5 26.Rh3** The attack on the h-file is deadly. **26...Kf8 27.exf5 Qb8 28.Rh8+ 1-0**

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	Pri
1	1	**FM Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101)**	2314	W17	W7	W5					3.0	
2	2-3	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	2269	W18	D12	W11					2.5	
3		**Sean Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962568)**	1786	W6	D4	W10					2.5	
4	4-9	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	2049	W19	D3	H---					2.0	
5		**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	2001	W20	W9	L1					2.0	
6		**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	1996	L3	W17	W12					2.0	
		Alex Chin										

7		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)**	1992	W22	L1	W20	H---					2.0
8		**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	1800	H---	H---	W16						2.0
9		**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	1665	W15	L5	W18						2.0
10	10-13	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	1938	H---	W13	L3						1.5
11		**Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)**	1805	H---	X21	L2						1.5
12		**Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)**	1752	W14	D2	L6						1.5
13		**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	1622	W16	L10	D19						1.5
14	14-20	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	1994	L12	L18	W21				H---		1.0
15		**Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)**	1936	L9	L20	W22						1.0
16		**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	1900	L13	W22	L8						1.0
17		**Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)**	1830	L1	L6	B---						1.0
18		**Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)**	1818	L2	W14	L9	H---					1.0
19		**Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)**	1795	L4	H---	D13						1.0
20		**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	1793	L5	W15	L7						1.0
21	21	**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	1766	H---	F11	L14		H---				0.5
22	22	**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1676	L7	L16	L15			H---			0.0

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under 1800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	Pri
1	1-5	**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	B---	W30	W9					3.0	
2		**Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)**	1581	W43	W12	W8					3.0	
3		**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	1544	W33	W13	W10					3.0	
4		**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	1543	W34	W32	W11					3.0	
5		**Christopher Dessert (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15048166)**	1418	W26	W7	W20					3.0	
6	6	**John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	1500	H---	W27	W25					2.5	
7	7-19	**Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	1749	W46	L5	W23					2.0	
		Georgios Tsolias										

8		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)**	1538	W35	W38	L2					2.0	
9		**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	1520	W37	W16	L1					2.0	
10		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	1451	W15	W19	L3					2.0	
11		**Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)**	1440	W47	W18	L4					2.0	
12		**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	1389	W17	L2	W37					2.0	
13		**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	1318	W28	L3	W39					2.0	
14		**Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)**	1306	L18	W47	W38		H---			2.0	
15		**Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)**	unr.	L10	W31	W29					2.0	
16		**Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)**	unr.	W45	L9	W30					2.0	
17		**Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)**	unr.	L12	W46	W32					2.0	
18		**Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)**	unr.	W14	L11	W33					2.0	
19		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	unr.	W31	L10	W36					2.0	
20	20-28	**Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)**	1702	H---	W24	L5					1.5	
21		**Nick Casares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	H---	L23	W34					1.5	
22		**Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)**	1583	H---	F25	W44					1.5	
23		**Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	1462	H---	W21	L7					1.5	
24		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1173	W44	L20	D28					1.5	
25		**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815)**	unr.	H---	X22	L6					1.5	
26		**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	unr.	L5	H---	X42				H---	1.5	
27		**Adam Laskowitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30258766)**	unr.	H---	L6	W43					1.5	
28		**Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818)**	unr.	L13	W35	D24					1.5	
29	29-41	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1500	L38	X42	L15					1.0	
30		**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	1400	W40	L1	L16					1.0	
31		**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	1210	L19	L15	W47					1.0	
32		**Jp Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)**	1177	W41	L4	L17					1.0	
		William Thibault										

33		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	983	L3	X40	L18					1.0	
34		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	768	L4	W41	L21					1.0	
35		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	546	L8	L28	X45					1.0	
36		**Ryan Deal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30281032)**	unr.	H---	H---	L19					1.0	
37		**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)**	unr.	L9	X45	L12					1.0	
38		**Deandr Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)**	unr.	W29	L8	L14					1.0	
39		**James Dorsch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30249167)**	unr.	H---	H---	L13					1.0	
40		**Ryan Gill (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30240310)**	unr.	L30	F33	W46					1.0	
41		**Harry Elworthy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30256579)**	unr.	L32	L34	B---					1.0	
42	42-44	**Damien Seperi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757144)**	1083	H---	F29	F26					0.5	
43		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	1029	L2	H---	L27					0.5	
44		**Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966)**	unr.	L24	H---	L22				H---	0.5	
45	45-47	**Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)**	1418	L16	F37	U---					0.0	
46		**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)**	1139	L7	L17	L40					0.0	
47		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	unr.	L11	L14	L31					0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Game

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	1-9	**Brendyn Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)**	2052	U---	W16	U---	1.0	
2		**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)**	1893	U---	W12	U---	1.0	
3		**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	W13	U---	U---	1.0	
4		**ROMEO BE BARREYRO (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)**	1702	W15	U---	U---	1.0	
5		**JERRY MORGAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	1462	W17	U---	U---	1.0	
6		**Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	807	U---	W18	U---	1.0	
7		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	546	U---	U---	W14	1.0	
8		**Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)**	unr.	U---	W13	U---	1.0	
9		**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	unr.	U---	U---	W19	1.0	
10	10-11	**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815)**	unr.	U---	D11	U---	0.5	
11		**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)**	unr.	U---	D10	U---	0.5	
		Alex Silvestre						

12	12-19	**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446526)**	2131	U---	L2	U---	0.0	
13		**TONY A LAMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)**	1805	L3	L8	U---	0.0	
14		**Cesar Tamondong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12439091)**	1600	U---	U---	L7	0.0	
15		**NICK CASARES JR (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	L4	U---	U---	0.0	
16		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1500	U---	L1	U---	0.0	
17		**JOHN CHAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	1500	L5	U---	U---	0.0	
18		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	983	U---	L6	U---	0.0	
19		**Angad Sharma**	unr.	U---	U---	L9	0.0	

Howard Donnelly Memorial Report

by Abel Talamantez

Howard Donnelly was a former Chess Director at the Mechanics' Institute from 1964-1965 and this two-day FIDE rated event was held in his honor. We had 52 players participate, playing in two sections. FM Ezra Chambers rebounded from a tough loss in round 3 to Advay Bansal to win the tournament with 4/5. In a 4-way tie for 2nd were Theodore Coyne, Advay Bansal, Daniel Lin, and Vincent Qin with 3.5/5.

Advay Bansal and FM Ezra Chambers played a spectacular game in round 3. Though Bansal won, Chambers was able to still win the tournament. 2018 National Kindergarten Champion Katherine Zhuge in action for her first tournament at the Mechanics' Institute.

In the 1600-1999 section, Stephen Willy took clear 1st by a full point to win the section with 4.5/5, followed by Matthew Alioto, Teodoro Porlares, James Mahooti, and Hanchi Yao, all with 3.5/5

In the under 1600 section, Axel Joseph continues an impressive string of tournament performances with a clear win in the section with 4/5. In a 3-way tie for 2nd were Tobiah Rex, Kevin Hou, and Eli Lee with 3.5/5.

Congratulations to all the winners, and we would like to thank all the participants for playing.

SwissSys Standings. 20th Donnelly Memorial Championship: Open

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tota
1	**FM Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101)**		15191101	2314	W15	L3	W11	W8	X4	4.0
2	**Theodore Coyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13848228)**		13848228	2136	W7	W5	W3	L4	D6	3.5

3	Advay Bansal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16068511)		16068511	1949	W10	W1	L2	D5	W8	3.5
4	Daniel Lin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15176393)		15176393	1863	D6	W9	W12	W2	F1	3.5
5	Vincent Qin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571968)		16571968	1807	B---	L2	W7	D3	W11	3.5
6	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)		15499404	2001	D4	W16	L8	W10	D2	3.0
7	Patrick Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)		16667410	1884	L2	W13	L5	W16	W14	3.0
8	Sean Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962568)		16962568	1848	D9	W14	W6	L1	L3	2.5
9	John Alioto (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12433017)		12433017	1965	D8	L4	W16	H---	H---	2.5
10	Jeffery Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16291100)		16291100	1828	L3	D15	B---	L6	W13	2.5
11	Sadia Qureshi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14024572)		14024572	1857	W13	L12	L1	W14	L5	2.0
12	Alex Silvestre (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446526)		15446526	2131	H---	W11	L4	U---	U---	1.5
13	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)		15206848	1996	L11	L7	H---	W15	L10	1.5
14	Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)		16192001	1915	H---	L8	W15	L11	L7	1.5
15	Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)		17039584	1929	L1	D10	L14	L13	D16	1.0
16	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)		16083648	1881	H---	L6	L9	L7	D15	1.0

SwissSys Standings. 20th Donnelly Memorial Championship: 1600-1999

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tota
1	Stephen Willy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17088783)		17088783	1639	W12	W21	W11	D7	W3	4.5
2	Matthew Alioto (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12438038)		12438038	1791	W13	D8	X19	H---	H---	3.5
3	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)		12773115	1749	W17	W4	H---	X6	L1	3.5
4	Hanchi Yao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16512998)		16512998	1636	W16	L3	W15	D11	W7	3.5
5	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)		12621393	1800	H---	W14	L7	W18	W13	3.5
6	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)		12601676	1583	H---	H---	X21	F3	W11	3.0
7	Samir Alazawi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14690016)		14690016	1862	D10	W20	W5	D1	L4	3.0
8	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)		16898540	1622	W18	D2	H---	H---	D10	3.0
9	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)		14257838	1665	W15	L11	W16	H---	H---	3.0
10	Wentao Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16629782)		16629782	1607	D7	D13	D18	W14	D8	3.0

11	Katherine Zhuge (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16715925)		16715925	1454	B---	W9	L1	D4	L6	2.5
12	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)		16566932	1544	L1	D15	L14	W16	W18	2.5
13	Anvitha Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315087)		16315087	1598	L2	D10	W20	W21	L5	2.5
14	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)		12872385	1451	H---	L5	W12	L10	D15	2.0
15	Anish Dara (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15295667)		15295667	1552	L9	D12	L4	B---	D14	2.0
16	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)		17137317	1540	L4	W17	L9	L12	W20	2.0
17	Serena Yuan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16843308)		16843308	1575	L3	L16	H---	D20	W21	2.0
18	Neil Bhaduri (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16717750)		16717750	1515	L8	B---	D10	L5	L12	1.5
19	Junior Mejia (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14679391)		14679391	1688	H---	H---	F2	U---	U---	1.0
20	Kian Jamali (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761438)		16761438	1455	H---	L7	L13	D17	L16	1.0
21	Nelson Sowell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11103405)		11103405	1807	B---	L1	F6	L13	L17	1.0

SwissSys Standings. 20th Donnelly Memorial Championship: under1600

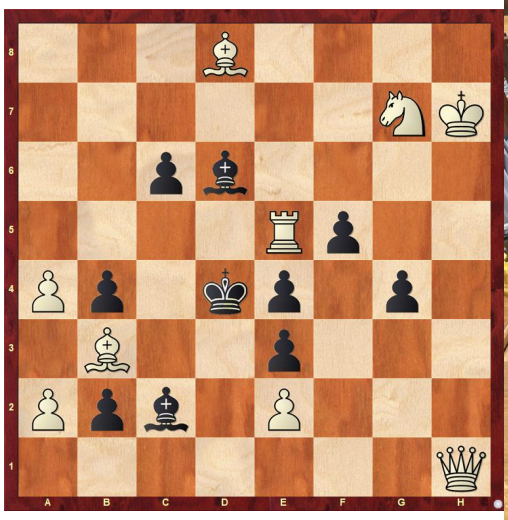
#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tota
1	Axel Joseph (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30240086)		30240086	1234	W8	W6	W5	W3	L2	4.0
2	Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)		30164211	1173	H---	L5	W12	W9	W1	3.5
3	Kevin Hou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14466115)		14466115	1310	W13	W7	W4	L1	D6	3.5
4	Eli Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16707438)		16707438	694	B---	W10	L3	W11	H---	3.5
5	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)		17079795	1427	H---	W2	L1	D7	W11	3.0
6	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)		30102682	1318	W9	L1	D7	W13	D3	3.0
7	Nilufer Sagat (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17256603)		17256603	unr.	B---	L3	D6	D5	D8	2.5
8	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)		12844781	1500	L1	W12	L11	X10	D7	2.5
9	Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)		16939797	896	L6	B---	H---	L2	W12	2.5
10	Valerie Jade (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17168772)		17168772	1484	W11	L4	U---	F8	W13	2.0
11	Henry Lien (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15156603)		15156603	1065	L10	W13	W8	L4	L5	2.0
12	Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)		17005685	768	H---	L8	L2	B---	L9	1.5
13	Andrew Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30274959)		30274959	unr.	L3	L11	B---	L6	L10	1.0

SwissSys Standings. 20th Donnelly Memorial Championship: Extra Games @ Donnelly

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	T-Sor
1	Nelson Sowell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11103405)		11103405	1807	W6	U---	U---	U---		1.0	1.5
2	Matthew Alioto (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12438038)		12438038	1791	U---	U---	W8	U---		1.0	1.5
3	Anish Dara (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15295667)		15295667	1552	U---	U---	U---	W7		1.0	1.5
4	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)		12561007	1500	U---	W9	U---	U---		1.0	1.5
5	Kian Jamali (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761438)		16761438	1455	W10	U---	U---	U---		1.0	1.5
6	Vincent Qin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571968)		16571968	1804	L1	U---	U---	U---		0.0	0
7	ALLYSON WONG (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15052665)		15052665	1773	U---	U---	U---	L3		0.0	0
8	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)		12601676	1583	U---	U---	L2	U---		0.0	0
9	Neil Bhaduri (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16717750)		16717750	1515	U---	L4	U---	U---		0.0	0
10	Katherine Zhuge (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16715925)		16715925	1425	L5	U---	U---	U---		0.0	0

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this problem, white to move and mate in 3.



Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute September/October TNM: FIDE Rated. September 7-October 19, 6:30PM PT. Games G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person)

20th JJ Dolan Memorial Championship: USCF Rated. October 2, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-jj-dolan-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-jj-dolan-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute October Quads: October 9, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

2021 Mechanics' Institute Rapid Championship. October 9, 10AM PT. 6SS G/15+2: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-mechanics-rapid-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-mechanics-rapid-championship)

2021 Mechanics' Institute Blitz Championship. October 10, 11AM PT. 8SS G/3+2: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-mechanics-blitz-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-mechanics-blitz-championship)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Bulletin

The scholastic news will be covered in a dedicated publication:
Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Scholastic Bulletin #4 is out!

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165432/https://conta.cc/3gLHRV2) to read our latest edition.
All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

The Art Of War

In this article, FM Paul Whitehead demonstrates that Sun Tzu's treatise on how to do battle still applies after all these years, and particulalrly in battle over the chessboard, enjoy!

Peter Svidler vs. **Magnus Carlsen**, Grenke 2019.

Annotations by **Sun Tzu** (544–496 B.C.) with a little help from FM Paul Whitehead

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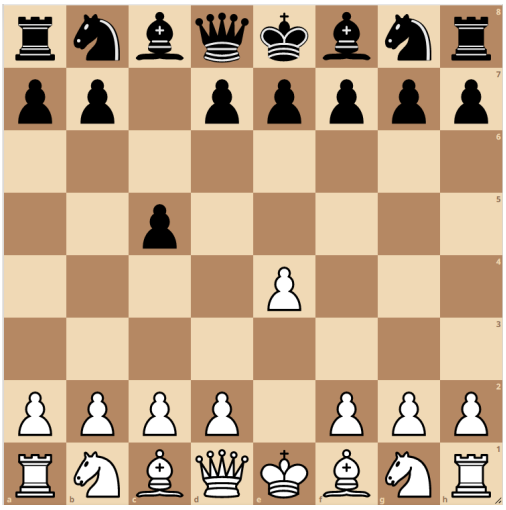
One: Laying Plans.

1.e4 c5.



All warfare is based on deception.

Two: Waging War.

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 Be7 5.d3 d6 6.Nd2 Nf6 7.Nf1 Nd7 8.Nd5 Nb6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.c3 O-O 11.Ne3 Bg5.

In order to kill the enemy, men must be roused to anger.

Three: Attack By Stratagem.

12.O-O Kh8.

He will win who, prepared himself, waits to take the enemy unprepared.

Four: Tactical Dispositions.

13.a3 f5.

The onrush of a conquering force is like the bursting of pent-up waters into a chasm a thousand fathoms deep.

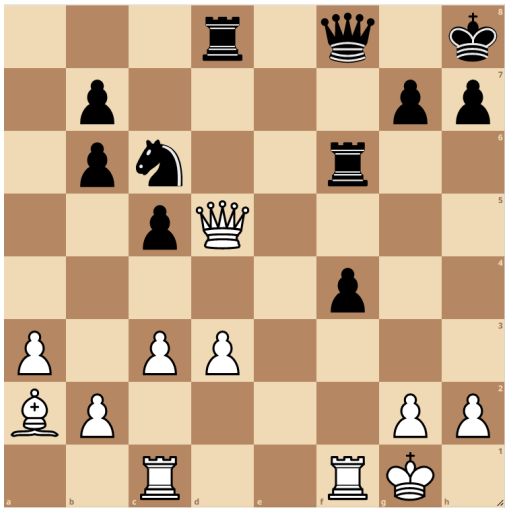
Five: Use Of Energy.

14.Nxf5 Bxc1 15.Rxc1 Bxf5 16.exf5 d5.

That the impact of your army may be like a grindstone dashed against an egg.

Six: Weak Points And Strong.

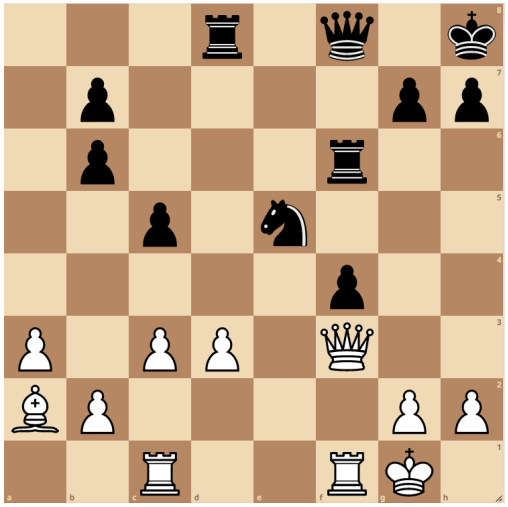
17.Ba2 Rxf5 18.Qg4 Rf6 19.f4 exf4 20.Qg5 Qf8 21.Qxd5 Rd8.



We can form a single united body, while the enemy must split up into fractions.

Seven: Maneuvering An Army.

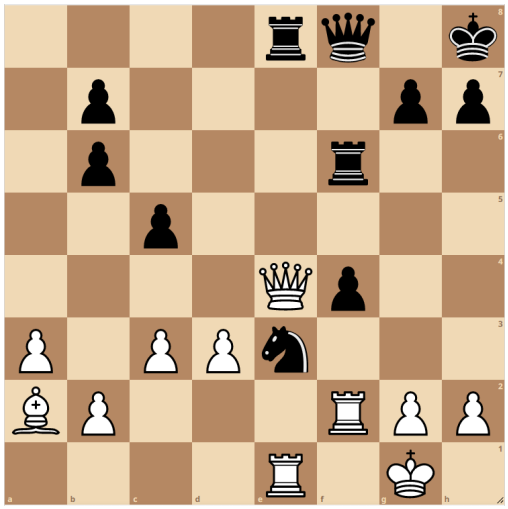
22.Qf3 Ne5.



Let your rapidity be that of the wind, your compactness that of the forest.

Eight: Variation Of Tactics.

23.Qe4 Ng4 24.Rce1 Ne3 25.Rf2 Re8.



In War, the general receives his commands from the sovereign, collects his army and concentrates his forces.

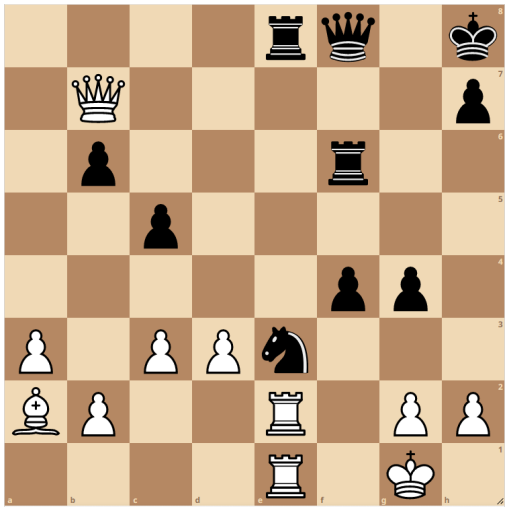
Nine: The Army On The March.

26.Qxb7 g5.

When there is much running about it means the critical moment has come.

Ten: Classification Of Terrain.

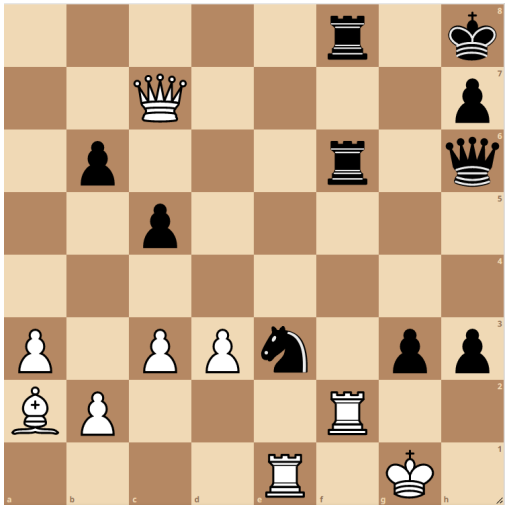
27.Rfe2 g4.



Regard your soldiers as your children, and they will follow you wherever you may lead.

Eleven: The Nine Situations.

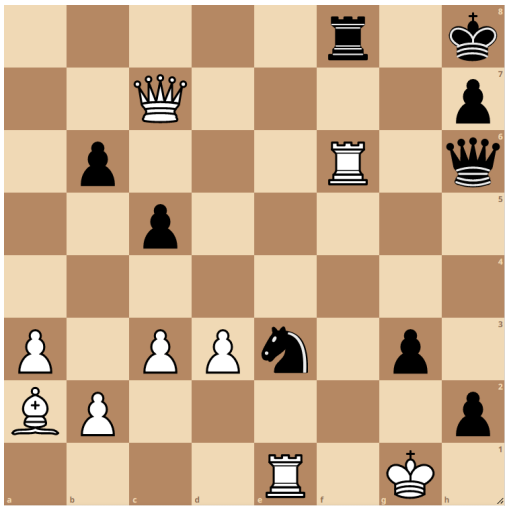
28.Rf2 Qh6 29.Qc7 Ref8 30.h3 gxh3 31.g3 fxg3.



When you penetrate deeply into a country, it is serious ground.

Twelve: Attack by Fire.

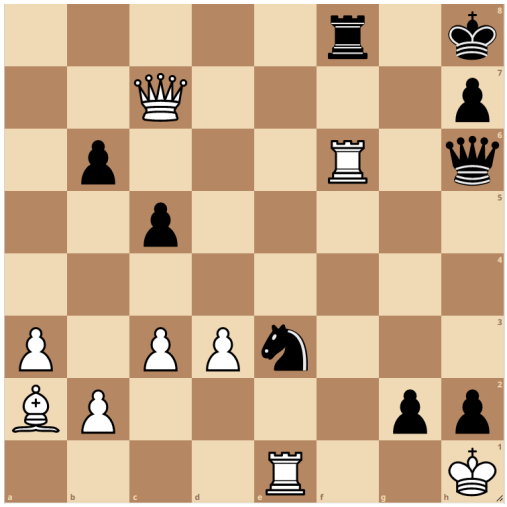
32.Rxf6 h2+.



A kingdom that has once been destroyed can never come again into being; nor can the dead ever be bought back to life.

Thirteen: Use Of Spies.

33.Kh1 g2#.



Be subtle, and use your spies for every kind of business.

0-1.

It is only one who is thoroughly acquainted with the evils of war who can thoroughly understand the profitable ways of carrying it on.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

Championship Tune up in Norway

A very strong pre-world championship tournament was just held (live) in Norway, which gave champion Magnus Carlsen and his challenger, Ian Nepomniachtchi, a chance at high level opposition to tune up their game before the world championship match in Dubai in November. The winner was (surprise!) Magnus, who felt he had to defend his home turf. Of course that was the expected result. Nepomniachtchi played in decent form, but lost to Magnus and finished below. Probably this really doesn't bother him. Both players are saving their best opening preparation for the $2,000,000 match in Dubai, which looks to be a long, protracted battle of 14 games. Nepo has a good score against Magnus and the match is his chance of a lifetime for eternal glory.

The other interesting story of the tournament was the play of (probably future challenger) Alireza Firouzja. The streaking teenager rose into the world's top ten on the rating list with a great performance. Not only did he reach number nine on the list with a 2770 rating, but he passed up veteran super grandmaster Maxime Vachier-Lagrave to become the number one French player in the world. Though the current battle for chess supremacy centers on the 30 year old players there is no doubt Firouzja will be in the thick of the championship runs for the next decade. We give below his sparkling victory over rising star Richard Rapport (#10 in the world) and also the Magnus- Nepo encounter.

(1) Firouzja,Alizera - Rapport,Richard [B30]

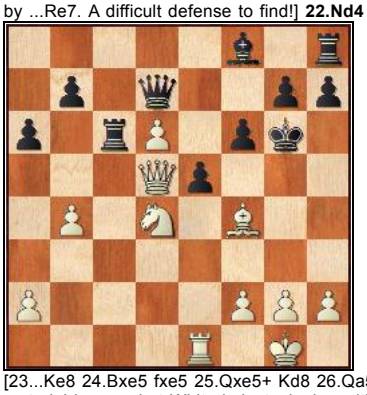
Norway Chess, 18.09.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 The Rossolimo Attack. **3...Nf6 4.Nc3 Nd4 5.e5** White starts the action with a lead in development, not caring that the bishop on b5 is traded for a knight. **5...Nxb5 6.Nxb5 Nd5 7.0-0 a6 8.c4 Nb4 9.Nc3 d6 10.d4 cxd4 11.Qxd4!?**

11...Nc2 Rapport grabs the offered exchange. White clearly gets a lot of development for the material. Objectively chances are about even, but attacking players would love to play the white side. **12.Qe4 Nxa1 13.Bf4 Be6 14.Rxa1 Rc8 15.Nd5 dxe5 16.Nxe5**

All the white pieces are out. Yet the black king has defenders around him so it is not easy to proceed with White. **16...f6 17.Nf3 Bxd5 18.cxd5 Rc5 19.d6 Qd7 20.b4 Rc6 21.Re1**

A critical position.The white pieces and d-pawn cause a lot of pressure. **21...Kf7?** Looks sensible, but the wrong defense. Black had equality with the long tactical line [21...e5 22.Bxe5 Kd8! 23.a4! Bxd6 24.b5 Rc7 25.Bxd6 Qxd6 26.bxa6 Qxa6 *(26...Re7? 27.a7!)* 27.Nd4 Qc4 28.Ne6+ Kc8 29.Nxc7 Qxe4 30.Rxe4 Rd8! 31.h4 Kxc7 and the rook ending is equal since 32. Re7+ is met by ...Re7. A difficult defense to find!] **22.Nd4 e5 23.Qd5+ Kg6**



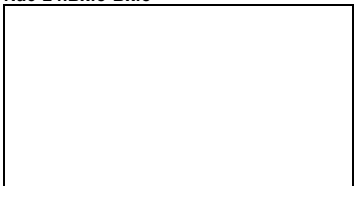
[23...Ke8 24.Bxe5 fxe5 25.Qxe5+ Kd8 26.Qa5+ Kc8 27.Nxc6] **24.Bxe5! Rxd6** [24...fxe5 25.Nf3! Qxd6 26.Nxe5+ wins the queen at least] **25.Bxd6 Bxd6 26.Qe4+ Kf7 27.Qd5+ Kg6 28.g3** material is even but White is just winning with the pin on the bishop and the black king on the bad square g6 **28...h6 29.Rd1 Re8** [29...Rd8 30.Ne6 Re8 31.Nf4+ Kh7 32.Kg2! wins the bishop on d6] **30.Nf3 Re6 31.Nh4+ Kh7 32.Qd3+** Black resigns since the bishop is lost after **32...Kh8 33.Nf5 1-0**

(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Nepomniachtchi,Ian [D78]

Norway Chess, 17.09.2021

This pre-championship meeting has more to do with the tournament than any fortelling how the match will go. Magnus with White just wants to score a point Nepo is a tough opponent, but winning a tournament is always hard. **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c4 c6 6.b3 Ne4 7.d4 0-0 8.Bb2 a5 9.Nc3 Bf5**

We have a slow opening. Probably neither player wants to use any of their opening preparation. The big battle happens starting November. **10.e3 Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Be4 12.Qe2 a4 13.Rfc1 axb3 14.axb3 Rxa1 15.Rxa1 Qb6?!** This is just a small inaccuracy, but it gives Magnus something to work on. The white queenside pawns gain time to march up the board. **16.b4! Nd7** [16...dxc4 17.Qxc4 leaves White a little stronger in the center] **17.c5 Qc7 18.Ra7** Now Nepo will have to at least suffer a bit. White has the a-file and the advanced b and c pawns **18...Qb8 19.Qa2 Bxf3?!** This allows Black to get in the ...e5 pawn break immediately yet it costs the bishop pair. White's edge increases. **20.Bxf3 e5 21.b5!?** Magnus uses tactics to get his break in too. **21...e4?** This is counting on a tactic that doesn't work. Nepo needed to play 21...exd4 to keep play in the center. **22.Be2 Nxc5** Nepo counter on this tactic, but Magnus was not fooled. **23.Bb4**! **Na6 24.Bxf8 Bxf8**



[24...Qxa7 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.bxa6] **25.Rxb7! Qxb7 26.Qxa6** Material is equal yet White is completely winning. It's unusual this bishops of opposite color position is so hopeless for Black. **26...Qb8** [26...Qxa6 27.bxa6 and the pawn queens] **27.Qxc6 Qd6 28.Qxd6 Bxd6 29.Bd1** The d5 pawn drops so white will be ahead two pawns (and position). **29...Bc7 30.Bb3 Kg7 31.Bxd5 f5 32.g4 Kf6 33.h4 h6 34.Kg2 Bd8 35.h5!** breaking the pawn chain. As usual Magnus plays this endgame superbly. **35...fxg4 36.hxg6 Kxg6 37.Bxe4+ Kg5 38.f4+ Kf6** [38...gxf3+ 39.Kxf3 is trivial with the three passed white pawns] **39.Kg3 h5 40.Kh4 Ba5**

41.b6! The last careful move needed. Now 41...Bxb6 42. Kxh5 g3 43. Kg4 is finished. Nepo had one last trick - white could have gone wrong with 41. Kxh5? Bf2 42 b6 Bxe3 and Black can stops the b-pawn. **1-0**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. Ob1!! Bxb1 2. Rc5!! Kxc5 Ne6#

1. Ob1!! Bxb1 2. Rc5!! Bxc5 Bf6#

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Newsletter #988

October 2, 2021

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Don't Miss the JJ Dolan Memorial Championship (October 2nd) and Championship Quads (October 3rd) Register Below!

20th JJ Dolan Memorial Championship: USCF Rated. October 2, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-jj-dolan-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-jj-dolan-memorial-championship-g45-person)

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Mechanics' Institute Rapid and Blitz Championship October 9-10!

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Chess Clubs from Around the Country: Denver Chess Club

by Abel Talamantez

We recently had a regular Mechanics' Institute player move to Denver and play at the Denver Chess Club. He wrote to us to tell us about it. The club is deeply rooted in history and community. Founded in 1859, part of its mission statement reads, "The Denver Chess Club unites people of different ages, different ethnicities, opposite genders, different economic and cultural associations, and it promotes chess in American schools." I received this write up, written by Club Manager James MacNeil and sent to me by President Brian Wall. I thank them both, as well as their team for sending us this as we seek to promote different chess clubs from around the country.

Upon seeing the Rocky Mountains, perhaps the Denver Chess Club began in 1859 when migrants from the eastern states going west on a wagon train stopped in Denver. As an attending member of the DCC since around 1980, I've attended the club at many VFW and church basement locations over the years. Our current location at the Hope Christian church is by far the bes location that we've had.

As far as I know, the DCC has never had a permanent site that we could call our own. Attendance at the club as I remember averaged at best 20 or so players per week until about 6 years ago. Since then we have steadily increased our weekly attendance to the current 60-70 USCF tournament players - along with several casual chess players - playing weekly on Tuesday nights.

The DCC format is a monthly USCF rated tournament, with one round each Tuesday. Our time control is G/70 with a 5 second delay. Based on entries after expenses, the monthly prize fund averages around $900, and is divided equally between 3 sections. We payout 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize money and also award a popular Upset prize for each section.

Aside from increasing DCC attendance, I would say our greatest success was putting Denver on the national chess map with the 2019 Denver Open (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://denverchess.com/news/article/2131) Where we featured several GMs and attracted players from across the United States. We fully intended to follow up that great tournament with an even bigger 2020 Denver Open, but the COVID pandemic put an end to that plan. Our greatest challenge is to have our own building and be open 7 days a week. I can't tell you how much I envy the St. Louis Chess Club.

Learn more about the historic Denver Chess Club by following this link: https://denverchess.com/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://denverchess.com/)

The Colorado State Affiliate site is here: http://www.coloradochess.com/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.coloradochess.com/)

Tuesday Night Marathon Round 4 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The first three rounds of the TNM saw a few upsets from aspiring players looking to swap blows with the cream of the crop. But the TNM is a marathon, not a sprint, and the underdogs learned that the hard way in round 4, a decisive round for many of the favorites in the top section.

FM Ezra Chambers won an impressive game on board 1 against IM Elliott Winslow. Birthday boy Nicholas Weng defeated rising player Sean Kelly to bounce back from a tough loss the previous week against Chambers. Ilia Gimelfarb lost to Guy Argo, and Nathan Fong won a wild and crazy game against Adam Stafford that is worth a look just for the massive swings back and forth. Chambers extends his lead in the TNM to a full point ahead of Fong, Weng, and Ako Heidari.

The top tables frequently get spectators looking on while the overflow are following the games on the big screen from the broadcast. UC Berkeley grads Nathan Fong and Adam Stafford played a wildly exciting game in their round 4 matchup.

In the under 1600 section, the 47-player section has thinned out to three perfect scores: Marty Cortinas, Daniel Wang, and Christopher Dessert are the sole 4/4. Many strong players are right behind with 3 points, including Richard Hack, Sebby Suarez and Andrew Imbens, Stephen Parsons, Aaron Craig, Paul Reed, Matt Long, Adam Ginzburg, and Anton Maliev.

Ilia Gimelfarb ponders his move against Guy Argo. A snapshot of players inside the chess room.

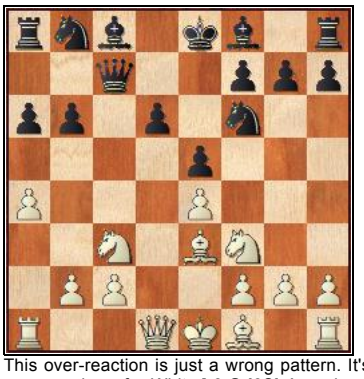
Find the game links to the top boards here: https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-september/4/1/1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-september/4/1/1)

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) FM Chambers,Ezra (2314) - IM Winslow,Elliott C (2269) [B90]

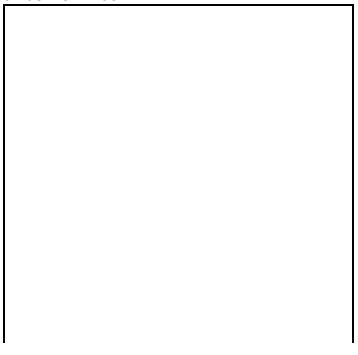
MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (4.1), 27.09.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 [We used to see Bay Area GM Jim Tarjan play 4.e5 here. But it's more the psychology of avoiding main lines than seriously attempting an advantage in the opening.] **4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Be3 e5** Currently the main battleground. And why not? It's the Najdorf, so play like a Najdorf. [6...e6; 6...Ng4] **7.Nf3** The more positional approach, which somehow takes Black for a loop. **7...Qc7** The older, frankly less interesting line. [7...h6 is too slow to 8.Bc4; Lately it's all about 7...Be7 8.Bc4 *(8.h3!?* The latest ideas are here. And this can come from 6. h3 as well. *8...b5!?* Usually it's premature to send this up without some development, but here White is a bit behind as well. *9.a4 b4 10.Nd5 Nbd7 11.Nxb4 Bb7* does nicely for Black.*)* 8...0-0 9.0-0 Perhaps White can postpone castling profitably here!? 9...Nc6!? still looking to argue the control of d5 (by ridding the board of White's bishop after 10.Bb3 Na5 *(10...Be6* might be better*)*] **8.a4! b6?!**

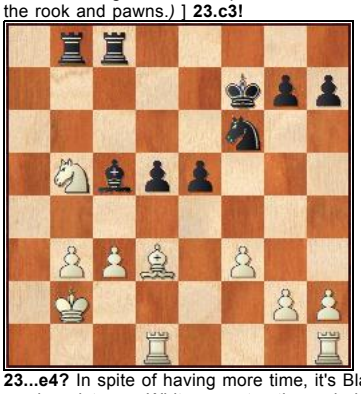


This over-reaction is just a wrong pattern. It's more than just slow, it's a long-term weakness that haunts Black for the next few moves. [8...Be7 9.a5 Be6 10.Bb6?! Qc6 followed by ...Nbd7 goes nowhere for White.] **9.Qd3?!** A modern move, but here it can be side-stepped. [9.Nd5! Nxd5 10.Qxd5 Bb7 11.Qb3! all but wins a pawn, what with threats to b6 and f7.] **9...Be6?** [9...Be7 gets ready to guard f7 by castling. Still, 10.Qc4! Qb7! 11.Qb3! Be6! 12.Qxb6 Qc8! Black is ready to launch an initiative with his better developed force (and White's targetable queen), But 13.Bd2! provides a retreat for the queen, with White no worse.] **10.Ng5! Nbd7?!** Black plays with fire. [10...Nc6] **11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Qc4?!** [12.g3! is a nice double-purpose move: Bh3, and f2-f4 (and the option of recapturing with the g-pawn) and f5. If you ask the computer White is already winning.] **12...Qxc4 13.Bxc4 Kf7 14.f3!** Solidifying in preparation for handling whatever Black is coming up with. **14...Be7** (Black offered a draw) **15.0-0-0!+/-** White not only (correctly) declines, he plays the most aggressive continuation. Note that with queens off, Castling queenside is often the better way to go; the king might be a target, but it also supports passed pawns on the queenside "if" they appear. **15...Rhc8**

16.b3? But this is maybe a bit too loose. [16.Be2! b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Nxb5 d5 19.Kb1+/-] **16...b5!** Black grabs the moment to free himself of his weak duo and take an initiative. **17.axb5 axb5 18.Nxb5**



18...d5! 19.exd5 exd5 20.Bd3! After some calculation clearly the best. [20.Rxd5?? Rxc4; 20.Bxd5+ Nxd5 21.Rxd5 Ra1+ 22.Kb2 Rxh1 23.Rxd7 and now Black is somewhat better after one of the three king moves 23...Ke6 (probably best, and maybe more than a bit better!)**a)** 23...Ke8; **b)** 23...Kf8; **c)** but not 23...Rxh2?! 24.Nd6+= *(24.Bg5 Rxg2* should draw as well, but gives Black some play*)* 24...Ke6 25.Rxe7+ Kxd6! *(25...Kxe7 26.Nxc8+/-)* 26.Rxg7 h5=;] **20...Nc5?!** Now White finds a comfortable ending. [20...Ra2 21.Kb1 Rca8 22.Nc3 R2a3 23.Bc1 (23.Na4 Rb8 24.Kc1 Bb4 25.c3 Be7 26.Kc2 Ra2+ 27.Nb2 Ba3! *(27...Ra3* repeats*)* 28.Rb1 d4=/+) 23...Ra1+ 24.Kb2 R1a5 25.Na4 Rb8 26.Kc3 Bb4+ 27.Kb2 is another repetition.] **21.Bxc5 Bxc5?!** Trying to find something for the bishop to do, but not the best. [21...Rxc5+/=] **22.Kb2+/- Rab8?** [22...Ra5!? 23.Rhe1 Rca8!? 24.Rb1 *(24.Rxe5 Rb8 25.c3 Raxb5 26.Bxb5 Rxb5+/-* is definitely better for the rook and pawns.*)*] **23.c3!**



23...e4? In spite of having more time, it's Black who seems to be fumbling. **24.fxe4 dxe4 25.Be2** White advantage now is overwhelming. **25...Rc6 26.b4 Be7 27.Kb3** Black is unable to offer much resistance. White executes the end phase smoothly. **27...e3?!** And this pawn is now lost. **28.Rhf1 Re6 29.Rf3 Re5 30.Nd4 Rb6 31.Nc2**

31...Ke8 32.Rxe3 Rxe3 33.Nxe3 Re6 34.Bb5+ Kf8 35.Nf5 g6 36.Nxe7 Kxe7 37.Bf1 Ne4 38.c4 Nf2 39.Rd2 Re3+ 40.Kb2 Ng4 41.Re2 Rxe2+ 42.Bxe2 Nxh2 43.Kc3 Kd6 44.Kd4 h5 45.Ke3 g5 46.Kf2 With this win Chambers runs ahead of all competitors, having beat Winslow and Weng (who beat Kelly). Still, with three rounds to go things can happen, but all bets are on Ezra to take this one. **1-0**

(2) Weng,Nicholas (2001) - Kelly,Sean (1786) [B90]

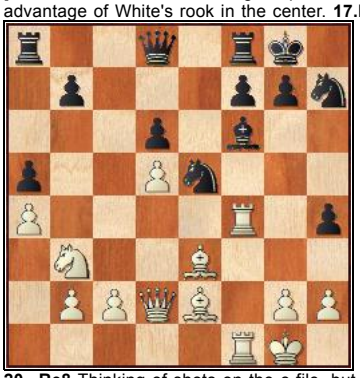
MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (4.2), 27.09.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 [This move order avoids 6.Be3 Ng4 but does commit White in other ways, for example f2-f4 costs two moves.] **6...e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Qd2** [9.g4? permits standard "meeting a wing attack with a counter in the center": 9...d5!-/+ A coming check on h4 will fix White's king in the middle.] **9...h5 10.Nd5** This has become the main response to the ...h7-h5 restraint. [You still see 10.0-0-0 Even just one month ago to the day, in a high-level game: 10...Nbd7 11.Kb1 b5 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Bf5 14.Na5 Qc7 15.Nc6 Bf6 16.Bd3 Bxd3 17.cxd3!? (Supporting c6 is everything!) 17...Nb6 18.Bxb6 Qxb6 19.Rc1 a5 20.Rhe1 0-0 21.g4 1-0 (39), Aronian,L (2782)-Van Foreest,J (2698) Aimchess US Rapid Prelim, Chess24.com 2021.] **10...Bxd5** How Black takes is a matter of taste [but 10...Nxd5 11.exd5 Bf5 is tastier by quite a bit (8 to 1 over 700 games), and has been seen in games by Carlsen against Nakamura even.] **11.exd5**

11...a5?! Sometimes this works but here it's too much. [Everybody, including Giri and Nepo, go 11...Nbd7+/= ready to man the c-file, and harass the d-pawn with ...Nb6.] **12.a4** As per the only game reaching this position.

[Or 12.Bb5+- Nbd7 13.a4] **12...0-0N** [Predecessor: 12...Nbd7 13.Qd3?! *(*Computers like *13.Bb5! 0-0 14.c4!?* seemingly trapping the bishop on b5! But White will be breaking with c5, or even a knight move and b4, when it (the bishop) is in a useful post.*)* 13...0-0 14.Qb5 Qc7?! Right square wrong piece *(14...Ne8!* and a prepared ...Nc7 will reduce White's plus. *15.Qxb7 Rb8 16.Qa6 Bg5* is a typical Sicilian pawn sacrifice for excellent play (note the still centralized king)*.)* 15.Bd3 *(15.0-0-0!+/-)* 15...Nc5 16.Nxc5 dxc5 White was better until a mistimed g2-g4 cost him the

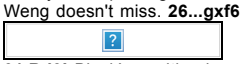
game; 0-1 (42), Kulashko,A (2387)-Froehlich,P (2421) Auckland 2003] **13.Be2** Modest -- b5 still has more going for a bishop square. **13...Nbd7** [13...Na6!? 14.Nxa5 Nb4 is interesting.] **14.0-0 h4** [Computers like 14...Nb6 15.c4 Nbd7 just to seal off b5 for that bishop!] **15.f4?!** [15.Bb5+/-] **15...exf4?** Promoting White's rook play. [15...Ne4= 16.Qe1 h3 would be consistent.] **16.Rxf4** [Nicholas has a habit of sliding his pieces, so people watching this on the Internet might have wondererd what 16.Rf2?? f3?? was about!] **16...Nh7** Black will now try, unsuccessfully, to take advantage of White's rook in the center. **17.Raf1 Bg5 18.Rd4** [18.Rg4] **18...Bf6 19.Rg4 Ne5 20.Rgf4+/-**



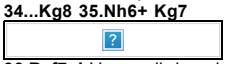
20...Re8 Thinking of shots on the e-file, but there is exposure as well. **21.Nd4?** [21.Bb5! Re7 22.Nd4! Bg5 23.Nf5!] **21...Bg5! 22.Rf5??**

[After all this White's best is *still* 22.Bb5! Bxf4 23.Bxf4 giving up the exchange but for various compensations. (Stockfish 14 makes it "0.00"!)] **22...Bxe3+?** Both players lose their way! [22...Nc4! was a strong forcing line... 23.Bxg5 Nxd2 24.Bxd8 Nxf1 25.Bxh4 Ne3 and the more you look at it, the better it gets for Black. Here also the computer just leaves the rook on f5! But Black is winning regardless. With queens off the rooks will rule.] **23.Qxe3 Qb6** [23...Nc6!? trades off the knight via some tactics, when White's advantage is less significant. 24.Nxc6 Rxe3 25.Nxd8 Rxe2 26.Nxf7 *(26.Nxb7 Rb8! 27.Nxd6 Rxb2)* 26...Rxc2 27.Nxd6 Rxb2 A long line, with counterplay for Black.] **24.Qf2! Re7?!** [Might as well take that not-so-poisoned pawn: 24...Qxb2+/=] **25.Qxh4**

Finally the h-pawn goes, almost coincidentally, with an attack on e7 and close to a won game. Black's next move seals the deal though: **25...Nf6?** [25...Rc7] **26.Rxf6!** This is the sort of move Weng doesn't miss. **26...gxf6 27.Kh1!** Freeing the knight from the pin so it can settle into f5! **27...Qd8** There really is no defence. **28.Nf5 Rc7 29.Qh6 Qf8 30.Qxf6 Ng6**



31.Bd3! Black's position is a house of cards; a breath in the form of the h-pawn will now blow it away. [or 31.h4! first] **31...Rd7 32.h4 Kh7 33.h5 Qh8 34.Qg5!** No trade of queens here! **34...Kg8 35.Nh6+ Kg7**



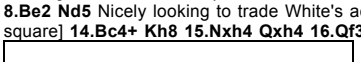
36.Rxf7+! Very well done by Weng (with a bump or two -- and a slide)! Kelly just couldn't find his comfortable piece placement, and Nicholas pounced when the opportunity arose. **1-0**

(3) Elworthy,Harry - Ahrens,Richard [C41]

01.10.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.h3!? A trappy move. **4...Nxe4?**

5.d3? [White could win a piece with 5.Qa4+! Nc6 6.Qxe4 d5 7.Qa4 and Black has insufficient compensation for the piece.] **5...Nf6** Now Black is just a clear pawn ahead **6.Bg5 Be7 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Be2 Nd5** Nicely looking to trade White's active pieces. **9.Ne4 f5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Ng3** [11.Qb3 c6 dosen't help White] **11...Nf4 12.d4!? Nxg2+ 13.Kf1 Nh4** [13...Nf4! is a more powerful square] **14.Bc4+ Kh8 15.Nxh4 Qxh4 16.Qf3 f4 17.Ne4**

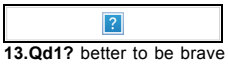


17...Bxh3+?? Oh no! Just a miscounting. Black had it all going his way. With simple development (17...Nc6) it's all under control with an extra pawn and a good position. **18.Rxh3** White gets not only the piece for Black's two pawns, but also a strong attack on the kingside. **18...Qd8 19.Qh5** [19.Rxh7+! Kxh7 20.Qh5#] **19...h6 20.Ng5 d5** [20...Qf6 21.dxe5 dxe5 22.Nf7+ is lost anyway] **21.Ne6 Qf6 22.Nxf8 dxc4 23.Ng6+ Kh7 24.Nxe5** A rook ahead with a strong knight on e5 is enough **24...Nc6 25.Re1 Re8** An oversight. Not much left to say here. **26.Qxe8 Qf5 27.Qh5 Qc2 28.Nxc6 bxc6 29.Re6 Qc1+ 30.Kg2 f3+ 31.Rxf3 Qg5+ 32.Qxg5 hxg5 33.Rxc6 1-0**

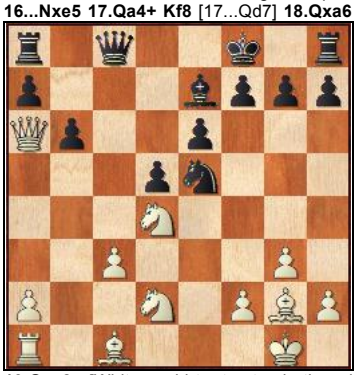
(4) Thibault,William - Stallworth,Deandr [C00]

San Francisco San Francisco (4), 28.09.2021

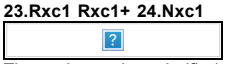
1.e4 b6 Owen's Defense is an unusual but respectable opening for Black. **2.d3** Another unusual choice, but also logical. William transposes into a King's Indian Attack where ...b6 is not always played. **2...Bb7 3.g3 e6 4.Nd2 Nf6 5.Ngf3 d5 6.e5 Nfd7 7.Bg2 c5 8.d4?! Nc6** [8...cxd4 is direct in trying to break the white center] **9.c3 Be7** [9...Ba6 trying to stop castling can be met by 10.Qa4 Qc8 11.Bf1 Bxf1 12.Kxf1 Be7 13.Kg2] **10.0-0 Ba6 11.Re1 cxd4 12.Qa4 Nc5?!**



13.Qd1? better to be brave with [13.Qxc6+! Kf8 14.cxd4 Rc8 when White loses the queen but gets more than enough compensation - 15.Qxc8 Qxc8 16.dxc5 bxc5 17.Nb3 with a clear edge] **13...dxc3 14.bxc3 Nd3 15.Nd4?!** [15.Re3 Nxc1 16.Rxc1 is a pawn down but the better choice] **15...Ndxe5?** taking a center pawn is usually good, but here it is a tactical mistake. [15...Nxd4 16.cxd4 Nxe1 is a clear exchange and pawn ahead] **16.Rxe5** even better is 16. Qa4! which wins a whole piece as Black must guard both knights and the bishop on a6. One of them is lost. **16...Nxe5 17.Qa4+ Kf8** [17...Qd7] **18.Qxa6 Qc8**



19.Qxc8+ [White could try to stay in the middlegame with 19.Qe2! since 19...Qxc3? 20.Qxe5! Qxa1? loses the queen to 21.Nxe6+ fxe6 22.Qxa1] **19...Rxc8 20.Bb2?** The endgame was almost even before this move, which loses time and thus a pawn. [20.Bf1 Rxc3 21.Bb2 Rc8 22.Ba6 Rc7 23.Nxe6+ fxe6 24.Bxe5 is just a bit better for Black] **20...Nd3 21.Bc1 Rxc3 22.N2b3 Nxc1 23.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 24.Nxc1**



The endgame has clarified and Black is on top with a rook and three pawns for the two knights. **24...h5 25.Nce2 a6 26.Nc6 Bd6 27.f4 g6 28.Ned4 Kg7 29.Kf2 Bc5 30.Kf3 Rc8 31.Nxe6+?** losing the last hope. With 31. Bf1 White keeps two pieces for the rook and pawns and has chances for tricks or a blockade. Now the material imbalance is too much. **31...fxe6 32.Ne5 Bd4 33.Bf1 Bxe5!** simplifying makes it even easier to win **34.fxe5 b5 35.Bd3 Rc3 36.Ke2 Rxd3** It's hard to argue about trading into a two pawn up king and pawn ending. Of course keeping the exchange was also good. **37.Kxd3 Kh6 38.Kd4** [38.h4 g5] **38...Kg5 39.h3 h4 40.gxh4+ Kxh4 41.Kc5 Kg5 42.Kb6 d4** The pawn queens, so White resigned. **0-1**

(5) Riese,Kayven (1900) - Brownlow,Samuel (1795) [B45]

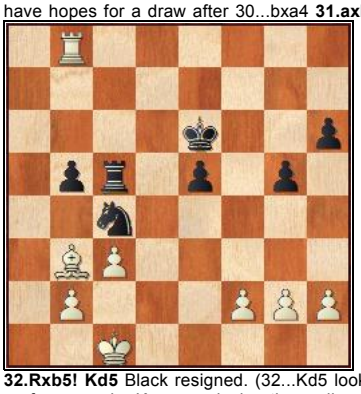
MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (4.6), 27.09.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Ndb5 a6?! Black could have played instead 6...d6 7. Bf4 e5 transposing into the Sveshnikov Variation, or play 6...Bc5 as Gadir likes to do. This move forcing the white knight to d6 gives White the opening edge. **7.Nd6+ Bxd6 8.Qxd6 Qe7 9.Bf4! e5?!** This is the most challenging move. It gives White trouble to deal with the attacks, but ultimately it works poorly for Black. **10.Qxe7+ Kxe7 11.Bg5 Nb4**

guarding the d5 square and threatening a fork on c2 **12.0-0-0! h6 13.Bxf6+ Kxf6 14.a3** There is the problem - Black gets forced back and then it's White's turn to jump forward with the knight. **14...Nc6 15.Nd5+ Kg6 16.Nb6 Rb8 17.Nxd7** [even stronger is 17.Rd6+ f6 18.Bc4 delaying the win of the pawn and keeping a strong initiative] **17...Bxd7 18.Rxd7 Rhd8**

White is a clear pawn up in the ending and neither side has weakenesses. This should be one of those win or draw positions for White, yet complications can always arise. **19.Rxd8 Rxd8 20.c3 f5** active play, but it gives Black an isolated e-pawn **21.exf5+ Kxf5 22.Be2 Rd7** very professional. Kayven seeks to trade down with the material advantage. **23.Rd1! Rc7** It is a reasonable choice to give up the file to avoid the exchange of rooks. The bishop vs knight ending should be lost for Black. This keeps some complications at least. **24.Bd3+ Ke6 25.Bc2 Na5 26.Rd8 Nc4 27.Bb3 b5 28.Ra8 Rc6 29.Rb8 g5?!** It's a tough position to play, but Samuel would do better to step out of the pin with 29....Kf6 **30.a4! Rc5?** The last mistake. Black would still

have hopes for a draw after 30...bxa4 **31.axb5 axb5**



32.Rxb5! Kd5 Black resigned. (32...Kd5 looks to be a DGT board move). In any case all the pieces get traded off and White has a two pawn up king and pawn ending. This was an impressive performance by Kayven, playing the ending like Capablanca. **1-0**

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	P
1	1	**FM Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101)**	2314	W18	W6	W3	W5				4.0	
2	2-4	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	2049	W19	D8	H---	W14				3.0	
3		**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	2001	W20	W14	L1	W8				3.0	
4		**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	1996	L8	W18	W17	W13				3.0	
5	5-9	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	2269	W15	D17	W16	L1				2.5	
6		**Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)**	1992	W21	L1	W20	H---				2.5	
7		**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	1938	H---	W9	L8	W17				2.5	
8		**Sean Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962568)**	1786	W4	D2	W7	L3				2.5	
9		**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	1622	W12	L7	D19	W16				2.5	
10	10-14	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	1994	L17	L15	W22	W20			H---	2.0	
11		**Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)**	1936	L14	L20	W21	W18				2.0	
12		**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	1900	L9	W21	L13	W19				2.0	
13		**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	1800	H---	H---	W12	L4				2.0	
14		**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	1665	W11	L3	W15	L2				2.0	
15	15-17	**Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)**	1818	L5	W10	L14	H---				1.5	
16		**Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)**	1805	H---	X22	L5	L9				1.5	
17		**Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)**	1752	W10	D5	L4	L7				1.5	
18	18-21	**Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)**	1830	L1	L4	B---	L11				1.0	

19		**Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)**	1795	L2	H---	D9	L12				1.0	
20		**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	1793	L3	W11	L6	L10				1.0	
21		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1676	L6	L12	L11	X22		H---		1.0	
22	22	**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	1766	H---	F16	L10	F21	H---			0.5	

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under 1800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total	P
1	1-3	**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	B---	W38	W6	W5				4.0	
2		**Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)**	1581	W46	W20	W19	W4				4.0	
3		**Christopher Dessert (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15048166)**	1418	W15	W18	W30	W14				4.0	
4	4-12	**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	1544	W41	W9	W7	L2				3.0	
5		**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	1543	W22	W21	W8	L1				3.0	
6		**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	1520	W24	W27	L1	W26				3.0	
7		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	1451	W26	W28	L4	W27				3.0	
8		**Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)**	1440	W42	W12	L5	W28				3.0	
9		**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	1318	W17	L4	W43	W18				3.0	
10		**Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)**	1306	L12	W42	W25	W30	H---			3.0	
11		**Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)**	unr.	L20	W40	W21	W19				3.0	
12		**Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)**	unr.	W10	L8	W41	W20				3.0	
13	13-17	**Nick Casares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	H---	L32	W22	X34				2.5	
14		**John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	1500	H---	W16	W34	L3				2.5	
15		**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	unr.	L3	H---	X45	W31			H---	2.5	
16		**Adam Laskowitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30258766)**	unr.	H---	L14	W46	W33				2.5	
17		**Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818)**	unr.	L9	W23	D33	W32				2.5	
18	18-29	**Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	1749	W40	L3	W32	L9				2.0	
19		**Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)**	1538	W23	W25	L2	L11				2.0	
		Nursultan Uzakbaev										

20		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	1389	W11	L2	W24	L12				2.0
21		**Jp Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)**	1177	W29	L5	L11	W44				2.0
22		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	768	L5	W29	L13	X43				2.0
23		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	546	L19	L17	X47	W37				2.0
24		**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)**	unr.	L6	X47	L20	W38				2.0
25		**Deandr Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)**	unr.	W37	L19	L10	W41				2.0
26		**Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)**	unr.	L7	W39	W37	L6				2.0
27		**Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)**	unr.	W47	L6	W38	L7				2.0
28		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	unr.	W39	L7	W35	L8				2.0
29		**Harry Elworthy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30256579)**	unr.	L21	L22	B---	W39				2.0
30	30-36	**Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)**	1702	H---	W33	L3	L10				1.5
31		**Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)**	1583	H---	F34	W36	L15				1.5
32		**Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	1462	H---	W13	L18	L17				1.5
33		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	1173	W36	L30	D17	L16				1.5
34		**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815)**	unr.	H---	X31	L14	F13				1.5
35		**Ryan Deal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30281032)**	unr.	H---	H---	L28	H---				1.5
36		**Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966)**	unr.	L33	H---	L31	X45			H---	1.5
37	37-44	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1500	L25	X45	L26	L23				1.0
38		**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	1400	W44	L1	L27	L24				1.0
39		**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	1210	L28	L26	W42	L29				1.0
40		**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)**	1139	L18	L11	L44	W46				1.0
41		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	983	L4	X44	L12	L25				1.0
42		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	unr.	L8	L10	L39	B---				1.0
43		**James Dorsch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30249167)**	unr.	H---	H---	L9	F22				1.0
44		**Ryan Gill (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30240310)**	unr.	L38	F41	W40	L21				1.0

45	45-46	**Damien Seperi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757144)**	1083	H---	F37	F15	F36				0.5		
46		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	1029	L2	H---	L16	L40				0.5		
47	47	**Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)**	1418	L27	F24	U---	U---				0.0		

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Game

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1-13	**Brendyn Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)**	2052	U---	W22	U---	U---	1.0	
2		**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)**	1893	U---	W18	U---	U---	1.0	
3		**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	1720	W19	U---	U---	U---	1.0	
4		**ROMEO BE BARREYRO (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)**	1702	W21	U---	U---	U---	1.0	
5		**JERRY MORGAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	1462	W23	U---	U---	U---	1.0	
6		**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)**	1090	U---	U---	U---	W12	1.0	
7		**Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	807	U---	W24	U---	L11	1.0	
8		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	768	U---	U---	U---	W25	1.0	
9		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	546	U---	U---	W20	U---	1.0	
10		**Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966)**	unr.	U---	U---	U---	W21	1.0	
11		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	unr.	U---	U---	U---	W7	1.0	
12		**Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)**	unr.	U---	W19	U---	L6	1.0	
13		**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	unr.	U---	U---	W26	U---	1.0	
14	14-17	**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	1676	U---	U---	U---	D15	0.5	
15		**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	1448	U---	U---	U---	D14	0.5	
16		**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815)**	unr.	U---	D17	U---	U---	0.5	
17		**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)**	unr.	U---	D16	U---	U---	0.5	
18	18-26	**Alex Silvestre (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446526)**	2131	U---	L2	U---	U---	0.0	
19		**TONY A LAMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)**	1805	L3	L12	U---	U---	0.0	
20		**Cesar Tamondong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12439091)**	1600	U---	U---	L9	U---	0.0	

21		**NICK CASARES JR (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	1600	L4	U---	U---	L10	0.0	
22		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	1500	U---	L1	U---	U---	0.0	
23		**JOHN CHAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	1500	L5	U---	U---	U---	0.0	
24		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	983	U---	L7	U---	U---	0.0	
25		**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)**	825	U---	U---	U---	L8	0.0	
26		**Angad Sharma**	unr.	U---	U---	L13	U---	0.0	

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Triathlon Online Begins October 7th!

We thought we would experiment with a new online tournament format that would be fun to broadcast and showcase a player's diverse skill set in one event. We came up with our 1st online triathlon, which will feature a rapid leg, blitz leg, and Fischer random leg over three weeks, with prizes based on cumulative scores. Specifically, the first week will be 6SS rapid G/10+2 USCF online rated, the second week 10SS G/3+2 USCF online rated, and the third week 6SS G/10+2 Fischer Random non-rated. Standings and prizes will be based on 22 total rounds of play, with the winner taking the covveted unofficial title of Mechanics' greatest athlete. We will broadcast the event on our Twitch channel starting at 7pm PDT, with rounds starting at 6:30pm. One entry fee for three weeks of exciting chess action! Register now by following this link: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsInstituteOnlineTriathlon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2021OnlineTournaments/MechanicsInstituteOnlineTriathlon)

Full tournament information is here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-online-triathlon (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess tournaments/mechanics-institute-online-triathlon)

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this problem, white to move and mate in 3.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

20th JJ Dolan Memorial Championship: USCF Rated. October 2, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-jj-dolan-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-jj-dolan-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute October Quads: October 3, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

2021 Mechanics' Institute Rapid Championship. October 9, 10AM PT. 6SS G/15+2: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-mechanics-rapid-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-mechanics-rapid-championship)

2021 Mechanics' Institute Blitz Championship. October 10, 11AM PT. 8SS G/3+2: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-mechanics-blitz-championship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2021-mechanics-blitz-championship)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Scholastic Chess Bulletin #5 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq)

In this issue:

- 2021 Fall Enrichment - Report on the Start
- 2021 Fall & Winter Holiday Camps
- Special Event: Halloween Tournament @ Mechanics' Institute on Oct 30
- Understanding Tournaments - Byes & Forfeits
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues. (https://web.archive.org/web/20220419165349/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#bulletin)

All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

The Meltdown Championship

As I write this column it happens to be a rest day in the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. This is the final tournament of the Champions Chess Tour, and speaking quite frankly folks, I can't keep up. Every week (every day!) there's big-time chess on the Internet. Where top players used to play (maybe) a tournament once every month or two, now it's non-stop action. The entertainment value is high: different time controls, Armageddon games, trash-talk on social media, streaming on Twitch and YouTube. If you can throw a bell or whistle into the mix, then it's a go, go, go! for all concerned.

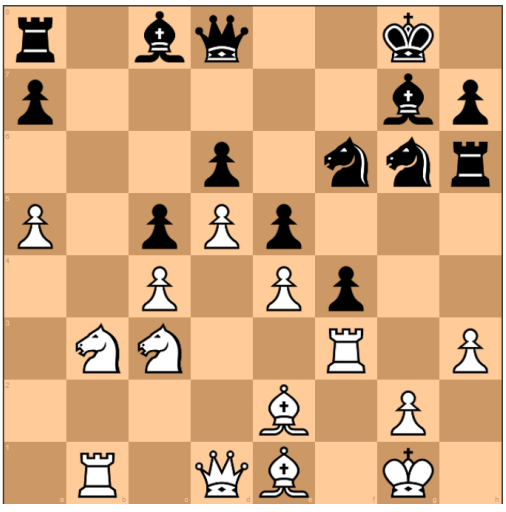
Where Bobby Fischer played (roughly) 700 tournament games over a (roughly) 20-year span, Carlsen has more than tripled that in the same amount of time. I myself have played 11-year old kids who have played more tournament games than I have done, or ever will.

Playing strength has improved over time, but that's a given - it always has. Computer assisted Grandmasters seem to be less error-prone and better defensive players than in the past, but is that really true? Let's go back to Fischer, who only had a handful of recorded blitz games. When you don't play zillions of games, maybe each game you DO play counts just a little bit more:

Victor Korchnoi – **Robert Fischer**, Herceg-Novi 1970. World Blitz Championship.

King's Indian Defence

1.d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 O-O 6.Nf3 e5 7.O-O Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Nd2 c5 10.a3 Ne8 11.b4 b6 12.Rb1 f5 13.f3 f4 14.a4 g5 15.a5 Rf6 16.bxc5 bxc5 17.Nb3 Rg6 18.Bd2 Nf6 19.Kh1 g4 20.fxg4 Nxg4 21.Rf3 Rh6 22.h3 Ng6 23.Kg1 Nf6 24.Be1.



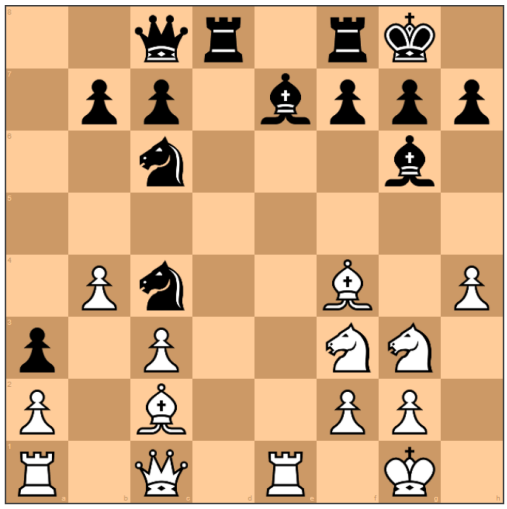
24…Nh8!! 25.Rd3 Nf7 26.Bf3 Ng5 27.Qe2 Rg6 28.Kf1 Nxh3 29.gxh3 Bxh3+ 30.Kf2 Ng4+ 31.Bxg4 Bxg4. 0-1.

Of course Carlsen has played many beautiful blitz games, but I can't help but wonder what Fischer or other World Champions from the past would have thought of **1.f3 e5 2.Kf2** - as played by Carlsen against So in a "Banter Blitz" game from 2020, or **1.e4 e6 2.Ke2** – the so-called "Bong-Cloud" opening as Nakamura has played.

On to the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021, which was supposed to take place in San Francisco this month, but alas the Global Pandemic… now it's a "hybrid event" with a few players in Oslo and the rest scattered around the globe. You can find the rules, etc. on-line. Basically it's four 15-minute Rapid games followed by two 5-minute Blitz games, and then 5-minute to 4-minute Armageddon games where white gets the extra minute but black has draw-odds.

As you can see, I've titled this tournament the "Meltdown Championship", and I think it's with good reason. The players are woozy from too much chess and it shows. At the moment Carlsen and Nakamura share the lead, although Carlsen is the sure overall winner of the Tour. Carlsen's play has been loose but uncompromising as usual. The fast time-controls suit Nakamura: he has been pragmatic, and he's in good form.

Let's get down to the action – and, in some cases, the lack of action:

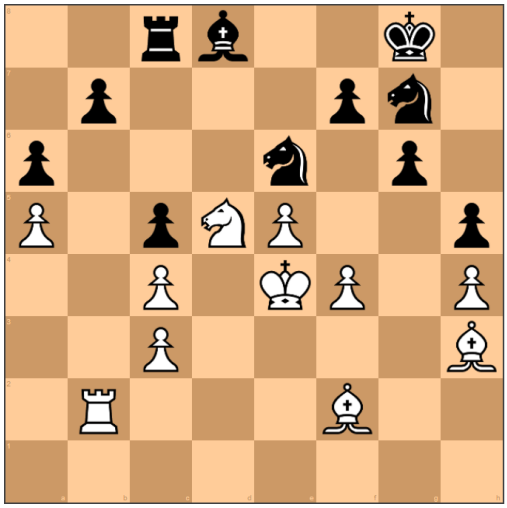


Anish Giri – Hikaru Nakamura, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.1.

White has just played **21.b4** with an obvious threat… **21…Nb2?** …which black completely overlooked. After **22.b5!** the bishop is lost on e7 if the attacked knight moves, so Nakamura threw more wood onto the fire before giving up: **22…Bc5 23.bxc6 Bxf2+ 24.Kxf2 Bxc2 25.Qxc2 Nd3+ 26.Kg1 Nxf4 27.Nf5 Kh8 28.Qe4.** White has a strong attack AND an extra piece. **28…Nd5 29.Ng5 g6** and **1-0.**

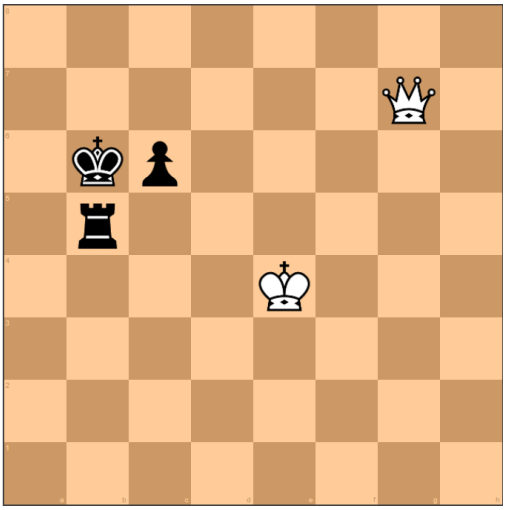
Levon Aronian – Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.1.

Did I say the players were burning out? This position was reached after **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 d5 cxd5 cxd5 5.Nc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 Ne4 8.Nd2 Nf6 9.Nf3 Ne4 10.Nd2 Nf6 11.Nf3.** It's a 3-time repetition and agreed drawn on the 11th move!



Anish Giri – Hikaru Nakamura, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Blitz. Rd.1.

Nakamura probably needed another swig of his Red Bull, otherwise how do you explain **45…Bxa5?? 46.Ne7+. 1-0.**



Levon Aronian – Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Armageddon. Rd.1.

I guess Levon and Maxime decided to leave all the action for their Armageddon game, but **81.Qb2??** was over the top: **81…Rxb2. 0-1.**

This fascinating position arrives after 14 moves by way of **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.dxe5 Nxb5 7.a4 Nbd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Qe4+ Qe6 12.Qd4 Qd6 13.Qe4+ Qe6 14.Qd4 Qd6**, and was agreed drawn by 3-time repetition in three of Nakamura's games, and 3 of So's games:

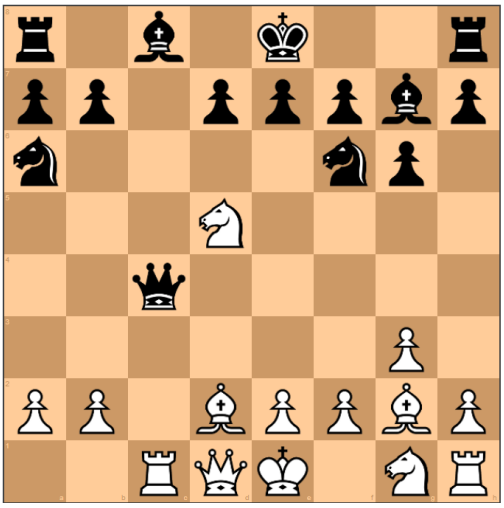
Hikaru Nakamura – Teimour Radjabov, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.2.

Wesley So – Hikaru Nakamura, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.4.

Hikaru Nakamura – Wesley So, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.4.

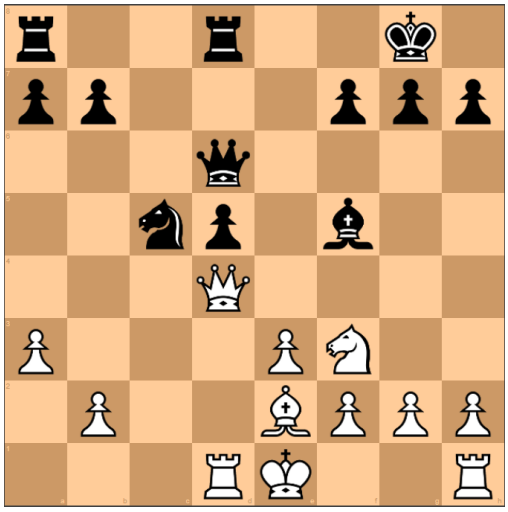
Anish Giri – Wesley So, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.5.

The tournament is not over, so maybe this complex "tabiya" will show up again!



Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Magnus Carlsen, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.2.

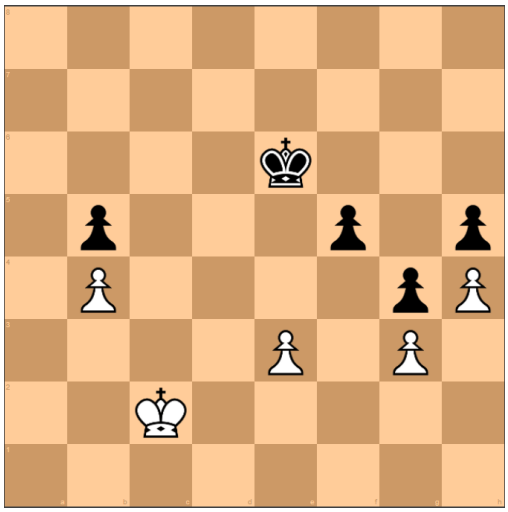
In this dangerous position Carlsen overplayed his hand with **9…Qxa2?** when 9…Qb5 would have been the safe alternative. After **10.Ra1! Qc4 11.Ra4! Qc5 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Rxa6! bxa6 14.Bxa8 Bxb2**, he had 3 pawns for a piece but it was not enough, and **1-0** after 45 moves.



Another 2 games draw by 3-time repetition, this time after 19 moves: **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.a3 c5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 exd5 10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.Be5 Bf5 12.Be2 Bf6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qd4 Qd6 15.Rd1 Rad8 16.Qd2 Qf6 17.Qd4 Qd6 18.Qd2 Qf6 19.Qd4 Qd6.** Maybe you can guess the players involved…

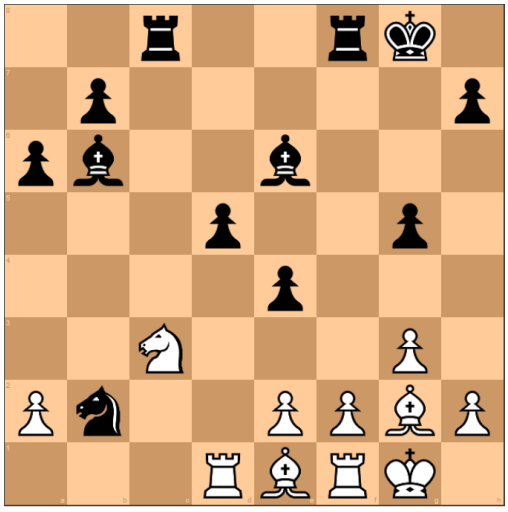
Hikaru Nakamura – Teimour Radjabov, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.2.

Teimour Radjabov – Hikaru Nakamura, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.2.



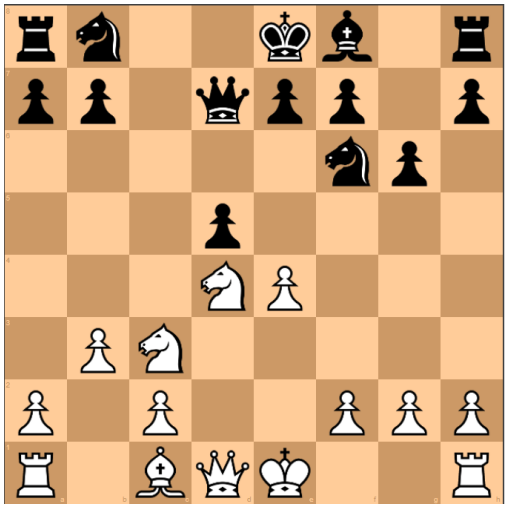
Teimour Radjabov – Hikaru Nakamura, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Blitz. Rd.2.

Even the strongest players need reminding of the basics, like the opposition: **48.Kd2??** was a horrible blunder (48.Kc3! draws) and Nakamura had a simple win after **48…Ke5! 49.Kd3 Kd5. 0-1.**



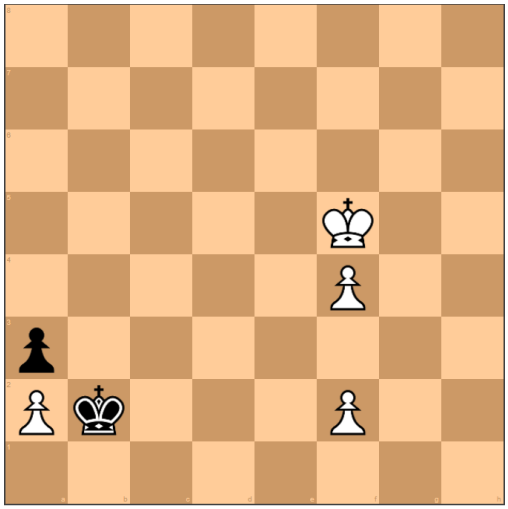
Magnus Carlsen – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Blitz. Rd.2.

Down a pawn, Carlsen tries to fight his way out of a jam by giving up the exchange with **24.Rxd5!?** and instead of the obvious and best 24…Bxd5! Mamedyarov implodes with **24…Rxc3??** completely overlooking **25.Rxg5+!** and **1-0.**



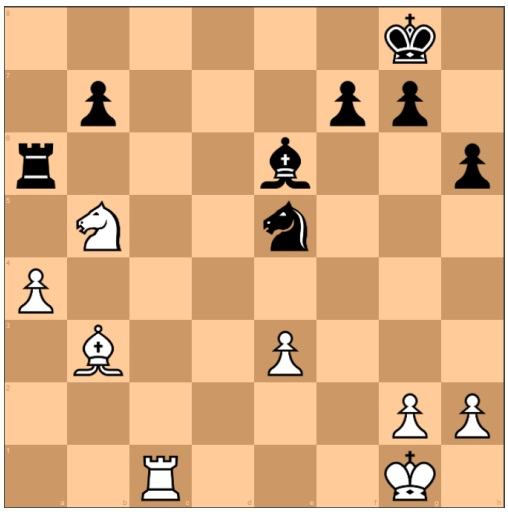
Magnus Carlsen – Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.3.

This position arose after that zany 2.Nc3 and 3.Bb5+ line against the Sicilian – a variation Carlsen does very well with. But here he over-reacted with **9.e5?** losing a pawn and eventually the game after **9…Qc7!**



An interesting moment occurred in **Levon Aronian - Hikaru Nakamura**, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.3.

With both sides about to queen Aronian erred with the natural **47.Kg6?** and couldn't hold on to the extra pawn after **47…Kxa2 48.f5 Kb3 49.f6 a2 50.f7 a1=Q 51.f8=Q Qg1+!** and drawn a few moves later. Instead he could have held on to the f-pawn with a theoretical win (I think!) with 47.Kg4!

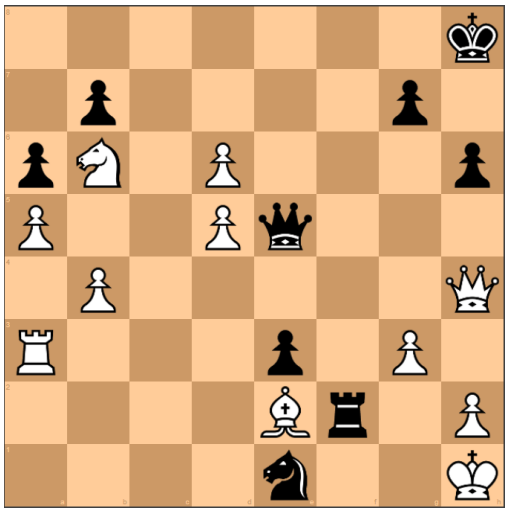


In **Magnus Carlsen – Vladislav Artemiev**, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.4.

the World Champion made a poor judgement call in trying to unbalance the position with **29.Nc7?** instead of the boring 29.Bxe6. White was simply lost in the ensuing rook vs 2 minor piece ending: **29…Bxb3 30.Nxa6 bxa6 31.Rc8+ Kh7 32.a5 Bc4 33.Kf2 Bb5 34.Rc2 Nc4 35.Ra2 Kg6 36.Kf3 Kf5 37.g4+ Ke5 38.h3 g5 39.Kf2 f5 40.gxf5 Kxf5 41.Ra1 Ke5 42.h4 g4 43.Rc1 h5 44.Rd1 Nd6 45.Rc1 Bc4 46.Rb1 Nf5 47.Rb7 g3+ 48.Kg1 Nxh4 49.Rh7 Be2 50.Rg7** and **0-1.**

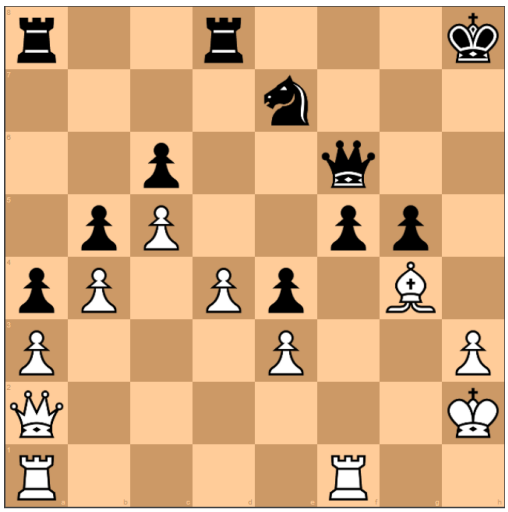
Seeking revenge two games later, Carlsen let loose the howler of the event so far, hanging his queen when he spurned a perpetual check: **Magnus Carlsen – Vladislav Artemiev**, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.4.

51.Qxc5+?? (51.Qe7+ keeps it even) **51…Qxc5. 0-1.**

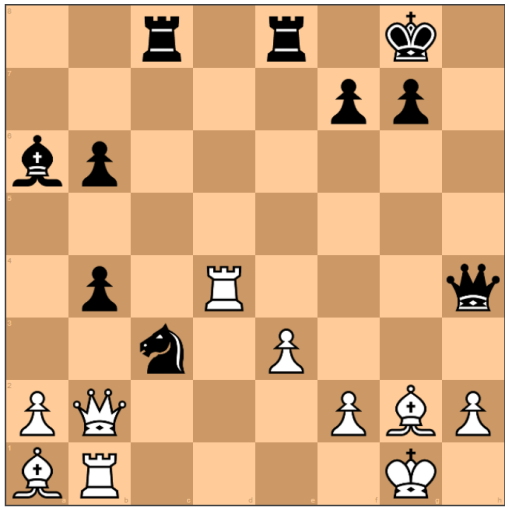


An amazing turnaround, and the most unexpected and stunning move of the event so far occurred on the 35th move in the game between **Maxime Vachier-Lagrave – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov**, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.4.

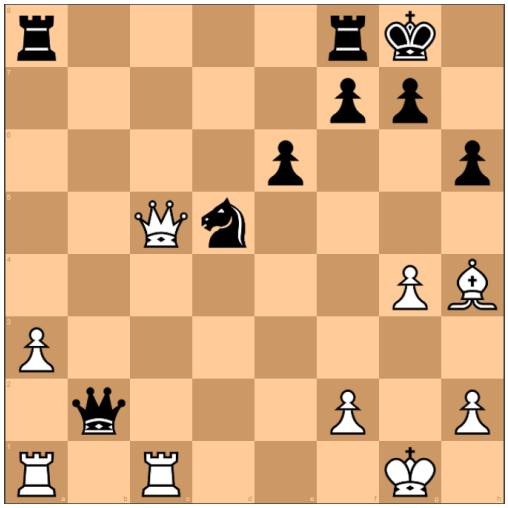
In a winning position simply 35.d7! followed by 36.d8=Q will win, but the Frenchman got fancy with **35.Qe7??** Who could blame him for overlooking the brilliant **35…Qh5!!** threatening 36…Qxh2 mate, while 36.Bxh5 is met by 36…Rf1 mate! White found no perpetual check after **36.h4 Qxe2 37.Qe8+ Kh7 38.Qe4+ Kh8 39.Qe8+ Kh7 40.Qe4+ Kg8. 0-1.** If 41.Qe8+ Rf8.



White's game is maybe not so great in **Wesley So – Anish Giri**, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.5. However, it became a whole lot worse after he blundered a rook with **29.Rxf5?? Nxf5 30.Rf1** and now **30…Rd5!** defended, and **0-1.**



Two rounds later it's time for Anish to blunder in **Wesley So – Anish Giri**, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.5. Black's queen is attacked, and if he moves it with 24…Qg5! he'll pick up the exchange with either …Nxb1 or …Ne2+ with great prospects. Instead, he tried to get fancy with the immediate **24…Ne2+?** and was stunned by **25.Qxe2!** After **25…Qxd4** (25…Bxe2 26.Rxh4 is simply a piece down) **26.Qxa6!** meant white kept two powerful bishops for a rook. The game did not last long: **26.…Qd2 27.Bd4 Rc1+ 28.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 29.Qf1 Qd2 30.Bd5 Rd8 31.Bb3 Rc8 32.Kg2 Rc1 33.Qb5 Qe1 34.Qe8+ Kh7 35.Bc2+. 1-0.** If 35…Rxc2 36.Qe4+.



This next tactic, from **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Vladislav Artemiev**, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021. Rapid. Rd.5. is right out of the textbooks. Black holds a nice edge, with a dominating knight and a seemingly safe king position. 24…Nf4 looks good. However, black tried the obvious and active **24…Ra4??** and was gunned down on the streets of the Internet with **25.Qxf8+!! Kxf8 26.Rc8 mate!**

The Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals 2021 resumes tomorrow. Draw your own conclusions, but I think I'm going to go take a walk in the park.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

World Class Chess in San Francisco

Magnus was supposed to be here now. They were going to have the finals of the Meltwater Grand Chess Tour right here in our city. That plan went a bit awry, perhaps due to the protracted COVID-19 pandemic, but maybe it was never firmly set in place. The Grand Chess Tour has rules and schedules that are hard to follow and seem open to change. I'm not complaining (too much) about this entertaining event that has filled the year with top level chess. It's only that this first year of the event seems rather haphazard, and the games are mostly quick play and blitz. That's fun but usually a lower artistic level than the classical time control tournaments. Plus the finals were supposed to be in San Francisco!

The Pro Chess finals held at the Folsom Street Foundry two years ago was the last great chess event in the city, and allowed us to have a wonderful rapid event at the Mechanics' club with Fabiano Caruana and many super grandmasters. Still, the last time a world champion played classical chess at the club was in the 90's when Mark Pinto, Jim Eade and Neil Falconer organized the Pan Pacific events. We give below one of the classic games from the second of the three Pan Pacific tournaments. Such players as Viktor Korchnoi, Women's world champion Xie Jun, Hubner, Nunn and others came to town for these two week events. The game below features Australia's best ever chess player against our favorite visitor, former world champion Tal. We give another game, from the current Meltwater Grand Chess Tour Finals. It should have been played here in San Francisco, and with some luck we will get the world's top players here in the next year or two.

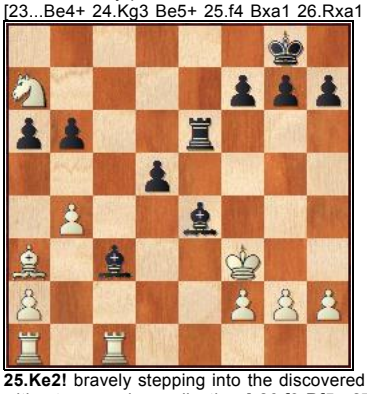
(1) Tal,Mikhail (2570) - Rogers,Ian (2545) [C10]

San Francisco San Francisco (8), 1991

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 The Rubinstein Variation of the French Defense is very solid. White must play very actively to get any edge against it. **6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bd3 c5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Bg5 Qa5+?!** This is a little too direct. 10...h6 is better. **11.c3 Be7 12.Ne5 b6?!**

[12...Qc7 would leave White the opening advantage, but would at least avoid the melee that is to come.] **13.Bb5!** The black queen is suddenly in danger.14. Nc6 threatens to trap it. **13...a6 14.Bc6 Ra7 15.b4 Qa3 16.Qc2** Black must do something immediately to meet the terrible threat of 17. Bc1 **16...Nd5 17.Bxd5 exd5 18.Bc1 Bf5!**

A wild position. Both queen's are attacked. White cannot play 19. Qxf5 Qxc3 check, but Tal finds a different tactical continuation. **19.Bxa3 Bxc2 20.Nc6! Bf6!** Not going down without a fight! [20...Rc7 21.Nxe7+ Rxe7+ 22.Kd2 Ba4 23.b5 skewers the rooks and wins in easy technical fashion. Rogers sacrifices a rook to chase the white king around.] **21.Nxa7 Bxc3+ 22.Ke2 Re8+ 23.Kf3** A crazy position. Black has two terrific bishops (which can easily win an exchange) and attacking play on the white king. Yet he is a whole rook down in the endgame. **23...Re6** [23...Be4+ 24.Kg3 Be5+ 25.f4 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 d4 27.b5 should win with the extra piece] **24.Rhc1 Be4+**



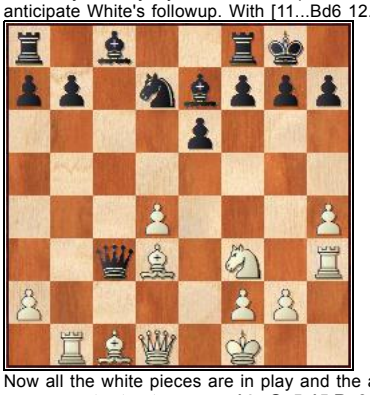
25.Ke2! bravely stepping into the discovered check is the route to victory **25...d4** [25...Bxg2+ 26.Kd3 d4 27.Rxc3! dxc3 28.Kxc3 Re7 29.Rd1! h5 30.Rd8+ Kh7 31.Nc8 is a knight for a pawn without any real complications] **26.f3 Bf5+ 27.Kf2 Re3 28.Rab1!** Bringing the last white piece into the game clarifies everything. Black can take the rook, but 28. Bxb1 29. Rxb1 is just a piece up endgame. Otherwise the rook can come to b3 and sacrifice for the other bishop. Rogers threw in the towel here. A marvelous game. **1-0**

(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Duda,Jan-Krzysztof [D41]

Meltwater Chess Tour Finals, 26.09.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nf3 c5 6.e3 A Semi-Tarrasch Queen's Gambit Declined. Reasonable opening for both sides. **6...cxd4 7.exd4 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Qc7 9.Rb1!?** What's with Magnus? He thinks he's Tal offering such a speculative pawn sacrifice. **9...Nd7** [9...Qxc3+ 10.Bd2 Qc7 11.Bb5+ Is fair compensation for a pawn, so Duda feels safer declining the offer.] **10.Bd3!? Qxc3+**

Now it's just too juicy to decline the proferred pawn, You get the pawn with check and White needs to move the king! **11.Kf1 Be7?!** Duda makes the most natural developing move but fails to anticipate White's followup. With [11...Bd6 12.Qe2 0-0 13.h4 Qc7 White would not have the g3 square avaliable for the rook and this would lessen the attack.] **12.h4! 0-0 13.Rh3**



Now all the white pieces are in play and the attack is dangerous. **13...Nf6?!** [retreating immediately with 13...Qc7 would hold back the storm better] **14.Ne5!** threatening 15. Bxh7+. The black queen must retreat anyway. **14...Qa5 15.Rg3 Kh8?!** another "natural" move from Duda, yet probably the last innacuracy Magnus needs to win the game. [The odd looking 15...Ne8 would prevent an immediate breakthrough] **16.Bg5 h6**

[There is no defense anymore against the white onslaught. See how every piece is aggressively placed to attack the king. On 16...Qd8 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Qh5 g6 *(18...h6 19.Rg6!* threatening 20 Rxh6+ *19...fxg6 20.Qxg6* is mate next on h7*)* 19.Bxg6! fxg6 20.Nxg6+ Kg7 21.Nxf8+ Kxf8 22.Qxh7 is the end] **17.Bxh6! gxh6 18.Qf3** Duda resigns. Magnus' final move is very accurate to keep the black knight on f6 (else white has 19. Nxf7+). There is absolutely no defense to 19. Qf4 and 20. Qxh6+ (18....Qd2 19. Rd1). A great game by Magnus (probably inspired by seeing old Tal games). **1-0**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

Best Play: 1. d4 Kh5 2. Qd3 Kg4 3. Qh3#

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 #989

October 9, 2021

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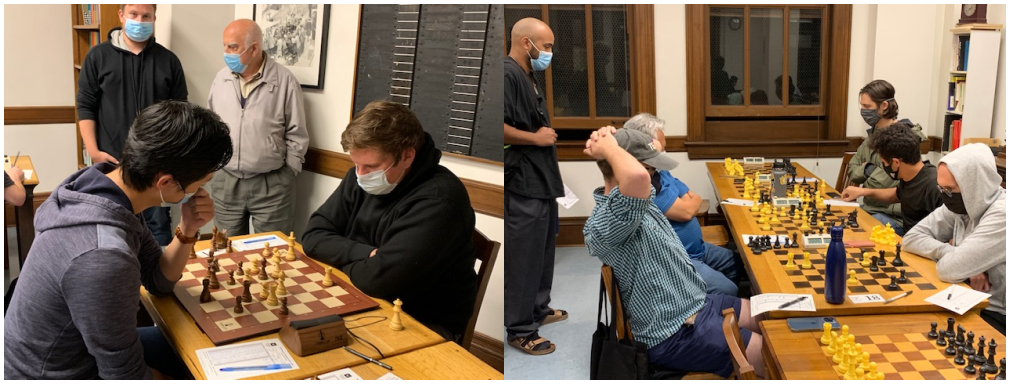
Tuesday Night Marathon Round 5 Report

by Abel Talamantez

FM Ezra Chambers continued to work his magic at the Tuesday Night Marathon, again persevering through an inferior position during much of the game to steal victory from the jaws of defeat against Nathan Fong. Nathan commented right after the game, "That's why they're good," referring to the ability of stronger players to keep their cool in difficult positions, find ways to create opportunities, and leave little room for error to their opponents. He currently leads the top section by a full point and a half with a perfect 5/5. He received a futher half point cushion on his lead from last week after a draw between Ako Heidari and Nicholas Weng. Sean Kelly won an impressive game against Alex Chin, putting Kelly along with Heidari and Weng at 3.5.5.



In the u/1800 section, Marty Cortinas and Daniel Wang played to a draw, and with Christopher Dessert losing to Stephen Parsons, Cortinas and Wang lead the section with 4.5/5. Five players are in the hunt just a half point behind with 4/5, including Parsons, Dessert, Paul Reed, Andrew Imbens and Anton Maliev.

Two more rounds to go in this TNM, the action continues next Tuesday evening starting at 6:30pm PDT, broadcast at 7pm.

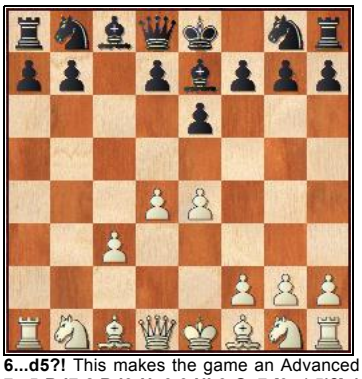
Here is the link to the broadcast of round 5: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfmV2QsUeFk (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfmV2QsUeFk)

Here are some games from Tuesday night, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian:

(1) FM Chambers,Ezra (2314) - Fong,Nathan (2049) [B20]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (5.1), 05.10.2021

1.e4 c5 2.a3 The Delayed Wing Gambit **2...e6** [2...g6!? is another way to cross White's plans.] **3.b4 cxb4 4.axb4 Bxb4 5.c3 Be7 6.d4**



6...d5?! This makes the game an Advanced French where White has a strong pawn chain. This is definitely compensation for the pawn. Instead Black could have considered [6...d6 or; 6...b6] **7.e5 Bd7 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.Nh3 Qc7** [9...b5!?] **10.0-0 f6?!** This gives White definte play on the kingside. **11.Qh5+ Kf8 12.f4?!** [12.Re1! is clearly better for White with active pieces and attacking chances] **12...f5=** Now the game is blocked, which Black can be happy about. **13.Ng5 g6 14.Qe2 h6 15.Nf3 a6 16.Nbd2 Na5?! 17.c4!+/= dxc4?!** [17...Bc6] **18.Nxc4 Nxc4 19.Bxc4 Rc8 20.Bd3?!** [20.Bb3+/- Bb5 21.Qa2! Bxf1 22.Kxf1 is great play on the light squares. The e6 pawn is a goner.] **20...Bb4 21.Rb1 a5 22.Be3?!** This allows Black to close the queenside. 22. Bd2 is more aggressive. **22...Ne7 23.Rfc1 Bc6 24.Bc4 Qd7 25.Ne1 Nd5**

Black has a clear edge with such control of d5. **26.Nd3 Ba3 27.Nc5 Bxc5 28.dxc5 Kf7 29.Qd2?!** [29.Bxd5 Qxd5 30.Rc4 Qd7 31.Rd4 Bd5-/+] **29...Nxe3!? 30.Qxe3 Rhd8 31.Qb3?!** [31.Ra1] **31...Qe7?!** [31...Qd4+ 32.Kh1 Qf2! is really good for Black. White should not take the pawn on e6 - 33.Bxe6+? Ke7 34.Rg1 Rd2 wins] **32.Qe3 Be4 33.Rb6 Rc6 34.Rb5 Qc7?!** [34...a4 35.Ra5 g5 keeps a clear edge] **35.Qb3?!** [35.Be2 a4 36.h3 Ra8 37.Kh2 a3 38.Ra1] **35...Rd7 36.Qh3 Kg7 37.Qa3 Rd2 38.Bf1 b6?**

This gives White a target. Much better was [38...Ra6-+ or; 38...Qd7-+] **39.Qe3!** Ezra jumps at his chance. If the black rook retreats then White can capture on b6 [39.cxb6? now loses to 39...Rxc1 40.bxc7 Rxg2+ 41.Kh1 Rxf1#] **39...Qd8 40.Rxb6 Rd4?** [40...g5-/+] **41.Qb3 Rd2 42.Rb7+** Here they both had five minutes or less, and stopped keeping score. But the DGT board recorded the crucial drama:

42...Rc7? [42...Rd7=] **43.Rxc7+?!** [43.c6+- Rdd7 44.Qb6] **43...Qxc7 44.Qxe6 Qd8?**

[44...a4] **45.Qf6+!+-** Trading queens wins as the c-pawn marches forward. **45...Kh7** [45...Qxf6 46.exf6+ Kxf6 47.c6 a4 48.c7 Bb7 49.Rb1 Bc8 50.Rb8 Be6 51.Bc4] **46.Qxd8 Rxd8 47.c6 Ra8 48.c7 Bb7 49.Rb1** That's it. There is no way for Black to defend here. **49...Ra7 50.Rxb7 Rxb7 51.c8Q Rg7 52.Qa8 h5 53.Qxa5 h4 54.e6 h3 55.gxh3 g5 56.Qxf5+ Kh6 57.Qf6+ Rg6 58.fxg5+ Kh5 59.Be2+ Kh4 60.Qf4+ Kxh3 61.Qg4#** Nathan had a lot of chances in this game. Ezra kept his cool though and took the opportunities at the end. **1-0**

(2) Heidari,Ako (1996) - Weng,Nicholas (2001) [D89]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (5.2), 05.10.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3 Bg4 11.f3 Na5 12.Bd3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Be6 14.d5

The height of theory -- seventy years ago! Yet this is a great position to play for both sides. It has lots of action and tactics. **14...Bxa1 15.Qxa1 f6 16.Bh6** [16.Qb1 Bd7 *(16...Bf7 17.Nd4 a6 18.Qb4)* 17.e5 fxe5 18.Bxg6 would be, like so often in sharp lines, a bail-out to a perpetual.] **16...Re8 17.Kh1?! a6 18.Nf4**

18...Bf7? [18...Bd7 19.Qe1 e5!? *(19...Bb5!?)*] **19.e5!+- e6** [19...g5 20.e6 gxf4 21.exf7+ Kxf7 22.Qd4+- e5 23.Qe4 Rh8 24.g4 Rc8 25.g5 is very strong according to Stockfish] **20.dxe6 Bxe6 21.exf6** [21.Be4!?] **21...Qd7?**

[21...Bf7 22.Be4 is "less won".] **22.Be4** Still good, just not best. [22.Nxg6! hxg6 *(22...Qf7 23.Ne7+)* 23.Bxg6 threatens to crash the party with 24.f7+, and is very winning ("+9.56" Stockfish 14!)] **22...Rad8 23.Qe1** [23.Nxg6! is still winning, even with the free move for Black.] **23...Nc6?**

[23...Qb5!? 24.a4! is still close to won again, but nowhere near as bad as played.] **24.Qg3** [24.Nxg6 STILL overwhelming!] **24...Ne5**

25.Nxg6? And after all those times when this was the winning move -- now it's the move that *doesn't* win! Black can trade off a critical piece. [25.h4 is the best. +-.] **25...Nxg6 26.Bxg6 hxg6 27.Qxg6+** It's just a draw -- White has run out of attackers. **27...Kh8 28.Bg7+ Kg8**

29.Bh6+ Kh8 30.Bg7+ Kg8 31.Bh6+ An exciting battle. Ako had his chances for the full point, but of course this is very complicated in real time over the board. **1/2-1/2**

(3) Argo,Guy (1938) - IM Winslow,Elliott (2269) [B22]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (5.3), 05.10.2021

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.Qc2 Nc6 [3...Qc7! Take that! The copycat move stops White's d2-d4.] **4.Nf3 e5 5.Bb5!? Qb6!? 6.Bxc6 Qxc6 7.Nxe5 Qxe4+ 8.Qxe4 Nxe4**

White has trouble achieving equality. **9.d3 Nf6 10.0-0 d6 11.Nc4** [11.Nf3] **11...Be6 12.Nba3**

12...d5 [Black has a little edge due to the bishop pair. He must keep the game from getting blocked though when knights are happier. Easier may be 12...0-0-0 13.Bg5 d5 14.Ne5 d4 which favors Black.] **13.Ne5 Bd6 14.Re1 0-0 15.Bg5 Rfe8?!** Now White gets equality [15...a6 16.Nc2 *(16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Nf3 f5* would be a better version of the game*.)*] **16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Nf3 a6 18.Nc2= Rad8?!**

19.d4! c4?! [19...b6 20.a4 a5 21.g3 f5= keeps the queenside more fluid.] **20.Nh4** [20.Ne3 f5 21.g3 f4 22.Ng2] **20...f5 21.g3?!** Gives Black a hook to play on.

[21.Ne3 f4 22.Nef5 Bc7 *(22...Bf8?! 23.g3 fxg3 24.hxg3+/-* according to Stockfish 14. Compare to Black's 21st*)* 23.g3=] **21...Kg7?** [21...f4!=/+ exchanges a weak pawn, provides scope for the light-squared bishop, loosens White's kingside pawns. But most importantly, the knight at c2 is restricted, unless White plays gxf4 when his own pawns are a problem. 22.Ng2 Kh8! 23.gxf4 Rg8] **22.f4** Maybe not even best! But White slams the door to any activity by Black, when now only he can play on. So it has a psychological value. [22.Ne3 Kf6 23.Nhg2!?] **22...Kf6 23.Ne3 Rg8 24.Kf2 b5 25.b4?!** [25.a3+/= Now Black can prepare the break . ..b4, but it will always be too risky to play.] **25...a5 26.a3 Ra8 27.Nc2**

With opening the a-file just leading to the rooks coming off, Black has absolutely no counterplay now. White offered a draw. **1/2-1/2**

(4) Chin,Alex (1992) - Kelly,Sean (1786) [B90]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (5.4), 05.10.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 This has become a popular move against the Najdorf. It gives White reaonable chances without too much theory. **6...e5 7.Nde2 h5** Stopping White's kingside advance is a sound strategy. **8.g3 Be7 9.Bg2 b5 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Be3 Nbd7 12.Qd2 0-0 13.f4 Rc8 14.Nd5**

14...Nxd5 [14...Bxd5 15.exd5 Nb6 16.b3 is a fair alternative] **15.exd5 Bf6=/+** Anyway Black is a little more comfortable. **16.c3?!** [16.fxe5 Bxe5=/+ 17.c3 *(17.Rae1)*] **16...Re8?!** [16...Nb6!-/+ 17.b3 e4! 18.Bxe4 Re8 19.Bg2 Nxd5 is very good for Black] **17.Rae1?!** [17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.b3] **17...Nb6-/+ 18.Qd1?!**

[18.Bxb6 Qxb6+ 19.Kh2] **18...e4!-+** Sean has all his pieces in the right places and pushes actively forward. **19.Nd4 Nxd5 20.Bc1?! Qb6 21.Kh2 Bxd4 22.cxd4 Nf6** Black has won a pawn and has the better position, so Alex decides to go for broke. **23.g4!? hxg4 24.hxg4 Rc4** [24...Rxc1!? 25.Qxc1 Nxg4+ 26.Kg3 Nf6 is also a reasonable continuation] **25.g5 Rxd4 26.Qe2** [26.Be3 Rxd1 27.Bxb6 Rxe1 28.Rxe1 Nh5] **26...Nd5 27.Qh5 Bc8** [27...e3 28.g6 fxg6 29.Qxg6 Qd8] **28.Rh1 Bf5!**

The White attack is completely shut down unless he can get through on the h-file. That plan has its problems. **29.Bh3** [29.Qh4 Qc5] **29...Rd3!** The best move, when White is collapsing. The threat of 30...Qf2+ is lethal. **30.Kg2 Rf3 31.Be3? Nxe3+** A great game by Sean. **0-1**

(5) Brownlow,Samuel (1795) - Gimelfarb,Ilia (1752) [C44]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (5.8), 05.10.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d3 Bc5 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Be6 7.Be3 Bxe3 8.fxe3 Qd7 9.Nbd2 h6 10.c3 0-0 11.b4 a6 12.d4 Bg4 13.a4 b5 14.Qb3 Rfe8 15.axb5 axb5 16.d5 Ne7 17.c4 This game was the slowest developing game of the round (time wise). The players get to a real battle eventually. **17...bxc4 18.Qxc4 c6 19.dxc6 Qxc6 20.Qxc6 Nxc6 21.b5 Nb4 22.Nc4 Rad8 23.Ra3 Nxe4**

24.Nfxe5 dxe5 25.Bxe4 Be2 26.Rb1 material and chances are still even **26...Nd5 27.Rc1 g6 28.Kf2 Bg4 29.Bf3 Bc8 30.Bxd5 Rxd5 31.Nb6 Rdd8 32.Nxc8 Rxc8 33.Rxc8 Rxc8** We have an equal material rook ending. **34.Ke2 e4 35.Kd2 Kf8 36.Ra4 f5 37.Ra6 Kf7** White is better due to the passed pawn. Now 38. b6 would keep the edge. **38.Rc6?**

The pawn ending is tricky with little time on the clock, but Black is in control as he corrals the white c-pawn. **38...Rxc6 39.bxc6 Ke6 40.Kc3 Kd6 41.Kd4 Kxc6 42.Ke5 Kc5 43.g4**

43...Kc4?? [43...fxg4 44.Kxe4 Kd6 45.Kf4 h5 would be a winning position with the extra pawn. Now Black gets the wrong side of a two pawn each ending.] **44.gxf5 gxf5 45.Kxf5 Kd3 46.Kf4**

Black gets in zugszwang after 46...h5 47. h4 The rest is easy **46...Kc4 47.Kxe4 Kc5 48.Kf5 Kd6 49.e4 Ke7 50.Ke5 Kf7 51.Kd6 Ke8 52.Ke6 Kf8 53.Kd7 Kf7 54.e5 1-0**

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6
1	1	FM Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101)	15191101	2314	W21	W11	W2	W5	W6	
2	2-4	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2001	W16	W18	L1	W4	D3	
3		Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1996	L4	W21	W20	W14	D2	
4		Sean Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962568)	16962568	1786	W3	D6	W8	L2	W11	
5	5-10	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2269	W12	D20	W19	L1	D8	
6		Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	13001390	2049	W15	D4	H---	W18	L1	
7		Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1994	L20	L12	W22	W16	W13	
8		Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	12517167	1938	H---	W13	L4	W20	D5	
9		Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)	10451671	1936	L18	L16	W17	W21	W14	
10		Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	12572270	1900	L13	W17	L14	W15	W18	
11	11-13	Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1992	W17	L1	W16	H---	L4	
12		Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	12633251	1818	L5	W7	L18	H---	W19	
13		Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1622	W10	L8	D15	W19	L7	

14	14-18	**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	12621393	1800	H---	H---	W10	L3	L9	
15		**Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)**	12747074	1795	L6	H---	D13	L10	W20	
16		**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	16571026	1793	L2	W9	L11	L7	B---	
17		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	16600505	1676	L11	L10	L9	X22	W21	H---
18		**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	14257838	1665	W9	L2	W12	L6	L10	
19	19-20	**Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)**	12328450	1805	H---	X22	L5	L13	L12	
20		**Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)**	17158733	1752	W7	D5	L3	L8	L15	
21	21-22	**Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)**	12459313	1830	L1	L3	B---	L9	L17	
22		**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	12680193	1766	H---	F19	L7	F17	H---	

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under 1800

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6
1	1-2	**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	12590374	1720	B---	W43	W15	W14	D2	
2		**Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)**	15361305	1581	W40	W16	W28	W3	D1	
3	3-7	**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	16566932	1544	W32	W6	W9	L2	W5	
4		**Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)**	13373197	1440	W35	W12	L14	W37	W15	
5		**Christopher Dessert (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15048166)**	15048166	1418	W11	W13	W20	W8	L3	
6		**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	30102682	1318	W26	L3	W44	W13	W21	
7		**Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)**	30250562	unr.	L16	W31	W17	W28	W14	
8	8-12	**John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	12561007	1500	H---	W25	W24	L5	W26	
9		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	12872385	1451	W19	W37	L3	W36	D12	
10		**Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)**	13377410	1306	L12	W35	W18	W20	H---	
11		**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	30235937	unr.	L5	H---	X46	W27	W25	
12		**Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)**	30268083	unr.	W10	L4	W32	W16	D9	
13	13-19	**Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	12773115	1749	W31	L5	W22	L6	W34	
14		**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	12796129	1543	W33	W17	W4	L1	L7	
		Sebastian Suarez								

15		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	16875347	1520	W34	W36	L1	W19	L4	
16		**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1389	W7	L2	W34	L12	W36	
17		**Jp Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)**	30150098	1177	W38	L14	L7	W45	W37	
18		**Deandr Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)**	30255378	unr.	W29	L28	L10	W32	W38	
19		**Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)**	30257083	unr.	L9	W30	W29	L15	W28	
20	20-26	**Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)**	17018168	1702	H---	W39	L5	L10	W33	
21		**Nick Casares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	10424364	1600	H---	L22	W33	X24	L6	
22		**Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	13159224	1462	H---	W21	L13	L26	W41	
23		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	12934283	546	L28	L26	X47	W29	H---	
24		**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815)**	30204815	unr.	H---	X27	L8	F21	W42	
25		**Adam Laskowitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30258766)**	30258766	unr.	H---	L8	W40	W39	L11	
26		**Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818)**	30242818	unr.	L6	W23	D39	W22	L8	
27	27-38	**Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)**	12601676	1583	H---	F24	W42	L11	H---	
28		**Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)**	17266862	1538	W23	W18	L2	L7	L19	
29		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	12844781	1500	L18	X46	L19	L23	W39	
30		**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	16953298	1210	L37	L19	W35	L38	W45	
31		**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)**	16757673	1139	L13	L7	L45	W40	W44	
32		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	16716976	983	L3	X45	L12	L18	X46	
33		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	17005685	768	L14	W38	L21	X44	L20	
34		**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)**	30264869	unr.	L15	X47	L16	W43	L13	
35		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	30214657	unr.	L4	L10	L30	B---	W43	
36		**Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)**	30210917	unr.	W47	L15	W43	L9	L16	
37		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249)**	30174249	unr.	W30	L9	W41	L4	L17	
38		**Harry Elworthy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30256579)**	30256579	unr.	L17	L33	B---	W30	L18	
39	39-42	**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	30164211	1173	W42	L20	D26	L25	L29	

40		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	16741331	1029	L2	H---	L25	L31	B---	
41		**Ryan Deal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30281032)**	30281032	unr.	H---	H---	L37	H---	L22	
42		**Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966)**	30269966	unr.	L39	H---	L27	X46	L24	
43	43-45	**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	13913131	1400	W45	L1	L36	L34	L35	
44		**James Dorsch (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30249167)**	30249167	unr.	H---	H---	L6	F33	L31	
45		**Ryan Gill (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30240310)**	30240310	unr.	L43	F32	W31	L17	L30	
46	46	**Damien Seperi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757144)**	16757144	1083	H---	F29	F11	F42	F32	
47	47	**Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)**	16897133	1418	L36	F34	U---	U---	U---	

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Game

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	1-14	**Brendyn Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)**	12869947	2052	U---	W23	U---	U---	U---	1.0
2		**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)**	16828914	1893	U---	W19	U---	U---	U---	1.0
3		**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	12590374	1720	W20	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
4		**ROMEO BE BARREYRO (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)**	17018168	1702	W22	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
5		**JERRY MORGAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)**	13159224	1462	W24	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
6		**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)**	16757673	1090	U---	U---	U---	W13	U---	1.0
7		**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)**	16317000	825	U---	U---	U---	L9	W16	1.0
8		**Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	14708926	807	U---	W25	U---	L12	U---	1.0
9		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	17005685	768	U---	U---	U---	W7	U---	1.0
10		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)**	12934283	546	U---	U---	W21	U---	U---	1.0
11		**Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966)**	30269966	unr.	U---	U---	U---	W22	U---	1.0
12		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	30214657	unr.	U---	U---	U---	W8	U---	1.0
13		**Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)**	16694473	unr.	U---	W20	U---	L6	U---	1.0
14		**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	30235937	unr.	U---	U---	W26	U---	U---	1.0
15	15-18	**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	16600505	1676	U---	U---	U---	D16	U---	0.5
		Samuel Agdamag								

16		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	14874734	1448	U---	U---	U---	D15	L7	0.5
17		**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815)**	30204815	unr.	U---	D18	U---	U---	U---	0.5
18		**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)**	30264869	unr.	U---	D17	U---	U---	U---	0.5
19	19-26	**Alex Silvestre (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446526)**	15446526	2131	U---	L2	U---	U---	U---	0.0
20		**TONY A LAMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)**	12328450	1805	L3	L13	U---	U---	U---	0.0
21		**Cesar Tamondong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12439091)**	12439091	1600	U---	U---	L10	U---	U---	0.0
22		**NICK CASARES JR (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	10424364	1600	L4	U---	U---	L11	U---	0.0
23		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	12844781	1500	U---	L1	U---	U---	U---	0.0
24		**JOHN CHAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	12561007	1500	L5	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
25		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	16716976	983	U---	L8	U---	U---	U---	0.0
26		**Angad Sharma**		unr.	U---	U---	L14	U---	U---	0.0

JJ Dolan Memorial Report

There were 56 players in the JJ Dolan Memorial held on Saturday October 2nd, which was a four-round G/45;d5 USCF rated tournament. In the top section, Abhishek Mallela dominated the day, scoring a perfect 4/4 to win the top section by a full point. Rithwik Narendra, Nathan Yan, and Luke Widjaja shared a tie for 2nd with 3/4.

In the bottom section, Arjun Sankar was able to take sole 1st place in a 37-player section, not an easy feat with 4 rounds. He went 4/4, with Arjun Varavan and Yuelin Shi tying for 2nd with 3.5/4.

Congratulations to all the winners and special thank you to all the participants for another amazing weekend turnout!

SwissSys Standings. Dolan Memorial Championship: 1800+

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Pr
1	1	**Abhishek Mallela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12888811)**	12888811	2106	W19	W10	W11	W4	4.0	31
2	2-4	**Rithwik Narendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14903560)**	14903560	1980	D7	W13	D5	W10	3.0	89
3		**Nathan Yan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16430495)**	16430495	1975	W16	L4	W9	W11	3.0	89
4		**Luke Widjaja (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16010621)**	16010621	1773	W5	W3	W8	L1	3.0	89
5	5-8	**Jacob Chiang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16093205)**	16093205	2006	L4	W16	D2	W12	2.5	
6		**Aditya Naganath (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12791560)**	12791560	1917	D13	D17	W15	D8	2.5	
7		**Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)**	16083648	1758	D2	L8	W17	W14	2.5	
8		**Zachary Filler (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14040236)**	14040236	1600	W15	W7	L4	D6	2.5	
9	9-11	**Ranen Lardent (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12614986)**	12614986	1866	W18	L11	L3	W15	2.0	

10		**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	12621393	1800	W17	L1	W14	L2	2.0	
11		**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	14257838	1674	W12	W9	L1	L3	2.0	
12	12-13	**Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)**	17039584	1915	L11	H---	W13	L5	1.5	
13		**Wentao Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16629782)**	16629782	1677	D6	L2	L12	W18	1.5	
14	14-16	**Sam Sloan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11115292)**	11115292	1900	H---	H---	L10	L7	1.0	
15		**Anshul Govindu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14721288)**	14721288	1805	L8	W18	L6	L9	1.0	
16		**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	16898540	1694	L3	L5	D18	H---	1.0	
17	17-18	**Adrian Kondakov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15082597)**	15082597	2146	L10	D6	L7	U---	0.5	
18		**Serena Yuan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16843308)**	16843308	1604	L9	L15	D16	L13	0.5	
19	19	**Arjun Vairavan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30289746)**	30289746	1793	L1	U---	U---	U---	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Dolan Memorial Championship: Under1800

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Pr
1	1	**Arjun Sankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14542170)**	14542170	1537	W32	W34	W11	W5	4.0	19
2	2-3	**Arjun Vairavan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30289746)**	30289746	1793	B---	W18	D6	W14	3.5	81
3		**Yuelin Shi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16286905)**	16286905	1522	W22	W25	D4	W12	3.5	81
4	4-10	**Joshua Lamstein (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15487526)**	15487526	1588	W13	W8	D3	D11	3.0	
5		**Vikrant Ganesan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16786952)**	16786952	1569	W10	W29	W7	L1	3.0	
6		**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1540	X36	W20	D2	H---	3.0	
7		**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	14874734	1421	W15	W16	L5	W21	3.0	
8		**Gabriel Ngam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13553308)**	13553308	1340	W33	L4	W32	W23	3.0	
9		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	30164211	1222	L11	W37	W34	W25	3.0	
10		**Arjun Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15943490)**	15943490	1174	L5	W27	W19	W24	3.0	
11	11-15	**Na Chea (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15147161)**	15147161	1643	W9	W19	L1	D4	2.5	
12		**Anish Dara (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15295667)**	15295667	1552	D21	W35	W16	L3	2.5	
13		**Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)**	16425316	1181	L4	W33	W17	D15	2.5	

14		**Ivan Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17352346)**	17352346	796	W28	W17	D21	L2	2.5	
15		**Wyatt Binnard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30288726)**	30288726	unr.	L7	W31	W18	D13	2.5	
16	16-25	**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	16566932	1588	W30	L7	L12	W29	2.0	
17		**John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	12561007	1548	W31	L14	L13	W30	2.0	
18		**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	16875347	1505	W27	L2	L15	W33	2.0	
19		**Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)**	12601676	1500	W37	L11	L10	W32	2.0	
20		**Ethan Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16964125)**	16964125	1329	W24	L6	L23	W28	2.0	
21		**Ruyi Hu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16659933)**	16659933	1168	D12	W26	D14	L7	2.0	
22		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	17005685	873	L3	W30	H---	H---	2.0	
23		**Pavel Kolesnikov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30194161)**	30194161	unr.	L29	W36	W20	L8	2.0	
24		**Quinn Koster (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30226046)**	30226046	unr.	L20	B---	W29	L10	2.0	
25		**Jan Erik Solem (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30270432)**	30270432	unr.	W26	L3	W35	L9	2.0	
26	26-27	**Swaminathan Sankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14080777)**	14080777	1227	L25	L21	D27	W35	1.5	
27		**Neev Grover (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16652883)**	16652883	381	L18	L10	D26	W34	1.5	
28	28-34	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	12844781	1511	L14	L32	X36	L20	1.0	
29		**Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)**	17079795	1336	W23	L5	L24	L16	1.0	
30		**Jp Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)**	30150098	1189	L16	L22	W37	L17	1.0	
31		**Jimmy Fan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17303750)**	17303750	1111	L17	L15	L33	W37	1.0	
32		**Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)**	16939797	1031	L1	W28	L8	L19	1.0	
33		**Jordan Goodfriend (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30278210)**	30278210	unr.	L8	L13	W31	L18	1.0	
34		**Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)**	30261226	unr.	B---	L1	L9	L27	1.0	
35	35	**Danica Li (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16963912)**	16963912	1054	H---	L12	L25	L26	0.5	
36	36-37	**Henry Lien (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15156603)**	15156603	1065	F6	L23	F28	U---	0.0	
37		**Vihan Grover (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30105977)**	30105977	unr.	L19	L9	L30	L31	0.0	

Mechanics' October Championship Quads Report

We held a 20-player championship quads on Sunday October 3rd. We again had strong competition at the top, and well balanced quads through every section. Full results can be found here: http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202110037972-30293415 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202110037972-30293415)

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Chess Triathlon Online Rapid Leg Week 1

We had the first leg of the first ever Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Online Chess Triathlon, a staged tournament that will incorporate three different formats into a cumulative-score, open event. With rapid, blitz, and Fischer random legs, the overall winner will have to navigate through different skill sets and time controls to come out on top. The format has six games of rapid, 10 games of blitz, and six games of Fischer random, held over three weeks with points accumulating for standings. We held the rapid leg on Thursday night, and the action was on!

The Mechanics' Institute chess team were all on the broadcast for the first ever Thursday Night Online Chess Triathlon

We have 16 players participating in this experiment, and what really makes the event fun to watch is that it is made of of club players. The event is wide open and up for grabs, with no clear favorite. We expect fortunes could chaneg from week to week. We saw fortunes suddenly change in some of the games we watched. After the rapid leg, Adam Mercado leads the field with 5.5/6. Mark Drury is in clear 2nd place with 5/6 and Mansoor Mohammad is in 3rd with 4.5/6. Lots of chess left to go however, with 10 rounds of blitz next week followed by 6 rounds of Fischer random.

Here are the standings from the rapid leg, these scores will carry over into next week: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mi-online-triathlon----rapid-leg-2652021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mi-online-triathlon----rapid-leg-2652021)

Watch the fun broadcast here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDQAOr4TL5A&t=25s (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDQAOr4TL5A&t=25s)

Here is a game from the evening between the leaders, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian:

(6) Casimir Dudek (Thechesskid2021) (1899) - Adam Mercado (A-boy415) (1921) [B33]

Live Chess Chess.com, 08.10.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.f3 An unusual move for White in this variation. **7...a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Nxe4?+/-**

An exciting but bad reaction to White's unusual line. [Black can get easy equality with 9...Nxd5 10.exd5 Nd4 11.Bd3 g6 12.0-0 Bg7 13.Be3 0-0 14.c3 Nf5 15.Bf2 Bd7 16.c4 Nd4 17.cxb5 Bxb5 18.Nxb5 axb5 19.Bxd4 exd4] **10.fxe4 Qh4+ 11.Kd2 Qxe4 12.Nc7+** This may be good but it is complicated. [12.Qf3! is the simplest way to get a clear advantage for White.] **12...Kd8 13.Nxa8 g6!?** [Black could get material back with 13...Qf4+ 14.Ke1 Qh4+ 15.g3 Qe4+ 16.Qe2 Qxh1 17.Qg2 Qxg2 18.Bxg2 Bb7 19.Nb6 though that is clearly better and easy to play for White] **14.Qf3?? -/+** Going from a winning position to a losing one. [14.Qe2 gives the white king safe haven on the back rank] **14...Bh6+ 15.Kd1 Bg4!**

the black bishops take the critical diagonals **16.Bxh6 Bxf3+ 17.Kd2 Bxg2 18.Bg5+ Kc8 19.Be3 Bxh1 20.Nb6+ Kd8 21.Bd3 Qb4+ 22.c3 Qxb2+ 23.Nc2**

Black has a clearly winning material advantage, but there are a lot of white minor pieces and so tricks can occur. **23...e4 24.Be2 Bf3 25.Bf1 Ne5 26.Bg5+ Kc7 27.Nd5+ Kb8 28.Be7 Rc8!?** stil very winning but tactical **29.Bxd6+ Kb7 30.Bxe5 Rd8!** the pin on the d-line decides **31.c4 Qxe5 32.Rb1 Ka7 33.Ncb4** still fighting! Where there are knights that fork there is hope. **33...e3+ 34.Ke1 Rxd5?** This is still winning but now it is a fight. 34...Qxh2 would have been quick **35.Nc6+ Kb6 36.Nxe5 Rxe5 37.cxb5** It almost looks as if White is alright, but **37...e2! 38.bxa6+ Kxa6 39.Bh3 Rd5** The threat of ...Rd1 is too much. **40.Bc8+ Ka5 41.Kf2 Rd1**

There is no way out. The rest of the game needs no comment. **42.Kxf3 e1Q 43.Rb2 Rd3+ 44.Kg2 Rd2+ 45.Rxd2 Qxd2+ 46.Kg3 Qc3+ 47.Kf2 Qxc8 48.h3 Qxh3 49.Ke2 Kb4 50.a4 Kxa4 51.Kd2 Qf3 52.Kc2 Qe3 53.Kb2 Qd3 54.Ka2 Qe2+ 55.Kb1 Kb3 56.Ka1 Qa2# 0-1**

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this problem, white to move and mate in 3.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute November/December TNM: FIDE Rated. Nov 2- Dec 21, 6:30PM PT. G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person)

Mechanics' Institute October Quads: October 30, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

20th Carroll Capps Memorial Championship: USCF Rated. November 7, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/49th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship-g45 person (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/49th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Scholastic Chess Bulletin #5 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq)

In this issue:

- 2021 Fall Enrichment - Report on the Start
- 2021 Fall & Winter Holiday Camps
- Special Event: Halloween Tournament @ Mechanics' Institute on Oct 30
- Understanding Tournaments - Byes & Forfeits
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues. (https://web.archive.org/web/20220414160556/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#bulletin)

All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Through the Looking Glass, by Lewis Carroll

I was quite a voracious reader at a young age, and on my eighth birthday my parents bought me a very nice hard-backed edition of Lewis Carroll's **Through the Looking Glass**. Published in 1871, this sequel to **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** (1865) was another hallucinogenic romp through the mathematic game-mind of its creator, but rather than playing-cards the template this time was chess.

Beautifully illustrated by John Tenniel, the setting Alice finds herself in is contrary and curious: drowsily she follows her kitten through a mirror, and into a mirror-world. All is topsy-turvy, and Alice must run with the Red Queen to simply stay in one place, while the White Queen tells Alice that "The rule is, jam to-morrow and jam yesterday - but never jam *to-day*."

As Alice proceeds in her adventures to the eighth square (to become a Queen), we are introduced to some of the classic characters from English literature: Tweedledum and Tweedledee, the Walrus and the Carpenter, and Humpty Dumpty. *Jabberwocky*, the masterpiece of so-called 'nonsense-verse,' lies in the slim pages of the book. The author has also given all the chess pieces an alias in the Dramatis Personae that precedes the action:

Most interesting of all, Carroll also included a chess problem, along with the key to the action: White Pawn (Alice) to play, and win in eleven moves:

There is much written about this problem elsewhere, suffice to say that in a later edition Carroll advises:

"As the chess-problem, given on the previous page, has puzzled some of my readers, it may be well to explain that it is correctly worked out, so far as the *moves* are concerned. The *alternation* of Red and White is perhaps not so strictly observed as it might be, and the 'castling' of the three Queens is merely a way of saying that they entered the palace; but the 'check' of the White King at move 6, the capture of the Red Knight at move 7, and the final 'check-mate' of the Red King, will be found, by anyone who will take the trouble to set up the pieces and play the moves as directed, to be strictly in accordance with the laws of the game."

Playing a not insignificant part in my childhood development, opening up the 'doors of perception' with its mind-bending use of language and 'illogical' thought, **Through the Looking Glass** is the very finest fiction using chess as a theme, surpassing any film or book I have seen or read.

When Alice says "One *can't* believe impossible things" and the White Queen replies "Why, sometimes I've believed six impossible things before breakfast" we are at the very heart of the matter: Carroll is daring us to use our imagination.

Sound advice for us all, but an absolutely essential attribute for a chess player.

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

US Women's Championship October 5-19

We take this week to note the start of the US Women's Championship, as usual these days sponsored by the St. Louis Chess Club (which is sponsored by billionaire Rex Sinquefield). There is also the Men's (overall) US Championship being played at the same time and place, but we will examine that next week and devote our space to the women's event now.

The women's championship should deserve great attention! The greatest boom to chess this last year has been because of a woman player (albeit a fictional one). Beth Harmon from the "Queen's Gambit" has brought the most mainstream attention to chess since Bobby Fischer. We expect the repercussions of the "Queen's Gambit" to bring us a promising new generation of women players. Already we hear about many young girls who have taken up the game after seeing the film. Perhaps it will inspire a real woman to win the world championship.

The Mechanics' Institute chess program for women and girls also deserves attention. While we don't have a champion player like Beth Harmon we do have an active weekly class taught by Sophie Adams which has a large and devoted following. The Mechanics' Institute women's class has been a long standing tradition for over 20 years, and we must credit the work of Ewelina Krubnik who taught it for12 years and kept the chess interest for women in the Bay Area. You will see her picture on the wall of the chess annex when you visit the club.

The favorite to win the US women's championship is clearly the defending champion, Irina Krush. She is our closest thing to a real Beth Harmon and she has defeated many men grandmasters and holds the "men's" GM title. This year she started with a sizzling win. Who will challenge her for the title this year? We will soon see.

(1) Lee,Megan - Krush,Irina [B48]

US Womens Chp., 06.10.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qf3 Nf6 8.0-0-0 h5!?

Irina chooses a combative move to mix up the game. She takes kingside space at the cost of weakening the kingside if she castles there. **9.Nxc6 dxc6 10.Qg3 e5** Irina wants the middlegame with more winning chances, so avoids the queen trade. **11.Bd4?!** Young Megan starts to go wrong here. This move threatens the e-pawn but that is easily defended and the white bishop will just have to retreat at some point. **11...Nd7 12.h4 b5 13.a3 g6 14.Be3 Be7 15.Be2** Megan has retreated the d4 bishop and logically developed. The game is roughly even here and it is a dynamic, unbalanced position. Black has chances to advance the queenside pawns and tear up the white king's protection. White has development and can try to target the black king in the center. **15...Nf6 16.Bg5 a5 17.Qe3 b4**

18.Nb1?! It's a tough feeling playing against the defending champion. You think every move they make must be strong. Yet retreating is usually the wrong approach. [18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Na4 would still be active chances for both sides.] **18...Ng4 19.Bxg4 Bxg4 20.Bxe7 Qxe7** [20...Bxd1? 21.Bf6 wins] **21.Rd3 Be6 22.g3 c5 23.Qg5**

23...c4! 23...Qxg5+ is also good in the endgame, but Irina gains the advantage by offering a tempting pawn. **24.Qxe5 f6 25.Qb5+ Kf7 26.Rf3?!** Megan plays an aggressive move in a difficult situation. Black has a very serious attack for the pawn since both rooks can swing to the queenside and the black pawns are already far advance. White could have stayed in the game with [26.Rd4 c3 27.b3 Rhb8 28.Qd3 a4 29.bxa4 bxa3 30.Nxc3 which looks ugly but is still alive. Now Irina charges ahead.] **26...c3!**

27.axb4?! It's hard to offer any really good advice for White here, but this goes down quickly. **27...cxb2+ 28.Kxb2 Rhb8 29.Qg5**

Megan played this move but then resigned. After 29...Qxb4+ 30. Kc1 Qxb1+ 31. Kd2 Rd8+ it's a piece and attack for Black. A fine start for Krush to defend her title. **0-1**

(2) Abrahamyan,Tatev - Tokhirjonova,Guirukhbegim [B10]

US Womens Chp., 06.10.2021

Who will be the greatest challenger this year to Irina Krush? It could be anyone of the others. It will take some luck. One player who is due for a run is Tatev Abrahamyan. She has played well, but lady luck wasn't on her side the first round. **1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.d3!?** Interesting. Tatev offers and endgame which is certainly playable for Black. She may have sensed she was playing against an aggressive player who would prefer to get an attacking game. Her opponent is a young player who immigrated from Uzbekistan. **3...g6 4.e5 Bg7 5.Bf4 Qb6!** aggressive and good **6.Nbd2!** Another pschological move. Now Tatev offers the b-pawn to be the aggressor. Her opponent declines the pawn, not wanting to be on the defensive. **6...Nh6 7.Nb3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nd7 10.d4 e6?!** A bit too routine. [10...Nf8 and ...Ne6 would make better use of the e6 square] **11.g4 Ng8 12.h4** White has the initiative from the opening. **12...f6 13.0-0-0 fxe5 14.dxe5 c5 15.h5 0-0-0 16.h6!**

16...Bf8 Tokhirjonova doesn't seem to like to take pawn sacrifices. Black would also be worse after [16...Bxe5 17.Bxe5 Nxe5 18.Qc3] **17.c4! d4 18.Bg2**

Now White has a permanant advantage with the bishop pair and the nice long diagonal h1-a8. **18...Be7 19.Kb1 Rf8 20.Qe4 Bd8 21.Bg3 Bc7 22.f4 Ne7 23.Nc1 Nc6 24.Nd3 Na5 25.Rc1 Rhg8 26.Bh2 Nc6 27.Bh3 Ne7 28.Rhf1 a5 29.Rf2 Rf7 30.Bg3 Rgf8 31.Bh4 Kb8 32.Bg3 Ka7 33.Re2 Ng8 34.Ne1 Nxh6 35.Nf3 Ng8 36.Ng5 Re7 37.Bg2 Nb8 38.Rh1 h6 39.Nf3 Rg7 40.Nh4 Ne7 41.Nf3 Ng8 42.Rd2 Bd8 43.Rd3 Qc6 44.Qe2 Qe8** There has been a lot of maneuvering the last 25 moves, but little has changed. White still has a clear position advantage, while Black is being solid and trying to hold back any advance. **45.Nd2 Nc6 46.Ne4 Be7 47.Rb3! h5 48.Rb5 h4?! 49.Bxh4 Bxh4 50.Rxh4 Rxf4 51.Nxc5 Rgf7 52.Nd3 Nge7** Black is in difficulties. **53.Nxf4 Rxf4 54.Rh3! g5 55.Rhb3!** The white attack suddenly takes effect with the funny rook maneuver. **55...Qg6+ 56.Ka1 Nd8**

57.Qd2?! [57.Rxb7+! Nxb7 58.Rxb7+ Ka6 59.Rxe7 wins. Tatev has played a fine game and could cash in, yet time pressure is deciding the victor now.] **57...Nec6 58.Rxa5+ Kb8 59.Rab5 Qf7 60.a3?** [60.Qd1! Rf2 61.Qh1 is still winning] **60...Rf2 61.Qxg5?!** [61.Rxb7+ Nxb7 62.Rxb7+ Kxb7 63.Qb4+ Kc8 64.Bxc6 is about equal] **61...Rxg2 62.Ka2 Rg1 63.Qf6**

63...Qh7! Suddenly it is Black who has the attack. The black knights do a good job defending the king and the black queen and rook are free to focus on the white king. **64.Rf3 Qb1+ 65.Kb3 d3 66.Qf8 d2** White resigns. *

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. Qd6!! Ke8 2. Qe5!! K(x) 3. e8=Q#

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 #990

October 16, 2021

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Importance of Chess Clubs from GM Maurice Ashley and GM Yasser Seirawan

Coach Andy Schley forwarded this video which was part of the St. Louis Chess Club broadcast from the 2021 US Championship and is a Parkside Chat on the importance of chess clubs. A nice shoutout to the Mechanics' Institute occurs at around the 1:20 mark, but the whole video is a great discussion on the importance of chess clubs in briging people.

Enjoy the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKBnh_aseBE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKBnh_aseBE)

Back to the Beginning: Chess Coaching Post Pandemic

by Abel Talamantez

Schools are back in session, and so are enrichment classes in many places. Before the start of the fall session, we had no idea what to expect in terms of what was possible and what additional challenges we would face in providing in-person enrichment classes. We hoped for the best, while preparing for all the uncertainty involved with changing public health policy and doing everything possible to keep everyone safe.

What we have seen is very promising; a strong interest in chess in schools and an enthusiasm from the kids in learning. I have helped in many of the classrooms in the schools this year, and along with a great team of coaches led by Judit Sztaray, we are building back our scholastic programs from the pause caused by the pandemic and looking to expand our outreach.

In person classes at our various schools have seen a high interest and enthusiasm for chess

It has been interesting to be back in the classroom. I started by chess journey almost 10 years ago by coaching chess classes in elementary schools, and now finding myself back in the daily hustle of commuting from class to class, preparing assignments and lessons, and interacting with parents and school officials. This all brings back a feeling of youth and energy, of the times when the daily hustle could feel both like a grind and a rewarding experience in making a difference in the lives of children by sparking an interest and curiosity in chess, and feeling the power of chess in bringing communities together. I thought I would share some pictures of our scholastic classes and camps from the beginning of our Fall 2021 season. There is this sense of feeling of going back to the beginning as I go back into classes, but it also instills a sense of hunger of what lead me back into the chess world in the first place, and it is always good to go back to that which fueled the initial fire in the first place.

Coach Colin Shober supervises play at our holiday camp for Indiginious People's Day. Judit Sztaray mixes (pun intended) chess with chemistry at one of our Hillsborough classes

We currently serve more than 20 schools in San Francisco and surrounding communities for in-person classes, as well as having virtual enrichment classes. We are looking for more coaches as we look to expand our programming. If you are interested, please follow this link to learn more about the opportunities coaching chess at the Mechanics' Institute and making a positive difference in the lives of children https://www.milibrary.org/jobs (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.milibrary.org/jobs)

Students at West Portal Elementary work on in an class assignment

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Tuesday Night Marathon Round 6 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The TNM ended its ultimate round with FM Ezra Chambers needing a win to take clear 1st with a round to go, and he sealed his first TNM win of the year with his victory over Ako Heidari. He is 6/6 and a point and a half ahead of the field. He will take a 0 point bye for the final round as he returns to his studies at perrenial Pan-American collegiate champion Webster University next week. The battel for 2nd place is a tight one, as Sean Kelly is currently in the driver seat with 4.5/6. Close behind are IM Elliott Winslow and Nathan Fong with 4/6.

In the u/1800 section, Daniel Wang is now the sole leader in the 47-player section with 5.5/6 after a victory over Paul Reed. Marty Cortinas and Christopher Dessert are close behind with 5/6 and Stephen Parsons and John Chan within striking distance at 4.5/6.

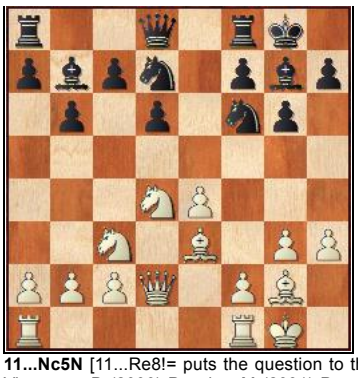
Andrew Imbens who was 4/5 in the u/1800 section emailed me Monday morning that he would be missing the round the next day. This would normally be a bit suprising, since we cannot grant half point byes this late in the tournament, and he was up high near the leaders. He gave perhaps the best excuse in the history of my 3-year stint as Chess Director for missing a TNM round when he said that his father had won the Nobel Prize in economics! Congratulations to his father Guido Imbens of Stanford University and his family for this recognition.

Below are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Heidari,Ako (1996) - Chambers,Ezra (2314) [B07]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (6.1), 12.10.2021

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.Nge2 0-0 7.0-0 e5 Ezra has gone for a Pirc/Philidor setup. Very practical, even if it allows White a bit more freedom of movement. **8.h3 b6 9.Be3 Bb7 10.Qd2 exd4 11.Nxd4**



11...Nc5N [11...Re8!= puts the question to the white e-pawn 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bxh6 Bxh6 14.Qxh6 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Nf3 Qf6 17.Ng5 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Qg7 19.Qh4 Nf8 20.Qc4 Re5 1/2-1/2 (20) Visanescu,D (2090)-Popchev,M (2331) Paracin 2014] **12.f3!+/= Re8 13.Rad1** [13.g4!?] **13...d5 14.Qf2?!** [14.Bh6!= remains equal.] **14...Qe7-/+ 15.Bg5** [More solid is >=15.Nb3 Nxb3 16.axb3] **15...c6?**

[15...dxe4-/+ aiming for ...e3. 16.fxe4 Ncxe4! 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 Discovered Attack 18.Bxe7 Nxf2 19.Rxf2 *(19.Bxb7? Nxd1 20.Nc6 Nxb2-/+)* 19...Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Bxd4 21.Rxd4 Rxe7] **16.exd5 cxd5 17.Rfe1 Qd7 18.Qd2 a6 19.Re2** The game is back to roughly equal. **19...b5 20.a3 Ne6 21.Be3 Qc7 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.f4 Rad8 24.Qe1** (here the DGT board failed) **24...Qf7?!** somewhat slow [24...Ne4= keeps the balance.] **25.Bd4 Rc8 26.Qf2** [26.h4+/-] **26...Nh5** [26...Bc6+/=] **27.Be5** Ako has played well and has the center under control. **27...Bf8 28.Kh2 Ng7** [>=28...Nf6] **29.Red2** [29.Na2!+/- reroutes the knight to more useful squares] **29...Nf5!+/= 30.Ne2 Nd6! 31.b3 Nf5** [31...Ne4= 32.Bxe4 dxe4] **32.b4** [32.c3+/= covers more dark squares 32...Bxa3 33.b4 a5 34.bxa5 is a small edge] **32...Nd6= 33.Bxd6?!** it's sad to trade away the dark-squared bsihop. The tide has turned in Ezra's favor. **33...Bxd6 34.Nd4 Rc3 35.Nb3?**

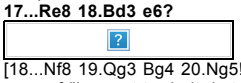
This move loses the game for White. [35.Nf3!=] **35...g5!-+** busting through on the dark squares **36.Rf1** [>=36.Qb6 Rc6 37.Qd4] **36...Rf8 37.Bh1?** [37.Rd3 is bad but more resistant. 37...Rxd3 38.cxd3 gxf4 39.gxf4] **37...Qg7 38.Qe2** here (or earlier) the scoresheet failed; eventual win for Black. Black is winning after 38...gxf4. **0-1**

(2) Winslow,Elliott (2269) - Weng,Nicholas (2001) [D85]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (6.2), 12.10.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Rb1 a6?! Extremely rare, and suspect -- although Israeli GM Lev Gutman can't let it go (and has played it at least half a dozen times). Black will be well advised to get his king out of the center. And watch how, later, the queenside is just weak. [8...0-0+/=] **9.Be2+/-** White just sticks to the formula. **9...Qa5** Black wants to play ... cxd4. **10.Bd2** [Most of Gutman's opponents have gone 10.0-0+/- Qxa2 11.Bg5 Qa5 and now 12.Qc1] **10...Qxa2+/= 11.0-0** White is slightly better. **11...Qa5** [11...0-0+/=] **12.Qc1**

Similar to the Gutman games, except Black might be loathe to castle there. [White should play 12.h4+/-] **12...h5N** [Maybe just 12...0-0 13.c4 Qc7 14.Bf4 Qd7 15.d5 f6? *(15...a5!?+/-)* 16.Qa3+- Qg4 17.Qe3 g5 18.Nxg5 1-0 (18) Mueller,A-Brunsch,M Karlsruhe 2003; 12...b5!?+/= 13.dxc5!? is the most interesting and unusual continuation.] **13.c4+/-** White has the typical strong compensation. **13...Qd8 14.d5 Nd7** [14...e5!?+/- might work better.] **15.Bc3!+- 0-0 16.e5!** [16.Bxg7?! Kxg7 17.Qc3+ e5+/-] **16...Qc7 17.Qg5** [17.Qe3! a5 18.e6! busts up Black's kingside.] **17...Re8 18.Bd3 e6?**



[18...Nf8 19.Qg3 Bg4 20.Ng5! e6 21.h3 Bf5 22.Bxf5+-] **19.Rfe1** At some point White has to break in, and now was a good time! [19.Bxg6! fxg6 20.Qxg6 is just overwhelming. Perhaps another case of "I meant to do it, but when the moment came I forgot."] **19...Nf8** intending ...exd5. **20.d6 Qd8 21.Qxd8 Rxd8 22.Ba5 Re8 23.Be4 f6** [>=23...g5 24.Nxg5 *(24.Bxb7 Rb8+/-)* 24...Bxe5] **24.Bxb7 Rb8 25.Bc6 Bd7 26.Be4 f5** [>=26...Rxb1 27.Rxb1 f5] **27.Bb7 Bc8 28.Bxc8 Rexc8 29.Bc7 Rxb1 30.Rxb1 Nd7 31.Rb7 Kf8**

32.Ng5?! [This is a good time for 32.g3+- and White stays clearly on top.; And 32.Nh4! Bxe5 *(32...Nxe5 33.Nxg6+! Nxg6 34.d7)* 33.Nxg6+ Ke8 34.Ra7!+-] **32...Bxe5+/- 33.Nxe6+ Kf7 34.Ng5+ Ke8 35.g3?** [35.Ra7!+/-] **35...Ra8!= 36.Nf3 Bf6** Hoping for ...a5. **37.Ba5 Rb8 38.Ra7 Rb1+ 39.Kg2 Ra1** [39...Rc1=] **40.Ra8+** [But not 40.Rxa6? Bd8-+; 40.Bd2+/-] **40...Kf7 41.Bc7 Ra2 42.h4 Ne5**

[42...Ra4= remains equal.] **43.Ng5+** [43.Bd8!+/- Bxd8 44.Nxe5+ *(44.Rxd8 Nxf3 45.Kxf3 a5+/=)* 44...Ke6 45.Nxg6 *(45.Rxd8 Kxe5 46.d7 Ke6+/-)*] **43...Bxg5 44.hxg5** Endgame KRB-KRN **44...Rd2! 45.d7** [45.Ra7 is more complex. 45...Ke6 46.d7 Nxd7 47.Rxa6+ Kf7 48.Ra4] **45...Nxd7 46.Rxa6 Rd4 47.Ra4 Ke6 48.Bf4 Ne5?** [48...Ke7= and Black stays safe.] **49.Ra6++- Rd6 50.Ra8**

50...Nxc4! Best chance **51.Bxd6 Nxd6** KR-KN **52.Kf1?** [52.Ra6!+- ties Black down forever (losing the g-pawn would be immediately fatal).] **52...Ne4!+/=** Now Black is holding. **53.Ra6+ Kf7 54.Rc6** [54.Ra7+ is similar: 54...Kg8 55.Rc7 Nxg5 56.Rxc5 Ne6 57.Ra5] **54...Nxg5 55.Rxc5 Ne6 56.Ra5 Kf6 57.f3 g5 58.Kf2 h4** [58...g4; 58...f4] **59.gxh4 gxh4=** Lomonosov tablebase: Draw **60.Ra8 Nf4 61.Rh8 Ng6 62.Rh5 Ke5 63.Ke3 Nf4 64.Rh6 h3 65.Rh7** [65.Kf2 Kd4 66.Rh4 Ke5 67.Kg3 Ne2+ 68.Kxh3 Nf4+ 69.Kg3] **65...Ne6 66.Rxh3** still drawn, Lom **66...f4+ 67.Kf2 Kf5 68.Rh7 Nd4 69.Rd7**

69...Ke5? [69...Nc6+/= 70.Rd2 Ke6; 69...Ne6! also draws] **70.Kg2!+-** Only move to win **70...Nf5 71.Kh3 Ke6 72.Ra7 Ne3 73.Kh4 Kf6 74.Ra8 Kf5 75.Kh5 Ng2 76.Ra5+ Kf6 77.Kg4 Ke6 78.Ra2 1-0**

(3) Kelly,Sean (1786) - Riese,Kayven (1900) [C11]

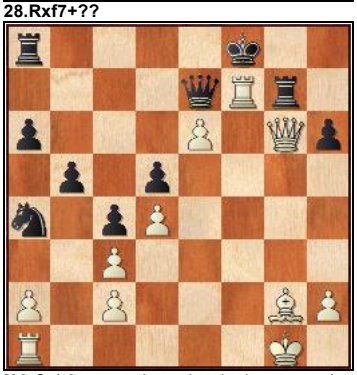
MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (6.3), 12.10.2021

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Qd2 b5 9.g3 The Steinitz Variation of the French Defense. White should consider fighting for the queenside dark squares with [9.a3!+/=] **9...c4**

[9...Be7=/+ keeps the tension in the center] **10.Bg2N** [10.a3+/-; Predecessor: 10.a3 Nb6 11.Bg2 Bb7 12.0-0 g6 13.Rae1 Ne7 14.Nh4 h5 15.f5 Nxf5 16.Nxf5 gxf5 0-1 (40) Aponte Montes de Oca,O (1721)-Lopez Lazo,A (1686) Bento Goncalves 2010] **10...Bb4?!** [10...b4= 11.Ne2 Be7] **11.0-0 Nb6** White is better. **12.Qf2 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Na4 14.Bd2** White has doubled c-pawns but also the bishop pair and a strong central wedge, so has the advantage. **14...Bd7** [14...h5+/- was necessary.] **15.f5!+- exf5**

16.Nh4! Ne7 17.g4! A great breakthrough by Sean. Black cannot capture on g4 because of mate on f7 and so must suffer. **17...g6 18.Bg5** [18.gxf5+- gxf5 19.Bh3] **18...Be6?!** [18...Nxc3+/- was called for. 19.Rae1 Rg8] **19.gxf5 gxf5 20.Qe3?** [Weaker is 20.Nxf5 Bxf5 21.Bxe7 Qxe7+/-; Better is 20.Qd2!+- and White should get his decisive breakthough on the kingside] **20...Qd7?** [20...Rg8!= and Black is okay.] **21.Bxe7 Kxe7** [>=21...f4 22.Rxf4 *(22.Qxf4 Qxe7 23.Nf5 Bxf5+/-)* 22...Kxe7] **22.Qg5+ Kf8 23.Nxf5** White wants to mate with Qg7+. **23...Bxf5 24.Rxf5 h6 25.Qf6 Rh7 26.e6 Qe7 27.Qg6 Rg7**

28.Rxf7+??



[28.Qxh6+- was the only winning move, but it's quite a crusher: 28...Ra7 29.exf7 and Black has to play 29...Qxf7] **28...Rxf7??** And Black returns the favor! [Black needed the subtlety 28...Qxf7!-+ 29.Qxf7+ Rxf7 30.exf7 Nxc3! *(*Well, *30...Rd8* wins as well*)*] **29.exf7** Kayven must notice now what a mess he's in. **29...Qg5**

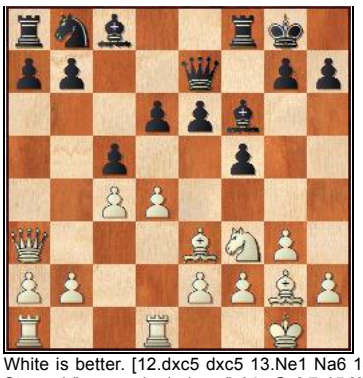
30.Qg8+ The move that tells your opponent "it's time to resign." [The computer insists that 30.Qc6 Rd8 31.Re1 is even stronger, but nobody cares.] **1-0**

(4) Fong,Nathan (2049) - Argo,Guy (1938) [A96]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (6.4), 12.10.2021

1.Nf3 f5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Ne4 [7...a5 is another main line;; But 7...Qe8 will always be move #1. If you happen to play Egyptian GM Bassem Amin online ir a blitz game, expect to see it -- he's played it dozens of times.] **8.Qd3** [Why 8.Qc2 is the hugely most common move (800 to 65!) is anyone's guess; 8...Nxc3 9.Qxc3 is just the same thing. *(9.bxc3!?)* ; But perhaps the 2nd most popular 8.Nxe4!? (300+ games) is the most principled. After 8...fxe4 White has done pretty well with either knight retreat, followed immediately by f2-f3 tc get rid of that pawn.] **8...Nxc3 9.Qxc3 Bf6** [Black has done much better with 9...a5!+/=] **10.Rd1** [10.b4!?+/-] **10...c5** [10...Qe7+/=] **11.Qa3+/-**

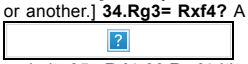
White pressures Black's pawns, but Argo didn't have to make it critical. **11...Qe7N** [A previous master game saw Black acquiescing immediately: 11...cxd4 12.Nxd4 a6 13.Nb5!+- Nc6 14.Nxd6 *(14.Be3!)* 14...Nd4 15.Rd2 Temporary contortions, eventually it all clears up 15...Qb6 16.e3 Nc6 17.c5 Qc7 18.e4 Be7 19.exf5 exf5? 20.Bxc6 Qxc6 21.Qb3+ Kh8 22.Nf7+ 1-0, Braga,U (2202) - Costa,E (2040) Rio de Janeiro 2015] **12.Be3**



White is better. [12.dxc5 dxc5 13.Ne1 Na6 14.Nd3 Rb8 isn't decisive; 12.b4!?] **12...b6??** Oh no! Opening the long white diagonal. [12...Na6+/- is more resistant.] **13.Ng5 Bb7+- 14.Bxb7** Stanard "overworked piece." **14...Qxb7 15.Nxe6 Re8 16.Nf4** [16.d5! cements the knight on e6] **16...Nc6 17.dxc5 dxc5 18.Nd5 Bd4 19.Rd2 Ne5?**

[19...Re4!?; 19...Bxe3 20.Nxe3 *(20.fxe3!?)* 20...Nd4 exerts some pressure on White's king, but 21.Qd3!+/- seems to keep it at bay.] **20.Qb3** Sufficient to win. [Even better was >=20.Bxd4! Nxc4 when you see that the shot 21.Qf3! works: 21...Re4 22.Rd3 Qxd5 *(22...cxd4 23.Rxd4)* 23.Bxg7!] **20...Bxe3 21.Nxe3 Qf7 22.Nd5+- g5** Black's attack is too slow and/or ineffective. **23.f4 gxf4 24.gxf4 Ng4** [24...Qg6+ 25.Kh1 Ng4 may be trickier] **25.Qf3?!** [25.Qc3] **25...Re4?!** [25...Rac8 keeps fighting. 26.Kh1 Qh5] **26.Kh1** [It would be nice to push back the knight with >=26.h3 Nf6 27.Kh1] **26...Rae8** [26...Qh5 is a better defense. 27.h3 Kf7] **27.h3 Ne3+/- 28.b3 Nxd5 29.cxd5 Re3 30.Rg1+ Kh8 31.Qg2 Qf8?** [31...Qe7+/- was necessary.] **32.Kh2??** [32.d6!+- is the win, utilizing every asset. 32...Rd8 33.d7 Re7 34.Qc6] **32...Qh6!-+** Suddenly it's Black who's winning! **33.Qf1**

33...R8e4? [But only after 33...Rxh3+!-+ 34.Qxh3 Qxf4+ Double Attack 35.Kh1 Qxd2-+ And another double attack! 36.Qxf5 Qh6+ 37.Kg2 Rg8+ and Black catches White's king in one direction or another.] **34.Rg3= Rxf4?** A great up and donw battle, but this move hands it to White. [34...Rxg3 35.Kxg3 Re3+ 36.Kh2 Qg7= sets up ...Qc3] **35.Qa1+!+-**



ends it. **35...Rd4 36.Rxd4** It's Black in the crosshairs. **36...Rxe2+ 37.Kh1 Rxa2 38.Qxa2 cxd4 39.Qg2 Qf8 40.d6 f4 41.Rg8+ 1-0**

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tota
1	1	FM Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524216000&usg=AFQjCNEcGnI2C7GNT26c8CZZkmBGHM2T8Q)	15191101	2314	W22	W14	W5	W3	W4	W6		6.0
2	2	Sean Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962568&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524216000&usg=AFQjCNHVjFdF1xv0bWJmXbAXsHqGTb0Jxg)	16962568	1786	W6	D4	W9	L5	W14	W11		4.5
3	3-4	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524216000&usg=AFQjCNGArCRkt6z7mxA43-J5mfm8Bz06iQ)	10363365	2269	W15	D16	W19	L1	D9	W5		4.0
4		Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524216000&usg=AFQjCNG3UxBgAhPk0AXInj_df97bndg1ig)	13001390	2049	W13	D2	H---	W18	L1	W9		4.0
5	5-7	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524216000&usg=AFQjCNGsubdSSYb8WNJ8akzdQ0OHr-j8aA)	15499404	2001	W20	W18	L1	W2	D6	L3		3.5
		Ako Heidari										

6		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNGJMInn4l95id2ZBe4i-TGVYRRacA)**	15206848	1996	L2	W22	W16	W12	D5	L1		3.5
7		**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNE7bXGkG6MY3wXJTEvBrV-OcgFlpg)**	16898540	1622	W11	L9	D13	W19	L8	W15		3.5
8	8-13	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNE3nUElEdm6UO_88YULz_tg68SyUQ)**	13901075	1994	L16	L15	W21	W20	W7	L12	H---	3.0
9		**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNEAta-7rMgTmyiNrS8xEdrLr2oLTQ)**	12517167	1938	H---	W7	L2	W16	D3	L4		3.0
10		**Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNFk0lKlrfsWMlauaNoFjA_pXqm9mQ)**	10451671	1936	L18	L20	W17	W22	W12	U---		3.0
11		**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNFWzVwLw11KvW6xbryFFaprs83Efw)**	12572270	1900	L7	W17	L12	W13	W18	L2		3.0
12		**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNHLrPkpV2DEcPQ1XDGh85aRNjxL7Q)**	12621393	1800	H---	H---	W11	L6	L10	W8		3.0
13		**Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNHDUdfw1r9470JoBcm65eeKT8z17g)**	12747074	1795	L4	H---	D7	L11	W16	W20		3.0
14	14-18	**Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNHQPuDczCcVDh4S-ZSqEnNgmvTsYg)**	17050697	1992	W17	L1	W20	H---	L2	U---	U---	2.5
15		**Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNG-6G_Njbl44QJqlo1fTJSLZEa4Eg)**	12633251	1818	L3	W8	L18	H---	W19	L7		2.5
16		**Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNE5t16mWO0-OXYmqvbGNyqK_dSY9w)**	17158733	1752	W8	D3	L6	L9	L13	W22		2.5
17		**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNH7sZB1FLJkvFk8fAxwn3AYaE_naQ)**	16600505	1676	L14	L11	L10	X21	W22	H---		2.5
18		**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNGiltIY6uMVt8LsWkrUSuqjqxuVLw)**	14257838	1665	W10	L5	W15	L4	L11	D19		2.5
19	19-21	**Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNH1z8ZciD-MfXbC2kLgz8sGO9XA4w)**	12328450	1805	H---	X21	L3	L7	L15	D18		2.0
20		**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNGMjJBSsRAEyL2aVKtk6MQa03BRVw)**	16571026	1793	L5	W10	L14	L8	B---	L13		2.0
21		**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNFF8hdT69v0YMUi3UvGMG83pM7OKA)**	12680193	1766	H---	F19	L8	F17	H---	B---		2.0
22	22	**Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNE1suyTfWjjF1-h3Dl9Fi503nCGfg)**	12459313	1830	L1	L6	B---	L10	L17	L16		1.0

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under 1800

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tota
1	1	**Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNENidDS2ZVPGWh1jYB6w3hO7nAWFA)**	15361305	1581	W32	W23	W21	W4	D2	W8		5.5

2	2-3	**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524217000&usg=AFQjCNHtxzMVmO0LjEZlZKiXM6m94Zlj1w)**	12590374	1720	B---	W36	W7	W20	D1	D4		5.0
3		**Christopher Dessert (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15048166&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNHnxRNfbbm-iHrPMQhaCROi-p1oWA)**	15048166	1418	W12	W6	W29	W5	L4	W13		5.0
4	4-5	**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNHfyLX-VEjzN-hkehwAxiO8OnADlA)**	16566932	1544	W38	W9	W15	L1	W3	D2		4.5
5		**John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNG9vwE9wmarf9Vo9DQfgtPdJQGmNQ)**	12561007	1500	H---	W18	W16	L3	W34	W19		4.5
6	6-13	**Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNH0Ejm1ELB6F-8aUa5yBPWHpA4O6Q)**	12773115	1749	W37	L3	W30	L9	W39	W23		4.0
7		**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNFp6X9Lrri4qgqy9F-phsW4ARDjUQ)**	16875347	1520	W39	W40	L2	W17	L8	W25		4.0
8		**Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNGyE4d8G2r7lAN4n1gmnoUWlQdqFw)**	13373197	1440	W27	W19	L20	W42	W7	L1		4.0
9		**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNF1L9fYbAfqVAkN1q2B-jDwut8llQ)**	30102682	1318	W34	L4	W45	W6	W14	U---		4.0
10		**Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNH93tE2DTZe2Sqh2ZACVEoyg2-0Rg)**	13377410	1306	L19	W27	W11	W29	H---	D12		4.0
11		**Deandr Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNHy8TunSojAChTtyblmzaNVDH6GtQ)**	30255378	unr.	W22	L21	L10	W38	W28	W20		4.0
12		**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNHR44uOLaQwRiughCCvu87N0yfimQ)**	30235937	unr.	L3	H---	X46	W35	W18	D10	H---	4.0
13		**Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNFxXZq6EkpZw6MD_3gw4QlqpUDMXw)**	30250562	unr.	L23	W37	W25	W21	W20	L3		4.0
14	14-19	**Nick Casares (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNEGVUqBFBG0uP6EQloNMlOzRYdTiA)**	10424364	1600	H---	L30	W26	X16	L9	W34		3.5
15		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNE04MJL1W-GnJwJELA5UQR-1YgKtA)**	12872385	1451	W17	W42	L4	W40	D19	U---		3.5
16		**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNFlgmmV7jeLrAWZBU8hMkUEG7NYPw)**	30204815	unr.	H---	X35	L5	F14	W44	W29		3.5
17		**Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNEOlubaY4Q_covfTidUlor1yhAlnA)**	30257083	unr.	L15	W24	W22	L7	W21	H---		3.5
18		**Adam Laskowitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30258766&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNEP7XixKLilpY6JAbQxyKggHGSsNA)**	30258766	unr.	H---	L5	W32	W31	L12	W33		3.5
19		**Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNFXrgsdBL8LZ4MKjH22PM70D4CbbQ)**	30268083	unr.	W10	L8	W38	W23	D15	L5		3.5
20	20-28	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNEojurZ7tksEBVLz3PERWzZt4mxzg)**	12796129	1543	W26	W25	W8	L2	L13	L11		3.0
		Georgios Tsolias										

21		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNFJXCxlDHi_QR0pfX3EfTRPOUoNmA)**	17266862	1538	W33	W11	L1	L13	L17	W39		3.0
22		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNFyrrZeRHPjcoo7CVkBGMyh4c-h3Q)**	12844781	1500	L11	X46	L17	L33	W31	X42		3.0
23		**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNG8ad3EUq77a-s6opcO6YAUo89_3Q)**	17137317	1389	W13	L1	W39	L19	W40	L6		3.0
24		**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNEW1vE9mSrjwu0P7HKRdcqgkEzBAw)**	16953298	1210	L42	L17	W27	L28	W41	X40		3.0
25		**Jp Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524218000&usg=AFQjCNEVQAW8LpRLrVm3GLhDhkeZq-XY1g)**	30150098	1177	W28	L20	L13	W41	W42	L7		3.0
26		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNFQfTLyh3kTXon5nj7MBm1hwkXlZA)**	17005685	768	L20	W28	L14	X45	L29	X35		3.0
27		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNEeMqcyJkkhadhFNNYUgYUEZB-VOQ)**	30214657	unr.	L8	L10	L24	B---	W36	W37		3.0
28		**Harry Elworthy (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30256579&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNF92RY4cEqspOqvQom8Je-tjYyRfQ)**	30256579	unr.	L25	L26	B---	W24	L11	W38		3.0
29	29-34	**Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNFiwexR7k1bB9R0rwFhxbLwOQ-FaA)**	17018168	1702	H---	W31	L3	L10	W26	L16		2.5
30		**Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNEc6kdD2hVNtnGFFAczuGjmKoQ31w)**	13159224	1462	H---	W14	L6	L34	W43	U---		2.5
31		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNFP_l8HoD_q3o5VWY2FlieE0kKqgg)**	30164211	1173	W44	L29	D34	L18	L22	W43		2.5
32		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNGQUCJhXwZyFxZWolCwLBlmU-8g5w)**	16741331	1029	L1	H---	L18	L37	B---	X44		2.5
33		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNEjVtSFWh8flY77YPuWdmYhX0oqLw)**	12934283	546	L21	L34	X47	W22	H---	L18		2.5
34		**Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNFUYPitsGG0ScLKXTOPuh-FtbtOnA)**	30242818	unr.	L9	W33	D31	W30	L5	L14		2.5
35	35-42	**Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNGGd4DaNdvY3kskYMCzln2fQ2Xf8g)**	12601676	1583	H---	F16	W44	L12	H---	F26		2.0
36		**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNEHSs5erpmZmYwT1uKfS8W3xTwbkg)**	13913131	1400	W41	L2	L40	L39	L27	W45		2.0
37		**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNEur78jBBL18lFdi-4PBH-viLFysA)**	16757673	1139	L6	L13	L41	W32	W45	L27		2.0
38		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNGc_8Yx72DGUqiHA9R4NOTordorJg)**	16716976	983	L4	X41	L19	L11	X46	L28		2.0
39		**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNGwCjVnNoAkDiwzWjTBrwvU-qOPUA)**	30264869	unr.	L7	X47	L23	W36	L6	L21		2.0
		Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?										

40		**q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNHXRcrTDVxIuSIdqF2fZ2U1OOcEJw)**	30210917	unr.	W47	L7	W36	L15	L23	F24		2.0
41		**Ryan Gill (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30240310&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNGUcR5ZfcWUJXCR0UP1P_Mjq_C7LQ)**	30240310	unr.	L36	F38	W37	L25	L24	B---		2.0
42		**Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30174249&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNFgrjH9Nhz97wTT3nJ2qj5eG01Xuw)**	30174249	unr.	W24	L15	W43	L8	L25	F22		2.0
43	43-44	**Ryan Deal (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30281032&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNFXUdY2Y6UPdonqg2drfi88rUltzg)**	30281032	unr.	H---	H---	L42	H---	L30	L31		1.5
44		**Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNHv590TipGwkVa1uzUz1YX4s7PDTw)**	30269966	unr.	L31	H---	L35	X46	L16	F32	H---	1.5
45	45	**James Dorsch (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30249167&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524219000&usg=AFQjCNFkvmmbRA_EAtnGei4RWDaD2qbW-w)**	30249167	unr.	H---	H---	L9	F26	L37	L36		1.0
46	46	**Damien Seperi (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757144&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNH4V0AJ3z_X3lQ-zNgJyxDnhfajgg)**	16757144	1083	H---	F22	F12	F44	F38	U---		0.5
47	47	**Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNH31ZuV5cZe_cNN2h-rLe-RJ5oBuA)**	16897133	1418	L40	F39	U---	U---	U---	U---		0.0

SwissSys Standings. Sep-Oct 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Game

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tota
1	1-2	**Brendyn Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNGOD3Cqu3fOIN2D2wFodPSfNIdqsg)**	12869947	2052	U---	W25	U---	U---	U---	U---	W3	2.0
2		**Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNHAWeNgZEGWHedcLx3nlpXKT53X-w)**	16694473	unr.	U---	W22	U---	L8	U---	W10	U---	2.0
3	3	**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNFmqZbxg-lDc8nfdiNh_02yqyWb3w)**	14874734	1448	U---	U---	U---	D18	L10	W25	L1	1.5
4	4-17	**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNGZJQS7ytj1avm9OYt50jFWnFBywg)**	16828914	1893	U---	W21	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
5		**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNHqs1FCuWbP44dUfrSKZrn2pSLkuA)**	12590374	1720	W22	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
6		**ROMEO BE BARREYRO (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNEEMonvS3akpeU-lz5UsY048_q5SA)**	17018168	1702	W24	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
7		**JERRY MORGAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNEtWHoh2rnOfNg47fAw-ROHf3C_dg)**	13159224	1462	W26	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
8		**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNHbQz2gUfdQNek4mpucF8x124ofZg)**	16757673	1090	U---	U---	U---	W2	U---	U---	U---	1.0
9		**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNFetdUEm0cJQJquL868bzEezq1bew)**	16953298	1088	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W28	U---	1.0
10		**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNGp4rBvq-i3i3LhyWq1bj5Dzrd58Q)**	16317000	825	U---	U---	U---	L12	W3	L2	U---	1.0
		Judit Sztaray										

11		**(https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNEgYOHVdOW7g1zJHl_jV-xb0_1xvA)**	14708926	807	U---	W27	U---	L16	U---	U---	U---	1.0
12		**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNEaJB0dCWqpvh-iHHJDYEWvaKsemQ)**	17005685	768	U---	U---	U---	W10	U---	L14	U---	1.0
13		**David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNEOyR7g73bZosJ2mHjZ3htyuyyRUw)**	12934283	546	U---	U---	W23	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
14		**Zian Hu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30297435&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNGG3e52ssXL4jXZ113bFmUedKaXog)**	30297435	unr.	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W12	U---	1.0
15		**Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNFVQy3iLgqSeLYmZQqVDKgm3O5VXA)**	30269966	unr.	U---	U---	U---	W24	U---	U---	U---	1.0
16		**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNGm9qlAENvUlv_CdrorciVhhUB7kg)**	30214657	unr.	U---	U---	U---	W11	U---	U---	U---	1.0
17		**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNEo2HhmUs6Vuiq5WNbTgsMU73pkQQ)**	30235937	unr.	U---	U---	W29	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
18	18-20	**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524220000&usg=AFQjCNE39ZSoKQLiO_MhlvqF8lEeG5vEZQ)**	16600505	1676	U---	U---	U---	D3	U---	U---	U---	0.5
19		**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524221000&usg=AFQjCNEz5aL7UMq85kQmAoPTs7xhfXILVg)**	30204815	unr.	U---	D20	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.5
20		**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524221000&usg=AFQjCNEUV35OivfW8f3qMSQd_NAYm1A8-w)**	30264869	unr.	U---	D19	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.5
21	21-29	**Alex Silvestre (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446526&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524221000&usg=AFQjCNFc87bgbQO7CbLcDyGQKt3RH3fNwQ)**	15446526	2131	U---	L4	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
22		**TONY A LAMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524221000&usg=AFQjCNED_CBAAZGbtiQeJjqbVSXVDOHMCQ)**	12328450	1805	L5	L2	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
23		**Cesar Tamondong (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12439091&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524221000&usg=AFQjCNENKNgK_IVjXsXlQ9GmKdOGVDzRoQ)**	12439091	1600	U---	U---	L13	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
24		**NICK CASARES JR (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524221000&usg=AFQjCNHw8lxQ-CplzGHOKL3HH__q4s07GQ)**	10424364	1600	L6	U---	U---	L15	U---	U---	U---	0.0
25		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524221000&usg=AFQjCNFeGc-vDx3Aauzsq_uL0WoMQqWtnQ)**	12844781	1500	U---	L1	U---	U---	U---	L3	U---	0.0
26		**JOHN CHAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524221000&usg=AFQjCNHvLQ4zZHK1Anhl0O0aNOj_w2w_mw)**	12561007	1500	L7	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
27		**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524221000&usg=AFQjCNEVZ5pWodjkR1p4l4cM1JN8xktUBA)**	16716976	983	U---	L11	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
28		**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331&source=gmail-html&ust=1634192524221000&usg=AFQjCNEJ5CPP-a828i_7sbD7NC8JErhpLw)**	16741331	889	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L9	U---	0.0
29		**Angad Sharma**		unr.	U---	U---	L17	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0

Mechanics' Institute Thursday Night Chess Triathlon Online Blitz Leg Week 2

The Blitz leg of the Thursday Night Triathlon brought fast paced action, wild finishes, and a few new strong players who joined in to take part even though they missed out last week. IM Elliott Winslow, NM Mike Sailer and Sean Kelly were the new entries for the week, trying to make up some points from tournament leader Adam Mercado, who went 5.5/6 in the rapid portion last week. Sean Kelly ended up winning the blitz leg with a score of 7/9. However, Triathlon leader Adam Mercado kept good pace, scoring 5.5/9 including a key win over Sean Kelly to keep his lead with a combined 2-week score of 11/15. Mansoor Mohammad is close behind with a combined score of 10/15 as is Mark Drury. The final leg is next week with 6 round of Fischer Random.

Full blitz results can be found here: https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mi-online-triathlon---blitz-leg-2666242 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/mi-online-triathlon---blitz-leg-2666242)

Watch the broadcast of the wild rounds with the Mechanics' team here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3aDVa6o-4o (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3aDVa6o-4o)

To really get a sense of the wildness of blitz, watch starting from 1:24:30 and the final seconds of the last game of the tournament.

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this problem, white to move and mate in 2.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute November/December TNM: FIDE Rated. Nov 2- Dec 21, 6:30PM PT. G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person)

Mechanics' Institute October Quads: October 30, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

20th Carroll Capps Memorial Championship: USCF Rated. November 7, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/49th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/49th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Scholastic Chess Bulletin #5 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq)

In this issue:

- 2021 Fall Enrichment - Report on the Start
- 2021 Fall & Winter Holiday Camps
- Special Event: Halloween Tournament @ Mechanics' Institute on Oct 30
- Understanding Tournaments - Byes & Forfeits
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#bulletin)

All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead's Column

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

A little chess in California and Virginia, 1997

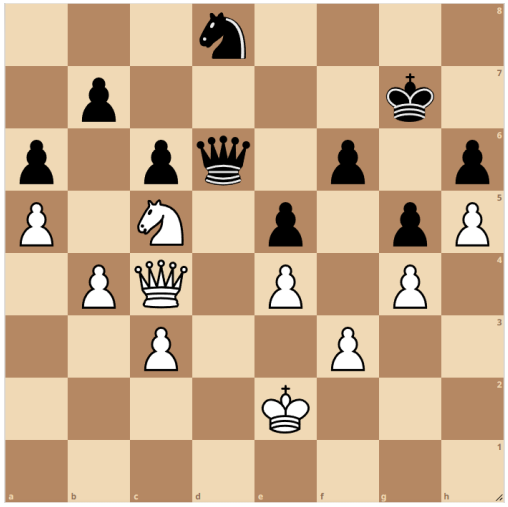
In mid-1997, 37 years old, I moved with my wife and two daughters to Staunton, Virginia, and started a new life. Right before leaving I thought to myself: "Why not give chess another shot, and see if I still enjoy playing?"

It had been seven years since I'd played a tournament game, and that had been a close shave against former MI Chess Room Director IM John Donaldson at the Peoples' Tournament in Berkeley: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/927#paularticle (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/927#paularticle)

Naturally I made my way down to the Mechanics' Institute where it all began, and signed up for the 34th Arthur Stamer Memorial. This classic 5-round tournament was directed by my old friend Mike Goodall. Looking back at the cross-table here: http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?199706154000-10478936 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?199706154000-10478936). It is a nice trip down memory lane. A bunch of the club's old-timers are there, and though some are gone they are not forgotten: Peter Grey, Dr. Benjamin Gross and MI trustee Neil Falconer participated, as did that recently departed club stalwart, Felix German.

Other players, young and old, are still playing in tournaments here to this day. I remember the tournament as relaxed, easy-going. Playing chess wasn't knocking my socks off like it did when I was 12, but it wasn't as bad as sitting in the dentist's chair either, as I had feared. I was rusty, but not too bad, and a score of +3 =2 -0 put me in a 10-way tie (!) for second place behind the sole winner NM Igor Margulis, who finished with 4.5.

In the last round I pushed a little, and won with a tricky sacrifice against NM Larry Snyder:



Whitehead – Snyder, 34th Stamer Memorial 1997.

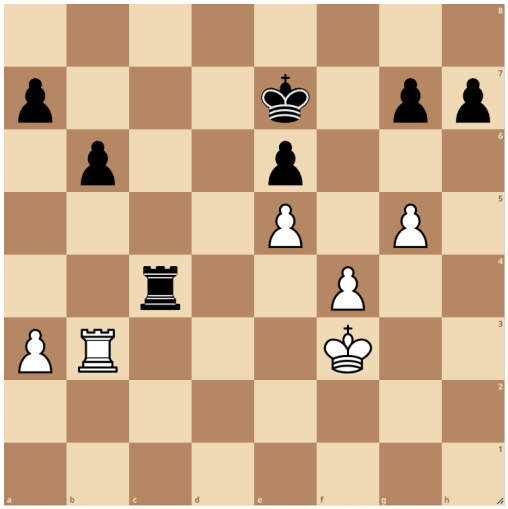
Not certain how to proceed against black's long and careful defense, I speculated with **1.Nxb7!? Nxb7 2.Qxa6** and was immediately rewarded for my nerve. Black erred with the natural **2...Qc7?** when instead 2...Nd8! followed by ...Ne6! gives enough counter play for a sure draw. But in the game after **3.Qa7!!** black was all pinned up on his 2nd rank with no defense. **3...Qc8.** As good as anything else. **4.a6 1-0.**

Sharing my prize, among other familiar names, was IM Walter Shipman and a young expert by the name of David Pruess.

Heartened, I played in the 7th Charlottesville Open almost immediately upon my arrival in Virginia, and to my amazement I won the darned thing! See here for the cross-table: http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?199707135380.1-10478936 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?199707135380.1-10478936)

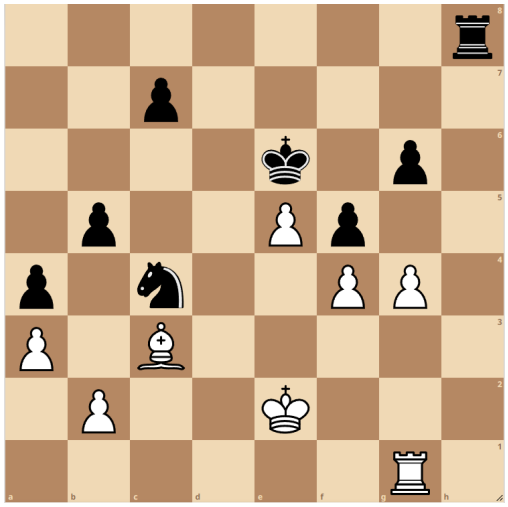
OK, it wasn't the strongest tournament (I was the only rated Master), but confidence means a lot to a chess player, and with that confidence I went to the 'Capitol of the Old South', Richmond VA, a month later - determined to show everyone that there was a new kid in town.

This time I was in direct competition with some formidable opposition, but in this 'Action Chess' format (game in 30 minutes) I made a bit of my own luck by offering FM Leonid Filatov a draw in this position (accepted). Black certainly is better, but he was way behind on the clock:



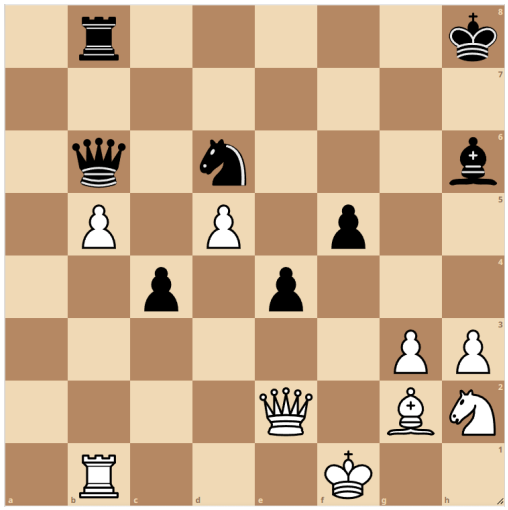
Whitehead – Filatov, Richmond VA 1997.

Then I outplayed the top-seed, IM Alexander Reprintsev, in a time-scramble from this rather even position with white to move (the score is lost):



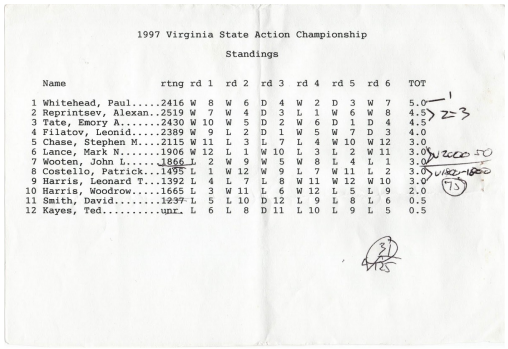
Whitehead – Reprintsev, Richmond VA 1997.

Not wanting to push my luck, I accepted a draw from a position of strength against the legendary IM Emory Tate. Back should win quite handily with 37...c3.



Tate – Whitehead, Richmond VA 1997.

The final result was like a fairy tale, a triumph of my return to competitive chess:



1997 Virginia State Action Championship

Standings

	Name	rtng	rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	TOT
1	Whitehead, Paul	2416	W 8	W 6	D 4	W 2	D 3	W 7	5.0
2	Reprintsev, Alexan	2519	W 7	W 4	D 3	L 1	W 6	W 8	4.5
3	Tate, Emory A.	2430	W 10	W 5	D 2	W 6	D 1	D 4	4.5
4	Filatov, Leonid	2389	W 9	L 2	D 1	W 5	W 7	D 3	4.0
5	Chase, Stephen M.	2115	W 11	L 3	L 7	L 4	W 10	W 12	3.0
6	Lance, Mark N.	1906	W 12	L 1	W 10	L 3	L 2	W 11	3.0
7	Wooten, John L.	1866	L 2	W 9	W 5	W 8	L 4	L 1	3.0
8	Costello, Patrick	1495	L 1	W 12	W 9	L 7	W 11	L 2	3.0
9	Harris, Leonard T.	1392	L 4	L 7	L 8	W 11	W 12	W 10	3.0
10	Harris, Woodrow	1665	L 3	W 11	L 6	W 12	L 5	L 9	2.0
11	Smith, David	1237	L 5	L 10	D 12	L 9	L 8	L 6	0.5
12	Kayes, Ted	unr.	L 6	L 8	D 11	L 10	L 9	L 5	0.5

However life is no fairy tale, and as time wore on it seemed the Royal Game couldn't really hold me. I had some chops, I knew a few moves, but I lacked the passion and drive. It was an old story with me.

I played in a few more tournaments in Virginia, but with indifferent results. Continuing to throw my hat in the ring every so often, I did tie for 1st place in the Charlottesville Open in 2007 – ten years after winning it outright: http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?200707150431-10478936 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130005516/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?200707150431-10478936)

I have seen many, many people returning to chess after long absences, and this never-ending return to the game embodies the spirit of the chess player, who has the heart of a fighter and will not give up. I like to think I have that spirit - if only sometimes!

GM Nick de Firmian's Column

The US Championship October 5-19

The biggest chess event of the US year is in full swing as our star players face off against one another in St. Louis. The US Championship is such a world class event nowadays. It is stronger than the Russian Championship – a concept that would have been laughable in the Soviet days and also the times of Kramnik and Kasparov. Yet now we Americans have more of the world's top players than anyone else, so the world eagerly watches our championship.

Here in the Bay Area we take particular interest in how our local heros perform. I was personally hoping for another Sam Shankland victory as he did in 2018. That seems unlikely this year as Sam has a minus score, and the tournament is in the second half. We count Daniel Naroditsky also as a local even though he moved to Charlotte. Daniel grew up and learned chess here, and we hoped for a good result this time as his first two appearances in the US Championship were rather rough. This year Daniel also started slowly, but bounced back with a great win over Fabiano Caruana in round 5.

At of this writing the leaders are Alex Lenderman, who plays in our MI online events, along with Wesley So and Sam Sevian. Fabiano Caruana was the pre-tournament favorite (along with Wesley So) but has had a difficult start and has lost his world #2 ranking. He came back in round 7 win a great endgame win, so perhaps he will make a run at the end and win the championship again. We have a new entrant in the championship, former Cuban Bruzon Batista. Seems we have taken Cuba's top two players to add to our already world leading field. Thank you Rex Sinquefield for the sponsorship that brings top chess players to American!

The Women's Championship is showing young star Carissa Yip as a leading force in US women's chess as she battles with 8 time champion Irina Krush to take this year's title. There should be great excitement in both the women's and overall event as we get to the final rounds with close races to follow.

(1) GM Caruana,Fabiano - GM Naroditsky,Daniel [C79]

US Championship, 11.10.2021

Before this game one thinks young Daniel will be struggling with Black against the number 2 player in the world. Certainly a tough asignmnet. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6** The Steinitz Defense Deferred to the Ruy Lopez is not so popular now, but it is as good as any of the other variations. **5.0-0 Bd7 6.c3** [I always preferred the direct 6.d4] **6...Nf6 7.Re1 g6 8.d4 Bg7 9.Nbd2 exd4 10.cxd4 0-0 11.h3 Nb4 12.Bxd7 Qxd7 13.Qb3 a5** [13...Nc6 may be better] **14.a3 Nc6 15.Nf1 a4 16.Qd3 Na5 17.Bg5 Nb3 18.Rad1 h6 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.N1d2**

White has gotten a slight advantage out of the opening with the center duo of e4, d4. Just a slight edge, but that's often enough for Caruana. **20...Na5 21.Nb1 b5 22.Qc2 Bg7 23.Nc3 c6 24.e5 Rfe8 25.Ne4 Nc4 26.exd6** [26.Nfd2 would keep the pawn on e5] **26...Nxd6** [26...f5!?] **27.Ne5 Qf5 28.g4 Qe6 29.Nc3?!** [29.Nxd6 Qxd6 30.Nxc6 keeps the edge] **29...Rac8 30.Re2 Qb3** Daniel goes for the endgame, which has even chances. The advanced pawn on b3 may be a little weak but it also gives dynamic potential. **31.Qxb3 axb3 32.Kg2**

32...c5! making the bishop on g7 more powerful by loosening the center **33.dxc5 Nc4 34.Nxc4?! Rxe2**

35.Nxe2? This natural move gets White into trouble. [35.Nb6! Bxc3 36.Nxc8 Bxb2 37.Rb1 Bxa3 38.c6 Bc5 39.Rxb3 is a little better for Black but White should be able to draw] **35...bxc4** Now Black has tremendous pressure from the bishop on the long diagonal combined with the advanced pawns on c4 and b3. **36.Rc1 Bxb2!** [36...Rxc5?! 37.Nc3 stops Black's activity] **37.Rxc4 Bxa3 38.c6 b2 39.Nc3 Bf8 40.Nb1 Bg7 41.Kf3 Kf8** The black king comes into the battle to corral the white pawn on c6. Meanwhile the black pawn on b2 keeps the white knight completely on the defensive. **42.h4 Ke7 43.h5 Kd6 44.hxg6 fxg6 45.Rb4 Rxc6 46.Rb7 Be5 47.Nd2 Rc2 48.Ke3 Kc6 49.Rb3 Rc3+!** Daniel sees the extra pawn with the good bishop against knight is a win. **50.Rxc3+ Bxc3 51.Nb1 Bb4 52.f4 Kd5 53.Kd3 h5** The last thing needed is another passed pawn. White cannot defend. **54.f5 hxg4 55.fxg6 Ke6 56.Ke4 g3 57.Kf3 Bd6** White resigned. The final postion shows the difference between a bishop and knight. The two black pawns are distant enough so the white king must stop one while the knight must stop the other. That leaves the black king free to roam the board, pick up the white pawn and come back to help the black b-pawn. An important victory by Daniel. **0-1**

(2) GM Caruana,Fabiano - GM Robson,Ray [A25]

US Championship, 13.10.2021

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bb4 4.e4 Nc6 5.Bg2 d6 6.h3 Be6 7.d3 Nd7 8.Nge2 f5 9.0-0 0-0 10.f4

10...Bxc3?! Probably Robson shouldn't trade away his bishop so quickly. He will come to regret this many moves later. 10...Bc5+ would have been about equal chances. **11.Nxc3 fxe4 12.Nxe4 h6 13.g4 exf4 14.Bxf4 d5 15.cxd5 Bxd5 16.Qd2** White has just a slight edge from the opening due to the bishop pair. **16...Nd4 17.Rae1 Ne6 18.Bg3 Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Ndc5 20.Qc3 Nxe4 21.dxe4 Bc6** [21...Bxa2 22.Ra1 gives the bishop a problem 22...Nd4 23.Kh2 Ne2 24.Qxc7 Nxg3 25.Qxd8+ Rxd8 26.Kxg3] **22.Qb3 Qd4+ 23.Kh2 Re8 24.Rd1 Qa4 25.Qxa4 Bxa4 26.Rd5 Bc6 27.Re5**

It is instructive to see a great player work with the two bishops. Caruana may be having an off tournament but he is still truly one of the very best players of our time and has world championship like endgame skills. **27...g5 28.Bf1 Kg7 29.Kg2 Kf6 30.Kf2 Nf4 31.Rxe8 Bxe8 32.Ke3 Ke5 33.Be1 Ne6 34.Bc4 Bg6 35.b4 a6 36.a4 Nf4 37.Bc3+ Kd6 38.Bg7 h5 39.Bf1 hxg4 40.hxg4 Ne6 41.Bf6 Kd7 42.a5 Kd6 43.Bc4 Kd7 44.Bd5 c6 45.Bc4 Bh7 46.Bd4 Bg6** [46...Nxd4 47.Kxd4 is lost for Black since all the queenside pawns are on white squares, like the bishops.] **47.Bf6 Bh7 48.Bf1 Ke8 49.Bd3 Bg6 50.Bc4 Kd7 51.Bd4 Bh7 52.Ba7 Bg6 53.Bb3 Ke7 54.Bc2 Kd7 55.Kf3 Bh7 56.Be3 Bg6 57.Bd3 Ke7 58.Ke2 Ke8 59.Kd2 Kf8 60.Bc5+ Kg7 61.Ke3 Kg8 62.Bc4 Bf7 63.Be7 Kg7 64.e5 Kg8 65.Kd2 Kg7 66.Bd3 Kg8 67.Bf5 Kg7 68.Kd3 Nf4+ 69.Kd4** Many moves later White has made some progress against good defense. It's still very hard to win though. **69...Ne6+ 70.Kc4 Kg8**

71.Bxg5! Caruana chooses to make the breakthough now with a piece sacrifice. His king is far better than the black counterpart. **71...Nxg5+ 72.Kc5 Bd5 73.Bc8 Ne6+ 74.Kd6** The white pieces dominate. Though he has only one pawn for the knight Caruana is winning. The black queenside pawns fall. **74...Kf7 75.Bxb7 Bc4 76.Bxc6 Nd4 77.Bd5+ Bxd5 78.Kxd5** Three pawns for the knight is an easy win here. The slow black king and knight can't deal with all the passers. **78...Nb5 79.g5 Ke7 80.g6 Nc3+ 81.Kc6 Na2 82.b5 axb5 83.Kxb5 Nc3+ 84.Kc4 Na4 85.Kb4 Nb2 86.a6 Nd3+ 87.Kb5 Nf4 88.g7 Kf7 89.a7 Nd5 90.g8B+!** Fine engame play by Caruana. This victory still gives him some chance to catch the leaders. **1-0**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. Bf8!! (threatens Qa1 mate) Bxb2 2. Bxh6#

if ...1 Nxd3, then 2. Qc2 #

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/20211130005516/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #991

October 23, 2021

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Chess Clubs From Around the Country: Silver Knights Chess

by Abel Talamantez

We continue to spotlight different chess clubs this week with one of the largest chess organizations: Silver Knights. Providing chess enrichment and tournaments in the Virginia, D.C., and Maryland area, they have weathered the storm of the pandemic and are continuing to provide programs to their community. Here below, Founder and President NM Adam Weissbarth wrote a few paragraphs about his organization.

The Story of Silver Knights Chess

I realized I wanted to start a company teaching chess to kids in 2005, as I was unenthusiastically finishing a masters degree in statistics. In 2006, I left my prior career for good and started Silver Knights Chess. I was a lifelong chess player (and national master) and had done a bunch of teaching - mostly math, but also some chess. To get started, I cold-called 100 schools in the Philadelphia area. Four of them answered, and that's how Silver Knights began. For the first few months I was a one-man operation teaching chess in schools and community centers; by halfway through the first year, demand for the chess program had grown so much that I was teaching in more than 15 schools and I started hiring other coaches.

After growing that program to more than 1,000 kids weekly and teaching a pair of national scholastic champions, I sold the business to focus full-time on growing a similar organization in the Washington, DC area with my brother Daniel. We grew pretty steadily for the next ten years.

At the time COVID hit, Silver Knights had grown to teach chess to nearly 4,000 kids per week throughout Washington, DC, Northern Virginia, and Maryland. We had more than 100 chess coaches and aides, supported by a team of staff in our office. In addition to our after-school program in schools, we also ran numerous summer chess camps and weekend tournaments.

Silver Knight's Tournament Training classes prepare students or live tournament play

COVID was devastating -- we lost all of our revenue overnight. It forced us to put all our energy into developing an online chess program. We experimented nonstop to see what worked. After a couple of months, we settled on a format for group lessons and tournaments that worked well for the kids. With everything online, we were able to do some fun things that hadn't been possible before, like play matches against clubs from other countries or bring in guest instructors including Judit Polgar, Sam Shankland, and Rochelle Ballantyne and Pobo Efekoro from Brooklyn Castle.

In August 2021 something amazing happened: we joined the Play Magnus Group, the company of world champion Magnus Carlsen! We're excited to be part of Magnus' team, and are inspired by their mission of making the world a smarter place by encouraging more people to play chess. We're now very busy restarting after school chess programs in hundreds of schools throughout the DC area, continuing to teach online lessons to a broader audience of kids, and looking forward to introducing more people to chess!

Tuesday Night Marathon Round 7 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The Tuesday Night Marathon played its final round of the September-October edition, with a battle for 2nd place in the top section. FM Ezra Chambers had wrapped up 1st place last week while Sean Kelly rose to the challenge and to the occasion, securing a draw on board 1 against IM Elliott Winslow to take clear 2nd place. A draw between Nicholas Weng and Nathan Fong helped Sean, as Fong finished with 4.5/7 along with winslow and Ako Heidari, who got there with a final round win against an always tough Kevin Sun.

Sean Kelly and IM Elliott Winslow battle for 2nd place on board 1, Daniel Wang (playing white in the picture to the right) takes clear 1st in the under 1800 section.

In the under 1800 section, Daniel Wang finished the tournament with the same pace he started, getting the win against Christopher Dessert and finishing with 6.5/7, a full point ahead of the field in a large section. Stephen Parsons finished in clear 2nd with 5.5/7 and six players tied for 3rd with 5/7.

We will have a break next week from our TNM and begin the November-December edition Tuesday November 2nd. IM John Donaldson will give the guest lecture at 5:30pm prior to the round with copies of his latest book Bobby Fischer and His World. To register for the next TNM, click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/TuesdayNightMarathonNovDec2021).

Here are some games from the final round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) IM Winslow,Elliott (2269) - Kelly,Sean (1786) [D46]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (7.1), 19.10.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 [Avoiding the even greater complications of the Botvinnik System, 5.Bg5 dxc4 (5...h6 also has its crazy and difficult lines, but at least it lets White avoid the wildest with 6.Bxf6 *(6.Bh4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5* goes wholeheartedly into it!*)* 6...Qxf6 7.e3 *(7.g3)*) 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5] **5...Bd6** An interesting transpositional idea, to avoid some other possibilities. [5...Nbd7 has been the traditional move for over a hundred and sixty years! But since the famous game Aronian-Anand,... 6.Bd3 *(6.Qc2 Bd6* is common enough*)* 6...dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bd6!?] **6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Be2** [8.Bd3] **8...Nbd7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qc2 Qc7 11.Bd2 Bb7 12.Rac1** Setting up some tactical possibilities, but they never quite make it to the board. [Better was, indeed, 12.e4! when after 12...e5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.f4 White mobilizes his majority successfully. 15...Bxc3 16.Bxc3 Qb6+ 17.Kh1 c5 18.Bf3 White's advantage is there, but whether it stays significant is up in the air.] **12...a6 13.b4**

13...Rae8N Surely this rook will find other files of value!? [This position occured in a grandmaster game eighteen years ago! Probably then the better rook move was played: 13...Rfe8 14.h3 Rac8 15.Qb1 e5 16.Bd3 exd4 17.exd4 Bf4 18.Bxf4 Qxf4 19.Ne2 Qd6 1/2-1/2 (52) Huebner,R (2604)-Shabalov,A (2597) Willemstad 2003] **14.h3 e5 15.dxe5** [15.Bd3+/= was preferrable.] **15...Nxe5= 16.Nd4 Qd7 17.Nb1 Nd5** [17...Bb8=] **18.a3+/= f5 19.Nc3 Nb6 20.Rfd1** [20.Rcd1+/=] **20...Nbc4**

[20...Qf7!=] **21.f4** [21.Qa2!?] **21...Nxa3 22.Qb3+**

Double Attack **22...Nec4** Strongly threatening ...Kh8. **23.Ra1! Kh8** Hoping for . ..c5. **24.Rxa3 Nxa3 25.Qxa3 a5|^** Black is more active. **26.Nc2** [Wrong is 26.Qxa5? Ra8-+; 26.Nb1= keeps the balance.] **26...axb4-/+ 27.Nxb4**

27...c5

[27...Qe7!-/+ 28.Rb1 Rd8] **28.Bxb5?** [28.Nxb5=/+ cxb4 29.Qd3] **28...cxb4-+ 29.Bxd7 bxa3** Black is clearly better after 30. Bxe8 Rxe8 but the players agreed a draw. **1/2-1/2**

(2) Weng,Nicholas (2001) - Fong,Nathan (2049) [B33]

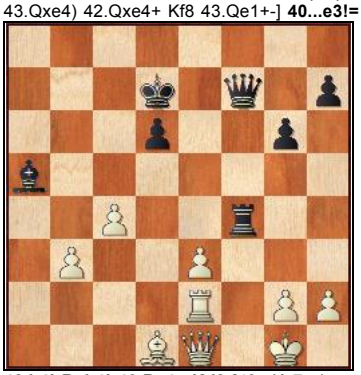
MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (7.2), 19.10.2021

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.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bb7 11...Rb8 is the modern continuation. [11...Ne7; 11...Bg5; 11...0-0] **12.Nc2 Ne7 13.Ncb4** [Better is 13.Nxf6++/- gxf6 14.Bd3] **13...Nxd5** B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations. **14.Nxd5 0-0 15.a4** [15.Be2+/= Gildardo Garcia - Nijboer, Wijk aan Zee 1996 (in Shaw); And one must always wonder what Vassily is up to: 15.Qb3 Bg5 16.Be2 Kh8 17.0-0 Rb8 18.Rad1 Bc6 19.Bg4 1-0 (39) Ivanchuk,V (2715)-Frolyanov,D (2482) Yerevan 2004] **15...bxa4** [15...Bc6!=] **16.Rxa4+/=** White has more of a grip on the light squares. **16...a5 17.Bc4 Bc6 18.Ra1**

18...Bg5N [18...Ra7!? 19.b4 *(19.0-0!?)* 19...Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Qc7 21.0-0 *(21.Rc1)* 21...Qxc3 22.Qa4?! *(22.Ra4!)* 22...Bd8 23.Qb5 Qc7 24.Rxa5 Rxa5 25.bxa5 Qxa5 26.Qxa5 Bxa5 is dead even, although somehow 0-1 (63) De Hoop,T-Rijnaarts,S Hengelo 2002] **19.0-0 Kh8 20.Qe2 f5 21.exf5! Rxf5 22.Rfd1** less urgent and later weakens f2 [22.b4; 22.Bd3!? Rf8 23.Be4 is very solid in the center] **22...Rb8 23.b3 Bxd5?!** giving up the light squares should end badly [23...g6+/- is a better defense.] **24.Rxd5+- Qb6?** [24...Qc7 might work better. 25.Rdxa5 *(25.Raxa5 Rbf8+/-)* 25...Rbf8] **25.Rb5 Qc7 26.Rxb8+ Qxb8 27.Qg4 g6 28.Rxa5** Second best --

[>=28.Be6! Rf6 29.Qxg5 *(29.Rxa5 Kg7+/-)* 29...Rxe6 30.Rxa5 is winning as White has b3-b4 next; 30...Qxb3? 31.Ra8+ Kg7 32.Ra7+! is mate shortly.] **28...Bd8** [28...Qd8 objectively puts up a better fight, but Black sees some tactical possibilities with the bishop on b6. 29.b4 Qc8] **29.Ra2! Bb6 30.Bd5?** Throwing away the major part of White's advantage. [30.Qe4!+- uses the threat of 31. Ra8 to set up an effective defense (Qe1, g3, Kg2) with tempo. 30...Rf8 *(30...Qc7 31.Qd5 Kg7 32.g3)* 31.g3] **30...Kg7?** [Black has the surprising 30...Qf8!= 31.Bf3 *(31.Ra8?? Rxf2!)* 31...d5! and Black's threat of ...e4 forces White to head for an ending: 32.Qa4 e4 33.Qc6 Qf6=] **31.Bf3?** [31.g3+- Qf8 32.Ra8! Qf6 *(32...Rxf2 33.Rxf8 Rf4+ 34.Kg2 Rxg4 35.Rb8* is a smash -- look at Black's rook *and* bishop*!)* 33.Rg8+ Kh6 34.Be4 White forces Black's pieces to strange squares: 34...Bxf2+ *(34...Rxf2?? 35.Qh3+ Kg5 36.Qh4#)* 35.Kg2 Rh5 36.Qe2 Bb6 37.h4] **31...Qc7** [31...d5!= 32.Bxd5 e4!] **32.Qb4 Rf4 33.c4 e4! 34.Qc3+ Kh6!** The only but adequate square. [34...Kf7 35.Bxe4!+-] **35.Bd1** [35.Qd2!+/= is superior. 35...Qf7 *(35...g5 36.h4)* 36.Bxe4 *(36.Qxd6 Bc7-/+)* 36...Bxf2+ 37.Kh1] **35...Qf7 36.Qh3+ Kg7 37.Qc3+** Somewhere around here Nicholas offered a draw, expecting a repetition. **37...Kf8?**

[37...Kh6= 38.Qe1 d5] **38.Qd2?** [38.Qh8+!+- Ke7 39.Qb8 is probably what White missed. 39...Bxf2+?? 40.Rxf2 Rxf2 41.Qa7+ gets the rook] **38...Ke7?!** [Fong avoids 38...Bxf2+?? 39.Qxf2! e3 40.Qe1+-; But 38...Bc5=/+ is a better prep for ...e3. 39.Qe1 e3] **39.Qe1!+/= Kd7?** [39...Qe6+/=] **40.Re2?** [40.g3+- Rf6 41.Bg4+ Ke7 (41...Kc7 42.c5!! dxc5 *(42...Bxc5 43.Qa5+ Bb6 44.Rc2+)* 43.Qxe4) 42.Qxe4+ Kf8 43.Qe1+-] **40...e3!=** Now another level of tactical precision ensues! **41.fxe3 Ba5!**

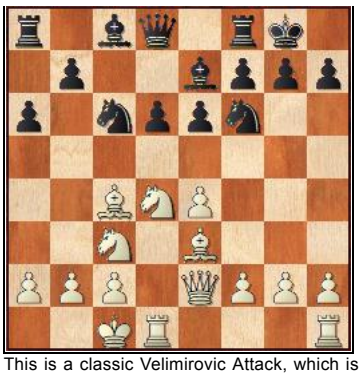


42.b4! Bxb4! 43.Ba4+ Kd8 [43...Kc7= is more appropriate. 44.Qa1 Bc5] **44.Qd1** [44.Qa1 is more complex. 44...Rf5 *(44...Bc5 45.Bc6 Qxc4 46.Re1)* 45.g4 Ra5 46.Rf2 Qe7 47.Qh8+ Kc7=] **44...Bc5** The position is equal. **45.Bb3 Qe6 46.Qd3 Qe5 47.Re1 Re4 48.Bc2 Rxe3 49.Rxe3 Bxe3+ 50.Kh1! Qf4 51.Qe2 Bd4 52.g3 Qf2 1/2-1/2**

(3) Riese,Kayven (1900) - Svoboda,Steven (1936) [B89]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (7.5), 19.10.2021

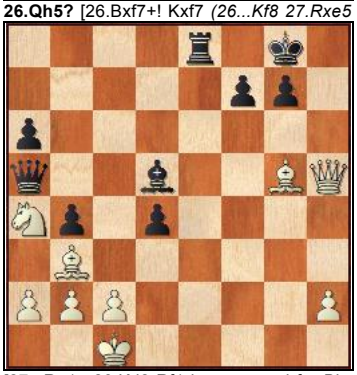
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qe2 0-0 9.0-0-0 a6



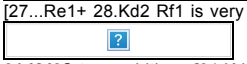
This is a classic Velimirovic Attack, which is great to see. It's like hearing some classic 70's music again - it never goes out of style. **10.Rhg1 Nxd4 11.Rxd4 b5 12.Bb3 Bb7!? 13.f3?!** [Black's queen still on d8, Time for 13.e5! with an edge] **13...Qc7** [13...Nd7; 13...Qb8!?] **14.g4 b4!? 15.Na4** [15.Rxb4! d5 16.Rxb7! Qxb7 17.g5 Nd7 18.exd5 would be a clear edge for White] **15...Qa5 16.g5 Nd7 17.Bd2?!** [17.Qe1!+/-] **17...d5?** [17...Qb5!=/+ is safest. White should probably reply with 18. Kd1] **18.exd5 e5**

19.d6? Many rook moves, all winning. [19.Rh4+- is the best of them. 19...g6 20.Qe4 controls the center and keeps strong attacking chances] **19...exd4!** getting back in the game **20.dxe7 Rfe8 21.g6!? hxg6 22.Rxg6 Ne5?!** [22...Qe5!] **23.Rg5 Rxe7 24.f4 Rae8?** [24...Qb5!] **25.fxe5 Rxe5**

26.Qh5? [26.Bxf7+! Kxf7 *(26...Kf8 27.Rxe5 Rxe5 28.Qc4)* 27.Qh5+ Kg8 28.Qxe8+ Rxe8 29.Rxa5 wins] **26...Rxg5 27.Bxg5 Bd5?**



[27...Re1+ 28.Kd2 Rf1 is very good for Black] **28.Bh4?** [28.Bd2!+- Rd8 *(28...Qb5 29.Bxd5 Qf1+ 30.Qd1)* 29.Bc4! *(29.Nb6!)*] **28...Qb5!= 29.Bxd5 Qf1+ 30.Kd2 Qf4+**



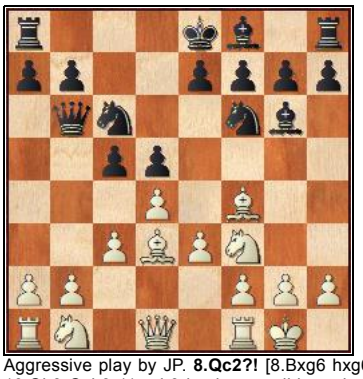
31.Kd3? too ambitious [31.Kd1= forces Black to take the perpetual.] **31...Re3+ 32.Kc4**

32...d3+!-+ 33.Kb3 [33.Kc5 dxc2] **33...dxc2+ 34.Kxc2 Qxh2+** White has three pieces for a rook, but Black has a winning attack. **35.Kd1 Rd3+ 36.Ke1 Qg1+ 37.Ke2 Qd1+** White resigns. A great and entertaining battle! **0-1**

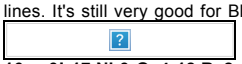
(4) Starr,Albert (1500) - Fairchild,JP. (1177) [D02]

MI Sep-Oct TNM u1800 San Francisco (7.21), 19.10.2021

1.d4 What? no 1.b4? **1...Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4** The London System. It's very popular when both Magnus Carlsen and Albeert Starr take it up. **3...c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.c3 Bf5 6.Bd3 Bg6 7.0-0 Qb6**



Aggressive play by JP. **8.Qc2?!** [8.Bxg6 hxg6 9.Nbd2 would be a better way to sacrifice the b-pawn. 9...Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qxa2 11.Rxb7 probably gives White an edge.; 8.dxc5 Qxb2 9.Bxg6 hxg6 10.Qb3 Qxb3 11.axb3 is also possible and about equal] **8...Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Qxb2 10.Nbd2 c4 11.Qf5?** charging forward, but it's often bad to lead with the queen [11.Nxc4!? dxc4 12.Qxc4 Qb6 13.d5=] **11...e6-+** Black has just gotten a free developing tempo. Now White should probably retreat with 12. Qb1, but there is no fun or honor in that. **12.Qh3?! Qxc3 13.Rab1 b6** Two pawns ahead for Black should be winning. He is behind in development though. **14.Rfc1 Qa5 15.Rc2** This doesn't help. White really needs to do something and should try 15. e4 or 15. Nxc4 to open lines. It's still very good for Black but it could get tricky. **15...Nb4 16.Rcb2**



16...c3! 17.Nb3 Qa4 18.Re2 c2 19.Rc1 Qxa2

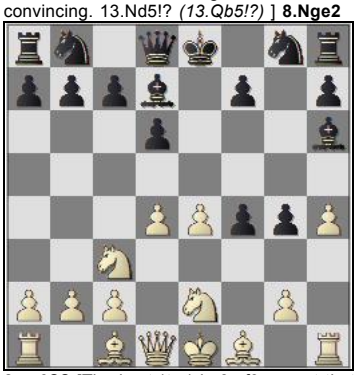
A curious position. Black still has the kingside completely undeveloped and has the king in the center, yet is completely winning on the queenside. **20.Nfd2 Nd3 21.Rf1 Rc8 22.Nc1 Nxc1 23.Rxc1 Ba3** finally developing, and with deadly effect **24.e4 Bxc1 25.exd5 Qxd5 26.Re5 Bxd2!** The back rank finishes White off. Nice aggessive play by Fairchild. It may make Albert go bacl to the Orangutan Opening. **0-1**

(194) Stafford,Adam (1665) - Gimelfarb,Ilia (1752) [C34]

MI Sep-Oct TNM 1800+ San Francisco (7.7), 19.10.2021

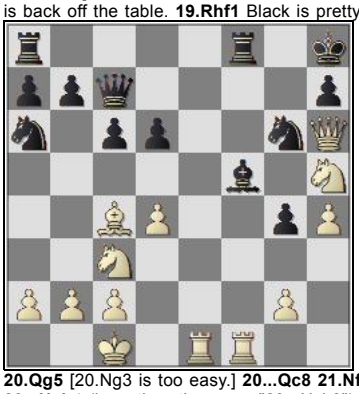
1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 OMG, it's the King's Gambit Accepted! Don't these guys know what MILLENIUM this is?? **3.Nf3** The main move, avoiding ridiculous king marches via ...Qh4+; Ke2, or massive material sacrifice with g2-g3. [3.Bc4 There was an article in ChessBase Magazine a few years ago, claiming that only 3.Bc4 held the draw as proved by the strongest computers -- published on April First <ahem>...] **3...d6** Black has tried everything under the sun, and a few things from darker places, but this has become the most popular *if* you conveniently forget a few centuries! [3...g5 has been featured ever since Greco vs. "NN" (i.e. probably made-up games by the 17th Century Italian professional) used it as a foil for many crushing wins -- mostly for White, but Black won a fair share as well. Yes, as NN vs. Greco. In any case, not too many grandmaster games since the turnof the Century/Millenium.] **4.d4** Praxis has been evenly divided, both frequency and overall score, between this and [4.Bc4 , but 4...h6! looks to be quite a troublemaker here, scoring better than three to two for Black.] **4...g5** But here this is the overwhelmingly played return -- blame Kasparov perhaps, for playing it (and winning) against King's Gambit superstar Morozevich in 1995. **5.h4** Morozevich *and* Short, among others **5...g4 6.Ng1** Wait, what? Book move! [6.Ng5?! h6 won the piece, with a clear advantage which Kasparov brought home. *(*But the computers of now favor *6...f6!?* , which might be an easier go.*)* 7.Nxf7 Kxf7 8.Bxf4 Bg7 9.Bc4+ Ke8 0-1 (23) Morozevich,A (2630)-Kasparov,G (2795) Paris 1995. But it isn't so easy if your rating is under 2800!] **6...Bh6** The "theoretical" continuation, (dropping to just a couple dozen games though). [Computers have it in for 6...Qf6 -- that is, they like it even more.] **7.Nc3**

A good all-purpose move, but not purposeful enough to convince modern analysis that White has a good game. **7...Bd7?!N** This gets the old chess proverbs all wrong. It's "Knights Before Bishops," which is a blunt version of "Play the pieces where know where they should go (i.e. knights to f3/c3/f6/c6) and leave the pieces with options (i.e. bishops) alone for a while, to keep those options open." [A fairly recent game featured a well-known GM playing 7...Nc6 8.Qd3 Bd7 9.a3 f5 10.Nge2 fxe4 11.Qxe4+ Qe7 12.Qxe7+ Ngxe7 13.d5 Ne5 14.Bxf4 Bxf4 15.Nxf4 0-0 and it got uncomfortable fast: 0-1 (24) Shytaj,L (2472)-Almasi,Z (2663) Reggio Emilia 2009; Most analysis has 7...c6 when no solid equality -- for White -- quite shows up, although 8.Nge2 Qf6 9.e5 dxe5 10.Ne4 Qg6! 11.N2c3! comes pretty close.; 7...Be6!? 8.d5 Bc8!! is *very* interesting! Giri did something very similar recently, but in the Russian Variation of the Gruenfeld Defense -- and it was rather earth-shaking there as well. 9.Qd4 Nf6 10.Nge2 c5 11.dxc6 Nxc6 (because d6 is guarded!) and *my* computer (and others) gives Black some edge after 12.Qd3 Nh5 I admit, not convincing. 13.Nd5!? *(13.Qb5!?)*] **8.Nge2**



8...c6?? [The best *try* is 8...f3 except that the computers all raise their digital hands and jump around in their chairs and point out 9.Nf4! Nc6 10.Be3! with a definite advantage, but how big isn't so definite.] **9.Bxf4** [9.Nxf4 ain't bad, either.] **9...Bxf4 10.Nxf4 Qf6 11.Qd2+-** White has a dream King's Gambit position. **11...Ne7 12.0-0-0** [12.Nh5 Qg6 13.Ng3 is a nice repositioning as

well.] **12...0-0 13.Be2** Not really on point, but plenty good enough. **13...Ng6?!** Frying pan **14.Nh5** Fire **14...Qe7 15.Bc4** A conspicous threat [15.Qh6 f6 16.Bd3 is not better enough to make a difference] **15...Kh8 16.Qh6 f5** Here it's too late for the proverb about opening lines for your opponent's better developed pieces to matter. **17.exf5 Bxf5 18.Rde1 Qc7** Well yes, but now ...Nd7 is back off the table. **19.Rhf1** Black is pretty helpless by now. **19...Na6** (else 20.Rxf5)



20.Qg5 [20.Ng3 is too easy.] **20...Qc8 21.Nf6** Stockfish 14 really likes this. [Stockfish 14 really *really* likes 21.Re7] **21...d5 22.Bxa6 bxa6 23.Rxf5** Here one score ends (under five minutes) **23...Nxh4** (here the other says "23...Nxh3") and here we must appeal to the players. It goes on the one sheet: "24.Raf8+ Qxf5 25.Qg7#." Probably: **24.Re7 Qxf5 25.Qg7#** An impressive and entertaining (except for Black!) King's Gambit in the "Modern Style," i.e. not too swashbuckling, just solid central control, better structure, play against Black's weakened kingside. Beware double-kingpawn players! **1-0**

SwissSys Standings. TNM_finalround: 1800+ (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-sep-oct-person#standings)

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7
1	FM Ezra Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15191101)	15191101	2314		W22	W17	W6	W3	W4	W5	U--
2	Sean Kelly (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962568)	16962568	1786		W5	D4	W14	L6	W17	W15	D3
3	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2269		W18	D19	W20	L1	D14	W6	D2
4	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	13001390	2049		W9	D2	H---	W12	L1	W14	D6
5	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1996		L2	W22	W19	W8	D6	L1	W
6	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2001		W16	W12	L1	W2	D5	L3	D4
7	Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)	10451671	1936		L12	L16	W11	W22	W8	U---	W
8	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1800		H---	H---	W15	L5	L7	W10	W
9	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	12747074	1795		L4	H---	D13	L15	W19	W16	W
10	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1994		L19	L18	W21	W16	W13	L8	H-
11	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1676		L17	L15	L7	X21	W22	H---	W
12	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	14257838	1665		W7	L6	W18	L4	L15	D20	W
13	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1622		W15	L14	D9	W20	L10	W18	L5
14	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	12517167	1938		H---	W13	L2	W19	D3	L4	L8
15	Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	12572270	1900		L13	W11	L8	W9	W12	L2	L7
16	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1793		L6	W7	L17	L10	B---	L9	X2
17	Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1992		W11	L1	W16	H---	L2	U---	U-

18	Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	12633251	1818		L3	W10	L12	H---	W20	L13	L9
19	Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)	17158733	1752		W10	D3	L5	L14	L9	W22	L1
20	Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)	12328450	1805		H---	X21	L3	L13	L18	D12	L1
21	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1766		H---	F20	L10	F11	H---	B---	F1
22	Mark Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	12459313	1830		L1	L5	B---	L7	L11	L19	U-

SwissSys Standings. TNM_finalround: Under 1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7
1	Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)	15361305	1581		W34	W18	W15	W2	D4	W17	W5
2	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1544		W35	W19	W10	L1	W5	D4	W9
3	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1749		W31	L5	W29	L19	W41	W18	W4
4	Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)	12590374	1720		B---	W39	W16	W14	D1	D2	L3
5	Christopher Dessert (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15048166)	15048166	1418		W12	W3	W21	W9	L2	W8	L1
6	Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)	13377410	1306		L13	W32	W7	W21	H---	D12	W
7	Deandr Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)	30255378	unr.		W28	L15	L6	W35	W33	W14	W
8	Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)	30250562	unr.		L18	W31	W20	W15	W14	L5	W
9	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500		H---	W27	W26	L5	W37	W13	L2
10	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	12872385	1451		W11	W45	L2	W42	D13	U---	W2
11	Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)	30257083	unr.		L10	W30	W28	L16	W15	H---	W2
12	Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)	30235937	unr.		L5	H---	X48	W38	W27	D6	H-
13	Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)	30268083	unr.		W6	L17	W35	W18	D10	L9	W2
14	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1543		W24	W20	W17	L4	L8	L7	W3
15	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1538		W25	W7	L1	L8	L11	W41	W3
16	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1520		W41	W42	L4	W11	L17	W20	L6
17	Paul Reed (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13373197)	13373197	1440		W32	W13	L14	W45	W16	L1	L7
18	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1389		W8	L1	W41	L13	W42	L3	W3
19	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1318		W37	L2	W43	W3	W22	U---	L8

20	Jp Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)	30150098	1177		W33	L14	L8	W44	W45	L16	W2
21	Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)	17018168	1702		H---	W23	L5	L6	W24	L26	W3
22	Nick Casares (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600		H---	L29	W24	X26	L19	W37	L1
23	Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	1173		W47	L21	D37	L27	L28	W46	W3
24	Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	17005685	768		L14	W33	L22	X43	L21	X38	D2
25	David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)	12934283	546		L15	L37	X49	W28	H---	L27	X3
26	Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30204815)	30204815	unr.		H---	X38	L9	F22	W47	W21	L1
27	Adam Laskowitz (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30258766)	30258766	unr.		H---	L9	W34	W23	L12	W25	L1
28	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500		L7	X48	L11	L25	W23	X45	L2
29	Jerry Morgan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)	13159224	1462		H---	W22	L3	L37	W46	U---	D2
30	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1210		L45	L11	W32	L33	W44	X42	L1
31	Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)	16757673	1139		L3	L8	L44	W34	W43	L32	W3
32	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	unr.		L17	L6	L30	B---	W39	W31	L1
33	Harry Elworthy (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30256579)	30256579	unr.		L20	L24	B---	W30	L7	W35	L1
34	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	1029		L1	H---	L27	L31	B---	X47	L2
35	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	983		L2	X44	L13	L7	X48	L33	D4
36	Vittorio Banfi (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30308530)	30308530	unr.		H---	H---	H---	U---	U---	U---	W4
37	Elias Colfax-Lamoureux (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30242818)	30242818	unr.		L19	W25	D23	W29	L9	L22	L2
38	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	12601676	1583		H---	F26	W47	L12	H---	F24	F2
39	David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)	13913131	1400		W44	L4	L42	L41	L32	W43	L3
40	Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	16317000	825		H---	H---	H---	U---	U---	U---	D3
41	Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)	30264869	unr.		L16	X49	L18	W39	L3	L15	U-
42	Jabez Wesly (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30210917)	30210917	unr.		W49	L16	W39	L10	L18	F30	U-
43	James Dorsch (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30249167)	30249167	unr.		H---	H---	L19	F24	L31	L39	B-
44	Ryan Gill (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30240310)	30240310	unr.		L39	F35	W31	L20	L30	B---	F4
45	Trent Hancock (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	30174249	unr.		W30	L10	W46	L17	L20	F28	F4

	30174249)										
46	Ryan Deal (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30281032)	30281032	unr.		H---	H---	L45	H---	L29	L23	L3
47	Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966)	30269966	unr.		L23	H---	L38	X48	L26	F34	U-
48	Damien Seperi (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757144)	16757144	1083		H---	F28	F12	F47	F35	U---	U-
49	Paul Krezanoski (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16897133)	16897133	1418		L42	F41	U---	U---	U---	U---	U-

SwissSys Standings. TNM_finalround: Extra Game

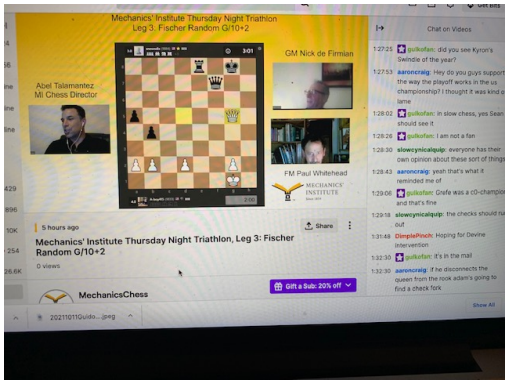
#	Name	ID	Rating	Fed	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7
1	Brendyn Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)	12869947	2052		U---	W26	U---	U---	U---	U---	W3
2	Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)	16694473	unr.		U---	W23	U---	L9	U---	W11	U---
3	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	14874734	1448		U---	U---	U---	D19	L11	W26	L1
4	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1893		U---	W22	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---
5	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1793		U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---
6	Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)	12590374	1720		W23	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---
7	ROMEO BE BARREYRO (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)	17018168	1702		W25	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---
8	JERRY MORGAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13159224)	13159224	1462		W27	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---
9	Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)	16757673	1090		U---	U---	U---	W2	U---	U---	U---
10	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1088		U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W29	U---
11	Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	16317000	825		U---	U---	U---	L13	W3	L2	U---
12	Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)	14708926	807		U---	W28	U---	L17	U---	U---	U---
13	Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	17005685	768		U---	U---	U---	W11	U---	L15	U---
14	David Nichol (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12934283)	12934283	546		U---	U---	W24	U---	U---	U---	U---
15	Zian Hu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30297435)	30297435	unr.		U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W13	U---
16	Samuel White (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30269966)	30269966	unr.		U---	U---	U---	W25	U---	U---	U---
17	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	unr.		U---	U---	U---	W12	U---	U---	U---
18	Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)	30235937	unr.		U---	U---	W30	U---	U---	U---	U---
19	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1676		U---	U---	U---	D3	U---	U---	U---
20	Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	30204815	unr.		U---	D21	U---	U---	U---	U---	U--

	30204815)								-		-
21	**Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)**	30264869	unr.		U---	D20	U---	U---	U----	U---	U----
22	**Alex Silvestre (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15446526)**	15446526	2131		U---	L4	U---	U---	U----	U---	U----
23	**TONY A LAMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)**	12328450	1805		L6	L2	U---	U---	U----	U---	U----
24	**Cesar Tamondong (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12439091)**	12439091	1600		U---	U---	L14	U---	U----	U---	U----
25	**NICK CASARES JR (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	10424364	1600		L7	U---	U---	L16	U----	U---	U----
26	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	12844781	1500		U---	L1	U---	U---	U----	L3	U----
27	**JOHN CHAN (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	12561007	1500		L8	U---	U---	U---	U----	U---	U----
28	**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	16716976	983		U---	L12	U---	U---	U----	U---	U----
29	**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	16741331	889		U---	U---	U---	U---	U----	L10	U----
30	**Angad Sharma (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30281155)**	30281155	unr.		U---	U---	L18	U---	U----	U---	U----

Thursday Night Triathlon Report

by Abel Talamantez

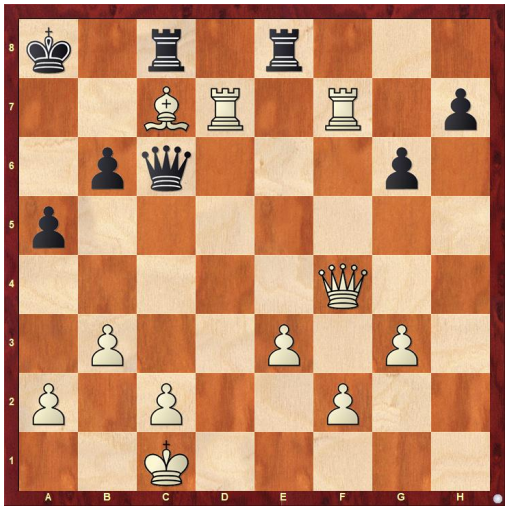
There was some excitement and anticipation prior to the start of the final leg of our first ever Mechanics' Institute Online Chess Triathlon. This tournament experiment, which was a mix of rapid, blitz, and this week's Fischer random was bound to produce surprises, as the format itself is an enigma and part of the fun of this variant is the unknown waters the pieces will lead the players. For those not familiar with Fischer random, also known as Chess 960, it is a variant game in which the pieces in the back row are randomly placed. This challenges players' convention of what should be done at the start of the game, and the ensuing chaos is bound to lead to entertaining action. And did it ever.



Adam Mercado came into the round as the leader after the rapid and blitz rounds, and was just a point ahead of Mansoor Mohammed. Mercado needed all the skill he could muster to hold onto his lead, and he did so with a little luck along the way just to make sure, producing one of the most fantastic tournaments we've broadcast. He finished the Fischer random leg 5.5/6, winning the event with a combined 16.5/21. There was a 3-way tie for 2nd place with 13 points between Mansoor Mohammed, Mark Drury and Sanjeev Anand. Sean Kelly finished with a very impressive 12/21, despite missing the 6 rounds of the 1st rapid leg. Congratulations to tall the participants!

It is a Latin proverb that says fortune favors the brave. To give you a sense of how everything came together for Adam, let's take a look a 2 incredible positions, from round 1 and round 5.

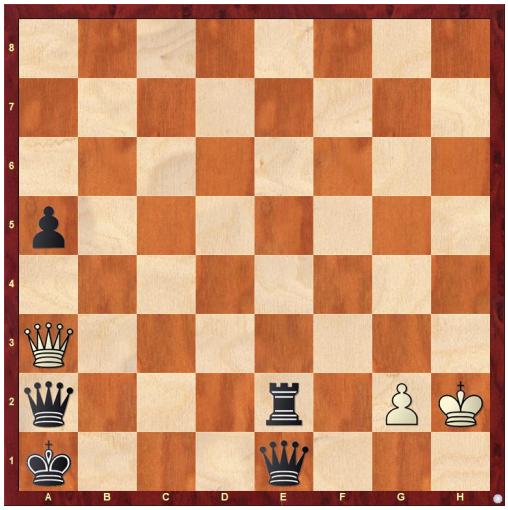
In round 1, Mercado found himself on the ropes, headed for defeat in this position as black against Mark Drury.



Drury in a little bit of time trouble played Be5??, leading Mercado to snap off Qxc2 mate. There were comments in the Twitch chat saying black should have resigned some time ago, but this shows that resilliency can pay off, especially in a format such as this.

Now let's go to the highlight of the evening, definitley must see T.V....

In round 5, Mercado found himself in a seemingly hoplessely lost position here as white against Nilufer Sagat:



Mercado had been tenacious in playing on in this position, delvering check after check looking for opportunities and chasing the opposing king to the other side of the board. Mercado quickly played 1. Qb3 in this position and black quickly captured with Qxb3?? creating a stalemate!

It is worth watching the broadcast and capturing the dramatic moment from the 1:37:00 mark here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34W6IUfnMzY (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34W6IUfnMzY)

Congratulations to Adam for winning the event and to all the players for participating in this experimental inaugural event. It was a great deal of fun and the chat was lively. We will hold another triathlon in the future, and we hope the tournament showcased the potential for both competition and fun.

Final standings can be found here:

Combined Final Standing

#	Name	Handle	ID	Rating	Rapid	Blitz	FR	Tota
1	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	A-boy415	16571026	1756	5.5	5.5	5.5	16.5
2	Mansoor Mohammed (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16086550)	Mansoortaj	16086550	1893	4.5	5.5	3	13
3	Mark L Drury (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12459313)	BirdOrBust	12459313	1830	5	5	3	13
4	Sanjeev Anand (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14436451)	chessp1234	14436451	1753	3	6	4	13
5	Nilufer Sagat (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17256603)	snowodis	17256603	unr.	3	5.5	3.5	12
	Sean Kelly							

6	(https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16962568)	SlowCynicalQuip	16962568	1848	0	7	5	12
7	Casimir Dudek (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30101045)	Thechesskid2021	30101045	1733	3	5	3	11
8	Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	adichi	16695036	1057	2.5	5	2	9.5
9	Ian Liao (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16738735)	victor6688	16738735	1054	2	4	3	9
10	Pratyu Bhingarkar (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30015889)	GreenNinja2019	30015889	unr.	2	4	2	8
11	Bruce A Hedman (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17344551)	Bruce_Hedman	17344551	unr.	0.5	4	2.5	7
12	Aaron D Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	aaroncraig602	12872385	1416	3	0	3.5	6.5
13	Pras Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)	5upe5	30279272	unr.	3	3	0	6
14	Aryan Renjith (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15027127)	SavageAryan	15027127	1241	3	3	0	6
15	Marcus Casaes (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30290420)	SucramJman	30290420	unr.	2	3	1	6
16	NM Mike Sailer (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12451516)	MikeSailer	12451516	2233	0	4.5	0	4.5
17	Lisa Willis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601676)	LittlePinkCorvette	12601676	1500	0	4	0	4
18	Aiden Zhu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30141156)	aiden2020	30141156	778	2	2	0	4
19	IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	ecwinslow	10363365	2276	0	3	0	3
20	Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)	MechanicsChess	12465386	1800	1.5	1	0	2.5
21	Oskar Zoffer (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16471866)	OskarZoffer	16471866	1826	0	2	0	2
22	Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)	JuditSztaray	14708926	757	1.5	0	0	1.5

MI Member Spotlight: Andrew Imbens

Guido Imbens was a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in economics this year, but his son Andrew Imbens is making his own waves at the Mechanics' Institute. The 15-year old Imbens has been rising up the rating charts after beginning live tournament play this year, making it to 1400 after this recently concluded TNM. I asked him why he plays at Mechanics' Institute, and why he became a member and here is what he shared.

Andrew Imbens (left) and family. Photo by Andrew Brodhead, Stanford University

I became a Mechanics' Institute member after becoming interested in chess again during the quarantine, and I was looking for somewhere where I could play over-the-board. I really like longer time controls, and the schedule of the tournaments (especially the Tuesday Night Marathons) are very convenient for me to get to after school. I have come to especially appreciate the ability to get to know some of the other players I have met here, by playing the same people again over multiple tournaments, playing blitz games and/or discussing our games between tournament rounds, as well as just seeing familiar faces for each tournament.

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges with an even tougher problem, white to move and mate in 4!

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute November/December TNM: FIDE Rated. Nov 2- Dec 21, 6:30PM PT. G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person)

Mechanics' Institute October Quads: October 30, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

20th Carroll Capps Memorial Championship: USCF Rated. November 6, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/49th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/49th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Fresh New
Scholastic Chess Bulletin #6 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq)

In this issue:

- Monthly Scholastic In-Person Tournament - 2021 October Report with Player Highlight: Justyn Klot
- Chess Enrichment Highlight: Alta Vista School
- Chess Camps on October 11 - Report
- ChessKid Style by Andrew Ballantyne
- Special Event: Halloween Tournament @ Mechanics' Institute on Oct 30
- Understanding Tournaments - Tiebreaks
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured Games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://conta.cc/3navWSR) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#bulletin)

All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

A little more chess in Virginia.

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Upon arriving in Virginia in 1997, I branched out in a bunch of directions to see what would stick. In Staunton I worked in a camera store downtown (the owner had several weapons within easy reach in case of trouble) and with the Valley Community Services Board working with disabled adults (going swimming in the dead of winter was a bracing, twice-weekly task) but was not given enough hours in either job to make it worth my while. I then found a job in Charlottesville working with children at the University of Virginia's Kluge Rehabilitation Center, and before long we moved "over the mountain" where it seemed the economy was a bit stronger and the grass was a bit greener. Soon after that I found full-time employment working with disabled adults (again) at Region Ten Community Services Board.

I was finally settling in.

I had already played chess in Charlottesville, and while in Staunton I met a fellow who was a mortician by trade and whose son I was giving chess lessons to. The father enlightened me as to the particulars of his trade, while I tried to pass along the secrets of mine to his son, but at the end of the day neither of us were that interested. The mysteries of chess, like the secrets of embalming, are not to everyone's tastes. We travelled a few times, the father and the son and I, over to the chess club in Charlottesville which met, like many such clubs everywhere do, in the basement of a church one evening a week.

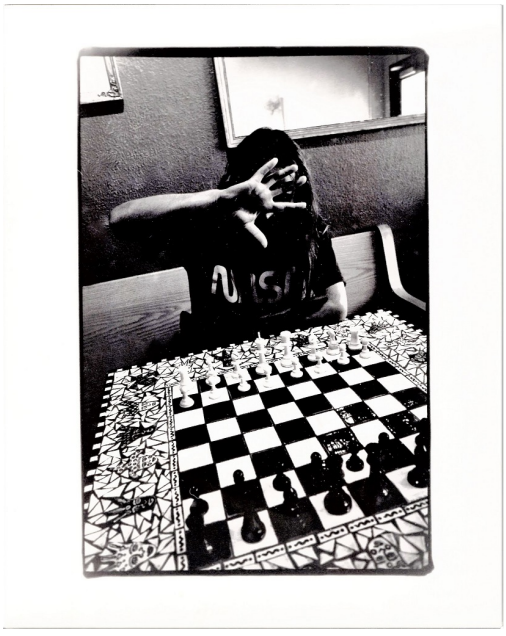
There I met the usual rag-tag assortment of the chess-obsessed: a blues musician, a Russian translator, a lonely student (or two), a fellow who talked only about the game of checkers, a retired banker, a waiter between shifts.

At the end of the day though, chess and I drifted apart. I played in a few tournaments over the 15 years I spent in Virginia, but that was the extent of my seriousness. Rather, the game hovered nearby, not too close but never that far away either. Word got out that a chess master lived in town, and although that never brought me the acclaim and riches I thought I deserved, there was the odd lesson that I gave here and there.

What follows is one such lesson.

Being a cosmopolite, I have always loved the café scene, and Charlottesville, being a college town, had a small one. I spent much of my free time in the coffee-shops, and invariably would see people playing chess.

There happened to be a particular individual – who shall remain nameless – from an Eastern European country (which may add a certain bona-fide credential to the local and the credulous) who was not only the self-styled "best chess player in town", but who was also quite a jerk when you got to know him. Which might happen if the town was small enough, and if you were unfortunate enough. Both being true in this case.



One of the great pleasures of chess is beating a braggart, and despite the fact that I wasn't from a country where chess is taught in the nursery, I schooled that fellow so convincingly the one day we played that he never spoke to me again – an enormous bonus as far as I was concerned.

Despite some friction here and there, and to finally make it clear to the world who was the undisputed boss of the Charlottesville chess scene, a simultaneous display was planned outside of a local bookstore. I was to take on all comers, there would be music, the sun would shine, a new king would be crowned, and who knows? I might make a few coins to rub together.

Here then, is the actual "performance". You can find a short clip, music and all, on YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ee29BefxNIM (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ee29BefxNIM)

Finally, after many years, Charlottesville had soured for me. Whether it was me or the town, I still cannot rightly say. Eventually I would have to leave, and start back over again in California. But, before I left (or fled, depending on how one looks at it) I undertook one more project, and used the artist's excuse to make shape of one's experiences, to create something that made sense of what I had gone through. The result was a 30-minute film, The Charlottesville Kitchen Killers (2009). Not for young children, it can be found on YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rh_knn4_TDc (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129234437/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rh_knn4_TDc)

I am proud to say it was accepted and shown at the Virginia International Film Festival, alongside the works of David Lynch and John Waters. And of course chess plays a small part. Here is a still from my film:

The game of chess weaves its mysterious ways through my life. Like everything we do, the Royal Game has positive and negative polarities, and I believe the wise person would say: one cannot exist without the other.

Nick de Firmian's Column

US Championship Wrap Up

The great battle in St. Louis for the Men's and Women's Championship ended this week with the old guard winning again in the Men's and a new star rising in the Women's. Wesley So repeated as US Champion, followed by Fabiano Caruana in second place. Young Sam Sevian has shown he has taken his game up a notch by taking third place. In fact the three first places were decided on rapid tie-breaks since So, Caruana and Sevian all scored 6.5/11 in the classical time control round robin. So easily won the playoff by downing both Caruana and Sevian in the tie-break. There is little surprise there as So has shown he can beat anyone in rapid games now, even sometimes Magnus Carlsen.

Our Bay Area players did about as expected – probably they were slightly disappointed. Sam Shankland scored an even 5.5/11 though he showed true grit by battling Caruana in an epic last round encounter where Fabiano needed to find a draw one pawn down in a king ending. Daniel Naroditsky scored a respectable 4.5/11 which is not bad for one of the lower rated players.

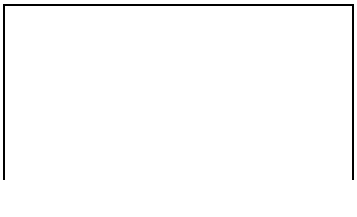
A truly exciting event was the Women's Championship where some of the old stars started to fade and a new young one shone brightly. Eight time champion Irina Krush has always been the favorite to win for the last 20 years. Finally she has a new rival in 18 year old Carissa Yip. I saw Carissa develop her game over the last 10 years as I would coach at the World Youth Championships where she started to play in the girls under 8, then under 10 and under 12 year old championships. She won a couple of silver medals and could easily have won gold. Her aggressive coach for many years, Larry Christiansen, taught her how to attack. This gives her a delightful aggressive style. This year she dusted the competition to take her first US Women's title. I think many more are to come.

(1) GM Caruana,Fabiano - GM So,Wesley [A28]

US Chp. Playoff, 18.10.2021

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e4!? Fabiano takes the opening to rare territory. **4...Bb4 5.d3 d6 6.a3 Bc5 7.b4 Bb6 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 Bxe3 10.fxe3 Ne7! 11.0-0 Ng6**

The game is equal from the opening. Now it is a battle of the two best Americans in a random position to decide who is champion. **12.Qd2 Re8 13.Rae1 a5 14.b5 c6 15.Bd1 h6 16.d4 Qe7 17.Bc2 Bd7 18.d5 cxb5 19.cxb5 Rec8 20.Bd3 a4 21.Qb2 Qd8!** retreating to find a good diagonal on the queenside. Black is taking the initiative. **22.Qb4 Qa5 23.Qxa5 Rxa5 24.Rc1 Raa8 25.Na2 Ng4 26.Rfe1 Kf8 27.Nb4 Ke8 28.h3 Nf6 29.Nd2 Ke7 30.Nc4 Rc5?! 31.Nb6 Ra5 32.Rxc5 dxc5**



33.Nc6+! bxc6 34.bxc6 Bxc6 35.dxc6 Kd8 36.Nd5 Nxd5 37.exd5 Ne7! Best defense in a difficult position. **38.e4** [38.Rf1!] **38...Nc8! 39.Rb1 Nd6 40.Kf2 c4 41.Bc2 f5! 42.Ke3 Kc7**

43.Rb4?! 43. exf5 would have been better. It is nice to play the black side with the great knight on d6. **43...fxe4 44.Bxe4 c3 45.Bc2?** The move that loses the championship (though time of course was a factor and So was ahead) [45.Kd3!] **45...Rxd5 46.Rxa4** White lost on time here, but 46....Rd2 is easily winning anyway. **0-1**

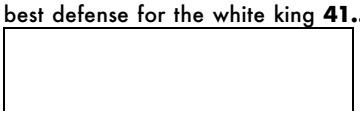
(2) GM Caruana,Fabiano - GM Shankland,Sam [E05]

US Chp. last round, 17.10.2021

Caruana had a lot to play for here. A win gives him a clear first title. A draw gives him a playoff and a loss sends him down. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7 9.Qxc4 Bc6 10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.Rd1 h6 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.Nbd2 a5 14.Qd3 Bb4 15.e4 Qe7 16.Ne5 Bd7 17.Ndc4 Rfd8 18.Qe3 Be8**

This is a true heavyweight battle. I must put Sam in the heavyweight class (along with Caruana of course). White is a tad better in this Catalan Opening. **19.h4 Nd7 20.Nxd7 Bxd7 21.e5 Rab8 22.Be4 Be8 23.Qf3 f5 24.exf6 Qxf6 25.Qe3 Bg6 26.Rd3 Bf5 27.Rc1 c6 28.Rc2 Rd7 29.Ne5 Rd6 30.Nc4 Rd7 31.Ne5 Rd6 32.Kg2 Rbd8 33.f3 Bxe4 34.fxe4**

34...Qxe5?! objectively this is not the best but if gives lively practical chances. **35.dxe5 Rxd3 36.Qa7!** White is better now in the queen vs bishop and rook ending **36...Be1 37.Qxb7 Rxg3+ 38.Kh2 Rdd3 39.Qc8+ Kh7 40.Qxe6 Rg6 41.Qf5** pinning the rook reduces Blacks activity and is the best defense for the white king **41...Bg3+ 42.Kg2 Bxh4+ 43.Kf1 Re3 44.Rc1 c5 45.Rd1 c4**



An interesting position and a kind of mutual zugzwang. If Black were to move the rook on e3 would have to go someplace and White could play 46. Rd6 without worrying about 46....Re1 mate. But it is White to move. **46.e6 Reg3 47.Rd7 Rg1+ 48.Ke2 R1g5 49.e7?!** [49.Rxg7+! Kxg7 50.Qf7+ Kh8 51.e7 Rg2+ 52.Ke3 Bxe7 53.Qxe7 would be a bit bettter for White in the queen vs. two rook ending. Now Sam gets the edge.] **49...Rxf5 50.exf5 Rg1! 51.f6** [51.e8Q? Re1+] **51...Re1+ 52.Kd2 Re6! 53.f7 Bxe7 54.Rxe7 Rf6** Now Black has the edge in the endgame. **55.Kc3 Kg6 56.Kxc4 Rxf7 57.Rxf7! Kxf7 58.b4!**

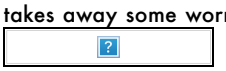
Caruana finds a drawing line a pawn down in the king ending. **58...Ke6** [58...axb4? 59.a5 wins] **59.b5 Kd6 60.Kd4 h5 61.Ke4 g5 62.Kf5 h4 63.Kg4 Kc5 64.Kh3 Kd6 65.Kg4 Kc5 66.Kh3 Kd6** Drawn by repitition. The black king must stay near the protected passed b-pawn so cannot help the black g and h pawns advance. **1/2-1/2**

(3) IM Paikidze,Nazi - IM Yip,Carissa [B06]

US Women's Chp,, 17.10.2021

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Nf3 a6 5.a4 Nd7 6.Bc4 e6! 7.Bg5 Ne7 8.Qd2 h6 9.Be3 b6 10.h3 Bb7

Carissa plays the Hippopotimas! Spassky tried this once, but it was more difficult against Petrosian. Black is slightly worse but gives White a lot of room to go wrong. **11.0-0 Nf6 12.d5 e5 13.Nh2 Nh5 14.Rfe1 g5 15.g3 Ng6 16.Qd1 Nf6 17.Bf1 Bc8 18.a5?!** This move locks the queenside, which takes away some worries for Black. **18...b5 19.Bg2 Bd7 20.Nf1 Qc8 21.Kh2 h5!**



The pressure is on! White is worried to take the g-pawn because of the complications of **22.f4?** suicidal [22.Bxg5 h4 23.g4 Bxg4 24.hxg4 Nxg4+ 25.Kg1 h3 but 26. Ng3 now would not be worse for White] **22...gxf4 23.gxf4 exf4 24.e5 Ng4+! 25.hxg4 hxg4+ 26.Kg1 dxe5 27.Bc5 Qd8 28.Ne4 f5 29.d6 c6 30.Bb6 Qh4**

look at those black pawns. White cannot deal with them all. **31.Bf2 Qh5 32.Qd3 fxe4 33.Bxe4 Nf8 34.Bd4 f3!** ...Qh1 is the threat **35.Bxf3 gxf3** White resigned in this hopeless positon. **0-1**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. Rff6!! Be7 2. Rbd6 Bxd6 3. Rxd6 Kxh2 4. Rh6#

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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 #992

October 30, 2021

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Chess Clubs From Around the World: Chess in Mexico City

by Abel Talamantez

I recently came back from Mexico City visiting family, but of course my eyes and ears are always out for the chess culture everywhere I go. World class chess is no stranger to this city, as the 2007 world chess championship was held there. It was a championship in which tournament format, not a match, decided the champion. GM Vishy Anand won the tournament and became world champion, unifying the classical and FIDE world titles and setting the stage for what we have today, in which there is one world champion defending the title through match play against the winner of the candidates tournament.

MEXICO 2007
CAMPEONATO MUNDIAL DE AJEDREZ
WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Chess itself is a universal language, with the power to bring people together regardless of cultural background. A chess player can go anywhere in the world and play a game, even in places where one does not speak the native language, communicating solely through the movement of the pieces and the beauty of the position on the board. A common bond can be formed, a bond that is not restricted by anything outside of the board in front of the participants. But chess is also special in that it is an art form and activity that is easily accessible to everyone, regardless o economic status. In a city with an estimated population of around 22 million, chess offers the opportunity to unify everyone.

Panoramic view of the Zocalo in Mexico City

In the heart of the capital of Mexico City, is the Zocalo, the main public square which was also the public square for the people of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan prior to the conquest by Hernan Cortes in 1521. About a block away from this space is Templo Mayor, which was the main temple of the Aztec capital, whose ruins sit there to this day. Around the Zocalo is the Metropolitan Cathedral, a church which began its construction in 1573 and completed in 1813. It is a beautiful area of Mexico City in which the echoes of the past are brought front in center as you are surrounded by the architecture while listening to the sounds of the present. This is why it was special to see right there in the Zocalo three chess tables, ready for anyone to to sit down. In the short time I was there I couldn't find any takers for a game, but I'm happy I got to lay the Mechanics' Institute board down at this historic site.

I was able to take these pictures at the chess tables right next to the Zocalo

I was later able though to visit a special place for chess in the city, a chess club that has its own space and is open seven days a week for chess. It is called Club Cuauhtemoc, and they hold weekday casual games and events on the weekend. It definitely had the feel of a social space, as they even sell refreshemnts and snacks for those that come by the club. They seem to take a preferred interest in organizing rapid and blitz events, and judging from some of their crosstables, have a pretty strong group of players participating, with some players rated 2000+.

The chess club Club Cuauhtemoc in Mexico City is open every day providing casual play as well as tournaments

Chess play in parks is very popular in Mexico City, and there are plent of large parks within the city, with beautiful sculptures and fountains that make it an incredible place to unwind for friendly games.

Pictures from Alameda Central Park in Mexico City

It was great to experience the feel of the people, and take in the history. Being around the people and seeing the daily hustle and struggle to make a living and go about the day makes me reflect on the values that are of importance. Translating it in terms of chess clubs, it is one thing to have a building open, it is quite another to have a soul inside it. An open building means nothing if the passion and connection of the people inside isn't there, so understanding the people and their values and connecting with them means everything. In Mexico City, whether you play at a park or club, or for the world championship, I do believe chess players share a common bond and connection, and it is up to leaders to know what that is and undersdtand it and cultivate it.

At an enrichment site this week I was with a student waiting to be picked up, and she was holding a book she had checked out at the library. It was a tennis book and there was a quote from Boris Becker that read,"I love the winning, I can take the losing, but most of all I love to play."

Maybe the connection starts with that, loving what you do.

Tony's Teasers

Tony challenges you to solve this teaser, white to move and mate in 3! Del Rio 1750.

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute November/December TNM: FIDE Rated. Nov 2- Dec 21, 6:30PM PT. G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130004526/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person)

Mechanics' Institute October Quads: October 30, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130004526/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

20th Carroll Capps Memorial Championship: USCF Rated. November 6, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/49th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130004526/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/49th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute Thanksgiving Gobbler Open: FIDE Rated. November 26-28. 6SS G/90+30: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsThanksgivingGobblerOpenInPersonFIDE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130004526/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsThanksgivingGobblerOpenInPersonFIDE)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130004526/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Fresh New
Scholastic Chess Bulletin #6 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130004526/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq)

In this issue:

- Monthly Scholastic In-Person Tournament - 2021 October Report with Player Highlight: Justyn Klot
- Chess Enrichment Highlight: Alta Vista School
- Chess Camps on October 11 - Report
- ChessKid Style by Andrew Ballantyne

- Special Event: Halloween Tournament @ Mechanics' Institute on Oct 30
- Understanding Tournaments - Tiebreaks
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured Games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130004526/https://conta.cc/3navWSR) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20211130004526/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#bulletin)

All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

IM Sal Matera and the Art of Defense

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

I teach a few classes for the Mechanics' Institute using Zoom, and just finished going over Damsky and Polugaevsky's classic treatise, **The Art of Defence** (1988) with a handful of students varying widely in age and strength.

Much to my surprise IM Sal Matera signed on, a trustee and vice-president of the fabled Marshall Chess Club and frequent visitor on another MI Zoom offering, the Monday Chess Café. Sal was the U.S. Junior Champion in 1967, and became an International Master in 1976. He was one of John Collins 'Seven Chess Prodigies' along with Fischer, the Byrne brothers, Lombardy, Weinstein and Cohen.

The Marshall has a reciprocal relationship with the MI: their members and ours can take advantage of discounted classes and tournaments that are offered by both clubs.

I still can't believe I've never been to the Marshall.

And I've never met Sal in person – or have I? We both played at the fabled Lone Pine tournament in 1979, and perhaps we spoke or sat adjacent to each other – it would have been on the lower boards, as neither of us did very well that year!

Yet I feel like I've known Sal for a long time. We have mutual friends and acquaintances, and old chess tales in common, stories that link the East and West Coasts.

Having Sal in my class was simply wonderful: he provided expert analysis, deep wisdom and warm humor. And, at times, he adroitly corrected and clarified sloppy thinking by the teacher, who had a tendency to rush through the material without hitting the pause button...

On to some chess, and in particular the 18th and penultimate chapter of **The Art of Defence**, titled 180 Degree Turn. In this section Damsky and Polugaevsky introduce a high-level concept that 'may be comparable in strength with the detonation of a bomb.'

Duckstein – Petrosian, Varna Olympiad 1962.

This is a classic example of the 'detonating bomb' idea: active defense by moving a pawn (or pawns) that stand directly in front of one's own king – in fact, right where you are being attacked!

Black breaks the old rules of defense by playing **1...a5!!** which undermines the pawn at c5 and seeks to activate the bishop at f8. **2.Rad1 Rxd1 3.Rxd1 Rh4!** Another shot, hitting the pawn at b4. **4.bxa5 Bxc5 5.a6 b6!** Introducing another defensive idea, that of hiding one's king behind the enemies advanced pawns. **6.Re1 Ka7 7.Be5 Qd7 8.Ne4 Bd4 9.g3 Bxe5!** Yet another counter attacking/ defensive ploy: the Exchange Sacrifice.

10.gxh4 Nd5 11.Qd1 Qd5! A powerful centralization. Polugaevsky concludes that white is lost: he lacks counter-play. **12.Re3 Nf5 13.Re1 Nd4 14.Qd3 f5 15.Ng5 c5 16.Re3 c4 17.Qd1 Kxa6 18.Ra3 Bf6 19.h3 f4 20.Qg4 Ka5!** Now the king joins the fight. Vintage Petrosian. **21.Nf3 Kb4 22.Nxd4 Kxa3 23.Nc2+ Kxa4 0-1**

Soon after the class ended Sal sent me a note and clipping from an article he penned for **Chess Life** in April 2020. Titled **My Best Move**, it featured a nice pic of Sal and his wife plus an annotated victory over a young Hungarian Grandmaster in the 1974 World Student Olympiad:

MY BEST MOVE

Sal Matera

Silver medal team member, 1974 World Student Olympics

In 1974, I played board two for the United States in the World Student Olympics in Teesside, England. Many current and future grandmasters such as Rafael Vaganian, Yuri Balashov, Alexander Beliavsky, Oleg Romanishin, Andras Adorjan, Gyula Sax, and John Nunn participated.

The U.S. team's average rating was approximately 2350 with no titled players or international experience. But we had great team spirit fueled by daily ferocious frisbee matches and were much stronger than our ratings suggested.

The team (Craig Chellstorp, Eugene Meyer, Roy Ervin, Ross Stoutenborough, John Jacobs, and myself) won our preliminary section, qualifying for the very strong A section finals. To everyone's surprise, we came in second place overall, winning silver medals.

We defeated Hungary with all games drawn except my victory against GM Gyula Sax. Since the Hungarians finished ½ point behind us, this was a critical win.

Sax was an aggressive attacking player. Perhaps it was youthful foolishness to play the Sicilian against him. His pseudo Exchange sacrifice looked promising until I uncorked **My Best Move,** unexpectedly opening my king position, stopping his attack cold, and leading to a slightly advantageous ending. Sax was more comfortable and dangerous in the middlegame. My surprising counterattack forced him to defend an ending that I played quite well and eventually won.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUBJECT

Perhaps it was youthful foolishness to play the Sicilian against him.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, RICHTER-RAUZER VARIATION (B66)

GM Gyula Sax (FIDE 2505, HUN)
Sal Matera (FIDE 2385, USA)
20th Student World Team Championship, final A (1), Teesside, England, 07.22.1974

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 Nc6 7. Qd2 e6 8. Be2 Be7 9. Rd1 Qa5 10. Bh4 Nxd4 11. Qxd4 O-O 12. O-O Bd7 13. Kh1 Rfd8 (13. ... Rc8!) **14. f4 e5 15. Qf2 exf4 16. Qxf4 Be6 17. Nd5**

Sax attacks and the fun begins.

17. ... Nxd5 18. exd5 Bxd5 19. Rxd5 Qxd5 20. Bc4

It looks like a crushing Exchange sacrifice but ...

20. ... g5!!

My Best Move. Pushing the pawns in front of my king is counterintuitive but stonewalls White's initiative. Suddenly all the tactics work for Black, the attack is halted, and an ending with Black having more active pieces results.

21. Qg4 h5!

I insist!

22. Bxd5 hxg4 23. Bxf7+ Kg7 24. Bxe8 Rxe8 25. Bg3 Bf6

Black's pieces are very active. The doubled pawns cramp the white king stuck on the back rank.

26. Bxd6 Bxb2 27. Rb1 b5! 28. Bg3 Bc3! 29. Rd1 Re2 30. Rd7+ Kg8!

Black is winning on the queenside.

31. h3 Rxc2 32. Rc7 b4 33. Rc5 gxh3 34. Rxg5+ Kf7 35. Rf5+ Ke6 36. Rf2 Rxf2 37. Bxf2 hxg2+ 38. Kxg2 a5 39. Bc5 Kd5 40. Be7 Ke4, White resigned.

I flew home into New York. After a frustrating hour at the luggage carousel, it was clear my suitcase was missing. I filled out "Lost Luggage" forms, taxied home despondently, and fell into a deep sleep. At 3:00 a.m., the doorbell rang—my luggage had arrived! I left the suitcase inside the doorway and, still jetlagged, slept again. In the morning, I saw the suitcase had multiple gashes. Had my medal fallen out? After some frantic rummaging, I found my precious hard-earned silver medal (thanks to 20. ... g5!!). It now sits in my bookcase.

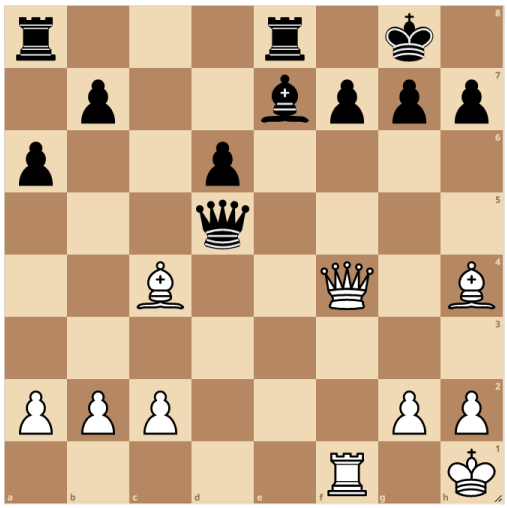
72 April 2020 | Chess Life

Here is Sal's e-mail accompanying the clipping:

'Hi Paul -

At the final Art of Defense class, you were talking about surprising moves in front of one's King. I flashed back to my game against Gyula Sax where I floored him in an open Sicilian with g5! Followed by h5! The article I wrote in 1974 about the game is attached as is the below article In April 2020 about g5! Being My Best Move. Hope to see you later in the Café!'

What a perfect illustration this game is of the 'detonating bomb' defence – in fact, it struck me as the best example yet, and a worthy inclusion into both a future edition of **The Art of Defence**, not to mention my next class!



Sax – Matera, World Student Olympiad 1974.

Black seems to be in trouble with his queen under attack and f7 soon to fall, but **1...g5!!** was a vicious counter-punch. After **2.Qg4 h5!!** was 'bomb' number two. White regained the exchange but landed into an inferior ending after **3.Bxd5 hxg4 4.Bxf7+ Kg7 5.Bxe8 Rxe8 6.Bg3 Bf6 7.Bxd6 Bxb2 8.Rb1?** Pointless. **8...b5! 9.Bg3 Bc3! 10.Rd1 Re2 11.Rd7+ Kg8! 12.h3 Rxc2 13.Rc7 b4 14.Rc5 gxh3 15.Rxg5+ Kf7 16.Rf5+ Ke6 17.Rf2 Rxf2 18.Bxf2 hxg2+ 19.Kxg2 a5 20.Bc5 Kd5 21.Be7 Ke4 0-1.**

This made me think of asking Sal to sit in on ALL of my classes. I'll be the old trickster, and try to convince him that if he's the one that does the work, then I'll be the one who get tired...

But seriously: this was/is one of our most talented players, and his mind is as sharp as a tack. I am privileged to have gotten to know him a little.

Join us for the Chess Café, Monday's at 4pm: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe

If you're lucky, Sal Matera will be there too.

Nick de Firmian's Column

GM Nick de Firmian returns with his column next week

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1.Ne6+! Qxe6 (1...fxe6 2.Qf8# or 1...Kg8/h8 2.Qb8+ Qd8 3.Qxd8#) 2.Qh6+!! Kxh6 (2...Kg8/h8 3.Qf8#) 3.Bf8#.

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/20211130004526/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #993

November 6, 2021

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Chess Clubs From Around the Country: Bernal Heights San Francisco

by Abel Talamantez

The Mechanics' Institute women's chess class has been going on for several years. Originally taught by Lina Krubnik, it has since been taken over by FIDE Developmental Instructor Sophie Adams. Sophie gets a loyal following every Sunday, and her dynamic and passionate approach to teaching keeps the class engaging and fun. The class, until March 2020, met live at MI on Sunday mornings. We were fortunate that during the pandemic we were able to transition the class online, and we received support from the US Chess Women's Program to fund the class through 2020-2021 year. We are very excited to announce that we received a donation to fund the class for yet another year from Alexandra and Roddy Lindsay, with the aim of supporting more diversity in the chess community through an increased participation of women and girls in chess.

The impact of such support, to give an example, can be seen by the efforts of Juliana Gallin. She has participated in the women's class, and has since participated in some of our other offerings like the Monday Chess Cafe https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe. More importantly, she has organized a chess group that meets every Saturday afternoons at 3pm in Bernal Heights in San Francisco. Here is a brief description of the club from Juliana along with pictures.

The Bernal Chess Club meets on Saturdays from 3-6 in the outdoor back patio at Progressive Grounds (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/https://www.progressivegroundssf.com/) in Bernal Heights, SF. All levels and ages are welcome. People are encouraged to buy something to eat, drink, or take home for later. We want to make sure Progressive Grounds feels our appreciation and looks forward to having us back. BYO chess set.

In addition, when the Bernal library eventually reopens for public events, we'll have use of their community room on the 4th Wednesday evening of every month. We'll use that time for a special presentation, followed by games for anyone who wants to play.

Calendar and mailing list at www.bernalchess.com (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.bernalchess.com/).

Chess clubs come in many varieties, and a coffee house chess club is a very common form of meeting. The participants get a venue in which to play while the business benefits through the patronage of the customers and the raised awareness of the location, with referrals for future business. It is a win-win situation not just for chess players and business owners, but for the community at large as well.

It is exciting to see a gathering like this take flight to help bring a community together through chess, in this case, every Saturday. You never know what support of one program can yield in spurring growth in other areas. Thanks to Juliana and the Bernal Heights Chess Club for spreading the joy and love of chess.

TNM Round 1 Report

by Abel Talamantez

The last Tuesday Night Marathon of 2021 began last Tuesday with the largest first round attendance since we reopened in June. Over 70 players have begun this event, with 8-rounds of FIDE rated action to close out the year. There were some surprising results in the top section, but still plenty of time for players to bounce back. On board 2 Lucas Lesniewski grinded out a knight and pawn endgame against 2nd seed Christophe Bambou to come away with a big win. Adam Stafford used a blistering attack to defeat Nicholas Weng. Under 1800 TNM winner Daniel Wang showed he's ready for the top section with an upset win against Steven Sveboda. David Askin returned to the Mechanics' TNM with a win, as did top seed IM Elliott Winslow.

In the under 1800 section, there will certainly be a struggle to pull away, as there is solid parity in strength across most of the section, but certainly the favorite has to be Adam Mercado, he got a 1st round win against Cloe Chai. Mercado is coming of the heels of winning the Mechanics' Online Triathlon, as looks in solid form.

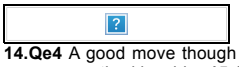
Former Mechanics' Chess Director IM John Donaldson gave a lecture before the start of round 1. It was a great treat for the participants and a nice way to kick off the tourney. We will have a special guest next week for the lecture, as GM Evgeny Schtembuliak will be in town visiting and had agreed to give the lecture and join the broadcast for a bit.

Here are some games from the 1st round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

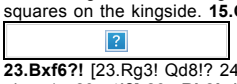
(1) Gimelfarb,Ilia (1760) - Estolas,Brandon (2003) [B22]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (1.4), 02.11.2021

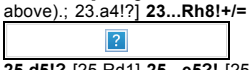
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 The most straightforward response to the 2. c3 Sicilian. **3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Be2 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0 Bxc3** Black may do a bit better moving the queen instead of bringing a defended to White's isolated pawn. **10.bxc3 Nc6 11.Bf4 Qa5 12.Qd3 Nd5 13.Bd2 Qc7**



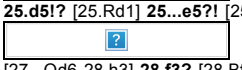
14.Qe4 A good move though [Perhaps the simple 14.g3 to keep the black knight off of f4 would be the simplest way to get an edge.] **14...f5!?** This creates a backward e-pawn but fights for squares on the kingside. **15.Qh4 Nce7 16.Ne5! Ng6 17.Nxg6 hxg6 18.c4 Nf6 19.Bf4 Qd7 20.Be5 b6 21.Rfb1 Bb7 22.Rb3 Kf7!?**



23.Bxf6?! [23.Rg3! Qd8!? 24.Qg5 Ng4 25.Rxg4! *(25.Qxd8 Raxd8 26.Bxg4 fxg4 27.Rxg4+-* but less so*)* 25...fxg4 26.Qxg4 with Bd3, Black's king is in trouble (even worse than that ending above).; 23.a4!?] **23...Rh8!+/= 24.Qg3 gxf6**



25.d5!? [25.Rd1] **25...e5?!** [25...exd5 26.cxd5 Rhd8! and ...Qd6, holding the line.] **26.a4! f4 27.Qd3** [27.Qc3!] **27...Rae8?!**



[27...Qd6 28.h3] **28.f3?** [28.Bf1; 28.a5; 28.h3] **28...Qd6!= 29.a5??**

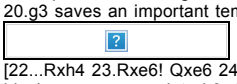
Suddenly: [29.h3 must be played, unsavory as it might appear. 29...Bc8 30.Bf1 Qc5+ 31.Kh1 Bf5 32.Qd2 e4 33.fxe4 Bxe4 34.a5=] **29...Qc5+ 30.Kh1 Rxh2+!** and mate! **0-1**

(2) Chai,Cloe - Mercado,Adam [B33]

Nov-Dec TNM, 02.11.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 The aggressive Sveshnikov Variation (played also by Magnus Carlsen) puts pressure on the white side player from the start. **6.Nb3** [6.Ndb5 is the usual (and best) response for White] **6...Bb4!**

The pin equalizes right away. White now has to worry about the e-pawn. **7.Bd3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d5 9.Qe2?!** [9.exd5 Nxd5 10.0-0! Nxc3 11.Qh5 is fair compensation for the pawn] **9...dxe4 10.Bxe4 Nxe4 11.Qxe4 0-0 12.0-0 Be6** Now White has the crippled queenside pawn while Black has a nice mobile pawn majority on the kingside. **13.Ba3 f5 14.Qe3 Rf6 15.Rfd1 Qe8 16.Rd3?!** [16.Nc5 b6 17.Nxe6 Qxe6 18.Rd6 Qf7 leaves Black with clearly better pawn structure, but the white pieces are at least active] **16...f4 17.Qd2?!** [17.Qe4 was needed] **17...e4!** The black pawns are rolling and create attacking opportunities against the white king. **18.Rd6 f3?!** [18...Ne5 keeps all options for Black and also threatens ...Nc4 forking.] **19.g3?** [19.Nd4 Qg6 20.g3 saves an important tempo for the defense. Now Adams charges to the kingside with heavy threats.] **19...Qh5** Threatening of course 20...Qh3 **20.Qe1 Rh6 21.h4 Qg4 22.Qf1 e3!**



[22...Rxh4 23.Rxe6! Qxe6 24.gxh4 gives hope for the defense] **23.Bc5** There's nothing to be done. Black has far too many attackers. **23...e2** White resigns as the queen must move and the black queen comes into h3. **0-1**

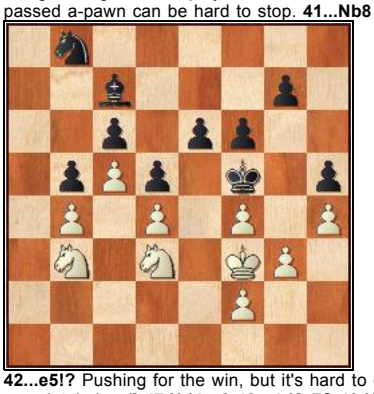
(3) Leniewski,Lucas - Bambou,Christophe [D15]

Nov-Dec TNM, 02.11.2021

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 a6 5.c5 Bf5 6.Bf4 Nbd7 7.e3 Nh5 8.h3 Nxf4 9.exf4 e6 10.Bd3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Be7 12.0-0 0-0

The opening has been well played by both sides and chances are even in the middle game. **13.b4 b6 14.Rab1 a5 15.a3** [15.b5!? bxc5 16.bxc6 c4 17.Qe3 Nb8 18.f5] **15...axb4 16.axb4 Qc7 17.Ne5 Rfb8 18.Qc2 Bf6 19.Ra1 b5 20.Ra2 Nf8 21.Rfa1 Qb7 22.Nf3 Ng6 23.Ne2 h6 24.Ra5 Rxa5 25.Rxa5 Bd8 26.Ra3 Ra8 27.Qa2 Rxa3 28.Qxa3 Bc7 29.g3** Accurate and careful play by both players. The game is still very level. **29...Nf8 30.Ne5 f6 31.Nd3 Nd7 32.h4 Nb8 33.Kg2 Qa6 34.Qxa6 Nxa6 35.Ng1 h5 36.Nf3** Now we are in the endgame and it is even. Christophe

being the higher rated player decides he must push for the win. **36...Kf7 37.Kf1 Kg6 38.Ke2 Nb8 39.Ke3 Nd7 40.Nd2 Kf5 41.Nb3!** Na5 becomes a possibility for White. If Black captures the passed a-pawn can be hard to stop. **41...Nb8 42.Kf3**



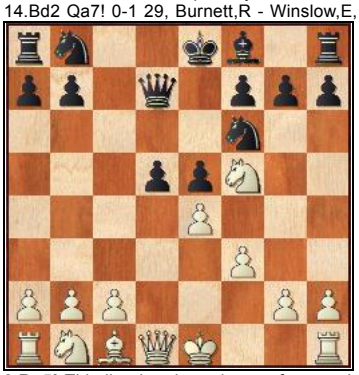
42...e5!? Pushing for the win, but it's hard to gain an edge with the black knight back on b8. **43.fxe5 fxe5 44.dxe5 Bxe5 45.Ke3 Bc3 46.f3 Kf6** [46...Nd7 47.Nd4+ Bxd4+ 48.Kxd4 g6 is completely level] **47.Nd4 g6 48.g4 Kg7? 49.Ne5** [49.g5! Bxd4+ 50.Kxd4 Nd7 51.f4 Kf7 52.Ne1 Ke6 53.Ke3 Kf5 54.Kf3 Nf8 55.Nc2! Ke6 56.Nd4+ Kd7 57.Ke3 Ne6 58.Nf3 and White wins as the knight comes to e5 with decisive effect, winning a pawn and the game] **49...Bxd4+?** [49...Bxb4!] **50.Kxd4** The game should be a draw after 50...hxg4 51. fxg4 Kf6. Seems some time issue decided the game. **1-0**

(4) Winslow,Elliott (2252) - Mahooti,James (1867) [B55]

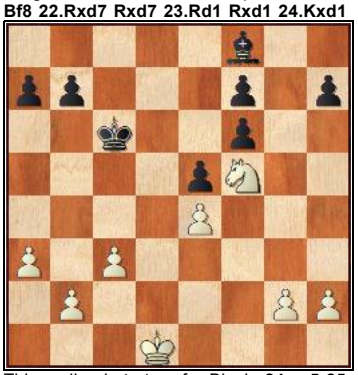
MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (1.1), 02.11.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3

The Prins Variation has the advantage of avoiding a mountain range of theory: Najdorf, Dragon, Classical, Scheveningen. And in fact it's not all that easy for Black to claim true equality. And sometimes Black doesn't realize what's going on, and lets White set up a Maroczy Bind against a Hedgehog without any compromises. [5.Nc3 leads to all those main lines.] **5...e5** The problem with the Prins: less control of the center, namely d5. Black intends that move shortly. **6.Bb5+!?** The old main move. [But it's been superceded in popularity by the move favored by GM Michael Adams and, lately, Wesley So: 6.Nb3 and keep things quiet. Black can still go for ...d5, but if it's a blitz game and your opponent isn't nicknamed "Micky," you might try 6...a5 7.c4? *(7.Bb5+!)* 7...Nxe4! 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kd2 (else disaster) 9...a4! and Black wins back the piece! White's ridiculous king makes this definitely in Black's favor.] **6...Bd7?!** [6...Nbd7! 7.Nf5 d5! Black has to remember this move or he's just worse. 8.exd5 a6 9.Bxd7+! *(9.Ba4 b5 10.Bb3 a5!* was Aagard's preference in his supplement to Ftacnik's Grandmaster Repertoire book on the Sicilian, which had inexplicably left the Prins out!*)* 9...Qxd7! 10.Ne3 b5 11.c4?! *(11.Nc3!* and Black has to be careful not to fall into the worse position.*)* 11...Bc5 12.Nc3 0-0 13.b3?? Bd4-+ 14.Bd2 Qa7! 0-1 29, Burnett,R - Winslow,E, Senior Tournament of Champions, Cherry Hill 08.02.2021.] **7.Bxd7+ Qxd7** [7...Nbxd7!? could well be better, but the text is consistent.] **8.Nf5 d5**



9.Bg5! This line has been known for over half a century, but Black's next is fairly popular -- and awful. **9...dxe4?** [9...d4!? scores pretty well (plus at least), but not so well vs. 10.c3 *(10.Bxf6!?)* 10...Nc6 11.0-0 0-0-0 12.cxd4 and here 12...Nxd4! puts the question to the knight on f5.] **10.Bxf6 Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1 gxf6 12.fxe4 Nc6** [12...Rg8!?] **13.c3 0-0-0+ 14.Kc2** [14.Ke2!?] **14...Bc5 15.Nd2** [15.b4! Bxb4 16.cxb4 Nxb4+ 17.Kb3 Nc6 18.Nc3 just wins.] **15...Rd7** [15...Ne7 16.Nxe7+ Bxe7 17.Nf3] **16.Rad1 Rhd8 17.a3 Ne7** Perhaps Black doesn't imagine that even as a lot of pieces trade off, there are still problems. [17...b5 18.b4 Bb6 19.Nf3] **18.Nxe7+ Bxe7 19.Nf3** A knight on f5 is all this game is about. **19...Kc7 20.Nh4 Kc6 21.Nf5 Bf8 22.Rxd7 Rxd7 23.Rd1 Rxd1 24.Kxd1**



This ending is torture for Black. **24...a5 25.a4!?** [25.b4] **25...b5** Doing White's dirty work for him (that is, creating a passed pawn with White's majority) **26.axb5+** [26.b3!? White was concerned with 26...b4 27.c4 but this is actually winning, so White didn't have to worry.] **26...Kxb5 27.b3 a4 28.bxa4+ Kxa4 29.Kc2 Ka3 30.Ne3 Be7 31.Kd3 Kb3 32.Nf1** Still good, but [32.Nd5 Bd8 33.c4 Ka4 34.Kc3 Black is in Zugzwang and will be repeatedly pushed back.] **32...Ka4 33.Kc4 Ka5 34.Ne3 Ka6 35.Nd5 Bd8 36.Kc5 Kb7 37.Kd6 f5!?** Black at least sets up some pitfalls, but

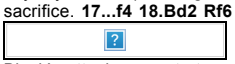
White falls for nothing. **38.exf5 e4 39.Ke5 e3 40.Nxe3 Bc7+ 41.Kf6 Bxh2 42.Kxf7 Be5 43.Nd5 Kc6 44.Ke6 Bg7 45.f6 Bf8 46.Ne7+ Kc5 47.Nf5** The dominating square one last time. **1-0**

(5) Parsons,Stephen (1611) - Chambers,Don (1219) [A28]

MI Nov-Dec TNM u1800 San Francisco (1.14), 02.11.2021

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e4 Not as common as the older moves but the top players have been trying it out, including World Championship Challenger (starts in 3 weeks!) Ian Nepomniachtchi. [4.g3; 4.e3; or the even older than older 4.d4] **4...d6** Why not bring out the bishop first? Those moves account for 80% of the games in this position. [4...Bc5; 4...Bb4] **5.d3** Both sides are cautious in the center. [5.d4 is most common (by a lot), and the computers support it; 5...Bg4 6.d5 Nd4 7.Be2!? *(7.Be3)* 7...Nxe2!? leads to King's Indian sorts of positions after 8.Qxe2 g6; 5.h3!? and *then* d4 has done pretty well in practice.] **5...h6** No master has been *this* cautious. **6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Rb1 a6 9.h3 Nd4 10.b4 Nxe2+ 11.Qxe2 Be6 12.Be3 Qd7 13.Nd5**

13...Nxd5? [13...Bd8 followed by ...c6 keeps some balance (in fact, Stockfish 14 likes 14.Nc3 here!).] **14.cxd5 Bxh3 15.gxh3** [15.Nh2 is a sort of "free move" in that the bishop is trapped anyway; 15...f5 *(15...Bxg2 16.Kxg2* keeps the Black queen out.*)* 16.gxh3 f4 17.Bd2 Qxh3 18.Qf3+-] **15...Qxh3 16.Nh2 f5 17.f3!** Fine defense. Now Black clearly is down from the bishop sacrifice. **17...f4 18.Bd2 Rf6 19.Rf2**



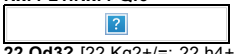
Black's attack amounts to nothing, since White is getting to all the defensive moves in time. **19...g5 20.Qf1?!** Still good -- [but 20.Ng4! Rg6?! 21.Rh2 Qg3+ 22.Kh1 traps the queen to Be1.] **20...Qh4?** [20...Qxf1+!? is, according to the stubborn computers, the best try.] **21.Rg2 h5? 22.Be1** Total disaster. **22...Qxh2+** [22...Qh3 23.Rxg5+ Kh7 24.Qxh3] **23.Kxh2 Rh6 24.Bh4 Kf7 25.Bxg5 Bxg5 26.Rxg5 Rah8 27.Qh3 h4 28.Qd7+ 1-0**

(6) Anderson,Benjamin (1172) - Casares Jr,Nick (1600) [C36]

MI Nov-Dec TNM u1800 San Francisco (1.15), 02.11.2021

1.e4 e5 2.f4 The fearless King's Gambit. An opening only for the bold. **2...exf4 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5** [4...Nf6!] **5.Nc3 Qd8 6.Bc4** The position is tricky for Black. He needs to develop but not with.. **6...Bg4?**

7.Bxf7+!+- Kxf7 8.Ne5+ Ke8 9.Nxg4 [9.Qxg4! is a much bigger advantage.] **9...Qh4+ 10.Nf2 Bd6** [10...Nc6] **11.Nb5?!** [11.Nce4+-] **11...Qe7+ 12.Kf1?!** [12.Qe2+/-] **12...Nf6** Black has gotten right back in the game. Chances are equal again. **13.d3?! Nc6 14.c3? Kd7-/+ 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.Qf3 Rae8** [16...g5!] **17.Bxf4 Qe6 18.g3** [18.d4+/=] **18...Kc8** [18...Rhf8=/+] **19.d4 Nd5 20.Nd3= Nxf4 21.Nxf4 Qf5**



22.Qd3? [22.Kg2+/=; 22.h4+/=] **22...Qf7?** [22...Re4!-+ is crushing as ...Rxf4+ as well as ... g5 coming.] **23.Kg2** [23.Qf3+/=] **23...g5 24.Nh3 Qd5+=/+**

25.Kg1? [25.Qf3 Re2+ 26.Nf2 Qxf3+ 27.Kxf3 Rxb2 28.Ne4=] **25...h6-+** [25...Rhf8!] **26.Nf2 Rhf8 27.Ng4?! h5 28.Ne3 Qf3! 29.Rf1 Qxe3+ 30.Qxe3 Rxf1+ 31.Kxf1 Rxe3** Black should be winning this knight up ending. **32.Kf2 Re4 33.Kf3 Re7 34.h3 Nd8 35.Rh2 Nf7 36.h4 g4+ 37.Kf4 Nd6?!** [37...Kd7 38.Kf5 Re6 39.d5 Nd6+ 40.Kg5 Re5+] **38.Kg5!** The white king is getting active, giving some chances. **38...Rh7** [38...Kd7 39.Kxh5 Rg7] **39.Re2 Kd7?!** [39...Rh8; 39...Rg7+] **40.Kg6 Rh8 41.Re5 Ne8?** Some pawn move on the queenside would still be winning **42.Rxh5** [42.c4! c6 43.c5=/+] **42...Rxh5?** [42...Rg8+-/+] **43.Kxh5 Nf6+ 44.Kg6+/= Ke7?** [44...Nd5 45.h5 Ke6 46.Kg7!? *(46.h6 Ne7+ 47.Kh5 Kf7 48.Kxg4 Nd5 49.Kg5 b5* White doesn't seem to have any way to proceed.*)* 46...Ne7 47.a4!? Certainly it's White with the chances, but how...] **45.h5+-** and mysteriously, it's White by a mile (+5.5 in computer speak). **45...c6 46.h6 b5 47.h7 Nxh7 48.Kxh7 Kf7 49.b3 a5 50.c4 b4 51.Kh6 Kf6 52.Kh5 Kf5 53.c5 Kf6 54.Kxg4 Kg6 55.Kh4 Kh6 56.d5 cxd5 57.c6** A very topsy-turvy game! **1-0**

(7) Gu,Thomas (997) - Allen,Ronald (1501) [B90]

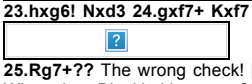
MI Nov-Dec TNM u1800 San Francisco (1.21), 02.11.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 The English Attack against the Najdorf. Young Thomas is learning his opening theory. **6...e5 7.Nb3 Be7** [7...Be6 8.Be3 h5] **8.Be3 Be6 9.Qd2 h5** A sensible move to slow White down on the kingside. It can be slightly weakening but the pluses balance the minuses. **10.0-0-0** [10.Nd5] **10...Nbd7 11.h3 Rc8 12.g4?** Too quick with this! It just loses a pawn now. **12...hxg4 13.fxg4 Bxg4 14.Be2** [14.hxg4 Rxh1] **14...Be6 15.Rdg1 g6 16.Kb1**

16...0-0?+/- Castling into it! The white pieces are well placed for the attack now. [16...Rh4-/+; 16...Nb6-/+; 16...b5!-+ 17.h4 b4 18.Nd5 Nxe4] **17.Bh6** [17.Bg4!] **17...Re8** [17...Rxc3 18.Qxc3 Nxe4 19.Qe3 d5 20.Bxf8+/-] **18.h4**

18...b5? [needed was 18...Rxc3 19.Qxc3 Nxe4+/-] **19.h5+-** +6.7! **19...b4?! 20.Nd5** [20.hxg6! total collapse] **20...Nxe4 21.Nxe7+** [21.Qd3! Bf5 22.Qf3!] **21...Qxe7 22.Qd3?=** [22.Qe3!+- would leave White a winning position with so many attacking pieces] **22...Nf2=**

23.hxg6! Nxd3 24.gxf7+ Kxf7



25.Rg7+?? The wrong check! [25.Bh5+! Kf6 26.Bg5+ Kf5 *(26...Kg7?? 27.Bxe7+* and mate!*)* 27.Bg4+! Kg6 (27...Kxg5 28.Bxe6+ Kf4 *(28...Kf6 29.Rh6#)* 29.Rg4+ Ke3 30.Rh3+ Kf2 31.Nd2!+- Where has Black's king gone??) 28.Bxe7 Bxg4 29.Rxg4+ Kf5 30.Rg7+/- Nf4 31.Bxd6 Nb6 32.Bxb4 and -- White is up a pawn! And Black's king is still not comfortable, ending or not (not really, to many rooks flying around).] **25...Kf6 26.Rxe7 Rxe7 27.Bxd3 Bxb3-+ 28.axb3 Rh8?!**

[28...Ke6] **29.Bg5+ Kxg5 30.Rxh8 Nc5 31.Rg8+ Kf4 32.Bc4 e4 33.Rg2 e3 34.Re2 Kf3 35.Kc1? d5! 36.Kd1 dxc4 37.bxc4 Rd7+ 38.Ke1 Rh7 39.Kd1 Rh1+ 40.Re1 e2+ 41.Kd2 Ne4+ 42.Kd3 Rxe1 43.c3 Rd1+** What an epic! Thomas played way over his rating, and so did Ronald! It was so close, the adrenaline may have clouded Thomas's calculations! **0-1**

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2252	W19								1.0
2	**David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)**	13776967	2023	W20								1.0
3	**Brandon Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)**	12869947	2003	W21								1.0

4	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1955	W22									1.0
5	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1954	W23						H---			1.0
6	Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)	17039584	1855	W16									1.0
7	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	14257838	1745	W17									1.0
8	Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)	15361305	1700	W18						H---	H---		1.0
9	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	B---									1.0
10	Krish Matai (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16444206)	16444206	1937	D14									0.5
11	Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	12572270	1900	D15									0.5
12	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	12747074	1832	H---									0.5
13	Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	12633251	1787	H---			H---				H---		0.5
14	Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)	12590374	1706	D10									0.5
15	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1670	D11						H---			0.5
16	Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)	12734479	2097	L6									0.0
17	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2001	L7							H---		0.0
18	Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)	10451671	1914	L8					H---				0.0
19	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1867	L1									0.0
20	Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)	12328450	1800	L2									0.0
21	Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)	17158733	1760	L3									0.0
22	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1744	L4			H---				H---		0.0
23	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1735	L5									0.0

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total
1	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1746	W28								1.0
2	Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)	17018168	1649	W29								1.0
3	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1611	W30								1.0
4	Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)	30257083	1549	W31			H---	H---				1.0

5	**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1542	W32									1.0
6	**Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)**	30268083	1540	W33			H---						1.0
7	**Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)**	17266862	1511	W34									1.0
8	**Ronald Allen (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30086796)**	30086796	1501	W35									1.0
9	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	12844781	1500	W36									1.0
10	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	12796129	1500	W37									1.0
11	**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	12872385	1491	W38									1.0
12	**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	16875347	1474	W39								H---	1.0
13	**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	14874734	1448	W40									1.0
14	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1447	W41									1.0
15	**Ashwin Vaidyanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205719)**	30205719	1444	W42			H---					H---	1.0
16	**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	13913131	1400	W43									1.0
17	**Deandre Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)**	30255378	1399	W44		H---			H---				1.0
18	**Jp Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)**	30150098	1229	W25								H---	1.0
19	**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	30235937	1172	W26			H---					H---	1.0
20	**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12898987)**	12898987	839	W27									1.0
21	**Jim Ratliff (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11163831)**	11163831	1632	H---									0.5
22	**Yuvraj Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)**	17095004	1593	D24									0.5
23	**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	30102682	1400	H---			H---					H---	0.5
24	**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	30214657	1135	D22									0.5
25	**Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)**	12559529	1720	L18									0.0
26	**Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	10424364	1600	L19									0.0
27	**Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)**	13377410	1478	L20									0.0
28	**Cloe Chai (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315197)**	16315197	1254	L1									0.0
29	**Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)**	16694473	1219	L2									0.0
30	**Don Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	16694467	1219	L3									0.0

	16694467)												
31	Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)	16757673	1125	L4									0.0
32	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1091	L5									0.0
33	Maria Obrien (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15300977)	15300977	1036	L6								H---	0.0
34	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1014	L7									0.0
35	Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	17005685	997	L8									0.0
36	Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	16317000	970	L9									0.0
37	Prasanna Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)	30279272	921	L10									0.0
38	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	845	L11									0.0
39	Cathal Dayton (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12930548)	12930548	784	L12									0.0
40	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	L13			H---					H---	0.0
41	Marcus Casaes (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30290420)	30290420	unr.	L14			H---						0.0
42	Vittorio Banfi (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30308530)	30308530	unr.	L15									0.0
43	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	L16								H---	0.0
44	Juan Elias (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30325735)	30325735	unr.	L17									0.0

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total
1	Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)	12601629	2017	W6								1.0
2	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	W7								1.0
3	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1917	D4								0.5
4	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	D3								0.5
5	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1746	U---								0.0
6	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	L1								0.0
7	Maxcwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)	30329285	unr.	L2								0.0

The Perfect Gift: Mechanics' Institute Commemorative Chess Set from House of Staunton

Jose Raul Capablanca visited the Mechanics' Institute in 1916, and a famous picture of him playing inside the chess room against AJ Fink shows the pieces that were a symbol of the Mechanics' Institute. The House of Staunton has made a high quality commemorarive edition of their chess set, which is availbale for sale. There is no better gift for a chess enthusiast these holidays, particulalry if you want to support the Mechanics' Institute as 10% of all proceeds from the purchase of this set goes back to the Mechanics' Institute!

To purchase your own set or to get one as a special gift, please follow this link HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/https://www.houseofstaunton.com/the-mechanics-institute-commemorative-chess-pieces-4-25-king.html?aw=7&coupon=GOOGLE10&gclid=CjwKCAjwiY6MBhBqEiwARFSCPsmhouvmvd-GQiLauLhrQfAUyUitTBBWf7BhKOaOTOxfciAXBzSDtxoCMl4QAvD_BwE)

Thank you for all your support!

Tony's Teasers

Tony is switching it up this week, asking readers to find the variation that saves the game. White to move and draw!

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute November/December TNM: FIDE Rated. Nov 2- Dec 21, 6:30PM PT. G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person)

20th Carroll Capps Memorial Championship: USCF Rated. November 6, 10AM PT. 4SS G/45;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/49th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship-g45-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/49th-carroll-capps-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Mechanics' Institute November Quads: November 13, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

Mechanics' Institute Thanksgiving Gobbler Open: FIDE Rated. November 26-28. 6SS G/90+30: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsThanksgivingGobblerOpenInPersonFIDE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/https://mechanics-

institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsThanksgivingGobblerOpenInPersonFIDE)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Fresh New
Scholastic Chess Bulletin #6 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq)

In this issue:

- Monthly Scholastic In-Person Tournament - 2021 October Report with Player Highlight: Justyn Klot
- Chess Enrichment Highlight: Alta Vista School
- Chess Camps on October 11 - Report
- ChessKid Style by Andrew Ballantyne
- Special Event: Halloween Tournament @ Mechanics' Institute on Oct 30
- Understanding Tournaments - Tiebreaks
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured Games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/https://conta.cc/3navWSR) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20211129233402/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#bulletin)

All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

Alireza Firouzja and the ghost of Mikhail Tal

FM Paul Whitehead

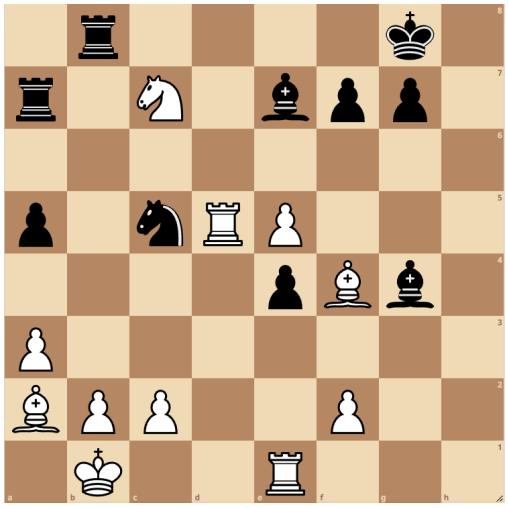
pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

The FIDE Grand Prix is underway in Riga and the phenomenal 18 year old Alireza Firouzja leads with 6.5 – 1.5 with three rounds to go. He seems assured of a spot in the next Candidates Tournament in 2022. There's a large group tied a full point behind, a group that includes Americans Fabiano Caruana and Samuel Sevian. The second place finisher also gets a spot in the Candidates, so there's a lot at stake.

This tournament was originally the fabled Isle of Man tournament – cancelled because of Britain's strict Covid quarantine. Ironic then that Latvia also went into a strict lockdown, yet decided to hold the event anyway. Some top Grandmasters bowed out due to concerns about Covid, including Hikaru Nakamura and Alexander Grischuk.

With Firouzja on a tear in Mikhail Tal's hometown of Riga, it's only fitting that the fearless play of this rising star resembles, in no small manner, the artful power of the 1960 World Champion.

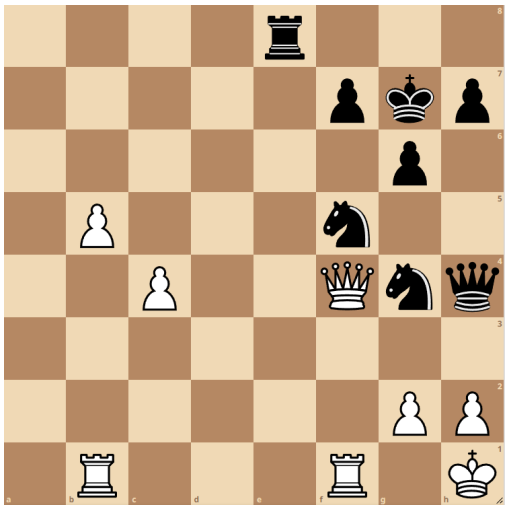
The transplanted Frenchman (Firouzja is originally from Iran) made an early statement in round one:



Firouzja – Abasov, Riga Grand Prix. Round 1.

Despite an early exchange of queens white has piled on enormous pressure. He broke through with **24.e6!** eyeing the rook at b8 and the f7 square. Black tried **24...Rab7** but 24...fxe6 25.Rxc5! Bxc5 26.Nxe6! would have been no better. **25.exf7+ Kf8 26.Be5**! Calmly defends b2. Black is 2 pawns down and desperate: **26...Nd7 27.Rxd7! Bxd7 28.Rh1! 1-0.**

In round two the American Darius Swiercz was overwhelmed in a freewheeling tactical slugfest that came down to this:



Swiercz – Firouzja, Riga Grand Prix. Round 2.

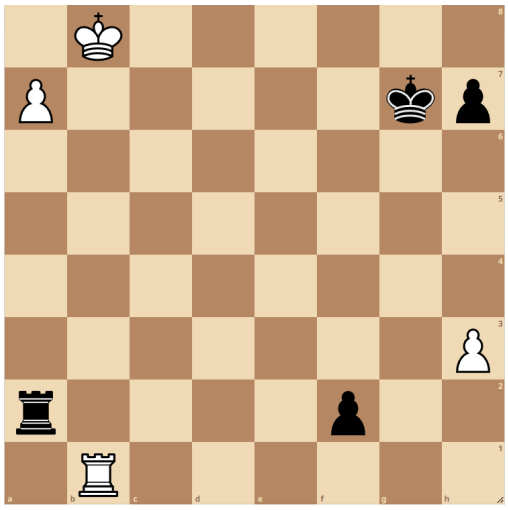
With **57...Re4!** Black finally got through to the white king. **58.Qc7** (58.Qxe4 Qxh2#) **Nxh2! 59.Kg1** (59.Qxh2 Ng3+ 60.Kg1 Ne2+ 61.Kh1 Qxh2+ 62. Kxh2 Rh4# - Anastasia's Mate) **Nxf1 60.Rxf1 Rxc4 61.Qe5+ Qf6 0-1.**

In round three he ground out a nice endgame:

Firouzja – Predke, Riga Grand Prix. Round 3.

53.Nc6! Counter-intuitive. **53...g3** The opposite colored bishop ending would also lose for black. **54.b5 Bc7 55.Kc5 Kg5 56.e5! Kf4 57.Bf3 Ke3.** If 57...Bxc6 58.Kxc6 and the b-pawn will cost black his bishop. **58.b6 Bb8.** Desperation. **59.Nxb8 Bxf3 60.Nc6!** Very cute. **60...Bxg2 61.b7 Be4 62.b8=Q g2 63.Qb2!** Not the only winning move, but good enough. If 63...g1=Q 64.Qd4+. **1-0.**

Alireza drew his next 3 games: with black against Yu Yangyi, with white against Vachier-Lagrave, and with black against the ageless Alexi Shirov. Then another couple of wins, first a lucky break in a rook ending:



Firouzja – Najer, Riga Grand Prix. Round 7.

Black erred with **50...f1=Q?** Black gives up the f-pawn for nothing, when instead the simple 50...Kg6! (heading for the h-pawn) would have drawn: 51.a8=Q Rxa8+ 52.Kxa8 Kg5 53.Rf1 Kh4 54.Rxf2 Kxh3 55.Kb7 h5b 56.Kc6 h4 57.Kd5 Kg3 =. Instead this happened: **51.Rxf1 Rb2+ 52.Ka8 Rb3.** Perhaps black thought this was drawn, but... **53.Rc1! Kg6 54.Rc7 h5 55.Rb7 Rxh3 56.Rb6+! Kg5 57.Kb7 Ra3 58.Ra6! Rb3+ 59. Kc7 1-0**. The Rook runs out of checks when the king reaches h7.

And today superior opening preparation seems to have made the difference in White's crushing victory over co-leader Sasikaran:

Firouzja – Sasikaran, Riga Grand Prix. Round 8.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 O-O 6. O-O d5 7. exd5 Nxd5 8. Re1 Bg4 9. Nbd2 Nb6 10. h3 Bh5 11. Bb3 Kh8 12. Ne4 Nd7 13. Bd5 f5 14. Neg5 h6 15. Ne6 Qf6 16. Nxf8 Rxf8.

White has won the exchange, and soon sacrifices his queen for a decisive material advantage.

17. d4 e4 18. dxc5 Nde5 19. Nxe5! Bxd1 20. Nd7 Qd8 21. Bxc6 Re8 22. Rxd1 bxc6 23. Bf4 Qh4 24. Bxc7 e3 25. fxe3 Rxe3 26. Rd4 Qe7 27. Bf4 Re2 28. b4 Qe8 29. Rf1 Qe6 30. Rf2 Rxf2 31. Kxf2 Qxa2+ 32. Bd2 Qe6 33. c4 a6 34. Bf4 Qe7 35. b5 axb5 36. cxb5 Qe6 37. b6 Qb3 38. Kg1 g5 39. Bd2 g4 40. Rb4 Qd1+ 41. Kh2 g3+ 42. Kxg3 f4+ 43. Kh2 1-0.

There must be some old-timers in Riga right now wondering if this Alireza Firouzja is the reincarnation of somebody that they used to know...

Nick de Firmian's Column

Najdorf

When we say this word in the chess world most players immediately think of the highly respected, fighting opening that has produced many brilliant games in the last 70 years (for both the White side and the Black side). Bobby Fischer was the quintessential Najdorf player – one who plays highly aggressive, daring chess that walks the edge of defeat in pursuit of the absolutely best continuation. Many love the opening for the extremes it compels one to undertake. Garry Kasparov was another Najdorf devotee, as were many others of the very best – Gelfand, Anand, Maxim Vachier-Lagrave and occasionally Magnus Carlsen. In our own Mechanics' world we see wonderful Najdorf games from Mike Walder and Elliott Winslow.

We take this opportunity to write about the man whom the opening is named after – Miguel Najdorf , who was born Mojsze Najdorf before he immigrated from his native Poland to Argentina during World War II. He was playing in the 8th Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires when World War II began. Najdorf was Jewish and most of his family was killed by the Nazis in Poland during the war. Najdorf became an Argentine citizen in 1944 and would win the Argentine championship 8 times as well as making a great mark internationally. He died in 1997 at age 87, having often said "I hope to die at a chess tournament."

My own experience with Najdorf was extremely pleasant. He sponsored a tournament in Buenos Aires in 1995 that I played in (he sponsored many chess events since he had made millions in the insurance industry). At 85 years old he would battle the best young international masters of Argentina in blitz, to which I would be a very entertained spectator. Many evenings we would go out to dinner. I remember one time a very distinguished man came to our table, bowed, clicked his heels and presented to "Don Miguel" a fine bottle of Argentine wine. It was then I realized how highly respected he was in the Buenos Aires community. When the man left Najdorf said, "This is too much wine, should we send it back?" I felt useful when I told him, no Miguel, I don't want to insult your friend so I will do my best to make use of it. Below we give two of "Don Miguel's" best games.

(1) Glucksberg - Miguel Najdorf [A85]

Warsaw Warsaw POL, 1929

1.d4 f5 The Dutch Defense is an imbalanced, fighting opening. It can be risky but it will avoid any drawish lines. **2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Nf3 d5** The Stonewall Variation stakes out the center. It takes the light squares but can leave dark square weakenesses. **5.e3** Somewhat passive. 5. Bf4 is better. **5...c6 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Ne2 Nbd7 9.Ng5?**

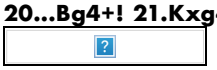
Crudely going after the e6 pawn, but there is a flaw. **9...Bxh2+! 10.Kh1!?** [10.Kxh2 Ng4+ 11.Kg1 Qxg5 is a clear pawn ahead] **10...Ng4 11.f4?!** [11.Nh3 is a retreat, but more promising defense] **11...Qe8 12.g3 Qh5 13.Kg2**

13...Bg1! The bishop seemed to be trapped, so Najdorf gives it up to start the attack in earnest. **14.Nxg1** [14.Nf3 Bxe3 is two pawns ahead and winning without complications] **14...Qh2+ 15.Kf3**

15...e5!! This incredible move fires up the attack on the white king. Everyone now joins in the king hunt. **16.dxe5 Ndxe5+! 17.fxe5 Nxe5+ 18.Kf4 Ng6+ 19.Kf3**

19...f4!! No draw by repitition! This forces White's continuation **20.exf4** [20.Bxg6 Bg4+ 21.Kxg4 Qxg3+ 22.Kh5 hxg6+ 23.Kxg6 Rf6+ 24.Kh5 Rh6#]

20...Bg4+! 21.Kxg4 Ne5+! 22.fxe5 h5#



A fabulous masterpiece. **0-1**

(2) Miguel Najdorf - Robert James Fischer [A72]

Second Piatigorsky Cup Santa Monica, CA USA (7), 27.07.1966

Najdorf was never a world championship challenger, but could beat the best. Here he beats the second best player in the world (at the time, of course Fischer would go on the be arguably the greatest ever). This elite Piatigorsky Cup was a double round-robin of the world's best players. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Nf3 h6 9.Bh4 exd5 10.cxd5** This King's Indian Defense has transposed into a Benoni variation. With two such fighting players the game was bound to be a real slugfest. **10...g5 11.Bg3 b5!? 12.Nd2** [12.Bxb5 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Qa5+ 14.Qd2 Qxb5 15.Nxd6 Qa6 would be very sharp.] **12...a6 13.0-0 Re8 14.Qc2 Qe7 15.Rae1 Nbd7 16.a4!** hitting Black on the queenside gives some squares for the white pieces. Najdorf isn't afraid to sacrifice a pawn. **16...b4 17.Nd1 Ne5** [17...Nxe4?! 18.Bh5 Ndf6 19.Nxe4 Nxe4 20.f3 Bd4+ 21.Nf2!] **18.Ne3 Ng6 19.Nec4 Nf4 20.Bxf4 gxf4**

21.e5! sacrificing a pawn to sieze the initiative **21...dxe5 22.Bf3** White has won the opening battle. Black is clearly on the defensive. **22...Qf8 23.Nxe5 Bb7 24.Ndc4 Rad8 25.Nc6 Rxe1?!** [25...Rxd5 is relatively best] **26.Rxe1 Re8 27.Rd1!** White controls the board. It is very difficult to do anything for Black, even for Bobby Fischer. **27...Rc8 28.h3 Ne8 29.N6a5 Rb8 30.Qf5 Nd6?** A blunder, though Black was lost anyway. **31.Nxd6** Fischer resigned since 31...Qxd6 32. Nxb7 Rxb7 33. Qc8+ picks up the rook. **1-0**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. e7+!! Kxe7 2. b7 Rf3 3. b8+Q Rf8+ 4. Qxf8 Kxf8 5. Ba2 h3 6. Bg8!! h2 7. Bh7! h1=B (since making a rook or queen is a stalemate). 8. Be4! Bxe4 stalemate

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TNM Round 2 Report

by Abel Talamantez

It is hard to believe that in a 28-player 1800+ section, representing the largest top section for our TNM since we resumed live play this year, we have only one perfect score after just two rounds! This is indeed the case, as IM Elliott Winslow is the only player with a perfect 2/2 score. Half point bye requests and drawn games of undefeated players have put Winslow in control of the tournament very early. David Askin tried to grind out a win against Daniel Wang in the final game of the evening, but he could not find the break he needed, allowing Wang to hold the position. It was a Cal-Stanford battle between Nathan Fong and Lucas Lesniewski, in which Fong got the win, defeating Lucas who had been on a tear lately, winning the Carroll Capps Memorial just the week before. There are still many games left, as six more rounds will be played to close out the year.

Adam Mercado (playing white in the picture on the left) gets ready to make a move against Aaron Craig. Daniel Wang (white) held his position agaonst David Askin.

In the under 1800 section, 10 players remain undefeated in the 48-player section, with favorite Adam Mercado among them. We welcome many new players in this section, with some getting their first tournament experience through our TNM.

We had a two very special guests delivering the lecture prior to the start of round 2. World Junior Champion GM Evgeny Shtembuliak and GM Pasha Vorontsov from Texas Tech were in town and they graciously came down to visit. It was a dynamic lecture that was very well received by those in attendance. They both also had the pleasure of getting the Mechanics' tour from the living legend himself, IM John Donaldson who was also there that evening.

Their lecture was about “move search algorithm." To get a pdf of “move search algorithm,” send a message to evgeny.shtembuliak@gmail.com (mailto:evgeny.shtembuliak@gmail.com).

GM Pasha Vorontsov and GM Evegeny Shtembuliak pose for a quick picture in front of the MI demo board. IM John Donaldson shows them both the chess annex and the stories behind the pictures.

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian

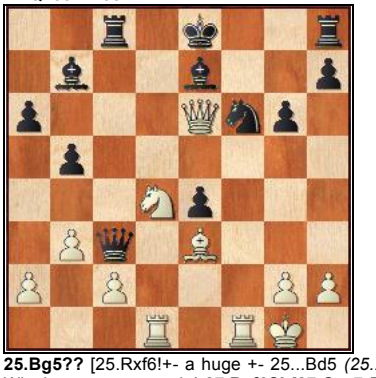
(1) Heidari,Ako (1955) - Winslow,Elliott (2252) [B42]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (2.1), 09.11.2021

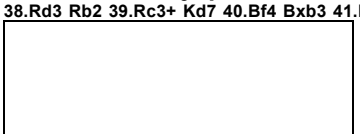
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 This flexible move was also Bobby Fischer's favorite in this position. **5...Bc5 6.Nb3 Be7 7.0-0 d6 8.Nc3** [White could consider 8.c4 with a Maroczy Bind like position.] **8...Nf6 9.Be3 Nbd7 10.f4 b5** [10...Qc7!?] **11.e5!?N**

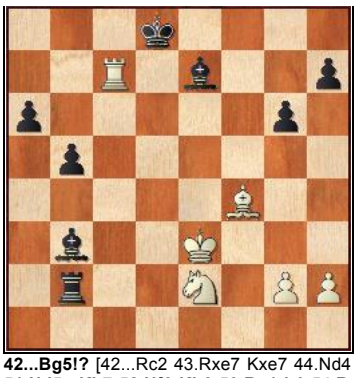
[White starts the action immediately. There are many other slower moves that have been played instead. 11.a3; 11.a4; 11.Qf3 Bb7 12.a3 Rc8; 11.Qe2; 11.f5] **11...dxe5 12.Qf3 Rb8 13.f5 Bb7 14.Qg3 e4?** [14...exf5! 15.Bxf5 g6 16.Bxd7+ Nxd7 17.Rad1 should be a little better for Black; 14...0-0 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.Qh3 Kh8-/+ 17.Qxe6 (17.Nd2 Qc7 18.a4 Bb4! *(18...Bd5 19.axb5 axb5 20.Ra7 Rb7 21.Nxb5 Qc8=)*) 17...b4 18.Na4 Bd5 19.Qh3 is also a small edge] **15.fxe6 fxe6 16.Be2**

16...Kf7 [16...0-0 17.Nd4 Qe8 18.Nxe6 Rf7+/-] **17.Rad1 Rc8** [17...b4!?] **18.Nd4 Qc7 19.Qh3 Nf8 20.Bh5+ g6 21.Bg4 Qc4 22.Bxe6+ Nxe6 23.b3** White is breaking through! **23...Qxc3 24.Qxe6+ Ke8**



25.Bg5?? [25.Rxf6!+- a huge +- 25...Bd5 *(25...Rf8 26.Rxf8+ Kxf8 27.Nf5)* 26.Qxd5 Qxe3+ *(26...Bxf6 27.Nf5 Qc6 28.Nd6+ Kd8 29.Qf7)* 27.Kh1 Bxf6 28.Qe6+] **25...Bd5! 26.Qe5 Qc7!=** Wily Winslow escapes again! **27.Bxf6?!** [27.Qxc7 Rxc7 28.Bxf6 Rf8 29.Bxe7 Rxf1+ *(29...Rxe7)* 30.Kxf1 Kxe7 *(30...Rxe7?? 31.Nxb5)* 31.Nxb5 axb5 32.Rxd5 Rxc2 33.Rxb5 Rxa2 34.Re5+ Kf6 35.Rxe4 Rb2 36.Rb4 g5=] **27...Qxe5 28.Bxe5 Rf8 29.Rxf8+ Kxf8 30.c3 Bf7** [>=30...Ba8] **31.Kf2?(+) Rc5 32.Bf4 Rxc3-+ 33.Be3 Ke8 34.Ne2?! Rc2 35.Rd4?! Rxa2 36.Rxe4 Kd7 37.Rd4+ Kc 38.Rd3 Rb2 39.Rc3+ Kd7 40.Bf4 Bxb3 41.Rc7+ Kd8 42.Ke3**





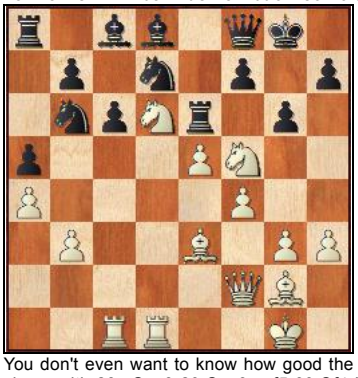
42...Bg5!? [42...Rc2 43.Rxe7 Kxe7 44.Nd4 Rc3+ *(44...Rc4)* 45.Ke4 Ba2] **43.Rc3 Bxf4+ 44.Nxf4 Bc4 45.Kd4 g5 46.Nh5 Rxg2 47.h3 Rd2+ 48.Ke5 Rd3 49.Rc1 Rxh3 50.Nf6 Kc7** [50...a5] **51.Nd5+ Kb7 52.Nf6 Kb6 53.Rg1 h6 54.Ra1 a5 55.Kd4 a4 56.Nd7+ Ka5 57.Nc5 a3 58.Nb7+ Kb6** [58...Kb4] **59.Nd6 Rd3+ 60.Ke5 Rd5+** White resigns. A great opening and active attack from Ako. He nearly took out the IM. **0-1**

(2) Estolas,Brandon (2003) - Clemens,Kristian (1954) [A13]

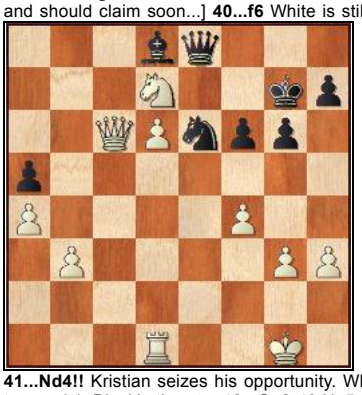
MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (2.3), 09.11.2021

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Nbd7 5.cxd5 Safe play by Brandon, but it frees Black's position so there are no worries. **5...exd5 6.0-0 Bd6 7.Nc3 c6 8.d3 0-0 9.e4** This active move hits the center and makes room for the white pieces there. **9...dxe4 10.dxe4 Qc7 11.Nd4 a6** This is a little slow and White gains more control of the center. 11...Rd8 is a little better. **12.f4 Bc5 13.Be3 Nb6 14.Nc2 Bg4 15.Qe1 Be7 16.h3 Bc8?!** [16...Be6] **17.b3 a5 18.Qf2 Nfd7 19.a4!** A nice move to stop Black's activity on the queenside. **19...Re8 20.Rac1 Bd8 21.Nd4 Qd6 22.Rfd1** White has all the pieces in play and Black is operating on just 3 ranks. **22...Qf8**

23.Nf5 Bc7 24.Nb5! Bd8 25.Nbd6 Re6 26.e5 g6



You don't even want to know how good the computers rate White's game here! (Oh all right: +7 or so.) So what did he miss? **27.Nd4** [27.Nh6+! Qxh6 28.f5 is best, even if it lets Black get clever with 28...Qxe3 29.Qxe3 gxf5 30.Qf4 Nxe5 31.Nxc8 (still +7)] **27...Rxd6 28.exd6 Nd5 29.Bxd5 cxd5 30.Nb5 Nf6 31.Bc5** Slipping, to "only" +3. [31.Nc7 Bxc7 32.dxc7 followed by lining up on the long diagonal towards Black's king.] **31...Bd7** [31...Ne4!?] **32.Nc3** [32.Nc7] **32...Rc8** [32...Qh6] **33.Nxd5 Ne4? 34.Qe3** [34.Ne7+! Bxe7 35.dxe7 Qe8 36.Qe3 should win easily] **34...Nxc5 35.Ne7+! Kg7 36.Nxc8 Ne6 37.Nb6 Bc6 38.Rxc6 bxc6 39.Nd7** With all the bones crunching it's amazing Black can lift a piece. **39...Qe8 40.Qc3+?** [40.Nc5 is best, White is just cleaning up and should claim soon...] **40...f6** White is still winning but it's starting to be problematic. **41.Qxc6** The only move that gets "+-" from Stockfish



41...Nd4!! Kristian seizes his opportunity. What an annoying move to face. **42.Rxd4?!** White finally throws away the win, which *was* still there: [42.Qb7! musters various defensive resources to squelch Black's threats: 42...Qe2 43.Ne5+! Kh8 44.Rxd4 Qe1+ *(44...Qe3+ 45.Kh2 Qxd4 46.Nf7+ Kg8 47.Nxd8)* 45.Kh2 fxe5 46.Rc4!+-] **42...Qe1+ 43.Kg2** [43.Kh2 Qf2+ 44.Qg2 Qxd4=] **43...Qe2+ 44.Kh1 Qf1+ 45.Kh2 Qf2+ 46.Kh1** [46.Qg2 Qxd4 is just equal] **46...Qf1+ 47.Kh2 Qf2+ 48.Kh1** Game drawns by repitition. Brandon had a monster position, but Kristian kept fighting and slipped away. **1/2-1/2**

(3) Fong,Nathan (2032) - Lesniewski,Lucas (1855) [D02]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (2.4), 09.11.2021

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 Bg4 5.c4 e6 6.Qb3 Qb6 Good solid opening play from both sides. **7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.Bf4 Be7 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 Bg6 11.c5 Qxb3** [Black could also choose the middlegame with 11...Qa6 The endgame is just equal though.] **12.axb3 h5 13.g5 Ne4 14.h4 Nxc3** [14...f6 may be a little more active] **15.bxc3 Be4 16.Bh3!** White is getting a little pressure now. **16...Nf8 17.0-0 Bxf3 18.exf3 f5!?** Going for a locked up kingside. It does leave the e6 pawn backward. **19.Bg3 Ng6 20.f4 Bd8 21.Kg2 Kf7 22.Kf3 Bc7 23.Ke3**

There are some ridiculous pieces here, but White manages to make it work out. **23...Rhb8 24.Rfb1 b5?!** [24...a5= looks loose but in fact locks it down.] **25.Ra6! Ne7 26.Rba1** But why can't White just take on a7 then? **26...Rb7?!** [26...Ke8 27.Rxa7 Rxa7 28.Rxa7 Kd7 29.Kd3 Nc8 30.Ra1 Rb7 Snug as a bug.] **27.Bf1** [27.Kd3 followed by Re1 gets a higher evaluation but still isn't clear at all.] **27...g6 28.f3 Ke8 29.Be1 Kd7 30.Bd2 Kc8 31.Kd3 Kd7 32.Kc2 Nc8 33.Bd3 Rab8** How to break through? **34.Re1 Ne7 35.Rea1 Nc8 36.Kb2 Bd8 37.Bc2 Bc7 38.Re1 Ne7 39.Rea1 Nc8**

40.Bb1 Bd8 41.Kc2 Bc7 42.Kd3 Bd8 43.Bc2 Bc7 44.Re1 Ne7 45.Rea1 Nc8

46.c4 b4? [46...bxc4+ 47.bxc4 dxc4+ 48.Kxc4 Ne7 49.Kd3 Nd5 50.Ba4 Ne7 51.Re1 Rb1=] **47.Bd1** and now: it's a win for White... **47...Bd8 48.Be2 Bc7 49.Kc2 Ra8 50.Bd3 dxc4??** Perhaps Black missed the tactics this walks into. [50...Ne7] **51.Bxc4 Ne7 52.Re1 Nd5**

53.Rxc6! [Or 53.Rxe6!] **53...Kxc6 54.Rxe6+ Kd7 55.Bxd5 Rb5 56.Rxg6** And Black's pawns turn out to be the vulnerable ones. There is no hope here to Lucas resigned. **1-0**

(4) Riese,Kayven (1900) - Porlares,Teodoro (1746) [B14]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (2.7), 09.11.2021

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 The Panov-Botvinnik Attack is good for players who like open positions with attacking chances. Other variations of the Caro-Kann can be extemely solid for Black. **4...e6 5.Nf3 Nd7?!** This gives White some good posibilities. The standard 5...Nf6 is preferable. **6.Nc3 Ngf6 7.a3 Be7 8.c5 a6** This doesn't help much. White will be getting nice mobile queenside pawns soon. **9.Bd3 Qc7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 b5** [11...b6 may be a little better, but Black has trouble on the queenside in any case] **12.b4 Re8 13.Bg5 Bb7 14.Bh4 Bf8 15.Ne5** [15.Bg3 is a good alternative] **15...g6** [15...Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nd7 17.Qg4 g6] **16.f4 Bg7 17.Qf3 Nxe5 18.fxe5 Nd7 19.Rf1 Rf8**

20.Qh3! keeping an eye on the e6 pawn **20...Rae8 21.Bg3 Nb8 22.a4!** remembering there is also good play on the queenside. **22...bxa4 23.Rxa4 Rc8 24.Rfa1 Nc6 25.Qg4 Ra8**

26.b5 axb5 27.Nxb5 Rxa4 28.Rxa4 Qd7 29.Qd1 Rb8 30.Nd6 Nd8 31.Ra7 Ra8 32.Qa1 Rxa7 33.Qxa7 Bc6 Clearly White has a strong position with the knight on d6. Can Black hold? **34.Qb8 Bf8 35.Be1 Be7 36.Ba5 Kg7 37.Ba6 Bg5 38.Kf2 f5 39.g3 Qe7 40.Qc7 Qxc7 41.Bxc7 Kf8 42.Nc8?!** [42.Bc8! Ke7 43.Bxd8+ Kxd8 44.Nf7+ Kxc8 45.Nxg5 should be an easy with with good knight and extra pawn] **42...Ke8 43.Bd6 Nb7 44.Na7 Kd7 45.Bb8 Na5?** [45...Bc1 has much better chances to hold the game] **46.Bc8+ Ke7 47.Bd6+** Black loses material now **47...Kf7** [47...Kd8 48.Bxe6 is certainly lost also] **48.Bc7!**

48...Nc4 49.Nxc6 Be3+ 50.Ke2 Bg1 51.h4 Bh2 52.Kf2 A bishop up should be easy for White but Teodoro fights to make it hard. **52...f4 53.gxf4 Bxf4 54.Nd8+ Ke7 55.Nxe6 Be3+ 56.Ke2 Bg1 57.Nf4 Bxd4 58.Nxd5+ Ke8 59.e6 Bxc5 60.Nf6+ Ke7 61.Nxh7 Nd6 62.Bd7 Nf5 63.Bf4 Nd4+ 64.Kd3 Nxe6 65.Bxe6 Kxe6**

It is still quite winning for White but you must know how to checkmate with bishop and knight vs. king. **66.Ke4 Kf7** [66...Bf2 67.Ng5+ Ke7 68.Nf3 Bxh4 would jump right to the test.] **67.Ng5+ Kg8 68.Bg3 Ba3 69.Kd5 Kg7 70.Ke6 Bc1 71.Nf7 Ba3 72.Be5+ Kh7 73.Bf6 Bb4 74.Bg5 Be1 75.Nd6 Kg7**

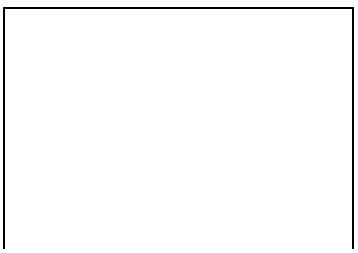
76.Bf6+? Woops! **76...Kh7?** Back in the hole. [76...Kh6 draws. Mind you, Black was running on 0:04 plus the delay for quite a few moves now.] **77.Kf7?** [Here's one winning plan: 77.Bg5 Kg7 78.Ne8+ Kf8 79.Nf6 Kg7 80.Ng4 Bg3 81.Ke7 Be1 82.Bf6+ Kg8 83.Ne5 Kh7 84.Nd3 Bg3 85.Bg5 Kg8 86.Nf4 It is the right bishop and rook pawn pair!] **77...Bb4?** [77...Kh6 draws again. You'd think he'd play this with 1 second left!] **78.Ne4** Back on track! **78...Be1** [Now 78...Kh6 79.Bg5+ Kh5 80.Nf6#!] **79.Bg5 Bb4 80.Nf6+ Kh8**

81.Kxg6?! [Forget that pawn! Checkmate! 81.Bh6 Bf8 82.Kxf8 g5 83.Bg7#] **81...Be1 82.h5 Bb4 83.h6 Bf8 84.h7 Bh6 85.Ne4 Bg7** [85...Bxg5 86.Nd6! Bf6 87.Nf7#] **86.Be7** [86.Nd6!] **86...Bd4 87.Ng5 Ba1 88.Nf7# 1-0**

(5) Barreyro,Romeo (1649) - Suarez,Sebastian (1474) [A03]

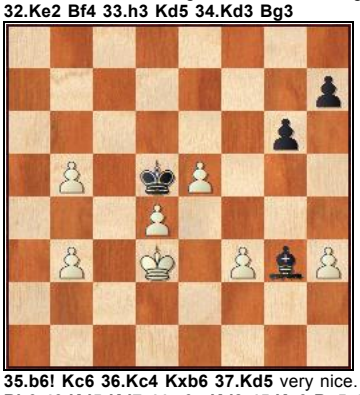
MI Nov-Dec TNM u1800 San Francisco (2.16), 09.11.2021

1.f4 d5 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 A good line for Black against Bird's Opening. **4.Nf3 Bg7 5.e3 c5 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Ne5 Nxe5 9.fxe5 Nd7 10.d4** The position offers even chances. **10...e6** [10...Nb8! would be a good alternative] **11.Nc3 a6 12.Bg4 b5 13.Ne2 Qb6** White has a nice central pawn chain of d4,e5. Romeo plays for tactics though instead of just maintaining it. **14.Nf4 cxd4 15.Bxd4 Qc7**



16.Nxe6?! A lot of action! Objectively it's not quite enough for the knight though. **16...fxe6 17.Bxe6+ Kh8 18.Rxf8+ Nxf8 19.Bxd5 Bb7 20.Bxb7 Qxb7 21.Qf3**

21...Qxf3 [21...Rb8! would keep the White e-pawns isolated and Black would have a clear edge.] **22.gxf3 Ne6 23.c3 Rd8 24.Rd1 b4?!** [24...Kg8! gets the king into the game] **25.cxb4 Nxd4?! 26.Rxd4! Rxd4?** This gives White a winning ending with 4 pawns against the bishop. [26...Rc8 makes it hard for White to win] **27.exd4 Bh6 28.Kf2 Kg8 29.a4 Kf7 30.b5 axb5 31.axb5 Ke6 32.Ke2 Bf4 33.h3 Kd5 34.Kd3 Bg3**



35.b6! Kc6 36.Kc4 Kxb6 37.Kd5 very nice. Material is equal againt but the active White king and advanced e-pawn win the game **37...Kc7 38.Ke6 Kd8 39.b4 g5 40.b5 Bf2 41.d5 Bd4 42.d6 Bb6 43.Kd5 Kd7 44.e6+ Kd8 45.Kc6 Ba5 46.b6 1-0**

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2252	W20	W13							2.0
2	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	13001390	2032	H---	W15		H---				H---	1.5
3	**David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)**	13776967	2023	W26	D10							1.5
4	**Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)**	12601629	2017	H---	W21							1.5
5	**Brandon Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)**	12869947	2003	W27	D6							1.5
6	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1954	W28	D5					H---		1.5
7	**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)**	16828914	1917	H---	X22							1.5
8	**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	12572270	1900	D18	W23							1.5
9	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	12517167	1884	H---	W25							1.5

10	**Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)**	15361305	1700	W14	D3					H---	H---	1.5
11	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**	12734479	2097	L15	W27							1.0
12	**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2001	L17	W26						H---	1.0
13	**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	15206848	1955	W24	L1							1.0
14	**Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)**	10451671	1914	L10	W28				H---			1.0
15	**Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)**	17039584	1855	W11	L2							1.0
16	**Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)**	12747074	1832	H---	D18							1.0
17	**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	14257838	1745	W12	U---							1.0
18	**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	16600505	1670	D8	D16					H---		1.0
19	**Krish Matai (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16444206)**	16444206	1937	D25	U---							0.5
20	**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	12621393	1867	L1	D24							0.5
21	**Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)**	12545869	1814	H---	L4							0.5
22	**Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)**	12633251	1787	H---	F7		H---				H---	0.5
23	**Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	12773115	1746	H---	L8	H---					H---	0.5
24	**Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)**	16898540	1744	L13	D20		H---				H---	0.5
25	**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	12590374	1706	D19	L9							0.5
26	**Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)**	12328450	1800	L3	L12							0.0
27	**Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)**	17158733	1760	L5	L11							0.0
28	**Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)**	12680193	1735	L6	L14							0.0

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total
1	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	16571026	1746	W40	W21							2.0
2	**Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)**	17018168	1649	W28	W23							2.0
3	**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	16566932	1611	W29	W20							2.0
4	**Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)**	30257083	1549	W41	W24		H---	H---				2.0
5	**Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)**	30268083	1540	W43	W25		H---					2.0

6	**Ronald Allen (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30086796)**	30086796	1501	W45	W30							2.0
7	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	12844781	1500	W31	W26							2.0
8	**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	14874734	1448	W48	W18							2.0
9	**Ashwin Vaidyanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205719)**	30205719	1444	W34	W19		H---				H---	2.0
10	**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12898987)**	12898987	839	W22	W37							2.0
11	**Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)**	30102682	1400	H---	W38		H---				H---	1.5
12	**JP Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)**	30150098	1229	W39	H---						H---	1.5
13	**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	30214657	1135	D17	X39							1.5
14	**Jim Ratliff (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11163831)**	11163831	1632	H---	H---							1.0
15	**Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	10424364	1600	L30	W45							1.0
16	**Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)**	30328281	1600	H---	H---							1.0
17	**Yuvraj Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)**	17095004	1593	D13	D27							1.0
18	**Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)**	17137317	1542	W42	L8							1.0
19	**Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)**	17266862	1511	W44	L9							1.0
20	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	12796129	1500	W46	L3							1.0
21	**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	12872385	1491	W47	L1							1.0
22	**Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)**	13377410	1478	L10	W46							1.0
23	**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	16875347	1474	W32	L2						H---	1.0
24	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1447	W33	L4							1.0
25	**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	13913131	1400	W35	L5							1.0
26	**Deandre Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)**	30255378	1399	W36	L7	H---			H---			1.0
27	**Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	30164211	1278	H---	D17							1.0
28	**Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)**	16694473	1219	L2	X47							1.0
29	**Don Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694467)**	16694467	1219	L3	W48							1.0
30	**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	30235937	1172	W15	L6		H---				H---	1.0
31	**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	16317000	970	L7	W40							1.0

	16317000)											
32	Cathal Dayton (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12930548)	12930548	784	L23	W41							1.0
33	Marcus Casaes (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30290420)	30290420	unr.	L24	W43		H---					1.0
34	Vittorio Banfi (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30308530)	30308530	unr.	L9	W42							1.0
35	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	L25	B---		H---				H---	1.0
36	Juan Elias (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30325735)	30325735	unr.	L26	W44							1.0
37	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	H---	L10							0.5
38	Maxcwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)	30329285	unr.	H---	L11							0.5
39	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	L12	F13							0.0
40	Cloe Chai (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315197)	16315197	1254	L1	L31							0.0
41	Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)	16757673	1125	L4	L32							0.0
42	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1091	L18	L34							0.0
43	Maria Obrien (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15300977)	15300977	1036	L5	L33						H---	0.0
44	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1014	L19	L36							0.0
45	Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	17005685	997	L6	L15							0.0
46	Prasanna Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)	30279272	921	L20	L22							0.0
47	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	845	L21	F28							0.0
48	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	L8	L29		H---				H---	0.0

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total
1	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1917	D5	W11							1.5
2	Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)	12601629	2017	W6	U---							1.0
3	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	W14	U---							1.0
4	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	U---	W13		H---				H---	1.0
5	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	D1	U---							0.5
6	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	L2	D7							0.5
7	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	30214657	1135	U---	D6							0.5

	30214657)												
8	Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)	10363365	2252	U---	U---								0.0
9	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1955	U---	U---								0.0
10	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1746	U---	U---								0.0
11	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	U---	L1								0.0
12	Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)	16694473	1219	U---	U---								0.0
13	Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)	15616166	1149	U---	L4								0.0
14	Maxcwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)	30329285	unr.	L3	U---								0.0

49th Carroll Capps Memorial Report

by Abel Talamantez

Recently 36 players turned out for the 49th Carroll Capps Memorial, with Lucas Lesniewski winning the top section with 4/4, and Pavel Kolesnikov winning the under 1800 section with 3.5/4. The event was USCF rated with a time control of G/45;d5. We want to thank all those who attended and congratulations to the winners. Special shout out goes to Jocelyn Ren and Katherine Sunny Lu for outstanding performances in the under 1800 section, with Ren scoring 3/4 and tying for 2nd place! We look forward to seeing their development in the upcoming years.

There is a great account of the life of Carroll Capps from the Chess Dryad. Special thanks ot Kerry Lawless for maintaining such a rich source of California chess history. To read, click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/lawless/capps.htm?fbclid=IwAR3n2DOI1IFBVrY721RwboDCRUN_ieZgoaHYvQLA7KMrAcgaVp27Iw1PYzM)

Final Standings are here:

SwissSys Standings. 49th Carroll Capps Memorial: 1800+

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Pr
1	1	Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	17039584	1855	W12	W4	W2	W6	4.0	21

		17039584)									
2	2	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2001	W7	W5	L1	W4	3.0	10
3	3	Aditya Naganath (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12791560)	12791560	1666	W6	D9	L4	W7	2.5	75
4	4-8	Manas Paldhe (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16418854)	16418854	1981	W11	L1	W3	L2	2.0	
5		Alex Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1859	W8	L2	H---	H---	2.0	
6		Luke Widjaja (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16010621)	16010621	1856	L3	W10	W9	L1	2.0	
7		Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	14257838	1745	L2	W8	W12	L3	2.0	
8		Zachary Filler (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14040236)	14040236	1670	L5	L7	B---	W12	2.0	
9	9-11	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1744	H---	D3	L6	D11	1.5	
10		Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1735	H---	L6	L11	B---	1.5	
11		Wentao Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16629782)	16629782	1678	L4	L12	W10	D9	1.5	
12	12	Vian Yang (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15804394)	15804394	1648	L1	W11	L7	L8	1.0	

SwissSys Standings. 49th Carroll Capps Memorial: u/1800

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Pr
1	1	Pavel Kolesnikov (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30194161)	30194161	1380	W23	W10	W8	H---	3.5	13
2	2-6	Jan Erik Solem (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30270432)	30270432	1680	D4	W16	W3	D6	3.0	21
3		Arjun Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15949490)	15949490	1274	W14	W18	L2	W11	3.0	21
4		Adithya Chitta (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16695036)	16695036	1224	D2	D11	W19	W12	3.0	21
5		Jocelyn Ren (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16899282)	16899282	1092	D11	W15	W9	D8	3.0	21
6		Zach Oseran (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30289898)	30289898	unr.	D16	W21	W7	D2	3.0	21
7	7-10	Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	16425316	1490	W17	D9	L6	W18	2.5	
8		DeAndre Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)	30255378	1399	W20	W13	L1	D5	2.5	
9		Ivan Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17352346)	17352346	1209	W21	D7	L5	W16	2.5	
10		Eli Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16707438)	16707438	1099	W19	L1	W18	H---	2.5	
11	11-14	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	12872385	1491	D5	D4	W13	L3	2.0	
12		Hoa Long Tam (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16919862)	16919862	1299	L13	W20	W14	L4	2.0	

13		**Michael Gloudemans (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30324958)**	30324958	unr.	W12	L8	L11	W19	2.0	
14		**Raj Paul (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30249298)**	30249298	unr.	L3	W17	L12	W20	2.0	
15	15-17	**Nelson Sowell (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11103405)**	11103405	1600	H---	L5	L16	W21	1.5	
16		**Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	30164211	1278	D6	L2	W15	L9	1.5	
17		**Henry Lien (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15156603)**	15156603	1068	L7	L14	D21	B---	1.5	
18	18-20	**John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	12561007	1500	X22	L3	L10	L7	1.0	
19		**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	12844781	1500	L10	W23	L4	L13	1.0	
20		**Jimmy Fan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17303750)**	17303750	1039	L8	L12	B---	L14	1.0	
21	21	**Nick Casares Jr. (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	10424364	1600	L9	L6	D17	L15	0.5	
22	22-23	**Marcus Thomas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16743165)**	16743165	1136	F18	U---	U---	U---	0.0	
23		**Elizabeth Denhup (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161536)**	30161536	766	L1	L19	U---	U---	0.0	

The Perfect Gift: Mechanics' Institute Commemorative Chess Set from House of Staunton

Jose Raul Capablanca visited the Mechanics' Institute in 1916, and a famous picture of him playing inside the chess room against AJ Fink shows the pieces that were a symbol of the Mechanics' Institute. The House of Staunton has made a high quality commemorarive edition of their chess set, which is availbale for sale. There is no better gift for a chess enthusiast these holidays, particulalry if you want to support the Mechanics' Institute as 10% of all proceeds from the purchase of this set goes back to the Mechanics' Institute!

To purchase your own set or to get one as a special gift, please follow this link HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://www.houseofstaunton.com/the-mechanics-institute-commemorative-chess-pieces-4-25-king.html?aw=7&coupon=GOOGLE10&gclid=CjwKCAjwiY6MBhBqEiwARFSCPsmhouvmvd-GQiLauLhrQfAUyUitTBBWf7BhKOaOTOxfciAXBzSDtxoCMl4QAvD_BwE)

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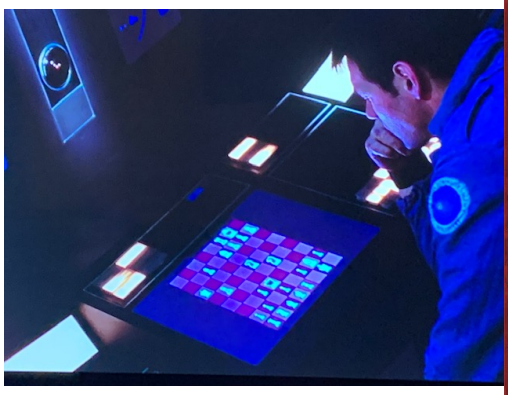
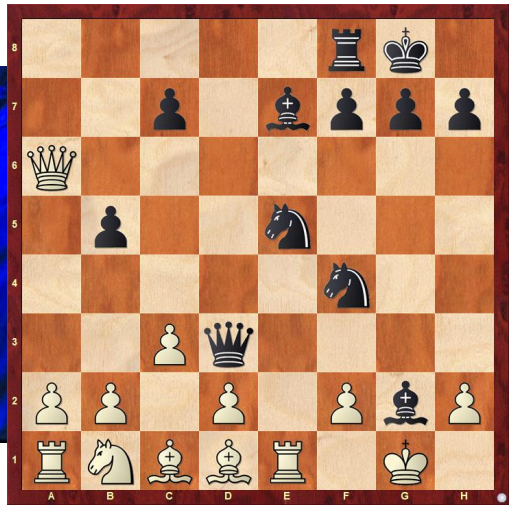
Any questions? Please contact us at chessroom@milibrary.org (mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org).

Chess Teasers From Movies

by Abel Talamantez

For this week's edition, we will see a position from Stanley Kubrick's classic movie 2001: A Space Odyssey. The HAL-9000 computer is playing Frank Poole as black and arrived at this position. Black to move and mate in 4. This position was taken from an actual tournament game in Hamburg in 1910 between A. Roesch and W. Schlage. Good luck! Solution is at the end of the newsletter.





Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute November/December TNM: FIDE Rated. Nov 2- Dec 21, 6:30PM PT. G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person)

Mechanics' Institute November Quads: November 13, 3PM PT. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)

Mechanics' Institute Thanksgiving Gobbler Open: FIDE Rated. November 26-28. 6SS G/90+30: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsThanksgivingGobblerOpenInPersonFIDE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsThanksgivingGobblerOpenInPersonFIDE)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Fresh New
Scholastic Chess Bulletin #6 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq)

In this issue:

- Monthly Scholastic In-Person Tournament - 2021 October Report with Player Highlight: Justyn Klot
- Chess Enrichment Highlight: Alta Vista School
- Chess Camps on October 11 - Report
- ChessKid Style by Andrew Ballantyne
- Special Event: Halloween Tournament @ Mechanics' Institute on Oct 30
- Understanding Tournaments - Tiebreaks
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured Games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://conta.cc/3navWSR) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#bulletin)

All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

My Chess Books

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

These are the handful of chess books I own right now. The most recent acquisition was John Donaldson's book on Fischer. John inscribed a personal note to me, but I'm afraid I'm not at liberty to reveal what he wrote.

When I was eighteen years old I owned about 300 chess books, 3/4 of which I'd read or dipped into, or used as reference. The other third I thought I might have gotten to one day, but they were mostly boring opening books (homework) so maybe not. In any case, I loved books (not just chess books) and throughout my life I've had various collections. My earliest collection was comics (does that count?), and my last effort was a black and white photography book collection of roughly 300 volumes that took over 20 years to put together.

For me, interests and passions have waxed and waned. Sometimes I wish it were not so, but that's just the way it is for me. When I took to chess I discarded my comic books as easily as Batman slipped off his mask; and when chess lost its glow, a bookseller, chess master and friend of mine named Max Burkett came over to my house and took the whole lot. I later developed (pun intended) a passion for photography and another book collection was born, flourished, and eventually passed away.

I have written about my ten favorite chess books in previous newsletters here:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/879#Books1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/879#Books1)

and here:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/880#Books1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/880#Books1)

I have also written about the adventures(!) of a particular chess book here:

https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/857 (https://web.archive.org/web/20211130003939/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/857)

Now I own this rag-tag collection, this mere handful of books. John Donaldson, friend and colleague, reunited me some time ago with Napier's *Paul Morphy and the Golden Age of Chess* – my very first chess book. He also dropped that Red Book of Tal's games into my lap. How could I say no, but thank you, that my collecting days were over? Is this how it starts? A book here, a book there. Before you know it, the bookshelf is groaning with the weight...

But one thing I know for sure is this: if my chess book collection were somehow to grow (and it won't, I swear!) I will never, ever, put a book on the openings up there. Not interested.

But a nice hardbound copy of *Zurich International Chess Tournament 1953*, by David Bronstein?

Don't tempt me.

Nick de Firmian's Column

The FIDE Grand Swiss tournament in Riga sent Firouzja and Caruana into next year's Candidates Tournament. It was a defining victory for Alireza Firouzja, who took clear first place with 8/11. Not only did this raise his rating to #5 in the world, it places him in historically elite company as one of only four players to ever qualify for the Candidates while still a teenager. The other three were Boris Spassky, Bobby Fischer, and Magnus Carlsen. We should also mention Paul Morphy when we speak of young players taking over the chess world.

Fabiano Caruana was no doubt relieved to capture the second spot with 7.5/11. He (deservedly) edged out Gigoriy Oparin on tiebreak and had the satisfaction of dealing Firouzja his one defeat in the event. Caruana is no doubt gearing up for another challenge for the chess crown. The last Candidates Tournament in Russia was affected by the Covid pandemic, which surely harmed the play of Caruana, Ding Liren and others. As Americans we can take solace that although Caruana didn't win, he played like a great champion and his determination carried him through this important qualification.

A further six top-finishers – Grigoriy Oparin, Yu Yangyl, Vincent Keymer, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Alexandr Predke and Alexei Shirov – also qualify into the FIDE Grand Prix, a series of tournaments next on the horizon which will determine the last two qualifying spots for next year's Candidates Tournament. It was interesting to see Shirov back in the thick of competition. At 49 years old one thinks he may be washed up, yet his sparkling play reminds us of his glories of yesteryear. Many of his old fans will be routing for him to have a great comeback.

(1) Firouzja,Alireza - Howell,David [C54]

FIDE Gand Chess, 08.11.2021

This game was played in the 10th round right after Firouzja had lost to Caruana. Howell was on a hot streak, having won 4 games in a row. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3** A classical Italian Game. White gets only a minor edge, but the game becomes very complex. **5...h6 6.c3 d6 7.Re1 0-0 8.h3 a5 9.Nbd2 Be6 10.Bb5 Ba7 11.Nf1 Ne7 12.Ng3 c6 13.Ba4 b5 14.Bc2 a4 15.d4 Ng6 16.Be3 Re8**

The position looks much like a Ruy Lopez, with the white pawns on e4 and d4. There is still a minor plus for White yet both sides have many possibilities. **17.Bd3 Bb6 18.a3 Qc7 19.Rc1 Ba5 20.Re2 Qb7 21.c4** charging forward. Now finally some captures mus take place. **21...bxc4 22.Bxc4 d5 23.Bd3 exd4** [perhaps Black does better with 23...Nf4!? 24.Bxf4 *(24.dxe5 Nxe2+ 25.Qxe2 Nxe4 26.Nxe4 dxe4 27.Bxe4 Bd5)* 24...exf4 25.exd5 Bxd5 26.Nf5] **24.Nxd4 Bd7 25.Ndf5 Bc7** [25...dxe4 26.Nd6] **26.exd5 cxd5 27.Bd4** White has a just slight edge now with central squares due to the isolated black d-pawn **27...Be5?!**

28.Nxh6+! gxh6 29.Bxg6 Bxg3 30.Rxe8+ Rxe8 [30...Nxe8? 31.Qh5!] **31.Qf3!?** [31.fxg3] **31...Qc6!**

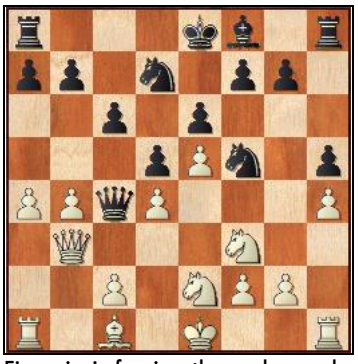
[well played by Howell. The back rank mate stops Firouzja from taking the queen. 31...Bh4 32.Bxf6 Bxf6 33.Qxf6] **32.Bc2! Bb8?!** [32...Be5 33.Bh7+ Nxh7 34.Rxc6 Bxc6 35.Bxe5 Rxe5 36.Qg4+ Kh8 37.Qf4 f6 38.Qxh6 is only slightly better for White; 32...Qxc2 33.Qxg3+ Qg6 34.Qxg6+ fxg6 35.Bxf6] **33.Qxf6 Qxf6 34.Bxf6 Rc8 35.Bc3 d4 36.Bd2!**

now White is a pawn ahead in the ending. The question is can he convert it to a win **36...Kg7 37.Bd3 Rxc1+ 38.Bxc1 h5 39.h4 Bc6 40.g3 Bd7 41.Kf1 Be5 42.Ke2 Bg4+ 43.Kd2!** The active white king makes the black d-pawn weak. One may be afraid of checks but there is no real danger with only bishops on the board. **43...Bd7 44.Kc2 Be6?! 45.Bb5 Bb3+ 46.Kd3** now White is winning. Black has trouble defending all the isolated pawns **46...Kg6 47.Bd7 Bd1 48.Bd2 f5 49.Bf4 Bg7 50.Bd6 Bf6 51.Be8+ Kh6 52.Bc5 f4 53.Bxd4 Bd8 54.Kd2 Bb3 55.Be5 fxg3 56.fxg3 Ba5+ 57.Kc1!** White will win a third pawn with 58. Bf4+ and 59. Bxh5. Howell threw in the towell. **1-0**

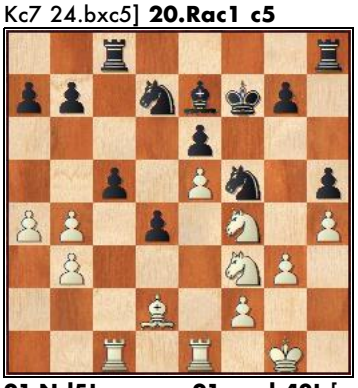
(2) Caruana,Fabiano - Firouzja,Alireza [B12]

FIDE Gand Chess, 08.11.2021

This game was of great importance for Caruana and for the tournament standings. Played in the 9th round, Firouzja was a whole point ahead of the field. If Caruana wanted any chance to qualify for the Candidates he had to win this game. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5** The solid Caro-Kann **3.e5** Caruana plays the aggressive Advance Variation. **3...Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 Qa5+ 7.Nd2 e6 8.Ne2 Ne7 9.b4!** A novelty. Black doesn't want to capture on b4, so seeks a safe ending. **9...Qa6** [9...Qxb4 10.Rb1 Qa5 11.Rxb7 is active for White] **10.Qb3 Nf5 11.Nf3 Nd7 12.a4** Ready to start queenside play. **12...Qc4**

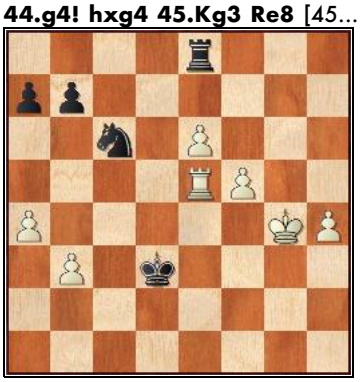


Firouzja is forcing the endgame he was seeking, yet Caruana still has some initiative with the advanced pawns. **13.Bd2! Qxb3 14.cxb3 f6 15.0-0 Be7 16.g3 Kf7** [16...fxe5 17.dxe5] **17.Rfe1 fxe5 18.dxe5 Rac8 19.Nf4** Black's pawn struture is solid enough, yet the white pieces are active and there will be b4-b5 happening at some point if Black just sits on the position. **19...d4** [19...c5? 20.Nxd5! exd5 21.e6+ Ke8 22.exd7+ Kxd7 23.Ne5+ Kc7 24.bxc5] **20.Rac1 c5**



21.Nd5! anyway **21...cxb4?!** [perhaps 21...Bd8 would keep White's initiative in check] **22.Nxe7 Nxe7 23.Ng5+ Kg6 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.Nxe6 Nc6 26.f4 Kf5** active play from Firouzja, not letting the white knight having a fine central spot **27.Nxg7+ Kg6 28.Ne6 Kf5 29.Ng5 Nc5 30.Nf7** both players continue to prioritize activity. Also reasonable was [30.Rb1!?] **30...Ke6 31.Nd6 Rg8 32.Kg2 Kd5!?** [32...Nxb3 33.f5+ Kd5 34.Ne4 Rf8 35.Nf6+ Kc4 36.Bh6 Rh8 37.Bg7 Ra8 38.Ne4 d3 39.e6 Ncd4 40.Rf1 is somewhat better for White in a wild ending] **33.Rb1 Ne4!?** [33...b6] **34.Nxe4 Kxe4 35.Rc1 Kd3 36.Be1 Ke2 37.e6 d3 38.f5 Nd4?** probably the decisive mistake [38...Re8 39.a5 is a little better for White; 38...Rf8? 39.Rxc6! bxc6 40.e7 Re8 41.f6 Kxe1 42.f7 wins] **39.Bxb4 d2 40.Bxd2 Kxd2 41.Rc5** White's three pawns are better than the black knight. **41...Re8 42.Re5 Kd3 43.Kf2 Re7**

44.g4! hxg4 45.Kg3 Re8 [45...Nxf5+ 46.Rxf5 Rxe6 47.Kxg4 has excellent winning chances with the passed h-pawn] **46.Kxg4 Nc6**



47.Kf4! Wonderful play by Caruana! He is a piece down and happy to be a rook down the the monster passed pawns. **47...Ne7** [47...Nxe5 48.Kxe5 and the pawns run down] **48.f6 Ng6+ 49.Kf5 Nxh4+ 50.Kg5! Nf3+ 51.Kf4 Nd4 52.e7 Nc6 53.f7! Rxe7 54.Rd5+** Firouzja resigned as the f-pawn queens. An epic battle showing Caruana is still the leading contender to win the chess crown from Magnus. **1-0**

(3) Sargissian - Shirov [D44]

FIDE Gand Chess, 08.11.2021

This is a battle with all guns blazing. No surpise one of the contestants is Alexei Shirov, the author of "Fire on Board." The 49 year old Latvian has been out of the limelight for years, but scored am excellent 7/11 and now still has chances to qualify for the Candidates in the FIDE Grand Prix. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5** Sargissian plays the old super sharp line from the days of Botvinnik. **5...dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5** Of course White wins the piece back. Black gets activity and open lines for the pawn sacrificed. **10...Nbd7 11.g3 Bb7 12.Bg2 Qb6 13.exf6 0-0-0 14.0-0 c5 15.d5 b4 16.Rb1 Qa6**

[taking the knight leads to terrible trouble - 16...bxc3? 17.bxc3 Qa6 18.Rxb7! Qxb7 19.dxe6 Qb5 20.e7 wins] **17.dxe6 Bxg2 18.e7! Bxf1 19.Qd5!? Bxe7 20.fxe7 Bd3 21.exd8Q+** [21.Qa8+ Nb8 22.exd8Q+ Rxd8 23.Bxd8 bxc3 24.Re1 cxb2] **21...Rxd8 22.Ne4! Bxb1** [22...Bxe4 23.Qxe4 f6 24.Bf4] **23.Nd6+ Kc7 24.Bf4**

24...Kb6 [24...Ne5 25.Qxc5+ Qc6 26.Qxe5 is a little better for White] **25.Nxc4+ Kb5 26.Nd6+ Kb6 27.Nc4+ Kb5 28.Nd6+ Kb6 29.Nc4+ Kb5 30.Nd6+** [White decides to repeat rather than venture 30.a4+? Kxa4 31.b3+ *(31.Bc7 Nb6* 32.Qc6+ *Kb3)* 31...Kxb3 32.Nd2+ Ka4 33.Qb3+ Ka5 34.Bc7+ Nb6 35.Bxd8 Qd3 with a clear edge] **30...Kb6 1/2-1/2**

Solution to Chess in the Movies

...1 Qf3!! (defending the bishop threatening Nh6#. If Bxf3, then Nxf3#) 2. Qh6 gxh6 3. h4 Nh3+ 4. Kh2 Ng4#

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 #995

November 20, 2021

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Don't Miss Out! 6-Round FIDE Rated Mechanics' Gobbler Open November 26-28

If you are going to make your Thanksgiving holiday weekend a chess holiday, spend it with the team at Mechanics' Institute as we have our three-day, FIDE-rated inaugural Mechanics' Institute Gobbler Open. Time control is G/90+30 in 3 sections. $3500b/100 with free giveaways throughout the weekend and live broadcast of games. To register, please click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsThanksgivingGobblerOpenInPersonFIDE). Full tournament information can be found HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-thanksgiving-gobbler-open-person-fide-6-rounds-g9030.).

TNM Round 3 Report

by Abel Talamantez

IM Elliott Winslow continues to be the sole leader after three rounds of the TNM, as he defeated Edward Lewis after a long struggle in which he eventaully reached a Lucena position to get the win and remain perfect with 3/3. Kayven Riese, Guy Argo and Adam Stafford also got wins to remain only a half point back with 2.5/3. I have to give a special shout out to Tony Lama, who was in fine form with a sustained pressured attack to get a win over the highly talented Kevin Sun.

(Left) IM Elliott Winslow playing white studies the board against Edward Lewis. (Right) Tony Lama gets an impressive win with the black pieces against Kevin Sun.

In the under 1800 section, Romeo Barreyro and Dean Guo are the only remaining perfect scores after three rounds in the 52 player section. Ronald Allen held the section favorite Adam Mercado to a draw, and in probably the most intriguing game of the night, Samuel Agdamag and Stephen Parsons played to an exciting draw.

We had a very special guest visit the TNM. US Chess Senior Director of Strategic Communication Dan Lucas stopped by while on vacation in San Francisco for his first visit to Mechanics'.

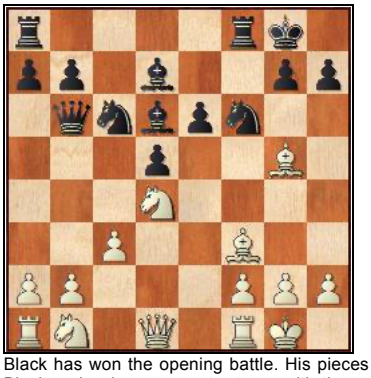
(Left) Stephen Parsons plays white against Samuel Agdamag is an exciting battle. (Right) Dan Lucas pays his first visit to the Mechanics' Institute.

Here are some games from round 3, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Sun,Kevin (1744) - Lama,Tony (1800) [C02]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (3.13), 16.11.2021

Young against the old! Tony Lama is 86 years old and Kevin is 10. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5** The Advance Variation is one of the principled lines against the French. **3...c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 f6** This move makes sense, but it isn't the classic Nimzovichian theory which says to attack the base of the pawn chain rather than the tip. Chess theory evolves and Tony is still taking part in opening evolution. **7.exf6** [7.0-0 maintains the e5 point and is probably a better chance at any advantage for White.] **7...Nxf6 8.0-0 cxd4 9.Nxd4?!** Black now takes more control of the central squares. 9. cxd4 would be better. **9...Bd6 10.Bg5 0-0 11.Bf3 Qb6**



Black has won the opening battle. His pieces are developed and the black center pawns have potential to advance. **12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Qc2 Rac8 14.Nd2 Qc7 15.h3 Bf4?!** [15...e5! would give Black a classic pawn center to go with the well placed pieces] **16.Bxf4 Qxf4 17.Rfe1 Rce8 18.Nb3**

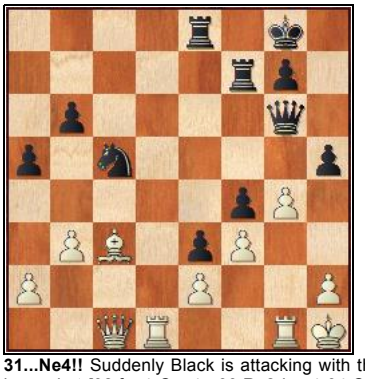
[18.c4!?] **18...e5!** now Black is pressing again **19.Rad1 e4 20.Be2 Nd7 21.Bf1 Ne5 22.Re3 Rf6 23.Nd4 Ref8 24.Rd2 Qg5** perhaps 24...h5 would help the attack **25.Rg3 Qh4 26.Kh2?** This is the wrong square for the white king. It was safer on g1. **26...Bd7** [26...e3! would be an immediate breakthrough since 27. Re3 Ng4+ wins] **27.Qb3 Ng4+** Now 28. Rxg4 Bxg4 29. Qxd5+ is forced, though Black has a clear edge. **28.Kg1?**

28...Qxg3! 29.Qxd5+ Kh8 There is no way out for White. Capturing the queen is mate on f1 while 30. hxg4 Rxf2 crashes through. **30.Qxd7 Qh2#** I look forward to seeing further battles between these two players. **0-1**

(2) Clemens,Kristian (1954) - Argo,Guy (1884) [A84]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (3.5), 16.11.2021

1.Nf3 f5 The risky, unbalanced Dutch Defense. **2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4** This Nimzo-Indian move secures Black in the center. **5.Bd2 0-0 6.g3 b6 7.Bg2 Bb7 8.0-0 a5 9.Ne5** Trading the bishops brings no edge for White. **9...Bxg2 10.Kxg2 Qe8 11.f3 d6 12.Nd3 Bxc3 13.Bxc3 Nbd7 14.Qd2 e5 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Rae1** [16.Rad1!?] **16...Rd8 17.Qe3 Qe6! 18.b3** [18.Nxe5 Rde8 19.f4 Nxe5! 20.fxe5 *(20.Qxe5? Qc6+)*] **18...Rfe8 19.c5 Nd5 20.Qc1 e4 21.Nf4 Nxf4+ 22.Qxf4 Nxc5 23.Qxc7 Rd7 24.Qf4 Red8 25.Qg5 Qg6 26.Qe3 Re8 27.Qc1 e3 28.Rd1 Rf7 29.Kh1 f4 30.g4 h5 31.Rg1**



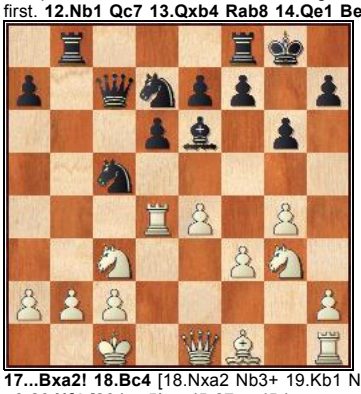
31...Ne4!! Suddenly Black is attacking with the powerful threat of 32...Nf2 check. It seemed White would have a strong attack on the g-file, but he lacks one move to get it going. **32.Rd5?** This loses, but [32.fxe4 Qxe4+ 33.Rg2 hxg4 34.Qb1 Qc6 with ...f3 coming is tremendous compensation forf the knight. Black would have a clear advantage.; 32.Be1 is relativevly best. 32...Nf2+ 33.Bxf2 exf2 34.Rgf1 hxg4 *(34...Rxe2 35.Rd8+ Kh7 36.Qc8!)* 35.Rxf2 g3 36.Rg2 Re5 is a clear advantage] **32...hxg4 33.Be1 g3 34.Rg2 Nf2+ 35.Kg1 gxh2+ 36.Kxh2 Qh6+ 0-1**

(3) Gimelfarb,Ilia (1760) - Kaplan,Glenn (1735) [B07]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (3.14), 16.11.2021

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.f3 0-0 6.Qd2 Nbd7 7.Nge2 c5 8.dxc5 Nxc5 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.g4

The position is similar to a Sicilian Dragon. White attacks on the kingside and Black on the queenside. Both attacks can be ferocious. **10...b5 11.Ng3?** [11.g5!] **11...b4!** Black hits on the flank first. **12.Nb1 Qc7 13.Qxb4 Rab8 14.Qe1 Be6 15.Nc3 Nfd7 16.Bd4 Bxd4 17.Rxd4**



17...Bxa2! 18.Bc4 [18.Nxa2 Nb3+ 19.Kb1 Nxd4] **18...Bxc4 19.Rxc4 Ne5 20.Nd5 Qd7?** [20...Ncd3+ 21.cxd3 Nxd3+ 22.Kd1 Qxc4 wins] **21.Rc3 Rbc8 22.Qe3 Kg7 23.h4 h6?! 24.h5 Rh8 25.b4 e6 26.Nf4** [26.bxc5! exd5 27.exd5 is very good] **26...Na4 27.Rxc8 Qxc8 28.Qxa7?** [28.hxg6! opens Black up] **28...Nc3?** The wrong piece! 28...Qc3 should hold at least a draw as the black queen causes much trouble for the white king. **29.hxg6! Nxg6 30.Ngh5+ Kg8 31.Nxg6 Ne2+ 32.Kd1 Nc3+ 33.Ke1 Qc4 34.Qa8+**

White mates after 34...Kh7 35. Qh8+ Kxg6 36. Qg7. **1-0**

(4) Parsons,Stephen (1611) - Agdamag,Samuel (1448) [E93]

MI Nov-Dec TNM u1800 San Francisco (3.16), 16.11.2021

1.c4 d6 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 Sammy's favorite defense. **4.e4 Nf6 5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.d5** Now though we are in a classic King's Indian Defense, Petrosian Variation. The locked center means it should be play on the flanks. **7...Nbd7 8.h3 Nh5 9.Be3 Nf4 10.g3?!** [10.Bf1 first and then 11. g3 is better] **10...Nxe2?!** [10...Ng2+! 11.Kd2 Nxe3 12.fxe3 is very nice for Black] **11.Qxe2 Nb6 12.0-0-0 f5 13.h4! f4 14.gxf4 exf4** The center has opened up, and we have a sharp game with kings castled on opposite flanks. **15.Bd4 Bg4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.c5!?** an aggressive pawn sacrifice by Stephen to clear out the center. Declining is the safe option and Sammy chooses that. **17...Nd7! 18.Qd3?** worried about the pin White gets into trouble and loses a pawn [18.Rdg1 Bh5 19.cxd6 cxd6 *(19...Ne5 20.Ng5!)* 20.Qd3 is about equal] **18...Nxc5 19.Qd4+?!** giving up the exchange for practical chances. Objectively 19 Qe2 was better, though this is more fun. **19...Kg8** [19...Qf6] **20.Rd3 Nxd3+ 21.Qxd3**

Black should have enough extra material to win the game, but the white knights make it tricky. **21...a6 22.Nd4 Qf6 23.f3 Bd7 24.h5 Kg7 25.Qc4 b5?!** [25...c6! keeps full control] **26.Qxc7 Rf7 27.hxg6 hxg6 28.Qb6 Rff8?!** [28...Rh8!] **29.Qc7 Rf7 30.Qb6 Qe7 31.Kb1 Rff8 32.Nde2 b4?!** The pawn's life was given too easily. **33.Qxb4 Rfb8 34.Qd4+ Qe5 35.Qd2 g5 36.Rg1 Kf6 37.Nc1**

The game is getting sharp and the black king is a little exposed.Chances are even here. **37...Rb4?** [37...Rh8] **38.Nd3! Qd4?!**

[38...Rd4 39.Nxe5 Rxd2 40.Nxd7+ Ke7] **39.e5+?** [39.Ne2! Qe3 40.Qc3+ Kf7 41.Nxb4 Qxe2 42.Qc7 Ke8 43.Rh1 would win the game] **39...Kf5?!** [39...Kg6] **40.Rxg5+!?** Lots of action here, but 40. Rd1 would keep White ahead. **40...Kxg5 41.Ne4+ Kg6 42.Nxf4+ Kf5 43.Ng3+ Kxe5 44.Nd3+ Kf6 45.Ne4+ Kf7 46.Qf4+ Kg8 47.Nf6+?** [47.Nxb4! gives even chances] **47...Kg7! 48.Nh5+ Kg6 49.Qxd6+ Kxh5**

Black is ahead two! rooks here and is winning. There are many checks though so care is needed. **50.Qh2+ Qh4 51.Qe5+ Qg5 52.Qh2+ Kg6** [52...Rh4!] **53.Qd6+ Kh5 54.Qxb4 Qg1+ 55.Kc2 Rc8+ 56.Kd2 Qg2+ 57.Ke3 Re8+ 58.Kd4 Qg1+ 59.Kc3 Rc8+ 60.Kd2 Qh2+ 61.Ke3 Re8+ 62.Kd4 Qg1+ 63.Kc3 Re3** [63...Qe3! keeps control with the extra rook] **64.Kd2** [64.Qf8] **64...Rxd3+?** giving up the exchange leaves an equal material game. Black could still win with [64...Bf5!] **65.Kxd3 Bb5+ 66.Ke4 Qg6+ 67.Ke5 Qe8+ 68.Kd4 Qe2 69.f4 Kg4 70.Kc5 Kf5 71.Qd4 Qe7+ 72.d6 Qa7+ 73.Kd5 Bc6+ 74.Kc4!** There is no way for Black to win here. **74...Bb5+ 75.Kd5 Qb7+ 76.Kc5 Qc6+ 77.Kb4 Qe4 78.Qxe4+ Kxe4 79.a4 Bd7 80.Kc5 Kxf4 81.a5 Ke5 82.Kb6 Kxd6 83.Kxa6 Kc6 84.b4 Bc8+ 85.Ka7** draw agreed. A rough and tumble game! **1/2-1/2**

(5) Winslow,Elliott (2252) - Lewis,Edward (2017) [A42]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (3.1), 16.11.2021

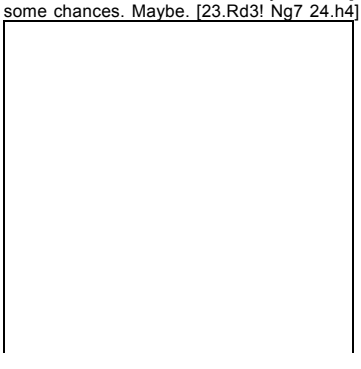
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 a6 5.Nf3 Nd7

[Black could play 5...Bg4; And 5...Nf6 is a King's Indian with ...a6 tossed in.] **6.Be2!+/- c5 7.0-0** [The old computers like 7.d5 when 7...Ne5 certainly takes the game into curious channels.] **7...cxd4 8.Nxd4** A Sicilian/Maroczy Bind structure, but what is Black's knight doing on d7? There's no pressure on d4. **8...Ngf6**

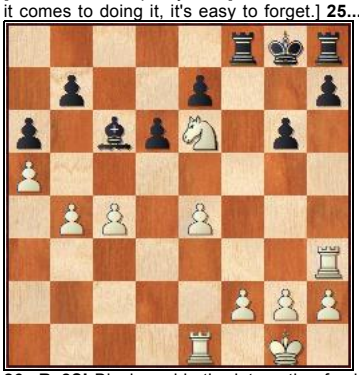
[8...Qb6? 9.Be3!+- Qxb2? 10.Nd5! Kf8 11.Nc2! and Black's queen is a liability, to say the least. 11...Qe5 12.f4 Qxe4 13.Bd3] **9.Re1N** White also doesn't seem to know where his pieces go. [The last game here went 9.Be3 (probably a more consistent move) 9...0-0 10.Qd2 Re8 11.f3 Nc5 12.b4+- Ne6 13.Nb3 b6 14.Rac1 Nd7 15.Rfd1 Bb7 16.Bf1 a5 17.a3 Bc6 18.Rb1 0-1 (44) Rusev,K (2455)-Manolache,M (2501) Albarino 2006] **9...Nc5 10.Bf3 Rb8?? 11.a4?!** [11.Be3+/-] **11...0-0** [11...Bg4!?] **12.Be3 Ne6 13.a5 Nd7 14.Nd5** [White should try 14.Nxe6+/- fxe6 15.Bg4! *(15.Qd2)* 15...Ne5 16.Ba7 Ra8 17.Bb6 Qe8 18.Be2 when after a bunch of shuffling, White is getting more than a little edge.] **14...Ndc5?**

[14...Bxd4 15.Bxd4 Nxd4 16.Qxd4 b6= when in spite of the vaguely weak a6 pawn and kingside, Black is doing pretty well.] **15.Ra3** White missed some tactical chances: [15.Nf5!+- gxf5 16.exf5 with problems: 16...Nc7 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Bxc5 Black just can't recover enough pawns to save himself.; 15.e5!? dxe5 *(15...Bxe5 16.Nxe6 Nxe6 17.b4!* dares Black to get crushed on the dark squares: *17...Bxa1? 18.Qxa1)* 16.Nxe6 Nxe6 17.Bb6 Black seems to have some rare problems: 17...Qe8 18.Nc7 Qd7 19.Qb3 Nd4 20.Bxd4 exd4 21.Nxa6] **15...Bd7?!**

White can improve better than Black. [15...Nxd4+/- keeps fighting. 16.Bxd4 Bxd4 17.Qxd4 e5; 15...Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Bxd4 17.Qxd4 e5 18.Qd2] **16.b4+- Bxd4 17.Bxd4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 Ne6?!** [18...e5 19.Qd2 Ne6 20.Bg4 f5 21.exf5 gxf5 22.Bd1+- is too loose for Black, what with b4-b5 and the rook swinging to the kingside as well.] **19.Qd2 Bc6?** [19...f6 is a sad defensive situation, sure to lead to disaster eventually: 20.h4!?] **20.Bg4! Kg7 21.Rh3! Rh8 22.Qh6+ Kg8** But this is sadder, or should be. **23.Bxe6?!** White tries to cash in, but it's insufficient profit, giving Black some chances. Maybe. [23.Rd3! Ng7 24.h4] **23...fxe6 24.Nf4**



[24.Rhe3! works pretty well.] **24...Qf8! 25.Qxf8+?!** [25.Qh4! Qf6 26.Qg4 Kf7 27.Nxe6! It's easy to tell others to keep queens on the board when the opponent's king is in more danger, but wher it comes to doing it, it's easy to forget.] **25...Rxf8 26.Nxe6**



26...Rc8?! Black avoids the interesting forcing lines. [26...Bd7!? 27.Nxf8 Bxh3 28.Nxg6 *(28.Nxh7* is exactly the same*; 28.gxh3!? Kxf8 29.f4* is also a technical win*)* 28...hxg6 29.gxh3 Rxh3 30.Re3 was the long variation both players had to consider; once White was convinced the pawn ending was winning it was off to the races.] **27.Rc3!+-** White consolidates the extra pawn. **27...Bd7 28.Nf4 Kg7 29.e5!? Rhf8 30.Nd5 Be6 31.Nb6 Rce8** [31...Rc6 was an alternative.] **32.exd6 exd6 33.Rce3 Kf7 34.f4?!** A bit impatient. **34...h5?!** [34...Bf5] **35.Kf2 h4 36.Nd5! Bf5 37.Re7+! Rxe7 38.Rxe7+ Kg8 39.Rxb7** This should be easy, but White seems intent to make it hard. **39...Bd3 40.Rc7 g5 41.g3 Be4 42.Ke3 hxg3 43.hxg3 Bxd5 44.cxd5 gxf4+ 45.gxf4 Rb8 46.Ke4** This is the strongest way forward, but it does require careful calculation. [The momentarily passive 46.Rc4!? Rb5 47.Kd4 intends (or should have!) rook-check and Kc4, squelching Black's counterplay.; 46.Rc6 Rxb4 47.Rxa6 is just great as well.] **46...Rxb4+ 47.Kf5 Rb5 48.Ke6** [48.Kg6! Kf8 49.f5 was White's original intention.] **48...Rxa5 49.f5** [49.Rc8+! Kh7 50.Kxd6 wins with the d-pawn] **49...Ra2 50.Rc8+** [50.Kxd6!] **50...Kh7** [50...Kg7?! 51.f6+ Kg6 52.Rg8+] **51.f6** [51.Kxd6] **51...Re2+ 52.Kxd6** Has the "advantage" of reaching 7 pieces, so the Lomonosov Tablebase can tell all. (It's mate in 25.)

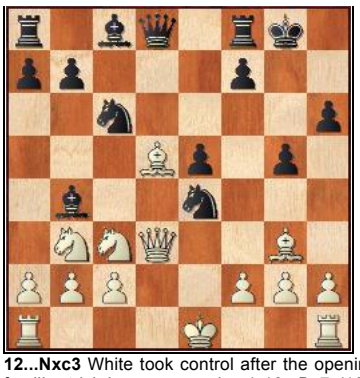
[52.Kf7! a5 53.Rc1 Kh6 54.Rh1+ Kg5 55.Kg7] **52...Kg6 53.Rf8** [53.Rc6! is fastest.] **53...a5 54.Kc7 a4 55.Ra8** Actually best. **55...Kxf6 56.Rxa4** [56.d6] **56...Ke5 57.d6 Ke6 58.d7 Rc2+ 59.Kd8 Rg2 60.Ra6+ Kd5 61.Kc8** The rook blocks the checks on b6. **1-0**

(6) Makhanov,Gaziz (1917) - Fong,Nathan (2032) [B33]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (3.2), 16.11.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nb3 After a long thought! You'd think he'd never seen the Sveshnikov before! **6...Bb4 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Bg5 h6** B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations. **9.Bh4 g5** [9...d6=/+ 10.Qd3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Be6] **10.Bg3= Nxe4 11.Qd3**

11...d5?!N [Previously seen (and perhaps better) was 11...Ne7 12.Qxe4 (12.0-0-0 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Ba3+ 14.Kb1 Qc7 *(14...d5!-+)* 15.h4 d5 16.Bxd5 Rd8 17.Bxf7+ Kg7 0-1 (44) Ali,S (2051)-Tarigan,G (2132) Penang 2018) 12...d5 13.Bxd5 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qxd5 15.Qxe5 Qxe5+ 16.Bxe5 Ng6 17.Bd4 Re8+ 18.Kd2 Nh4 White is up a pawn, but its value is not so significant.] **12.Bxd5+/-**



12...Nxc3 White took control after the opening but for whatever reason (they did take a lot of time!) acceded to the perpetual. [12...Nxc3 13.Qg6+! Kh8 14.Qxh6+ Kg8 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.a3! (a familiar trick in many openings) 16...Be7 *(16...Bd6 17.bxc3)* 17.h4! Perhaps *this* is what Makhanov missed! *(17.Bxe5?? Bf6!* and it's Black's attack that wins!*)* 17...Qd6 (17...g4?? 18.Bxe5 Bf6 *(18...f6 19.Qg6+ Kh8 20.Bxc3)* 19.Bxf6 Re8+ 20.Kf1 Ba6+ 21.Kg1 Ne2+ 22.Kh2!+- (Did you think that 17.h2-h4 was just about attacking? No, it was an airhole for the king!)) 18.Qh5! Qg6 19.Qxg6+ fxg6 20.bxc3 is slightly in White's favor, and worth continuing if you're not too short on the clock.] **1/2-1/2**

(7) Allen,Ronald (1501) - Mercado,Adam (1746) [E99]

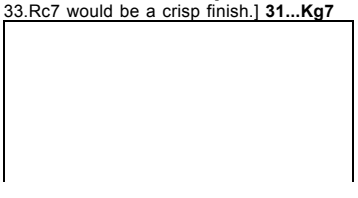
MI Nov-Dec TNM u1800 San Francisco (3.6), 16.11.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.a4 Nf6 14.c5 h5 15.a5 Ng6 16.cxd6 cxd6 17.Nb5 g4 18.Nxa7

Deep in the Mar Del Plata Variation: White and Black are both going all-out here. **18...g3 19.Bb6** [And not 19.hxg3 fxg3 20.Bb6 Qe7 21.Nxc8 Rfxc8-/+ and what's to stop a knight move and ...Qh4?] **19...Qe7 20.Rc1** [20.Bb5+- is the chip choice.; 20.Nxc8 Rfxc8 *(20...gxh2+* White has a perfect score, with either taking or hiding in front of it.*)* 21.Bb5 is rather annoying. White's control of the light squares often permits a solid defense. *(21.Kh1* is also good, and has been played.*)*] **20...gxh2+?** [20...Nd7!+/= is the only move: 21.Nxc8 Rfxc8 22.Bb5? *(22.Bc7 Nf6 23.Bb6 Nd7)* 22...Qh4 23.h3 Nxb6 24.axb6 Qd8 picks off White's favorite pawn, with -- a won game.] **21.Kh1+-**

21...Nh7N [21...Bd7 has been played, but it didn't turn out well: 22.Rc7 Rab8 23.Bb5 Qe8 24.Qa4 Rf7 25.Bxd7 *(25.Rf2!)* 25...Nxd7 26.Nd3 Bf8 27.Rfc1 Qe7 1-0 (37) Garcia Roman,D (2427)-Dalo,H (2049) Barbera del Valles 2011 and now snazziest is 28.Nc6!] **22.Rc7 Qg5 23.Qc2** [It's all good: 23.Nxc8 Rfxc8 24.Rxb7+-] **23...Ne7 24.Nd3?!** unnecessary **24...h4 25.Rc1** [Then again, having played A maybe B should follow: 25.Nf2 h3 26.gxh3! is the better capture but both win.] **25...h3 26.Bf1 Kf7?!**

Objectively Black is busted, but in practice anything can happen -- just see many games in this line, for instance Beliavsky vs. Nakamura for a famous example. **27.Nc6!?** Flashy, almost a bit too flashy. [27.gxh3 shuts it down. And there's the fatal hint, when the computer considers 27...Kg8 as Black's best move!] **27...bxc6 28.Qxc6 Ba6 29.Qxd6 hxg2+ 30.Bxg2** White wants to mate with Qe6+. **30...Bf6** [30...Bxd3?? 31.Qe6+ Ke8 32.Rc8+ Rxc8 33.Rxc8#] **31.Qe6+** [31.Rxe7+! Bxe7 32.Nxe5+ Kg7 *(32...Kg8 33.Qe6+ Kh8 34.Ng6+ Kg7 35.Nxe7* mops up -- Bd4+!*)* 33.Rc7 would be a crisp finish.] **31...Kg7**



32.d6! Bxd3 33.dxe7 Rfe8

34.Rc8?? [It takes Stockfish a while (and plenty humans would never find it) to play 34.Qd5!+- Qxa8! is the strong threat. 34...Bxe7

35.Rxe7+! Rxe7 36.Qxa8] **34...Raxc8** And Black hangs on... **35.Rxc8 Rxc8 36.Qxc8 Bxe7 37.a6 Qh6** [37...Qf6= 38.Qb7 Qh4 is a nice shift.] **38.Qc7!+/= Qh4**

39.a7 [The last chance to try to make something of the ruins: 39.Qxe5+!?+/- Bf6 40.Qa5 Bxa6 41.Qxa6 White has the "chances," but they dwindle after 41...Qe1+ 42.Qf1 *(42.Bf1 Ng5)* 42...Qxf1+ 43.Bxf1 Bxb2 44.Kxh2 Nf8 45.Bb5 Ng6] **39...Qe1+= 40.Kxh2 Qh4+** Black's defense is rewarded with a draw. Too bad for Tsolias, his sharp and creative play should have been capped with a win!**1/2-1/2**

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Tota
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2252	W16	W7	W12						3.0
2	**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	12572270	1900	D24	W22	W11						2.5
3	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	12517167	1884	H---	W28	W15						2.5
4	**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	14257838	1745	W14	H---	W13						2.5
5	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	12734479	2097	L17	W21	W23						2.0

	12734479)												
6	Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)	13001390	2032	H---	W17	D8	H---				H---	2.0
7	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1955	W27	L1	W24						2.0
8	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1917	H---	X26	D6						2.0
9	Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)	10451671	1914	L10	W29	X19			H---			2.0
10	Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)	15361305	1700	W9	D11	D17				H---	H---	2.0
11	David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)	13776967	2023	W20	D10	L2						1.5
12	Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)	12601629	2017	H---	W18	L1						1.5
13	Brandon Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)	12869947	2003	W21	D15	L4						1.5
14	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2001	L4	W20	H---					H---	1.5
15	Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)	13901075	1954	W29	D13	L3				H---		1.5
16	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1867	L1	D27	W28						1.5
17	Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)	17039584	1855	W5	L6	D10						1.5
18	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	H---	L12	W26						1.5
19	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	12747074	1832	H---	D24	F9						1.0
20	Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)	12328450	1800	L11	L14	W27						1.0
21	Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)	17158733	1760	L13	L5	W29						1.0
22	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1746	H---	L2	H---					H---	1.0
23	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	H---	H---	L5						1.0
24	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1670	D2	D19	L7				H---		1.0
25	Krish Matai (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16444206)	16444206	1937	D28	U---	U---						0.5
26	Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	12633251	1787	H---	F8	L18	H---				H---	0.5
27	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1744	L7	D16	L20	H---				H---	0.5
28	Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)	12590374	1706	D25	L3	L16						0.5
29	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1735	L15	L9	L21						0.0

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd	Rd	Rd	Rd	Rd	Rd	Rd	Rd	Tota

				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	**Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)**	17018168	1649	W35	W17	W13						3.0
2	**Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)**	30257083	1549	W49	W18	W19	H---	H---				3.0
3	**Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)**	16571026	1746	W34	W15	D6						2.5
4	**Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)**	16566932	1611	W36	W14	D7						2.5
5	**Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)**	30268083	1540	W37	W20	D9	H---					2.5
6	**Ronald Allen (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30086796)**	30086796	1501	W38	W22	D3						2.5
7	**Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)**	14874734	1448	W42	W33	D4						2.5
8	**JP Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)**	30150098	1229	W48	H---	W26					H---	2.5
9	**Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12898987)**	12898987	839	W16	W25	D5						2.5
10	**Jim Ratliff (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11163831)**	11163831	1632	H---	H---	W30						2.0
11	**Yuvraj Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)**	17095004	1593	D30	D21	W35						2.0
12	**Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)**	17266862	1511	W51	L19	W36						2.0
13	**Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)**	12844781	1500	W39	W27	L1						2.0
14	**Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)**	12796129	1500	W40	L4	W45						2.0
15	**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	12872385	1491	W52	L3	W39						2.0
16	**Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)**	13377410	1478	L9	W40	W46						2.0
17	**Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)**	16875347	1474	W41	L1	W43					H---	2.0
18	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1447	W44	L2	W41						2.0
19	**Ashwin Vaidyanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205719)**	30205719	1444	W23	W12	L2	H---				H---	2.0
20	**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	13913131	1400	W45	L5	W44						2.0
21	**Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)**	30164211	1278	H---	D11	W33						2.0
22	**Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)**	30235937	1172	W31	L6	W32	H---				H---	2.0
23	**Vittorio Banfi (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30308530)**	30308530	unr.	L19	W50	W31						2.0
24	**Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)**	12910007	1693	H---	H---	H---						1.5
25	**John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)**	12561007	1500	H---	L9	W47						1.5
	Andrew Imbens						H-				H-	

26	[illegible] (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1400	H---	W47	L8	[illegible]				[illegible]	1.5
27	Deandre Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)	30255378	1399	W46	L13	H---			H---			1.5
28	Enile Ahmed (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110092)	17110092	1356	H---	H---	H---						1.5
29	Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)	15616166	1149	H---	H---	H---						1.5
30	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	1135	D11	X48	L10						1.5
31	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600	L22	W38	L23						1.0
32	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	H---	H---	L22						1.0
33	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1542	W50	L7	L21						1.0
34	Cloe Chai (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315197)	16315197	1254	L3	L39	W51						1.0
35	Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)	16694473	1219	L1	X52	L11						1.0
36	Don Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694467)	16694467	1219	L4	W42	L12						1.0
37	Maria Obrien (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15300977)	15300977	1036	L5	L44	W52					H--	1.0
38	Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	17005685	997	L6	L31	W49						1.0
39	Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	16317000	970	L13	W34	L15						1.0
40	Prasanna Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)	30279272	921	L14	L16	W50						1.0
41	Cathal Dayton (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12930548)	12930548	784	L17	W49	L18						1.0
42	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	L7	L36	B---	H--				H--	1.0
43	Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)	30223021	unr.	H---	H---	L17				H--		1.0
44	Marcus Casaes (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30290420)	30290420	unr.	L18	W37	L20	H--					1.0
45	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	L20	B---	L14	H--				H--	1.0
46	Juan Elias (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30325735)	30325735	unr.	L27	W51	L16						1.0
47	Maxwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)	30329285	unr.	H---	L26	L25						0.5
48	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	L8	F30	U---						0.0
49	Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)	16757673	1125	L2	L41	L38						0.0
50	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1091	L33	L23	L40						0.0
51	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1014	L12	L46	L34						0.0

52	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	845	L15	F35	L37							0.0

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Tota
1	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1917	D8	W13	U---						1.5
2	Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)	12601629	2017	W9	U---	U---						1.0
3	Alexander Pa Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1859	U---	U---	W11						1.0
4	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	U---	U---	W14						1.0
5	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	W16	U---	U---						1.0
6	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	U---	U---	W15	H---				H---	1.0
7	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	U---	W15	U---	H---				H---	1.0
8	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	D1	U---	U---						0.5
9	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	L2	D10	U---						0.5
10	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	1135	U---	D9	U---						0.5
11	Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)	10451671	1914	U---	U---	L3			H---			0.0
12	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1746	U---	U---	U---						0.0
13	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	U---	L1	U---						0.0
14	Enile Ahmed (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110092)	17110092	1356	U---	U---	L4						0.0
15	Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)	15616166	1149	U---	L7	L6						0.0
16	Maxwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)	30329285	unr.	L5	U---	U---						0.0

Mechanics' November Championship Quads Report

by Abel Talamantez

We held our November Championship Quads last Saturday with a very solid 34 players despite there being multiple chess events throughut the weekend. Our top quad was won by NM Dipro Chakraborty, a last minute registrant that proved worthwhile for him. We had very balanced sections with average ratings from 2100 down to 1000 in what is proving to be a very popular afternoon monthly event. To see full results, please click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202111134512.0-15739716). Thank you to all the players for participating!

Tony's Teasers

Tony is back and ready to challenge you to solve this mate in 3

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute November/December TNM: FIDE Rated. Nov 2- Dec 21, 6:30PM PT. G/120;d5: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/tuesday-night-marathon-2021-nov-dec-person)

Mechanics' Institute Thanksgiving Gobbler Open: FIDE Rated. November 26-28. 6SS G/90+30: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsThanksgivingGobblerOpenInPersonFIDE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsThanksgivingGobblerOpenInPersonFIDE)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Fresh New
Scholastic Chess Bulletin #6 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/https://conta.cc/3m6TmIq)

In this issue:

- Monthly Scholastic In-Person Tournament - 2021 October Report with Player Highlight: Justyn Klot
- Chess Enrichment Highlight: Alta Vista School

- Chess Camps on October 11 - Report
- ChessKid Style by Andrew Ballantyne
- Special Event: Halloween Tournament @ Mechanics' Institute on Oct 30
- Understanding Tournaments - Tiebreaks
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured Games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/https://conta.cc/3navWSR) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20211129232505/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#bulletin)

All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Problems in the Opening, Part One

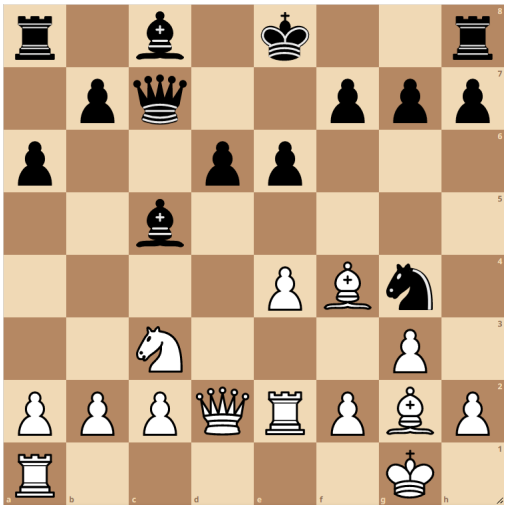
As I've mentioned before, I dislike studying the opening. Too much memorization seems required, all of those cheap traps and the books that go out of date soon after publication – where's the artistry, where's the fun in that?

Truth be told, my reluctance to delve deeply into the opening ultimately held my game back. One just cannot compete at a certain level (against Grandmasters and their ilk) without cracking the opening books. I learned this lesson in the worst possible way, in my very first game of my very first international tournament:

Balinas – Whitehead, Lone Pine 1978.

My opponent was a Grandmaster from the Philippines who had the reputation of being not so strong. But in 1976 he won an international tournament in the USSR, the first foreigner to do so since Capablanca and Fine in the 1930's!

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nge2 Nc6 4.g3. White starts out what appears to be a Closed system against the Sicilian. **4...Nf6 5.Bg2 a6 6.0-0 Be7 7.d4.** Changing course. **7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qc7 9.Re1 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Bc5.** Black is a tempo behind the Fischer – Taimanov, 4th Match Game (white has played Re1, while black has played ...Be7 and ...Bc5) but that's not too serious. **11.Bf4!** As Fischer played. This should give white a plus no matter how black responds. **11...d6** (11...Bxd4 12.Bxc7 is also good for white with black suffering on the dark squares and behind in development.) **12.Qd2 Ng4** (12...e5?! looks dubious after 12.Bg5, while 12...0-0 13.e5 is downright bad) **13.Re2.**



So far so good, but here I overlooked a rather simple trap that I should have been savvy to: after all, it was I who was using this particular variation of the Sicilian!

13...Bd7? Black should play 13...Ne5! with a reasonable game. **14.b4!** A crushing blow, and a well-known trap. My only consolation was that a Grandmaster had fallen for it a year earlier. I should have known that game. **14...Bxb4.** Going down with the ship. In Popovych-Matulovic, 1977 Black did a little better, trying 14...Bxf2+ 15.Rxf2 Qb6 16.Bxd6 Qxf2+ 17.Qxf2 Nxf2 18.Kxf2 Rc8 19.Ne2 Rxc2 20.Rc1 Rxc1 21.Nxc1, but couldn't hold the endgame and lost on the 50th move. **15.Nd5!** The brutal follow-up. **15...Bxd2.** Again, black could put up more resistance with 15...exd5 16.Qxb4 Ne5, although he's busted after the simple 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.exd5. **16.Nxc7+ 1-0.**

Thirteen years later(!) I got my revenge, defeating GM Balinas in a blitz tournament at the Mechanics' Institute. The game is lost in the sands of time, bu I must have gotten out of the opening.

Somehow.

Nick de Firmian's Column

Can Magnus Win?

The long awaited World Championship match starts a week from now. It has been three years since the last championship due to the pandemic – a length of time like the old days last century. Now though we get to enjoy a great battle between deserving challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi and King Magnus. On paper Magnus should be a big favorite. He is the highest rated player in history, has held the #1 rating in the world for the last 11 years, and the title of World Champion for the last eight years. Magnus however has trouble winning a game in these World Championship matches, and therefore our question if he can win is not so crazy. He has not led a World Championship match in the (main) classical time control phase since 2014 – a full seven years. He has only won one game in the classical time control since that 2014 match against Anand. That one win was back in 2016 against Karjakin, and he failed to win a single classical time game against Caruana in 2018. Of course you know that he retained his title, due to the fact that he almost never lost himself. Both of the last two matches ended in a 6-6 tie in the classical phase and Magnus showed his clear superiority in the rapid chess tiebreaks.

The question is whether next week we will see a repeat of this cautious, deliberate chess that leads to so many draws. We should understand a reason for this is that the opening preparation is so advanced the players feel they cannot ad lib and play by the seat of their pants. They fear they could walk into a heavily prepared variation done by computer programs together with many grandmaster seconds. One careless or too adventurous move could end in defeat, and wins are very hard to come by. That is the second reason players have been cautious – if you lose a game in the middle of the match you may have only 2 or 3 more games with the white pieces to get back to even. (To win on-demand with Black is too tall an order.) FIDE has tried to improve this by lengthening the match to 14 games instead of 12 games so there is more chances to win games. The most important factor though is likely to be the willingness to take risks. We hope the spirit of Tal descends upon Dubai for the next month. It is fortunate that the challenger, Nepomniachtchi, is an adventurous player. We look for Magnus too to revisit the swashbuckling stye of his youth. Below we give an early game from Magnus and also the last World Championship classical time game, where Magnus should have channeled his inner Tal.

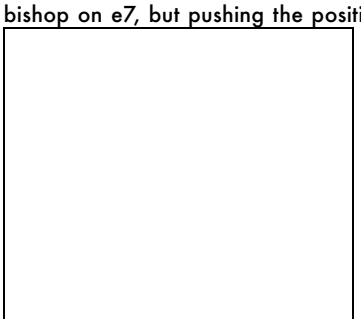
(1) Carlsen,Magnus (2484) - Ernst,Sipke (2474) [B19]

Corus-C Wijk aan Zee (12), 24.01.2004

Here young Magnus (13 years old at the time) plays against a player of the Dutch Olympic Team. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5** The solid Caro-Kann! **3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6**

We show this position because it is one the most solid lines of the Caro-Kann. To beat it you have to attack it with great energy and courage. **11.Bf4 Ngf6 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.Ne4 Qa5 14.Kb1 0-0 15.Nxf6+ Nxf6 16.Ne5 Rad8 17.Qe2 c5?!**

18.Ng6! Courageously throwing a knight into the frey. **18...fxg6?!** [probably needed was 18...Rfe8] **19.Qxe6+ Kh8 20.hxg6!** Not taking the bishop on e7, but pushing the position to it's limit! **20...Ng8**



21.Bxh6! gxh6 22.Rxh6+! Nxh6 23.Qxe7

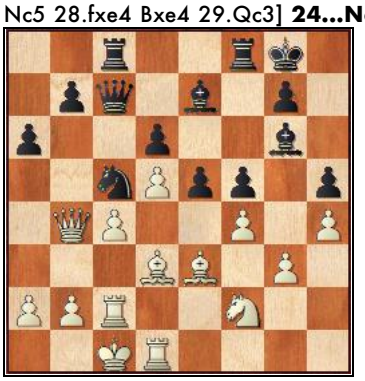
A rook and a knight down, White is winning. **23...Nf7 24.gxf7 Kg7 25.Rd3 Rd6 26.Rg3+ Rg6 27.Qe5+ Kxf7 28.Qf5+ Rf6 29.Qd7#** We can only hope we see the return of this Magnus in the World Championship match. **1-0**

(2) Fabiano Caruana - Magnus Carlsen [B33]

Carlsen - Caruana World Championship Ma London ENG (12), 26.11.2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 Magnus has used the Sveshnikov Variation his entire career. It is sharp but good, and he needs such a defense against the highest level of competition. **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5** Caruana plays a slightly unusual line with some new ideas. **7...Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.c4 Ng6 10.Qa4 Bd7 11.Qb4 Bf5 12.h4 h5 13.Qa4 Bd7** Magnus must stop the discovered check and there is no other reasonable way to do it. This is accepting a repetion with the Black pieces, but that is the needed strategy in a World Championship match. **14.Qb4 Bf5 15.Be3** Fabianio plays for the win. He has White and no doubt he wasn't looking forward to rapid tie-breaks agains his opponent. [15.Bg5!?] **15...a6 16.Nc3 Qc7 17.g3 Be7 18.f3 Nf8!**

Bringing the knight back to the queenside solves all Black's problems there. **19.Ne4 Nd7 20.Bd3 0-0 21.Rh2** [21.Nf6+ Nxf6 22.Bxf5 b5 siezes the initiative] **21...Rac8 22.0-0-0 Bg6 23.Rc2 f5!** Black starts to gain an edge **24.Nf2?!** [slightly better is 24.Ng5 Bxg5 25.hxg5 e4 26.Bf1 f4 27.Bxf4 Nc5 28.fxe4 Bxe4 29.Qc3] **24...Nc5 25.f4?!**



25...a5?! safe but timid [with an aggressive mindset Magnus would have chosen 25...exf4 26.Bxf4 b5! 27.Kb1 a5! leaving White in terrible shape since 28.Qxb5? Be8 wins the queen] **26.Qd2 e4 27.Be2 Be8 28.Kb1 Bf6 29.Re1 a4 30.Qb4 g6 31.Rd1 Ra8**

Draw agreed. Fischer never would have done that. Black is clearly more comfortable, but Magnus didn't want to risk anything. He felt confident he could win in the rapid playoff, yet classicists wish he would play the game to a conclusion here. **1/2-1/2**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. Qh6!! f3 2. Qa6 Ke2 3. Rc2#. On ...1 Ke2 2. Rxf4 Kd2 3. Rf2# (2...e2 3. Qa6#) (1...h2 2. Qxh2 e2 3. Qxf4#

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November 27, 2021

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Follow the World Chess Championship Match between GM Magnus Carlsen and GM Ian Nipomniachtchi starting Friday November 26 at these links:

https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/carlsen-nepomniachtchi-world-chess-championship-2021/1/1/1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/carlsen-nepomniachtchi-world-chess-championship-2021/1/1/1)

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Uptown Chess Club

by Abel Talamantez

As the current chair of the US Chess Club's Committee, I am excited when new club's sprout up out of sheer will, determination, and passion of chess players, particularly from those who love to play and spread their joy for chess with those in their communities, regardless of whether the club becomes a US Chess affiliste or if games are played for rating. To me, these community-based clubs are uniquely special, because their goal is not to grow bigger as a business enterprise or to introduce competetive play and get USCF members - the goal is simply to have fun while enhancing their local community with something socially engaging and fun. This is the case for this new club, as well as to have a few drinks!

Here is yet another amazing success story coming out of our FREE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#women) women's class on Sunday mornings. Shae Green owns Uptown, a bar on Capp Street in San Francisco and is organizing a chess club which will meet the first Wednesday of the month starting in December. Following suit with the Bernal Heights Chess Club started by Juliana Gallin, Shea is bringing chess to her community and we all could not be more excited. I asked Shea what motivated her to start this

group, and here is what she had to say:

I had only been playing chess for a few months when the COVID shutdown happened in early 2020. This meant that my chess lifeline, the weekly Mechanics' Institute Women's Chess Club, was moved from in person to Zoom.

For over a year I only played chess online.

When the gathering restrictions were loosened, I went to the Bernal Chess meetup that Juliana Gallin hosts. I was shocked and disoriented, it was so different playing over the board! But, this challenged and reinvigorated me.

I want to provide an opportunity for players of all levels to play in real life.

Uptown, the Mission dive bar I co-own, is the perfect spot for this. Uptown opened in 1984 and has a history of being the gathering place for artists, activists and poets.

Please join us every first Wednesday, starting December 1st, from 6pm-8pm for the Uptown Chess Club. All levels are welcome. You must be 21+. Bring a board if you have one. This event is free, but we encourage you to buy a beverage to support the bar.

I plan on visiting the club's first meeting and show support, after all, I'll be finishing teaching a class at 5:30pm that day, and a drink after along with a game of chess sounds just right. Come out and visit San Francisco's newest chess club!

TNM Round 4 Report

by Abel Talamantez

Kayven Riese drew with IM Elliott Winslow on board 1, creating a tie for 1st in the top section as now both Winslow and Adam Stafford are at 3.5/4. Riese is just a half point back at 3/4 with some other tough players which include Christophe Bambou and Daniel Wang.

In the bottom section, there are no perfect scores as Stephen Parsons won a nail-biting game against Romeo Barreyro. It was Parson's queen against Barreyro's rook and 2 pawns with one pawn on the 6th rank. Time pressure got the best of Barreyro, as he blundered what looked like a complicated position. 4 players now sit at the top with 3.5 including Parsons, Adam Mercado, Dean Guo and Samuel Agdamag.

We are half way through the marathon with still pleny of chess to play. Will the leaders hold on to their spots at the top? Or will we have an underdog make their push in the final rounds. We shall see!

FM Paul Whitehead was on fire with the commentary, in control at the office with GM Nick de Firmian remotely going through all the lines. Paul had his setup complete at the table to get him through the three and a half hour broadcast.

Earlier in the day, Paul, Judit, and I took a walk to North Beach with what I referred to as a "staff meeting." We cut through Chinatown and ended up at Cafe Greco, where we enjoyed lattes, cappuccino's and in my case, a ham and cheese croissant. Definitely stop there if you are ever in the area.

Here are some games from round 4, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

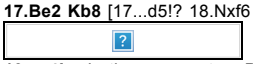
(4) Riese,Kayven (1900) - Winslow,Elliott (2252) [B99]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (4.1), 23.11.2021

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 10.Bd3 h6 11.h4 [11.Bh4; 11.Qh3] **11...Nb6** Forgetting. This is the move against 11.Qh3, but less so here. Still, it's not horrible. [11...hxg5 12.hxg5 Rf8 13.gxf6 Bxf6 14.Nde2 Nc5 15.Kb1 Rb8 16.g4 b5 17.g5 Be7 18.Rdg1 Bb7 19.Rh7 g6 20.a3 Bc6 21.b4 Nxd3 22.Qxd3 d5 23.exd5 Rd8 24.Qe3 Bxd5 25.f5 exf5 26.Nf4 Bc4 27.Re1 Rd7 28.Qf3 Qb7 29.Qxb7 Rxb7 30.Ncd5 Bxd5 31.Nxd5 Kd8 32.Nf4 Rd7 33.Nd3 Rc7 34.Ne5 Bxg5 35.Rd1+ Kc8 36.Rd6 Rd8 37.Rxa6 Rd1+ 38.Ka2

Kb7 39.Ra5 Kb6 40.a4 0-1 (40) Silman,J (2370)-Tarjan, J (2525) Lone Pine 1979 MCL [ChessBase]; Authors, especially David Vigorito in his fairly recent Najdorf book, give 11...Nc5! as best; 12.f5 hxg5 13.hxg5 Rxh1 14.Rxh1 Ng8!=] **12.f5**

12...e5? [12...hxg5 13.hxg5 Rf8= acc. to SF14.1.] **13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Nde2 Bd7 15.Ng3!N** [15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 e4 17.Qxe4+ Kd8 18.g4 Re8 19.Qg2 Qb6 20.c3 Qe3+ 21.Rd2 Bb5 22.Rh3 Qe7 23.Bxb5 axb5 24.a3 Bxh4 25.Kb1 Bg5 26.Rc2 Qc7 27.Rh1 Qc4 28.Rd1 Rxa3 29.Nc1 Ra4 30.Rd4 Qc5 31.Nd3 Qa7 32.Rxa4 Qxa4 33.Qg1 Qc4 34.Nb4 Kc7 35.Rg2 Bh4 36.Kc2 Qe4+ 37.Kb3 Qc4+ 38.Kc2 Qe4+ 39.Kb3 Ra8 40.Qh2 Bg5 41.Rg1 Re8 0-1 (41) Paehtz,T (2475)-Ftacnik,L (2610) Vienna 1996; 15.g4] **15...0-0-0 16.Nh5 Bc6?!** [16...Qc5! 17.Nxf6 gxf6 18.Be2 Bc6+/=] **17.Be2 Kb8** [17...d5!? 18.Nxf6 gxf6 19.exd5 e4 20.Qxe4 Rhe8 21.Qg4 Nxd5 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Bf3+/-] **18.Nd5?** [18.Nxf6 gxf6 19.Rd2+- says Stockfish 14.1!; Also 18.Rd2+-] **18...Bxd5 19.exd5**

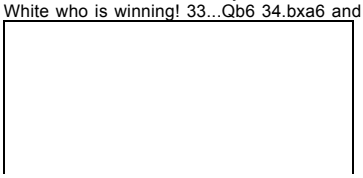


19...e4!-+ In the commentary Paul Whitehead noted at some point the players were moving quickly, and while Black was long out of his opening knowledge, this pawn sacrifice is right out of the Sicilian bag o' tricks. That bishop comes alive and wreaks havoc. **20.Qb3! Be5! 21.a4?** [21.Ng3 Rhe8! is still into the "win zone," but the move played is much worse.] **21...Rhe8** [21...Rc8! 22.Rh3 Qc5!-+] **22.a5?!** [22.Rhf1 Qc5 23.f6 g6 24.Nf4 with thoughts of a knight sac on e6!? (but still -+ over -4)] **22...Nd7 23.Qa3** [23.Bxa6?? Nc5] **23...Rc8 24.c4 g6** [24...Nc5 is certainly better,; but surprisingly 24...b5! gets the highest marks.] **25.fxg6 fxg6 26.Ng3**

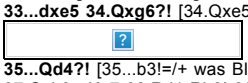
26...Bxg3?! Black cheapens his game. [26...Nc5! 27.Kb1 *(27.b4? Nd3+ 28.Bxd3 exd3 29.Qxd3 Qxc4+ 30.Qxc4 Rxc4+ 31.Kd2 Bxg3* woops*)* 27...Nd3! (anyway) 28.Bxd3 exd3 29.Qxd3 Qxc4 30.Qxc4 Rxc4 31.Rhe1 Rf8 32.Ne4 Rf4 White drops a lot of pawns while his own are comfy.] **27.Qxg3 Ne5?!** From big win to "just" clear advantage. [27...e3! 28.Kb1 Nc5 29.Bg4 Rcd8 30.Rhe1 Re4! 31.Rxe3 Rxc4-+ takes White's king position apart little by little.] **28.Kb1?**

[28.Rd4! Qxa5 29.Kb1 Black is still clearly better (good knight vs. bad bishop!), but White is putting up a fight.] **28...Qxa5?** Clearly the wrong pawn! [28...Nxc4! 29.Bxc4 Qxc4 30.Qxd6+ Ka8 when White has evened the material balance but is quite lost. 31.Rc1 *(31.Qxg6?! Qc2+ 32.Ka2 Qa4+ 33.Kb1 Rc5 34.Rc1 Rxa5 35.Rc3 Qa2+ 36.Kc2 Rd8-+* White's king is more and more an object of attack.*)* 31...Qd3+ 32.Ka1 Rcd8 The d-pawn falls, when the center passed pawns march victorious.] **29.Rc1?** [29.Rd4! is still advantage Black, but removing the e-pawn goes a long way to keeping White alive. 29...e3!? 30.Rc1! *(30.Qxe3?? Nxc4 31.Qd3 Nxb2! 32.Kxb2 Rxe2+! 33.Qxe2 Qb6+ 34.Ka2 Qxd4* and the "relative king safety" issue has been decided.*)* 30...Qc5 31.Re4! b5! keeps a clear advantage, although the price of winning that pawn on c4 is a weakened king position this time for Black, too.] **29...Qc5 30.Rhf1 Rf8 31.Rf4!**

The f-file is the new "hot property." **31...b5??** In other positions this was the retort that woke up the neighbors; here it's a hard blunder. [31...Rxf4 32.Qxf4 h5 33.Qxe4 and **now** 33...b5! takes over. 34.b3 a5!? In any case, Black is way better, probably will win.] **32.Rxe4??** The players have trouble getting their bearings in a turbulent position. [32.Rxf8 Rxf8 33.cxb5 and it is White who is winning! 33...Qb6 34.bxa6 and whose king is more exposed now?] **32...b4?!**



Black forgot that nothing is secure any more. [32...Ka7! would sidestep the worst: 33.Rxe5 dxe5 34.Qxg6 Rf2 35.Rc2-/+] **33.Rxe5!** "The Jackal Bites!" (Early computer game reference.) **33...dxe5 34.Qxg6?!** [34.Qxe5+! Ka7 35.Bf3 when Black is still better! But it's no longer going to be easy, not at all.] **34...Rf2 35.Bf3**



35...Qd4?! [35...b3!=/+ was Black's last chance to make something of his extra Exchange. 36.Qd3 *(36.Qxa6? Rc2!! 37.Rxc2 bxc2+ 38.Kxc2 Qxc4+ 39.Qxc4 Rxc4+ 40.Kd3 Rxh4-+)* 36...Qd4! 37.Qxb3+ Ka7 38.Rd1 Rb8! 39.Qxb8+ Kxb8 40.Rxd4 exd4=/+ and still White must tread more carefully.] **36.Qd6+** Both players see the unavoidable repetition coming. **36...Rc7 37.Qd8+ Rc8 38.Qd6+ Rc7 39.Qd8+ Rc8** Plenty of missed opportunities by both sides, this was an instructive battle. **1/2-1/2**

(5) Argo,Guy (1884) - Stafford,Adam (1745) [C33]

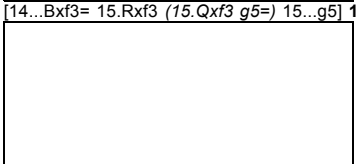
MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (4.2), 23.11.2021

1.e4 e5 2.f4 The King's Gambit is unexpectedly popular in Mechanics' tournament, some players even to be counted on to play it. To say it has stood the test of time would be fair; considering it an unclear mess wouldn't be so far off, either. **2...exf4 3.Bc4** The older move, heralding the romantic times from the early 1800s. [3.Nf3 is five times as popular as the text, but scores about the same (5-4).] **3...Qh4+** The principled move, in that White's king loses the castling privilege, but it might not be worth it. [3...Nf6 is a different sort of correct,; as is 3...d5] **4.Kf1 d6 5.Nc3 c6** [5...Be6 (most common); 5...Nf6!? 6.Nf3 Qh6=/+] **6.Nf3** [6.d4=] **6...Qh6!=/+ 7.d4**

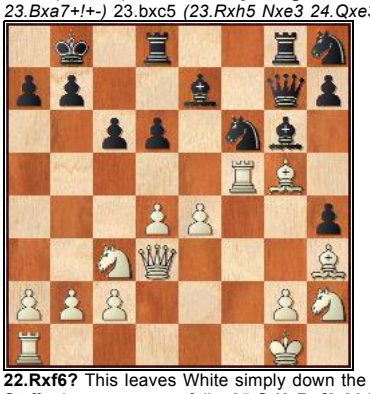
7...Bg4N The players were moving quickly, suggesting Stafford knew what to expect from King's Gambit addict Guy. [Previously played was 7...Nf6 8.Qe2 *(8.Ne2!? Nh5 9.Rg1 g5 10.g3 Be6=)* 8...Ng4?! *(8...Be7)* 9.Kg1? *(9.h4!+/-)* 9...Ne3? *(9...Be7)* 10.Bxe3 fxe3 11.Nd1+/= Be7 12.Nxe3 0-0 13.Rf1 *(13.h4; 13.c3)* 13...Na6 White is better but 0-1 (67) Burovic,I (2321)-Strinic,H (2113) Sarajevo 2018 *(13...c5)*] **8.Kf2** [8.Qd3+/=] **8...Nd7=/+ 9.Qd3** [9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 fxg3+ 11.Kg2 g5!? is the 21st Century move (i.e. Stockfish 14.1); Black relies on the pin.] **9...0-0-0!-/+ 10.Bxf7 Ngf6** [>=10...Be7] **11.h3 Be7 12.Rf1**

[White may prefer >=12.Kg1 Bxf3 13.Qxf3] **12...Bh5** [Now good is >=12...Rhf8! ...Bxf3 is the strong threat. 13.Bc4 Bh5] **13.Be6 Kb8** More urgent was [13...Bxf3-/+ 14.Qxf3 g5] **14.Kg1 g5**

[14...Bxf3= 15.Rxf3 *(15.Qxf3 g5=)* 15...g5] **15.h4!+/=** This fine move clarifies the kingside pawn structure. **15...gxh4** [15...g4? 16.Bxf4! Qxf4? *(16...Qg7)* 17.Ng5 trapping the queen!] **16.Nh2**



[16.Nxh4+/= keeps the upper hand. 16...Nxe4 17.Nf5 *(17.Qxe4 Bxh4 18.Bxf4 Bg5=)* 17...Qxe6 18.Qxe4 Qxe4 19.Nxe4 is typical King's Gambit play in the modern world: White finally develops, recovers the pawn, and assumes a central strength.] **16...Qg7** Perhaps one of [16...Ne8!?=/+ 17.Qh3 Nf8; or even 16...Ne5!? 17.Bxf4 *(17.dxe5?! dxe5 18.Qh3 Rhe8-/+* does quite well for a piece.*)* 17...Qxf4 18.Rxf4 Nxd3 19.cxd3 Bg6=/+] **17.Bxf4** It all remains typically confusing. The good news for Stafford came from a different direction: Argo had been taking significantly more time. **17...Nf8=** [Worse is 17...Rhg8 18.Bxg8 Rxg8 19.Qh3+/-; Black should try 17...Be8=/+] **18.Bh3 Ng6 19.Be3 Rhg8 20.Rf5** [20.Qd2!+/=] **20...Nh8!** [20...Nf8 is more natural, but might run into 21.d5 *(21.Raf1)* 21...c5 22.e5] **21.Bg5?** This move loses the game for White. [21.Raf1= and White is okay.; Here also 21.d5 c5 and now 22.b4! takes aim at Black's king. 22...Ng4! *(22...cxb4 23.Bxa7+!+-)* 23.bxc5 *(23.Rxh5 Nxe3 24.Qxe3 cxb4)* 23...Nxe3 24.Qxe3 Bg5=] **21...Bg6!-+**



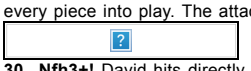
22.Rxf6? This leaves White simply down the exchange and makes it easy for Black. [22.Rff1 was worth a try.] **22...Bxf6 23.Bxf6 Qxf6 24.Ng4 Qe7** Black is clearly winning. Argo tries to trip Stafford up, unsuccessfully. **25.Qd2 Rgf8 26.Re1 Nf7 27.Nf2 Qg5 28.Qe2 Rde8 29.Qc4 d5 30.Qb4 Qe7 31.Qb3 dxe4 32.d5 cxd5 33.Nxd5 Qc5 34.Ne3 Nd6 35.Nfd1 Bf7 36.c4 Bxc4 37.Qc2 Qb6 38.b3 Bd3 39.Qb2 Nb5 40.Qe5+? Rxe5** Just your usual King's Gambit: irrational, difficult to make plans, the objective nature of advantage slipped back and forth. Well done by Stafford, another developing youth at the Mechanics'. **0-1**

(1) Mahooti,James - Askin,David [D23]

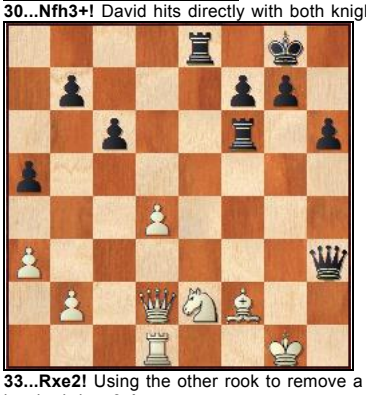
TNM, 23.11.2021

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qb3 A fair move to be ready to recapture the c-pawn, but Black can equalize against this. **4...dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bf5 6.e3** [6.g3 a la Catalan is to be considered] **6...e6 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.0-0 h6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Bd2 0-0** Both sides have the minor pieces developed and are castled. The game is even. **11.Rfd1?** oops! There is a tactical problem here. **11...a5?** [11...Bc2! wins the exchange since 12.Rdc1? Nb6 traps the queen] **12.a3 Nb6 13.Qa2** Back to even **13...Re8 14.Ne5 Bd6 15.Bd3?** The wrong way to trade off pieces. **15...Bxe5 16.Bxf5**

16...Bxh2+! Black wins a pawn and weakens the white king's protection. **17.Kxh2 exf5 18.Rh1** James brings a defended to the kingside. A good practical choice. **18...Ne4 19.Be1 Qc7+ 20.Kg1 f4 21.Rh3?!** [21.exf4 Qxf4 22.Rd1 keeps the disadvantage to one pawn] **21...Ng5 22.Rh5 fxe3 23.fxe3 Rxe3 24.Bf2 Re6 25.Qb1 Rae8** The game has been very well played by David. In the broadcast we were watching this game and Mike Walder commented that David is a strong attacked when given the chance. **26.Qd3 Qd7 27.Rf1 Rf6 28.Rd1 Nd5** Excellent, bringing every piece into play. The attack is building. **29.Rh4 Nf4 30.Qd2**



30...Nfh3+! David hits directly with both knights, both rooks and the queen. This is an instructive finish. **31.gxh3 Nxh3+ 32.Rxh3 Qxh3 33.Ne2**

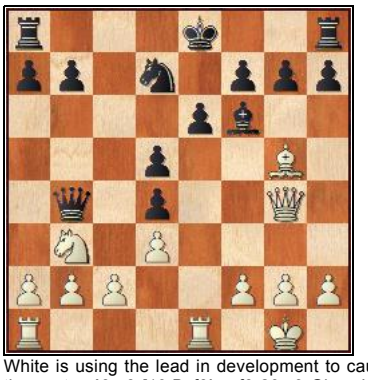


33...Rxe2! Using the other rook to remove a last defender of the king. White resigned as 34. Qxe2 Rg6+ is mate in 4. James commented he had a bad day at the office, but David had an inspired day. **0-1**

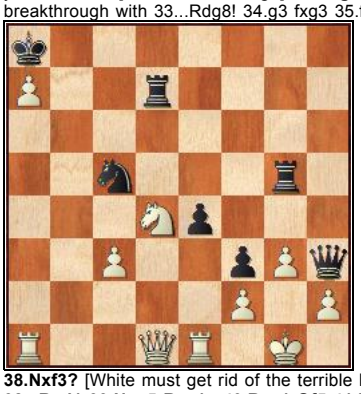
(2) Barreyro,Romeo - Parsons,Stephen [B30]

TNM, 23.11.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Bd3 Romeo goes his own way in the opening. **4...d5 5.Nxd4 cxd4 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.e5?!** This is a pawn sacrifice. 8. exd5 or 8. d3 keeps materia even. **8...Qf5 9.0-0 Qxe5 10.Re1** [10.c3! Opens up the d1-a4 diagonal and should be more play for the pawn.] **10...Qd6 11.d3 Nf6 12.Qf3 e6 13.Bf4 Qb4 14.Nd2!** Getting all the pieces developed. **14...Be7 15.Nb3 Nd7** [15...Rc8!] **16.Qg4! Bf6 17.Bg5**



White is using the lead in development to cause trouble before Black has a safe spot for the king. **17...h5** [17...Bxg5 18.Qxg5 0-0 is safer] **18.Qh4 e5?!** this is risky with the black king still in the center **19.c3** [19.Bxf6! gxf6 20.c3 Gives White a clear advantage.] **19...Bxg5 20.Qxg5 dxc3 21.bxc3** [21.Qxg7!] **21...Qe7?!** [21...Qg4!] **22.Qxg7 0-0-0 23.Qg3 f5 24.Qe3 Kb8 25.Nd4** [Decent alternatives are 25.Rab1 or; 25.Qf3 Qd6 26.Qxf5 h4 which wins a pawn but loses some time from the attack] **25...Qf6 26.Nb5 b6 27.a4?!** [27.d4 f4 28.dxe5 fxe3 29.exf6 exf2+ 30.Kxf2 Nxf6 is an even endgame] **27...f4! 28.Qf3 Nc5 29.Qe2 e4** The black pawns take kingside space and offer many attacking possibilities. **30.dxe4 dxe4 31.Nd4 Rhg8 32.Qxh5?!** This is active, yet safer was [32.f3 h4 33.h3 Rg3] **32...Rg5! 33.Qd1?** [33.Qh7 is needed. It doesn't lose the queen since 33...Rh8 34.Nc6+ Kc8 35.Nxa7+ Kb8 36.Nc6+ is a draw] **33...Rd7?!** [Black could breakthrough with 33...Rdg8! 34.g3 fxg3 35.fxg3 Rxg3+!] **34.a5 f3 35.g3 Qh6 36.axb6 Qh3?** looks winning, but there is a flaw **37.bxa7+ Ka8**



38.Nxf3? [White must get rid of the terrible black pawn on f3. There is a great way to do it though - 38.Qxf3! wins, since 38...exf3 39.Re8+ lets the a-pawn queen with check and a quick mate **38...Rxd1 39.Nxg5 Rxe1+ 40.Rxe1 Qf5 41.h4** Black will have a queen for a rook and three pawns. The question is if White can make some kind of fortress to draw the game. **41...Kxa7?!** [41...Nd3 42.Re2 e3! breaks up the white pawns] **42.Re3 Kb6 43.Kg2 Kc6 44.f3?!** Better to just sit and wait. If the black knight moves to d3 the white knight takes on e4 to guard f2. **44...exf3+ 45.Nxf3 Qc2+ 46.Kh3 Qc1 47.Nd4+ Kd5 48.Rf3 Nd7 49.Rf2 Ne5 50.Nf3 Nc4 51.Nh2 Qxc3 52.Ng4 Qe1 53.h5** Romeo correctly decides not to wait any longer and get the h-pawn closer to the queening square. **53...Nd6 54.h6 Ne4?!** [54...Qh1+ 55.Nh2 Qe4 has good winning chances] **55.Nf6+!** exchanging the black knight helps the defense **55...Nxf6 56.Rxf6 Ke5 57.Rb6! Qh1+ 58.Kg4 Qd1+ 59.Kh3 Qd7+ 60.Kg2 Kf5?!**

61.Rb2? [Here White could have gotten a fortress with 61.h7! Qxh7 62.Rb4 Qd7 63.Rf4+

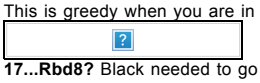
and the black king cannot cross the 4rth rank to help the queen. With the white pawn on g3 this is a known draw as there is not enough room on the first two ranks for the queen to cause trouble by itself. (The position is winning for Black if the white pawn were on g4 instead.)] **61...Qc6+ 62.Kg1?** 62. Kh2 would hold out a lot longer but it would be theorectically lost anyway **62...Qc1+ 63.Kg2 Qxb2+ 64.Kh3 Kg6** An epic and highly interesting battle. **0-1**

(3) Bambou,Christophe - Makhanov,Gaziz [C48]

23.11.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Safe and solid. This heads for the Four Knights' Game or a variant/ **3...Nf6 4.Bb5 Bc5!? 5.0-0** [5.Nxe5 Nxe5 6.d4 Is a slight edge for White in this opening.] **5...d6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Nf5!?**

A nice aggressive move that can confuse the opponent. **8...0-0 9.Bg5 a6 10.Ba4 Be6** [10...h6 11.Bh4 Kh7 is to be considered] **11.Kh1 Rb8?!** This doesn't deal with the central issues and gives White the opening edge. **12.f4! Bxf5 13.exf5 d5!** This gives up a pawn but deals with the defensive problems. White is better in any case. **14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Qxd5 Ba7 16.Ne4 Qxb2?!** This is greedy when you are in trouble. 16...Qh6 keeps the queen in a defensive position. **17.f6**



17...Rbd8? Black needed to go 17...h6. He forgot about White's powerful threat. **18.Qg5** Black resigned. 18...g6 19. Qh6 **1-0**

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Tot
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2252	W20	W13	W18	D4					3.5
2	**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	14257838	1745	W8	H---	W19	W11					3.5
3	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**	12734479	2097	L12	W15	W16	W14					3.0
4	**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	12572270	1900	D17	W25	W7	D1					3.0
5	**Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)**	15361305	1700	W10	D7	D12	W13			H---	H---	3.0
6	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	13001390	2032	H---	W12	D14	H---				H---	2.5
7	**David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)**	13776967	2023	W24	D5	L4	W20					2.5
8	**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2001	L2	W24	H---	W22				H---	2.5
9	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1954	W29	D19	L11	W18			H---		2.5
10	**Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)**	10451671	1914	L5	W29	X21	H---		H---			2.5
11	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	12517167	1884	H---	W23	W9	L2					2.5
12	**Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)**	17039584	1855	W3	L6	D5	W19					2.5
13	**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)**	15206848	1955	W26	L1	W17	L5					2.0
14	**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)**	16828914	1917	H---	X28	D6	L3					2.0
15	**Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)**	17158733	1760	L19	L3	W29	W25					2.0
16	**Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)**	12559529	1720	H---	H---	L3	W24					2.0
17	**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	16600505	1670	D4	D21	L13	W28			H---		2.0
18	**Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)**	12601629	2017	H---	W22	L1	L9					1.5
19	**Brandon Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)**	12869947	2003	W15	D9	L2	L12	H---				1.5
	James Mahooti											

20	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1867	L1	D26	W23	L7						1.5
21	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	12747074	1832	H---	D17	F10	H---						1.5
22	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	H---	L18	W28	L8						1.5
23	Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)	12590374	1706	D27	L11	L20	B---						1.5
24	Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)	12328450	1800	L7	L8	W26	L16						1.0
25	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1746	H---	L4	H---	L15				H---		1.0
26	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1744	L13	D20	L24	H---				H---		1.0
27	Krish Matai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16444206)	16444206	1937	D23	U---	U---	U---						0.5
28	Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	12633251	1787	H---	F14	L22	L17				H---		0.5
29	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1735	L9	L10	L15	H---						0.5

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Tot
1	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1746	W29	W9	D14	W17					3.5
2	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1611	W44	W25	D4	W5					3.5
3	Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)	30257083	1549	W52	W26	W16	H---	H---				3.5
4	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	14874734	1448	W37	W23	D2	W21					3.5
5	Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)	17018168	1649	W36	W11	W8	L2					3.0
6	Yuvraj Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	1593	D20	D28	W36	W14					3.0
7	Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)	30268083	1540	W30	W12	D21	H---					3.0
8	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	W47	W34	L5	X26					3.0
9	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	12872385	1491	W53	L1	W47	W28					3.0
10	Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)	13377410	1478	L21	W32	W50	W24					3.0
11	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1474	W48	L5	W38	W22				H---	3.0
12	David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)	13913131	1400	W40	L7	W39	W25					3.0
13	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	H---	H---	H---	X33					2.5
14	Ronald Allen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30086796)	30086796	1501	W31	W18	D1	L6					2.5
	John Chan											

15	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	H---	L21	W49	W42						2.5
16	Ashwin Vaidyanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205719)	30205719	1444	W33	W24	L3	H---				H---		2.5
17	JP Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)	30150098	1229	W51	H---	W27	L1				H---		2.5
18	Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)	30235937	1172	W42	L14	W43	H---				H---		2.5
19	Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)	15616166	1149	H---	H---	H---	W34						2.5
20	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	1135	D6	X51	L22	X35						2.5
21	Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12898987)	12898987	839	W10	W15	D7	L4						2.5
22	Jim Ratliff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11163831)	11163831	1632	H---	H---	W20	L11						2.0
23	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1542	W45	L4	L28	W47						2.0
24	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1511	W46	L16	W44	L10						2.0
25	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1500	W32	L2	W40	L12						2.0
26	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1447	W39	L3	W48	F8						2.0
27	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1400	H---	W49	L17	H---				H---		2.0
28	Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	1278	H---	D6	W23	L9						2.0
29	Cloe Chai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315197)	16315197	1254	L1	L47	W46	W48						2.0
30	Maria Obrien (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15300977)	15300977	1036	L7	L39	W53	W50				H---		2.0
31	Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	17005685	997	L14	L42	W52	X43						2.0
32	Prasanna Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)	30279272	921	L25	L10	W45	W44						2.0
33	Vittorio Banfi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30308530)	30308530	unr.	L16	W45	W42	F13						2.0
34	Deandre Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)	30255378	1399	W50	L8	H---	L19		H---				1.5
35	Enile Ahmed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110092)	17110092	1356	H---	H---	H---	F20						1.5
36	Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)	16694473	1219	L5	X53	L6	D38						1.5
37	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	L4	L44	B---	H---				H---		1.5
38	Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)	30223021	unr.	H---	H---	L11	D36			H---			1.5
39	Marcus Casaes (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30290420)	30290420	unr.	L26	W30	L12	H---						1.5
40	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	L12	B---	L25	H---				H---		1.5

41	William Deegan		unr.	H---	H---	H---	U---					1.5
42	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600	L18	W31	L33	L15					1.0
43	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	H---	H---	L18	F31					1.0
44	Don Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694467)	16694467	1219	L2	W37	L24	L32					1.0
45	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1091	L23	L33	L32	W53					1.0
46	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1014	L24	L50	L29	W52					1.0
47	Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	16317000	970	L8	W29	L9	L23					1.0
48	Cathal Dayton (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12930548)	12930548	784	L11	W52	L26	L29					1.0
49	Maxwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)	30329285	unr.	H---	L27	L15	H---					1.0
50	Juan Elias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30325735)	30325735	unr.	L34	W46	L10	L30					1.0
51	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	L17	F20	U---	U---					0.0
52	Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)	16757673	1125	L3	L48	L31	L46					0.0
53	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	845	L9	F36	L30	L45					0.0

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Tot
1	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	U---	U---	W16	W21					2.0
2	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1917	D10	W15	U---	U---					1.5
3	Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)	12601629	2017	W11	U---	U---	U---					1.0
4	Alexander Pa Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1859	U---	U---	W13	U---					1.0
5	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	U---	U---	U---	W18					1.0
6	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	W19	U---	U---	U---					1.0
7	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	U---	U---	W17	U---				H---	1.0
8	William Deegan		unr.	U---	U---	U---	W20					1.0
9	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	U---	W17	U---	U---				H---	1.0
10	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	D2	U---	U---	U---					0.5
11	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	L3	D12	U---	U---					0.5
12	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	1135	U---	D11	U---	U---					0.5

13	**Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)**	10451671	1914	U---	U---	L4	U---		H---			0.0
14	**Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	12773115	1746	U---	U---	U---	U---					0.0
15	**Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)**	12559529	1720	U---	L2	U---	U---					0.0
16	**Enile Ahmed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110092)**	17110092	1356	U---	U---	L1	U---					0.0
17	**Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)**	15616166	1149	U---	L9	L7	U---					0.0
18	**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	17005685	997	U---	U---	U---	L5					0.0
19	**Maxcwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)**	30329285	unr.	L6	U---	U---	U---					0.0
20	**Judit Sztaray**		unr.	U---	U---	U---	L8					0.0
21	**Abel Talamantez**		unr.	U---	U---	U---	L1					0.0

Tony's Teasers

Tony is back and ready to challenge you to solve this mate in 3

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Guthrie McClain Memorial Championship. December 4, 10AM. 4SS G/45;d5: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/McClainMemorialChampionshipG45InPerson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/McClainMemorialChampionshipG45InPerson)

Mechanics' Institute Championship Quads. December 11, 3PM. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsDec2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsDec2021)

IM John Donaldson Championship. December 18-19, 10AM FIDE Rated. 5SS G/90+30: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/3rdAnnualDonaldsonChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/3rdAnnualDonaldsonChampionship)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Fresh New
Scholastic Chess Bulletin #7 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/https://conta.cc/3xev44s)

In this issue:

- Monthly Scholastic In-Person Tournament - 2021 November Report

- Mechanics' Institute Thanksgiving Gobbler Kids - Friday, November 26 @ 9:30AM
- Chess Enrichment Highlight: Alice Fong Alternative School
- Upcoming Chess Camps
- Why I like Quads by Andrew Ballantyne
- Understanding Tournaments: Moves, moves, moves
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured Games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Scholastic-Chess-Bulletin--7---Mechanics-Institute.html?soid=1103755398293&aid=O11PKTDUtfQ) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122145655/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#bulletin)

All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Problems in the Opening, Part Two

Putting together an opening repertoire is not easy under any circumstances, and even more difficult when you try to avoid the problem altogether. We must steer our way through the opening, and avoiding the "question" of the opening is impossible. Last week's article should have made that terribly clear.

In my chess-playing years I tried to simplify the problem of the opening by making myself a few guidelines, and maybe this can be helpful for others trying to navigate the openings:

1. Know yourself. Play openings you feel lead to positions you like, feel comfortable with, and want to play. Just because your friends or the books say the Gruenfeld Defense is great doesn't mean you have to like it. Try to develop a style, question authority and play your own game.

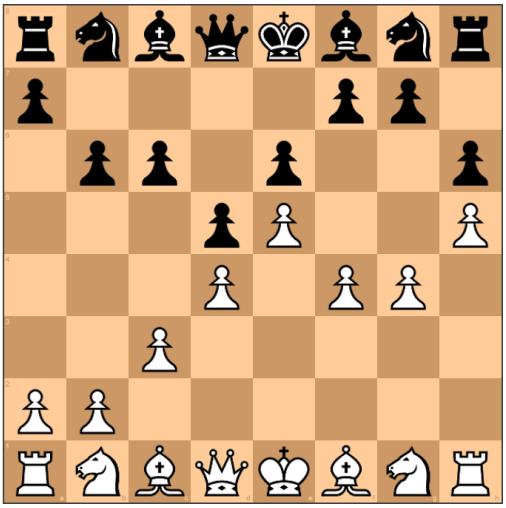
2. Steal ideas and openings from other players. Did you like the way Tal blew his opponent away with the Benoni? You too can play the Benoni! Emulating the repertoire of great players is a time-honored way of getting ahead. A whole generation of American chess masters used the Najdorf and opened with 1.e4 after Fischer won the World Championship in 1972. Now they follow Carlsen and trot out the London System.

3. Specialize, and use cunning move orders to get your kind of game. There's a whole bag of tricks out there to sidestep your opponent's favorite lines. Playing someone that knows the Dragon Variation like the back of their hand? Trip them up with 3.Bb5+ or prepare an obscure line like the Levenfish Attack. The possibilities are truly endless for the creative player trying to steer the opening their way.

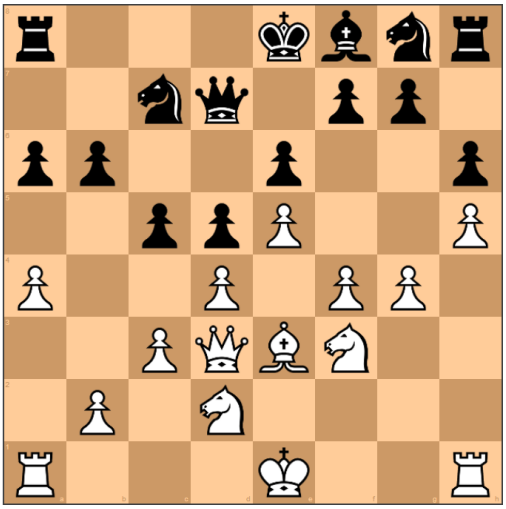
In the 1970's I frequently used the Advance Variation against the Caro-Kann, brought into a brief popularity by Tal in the return match against Botvinnik in 1961. Now it's used just as often as 3.Nc3, but back then it was used hardly at all. The appeal to me was threefold: it was complicated, it was sure to be a surprise, and it might lead to fascinating positions. Like the one after the eight move.

Whitehead – Erlingsson, Lone Pine 1978.

My opponent was a master from Iceland, and this game was played a few rounds after my fiasco against Balinas, detailed in the last Newsletter. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h6.** Nowadays 4...h5 is preferred, not giving ground. 4...e6? is natural and bad, losing a piece after 5.g4! etc. **5.g4 Bc8!?** (5...Bh7?! is met by the pawn sacrifice 6.e6! but 5...Bd7 instead looks natural.) **6.h5 e6 7.c3 b6 8.f4.**



Now I visualized the continuation 8...c5 9.a3 Nc6 10.b4! and white has made 10 pawn moves in a row, without a single piece developed. And he has the advantage! **8...Ba6 9.Bxa6 Nxa6 10.Qd3 Nc7 11.Nf3 Qd7 12.Be3 c5 13.a4 a6 14.Nbd2.**



White has emerged from the opening with a nice space advantage. A build up to break with pawn f5 ensues. **14...c4 15.Qc2 Ne7 16.Nh4 Nc6 17.Ndf3 Na5 18.f5 0-0-0 19.Ke2 Nb3 20.Ra2.** A temporary inconvenience. **20...Be7 21.Ng2 Kb7 22.Nf4.** A complex middle-game position which black doesn't quite get the hang of. **22...Qc8 23.Rf1 Rhf8 24.Nd2 Nxd2 25.Bxd2 Bg5 26.Raa1 Bxf4 27.Bxf4 exf5.** These exchanges do little to alleviate the pressure. **28.gxf5 Rde8 29.Kd2 g5?! 30.Bg3.** Taking on g6 was also good. **30...Na8?** Senseless. **31.Rae1 Qd7 32.e6!**

The decisive breakthrough. **32...fxe6 33.fxe6 Qe7 34.Qg6 Rxf1 35.Rxf1 Qxe6 36.Rf7+ Kc8 37.Qxe6+ Rxe6 38.Ra7 1-0.**

I can't say I was always successful with my approach – it clearly has its limitations, and the obvious one is that, in a sense, I was dancing around and trying to avoid direct confrontation.

But for me playing your own game is what chess is all about.

Nick de Firmian's Column

Nepo's Greatest Hits

The World Championship match is about to begin in Dubai. Everyone in the world knows about Magnus, perhaps the greatest champion to play the game. The previous challenger, Fabiano Caruana, has also become quite famous here in America. Yet the current challenger, Ian Nepomniachtchi (more fondly known as Nepo) is not yet so famous here as he is in his native Russia.

We take this opportunity to introduce readers to the fantastic, active play of Nepo. He well deserves the challenger's spot due to his victory in the Candidates Tournament and his close battles with Magnus. What is special for the spectators is that Nepo loves the dynamic, creative moves which take the game to the edge. We can only hope he remains true to his style in the World Championship match and then we will have a thriller instead of the close to the vest strategy of the last two championship matches. Below is a sample of Nepo's games, where the key moves are surprising puzzle like creations the readers should thoroughly enjoy.

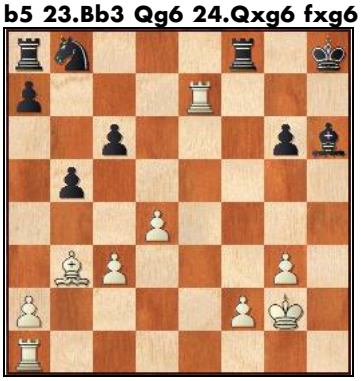
(1) Ian Nepomniachtchi (2749) - Li Chao (2720) [C42]

Sharjah UAE Sharjah UAE (6.6), 24.02.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 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 Bf5 12.Bg5 Qc7 13.Re1 h6

14.Nh4! This amazing aggressive play gets White some edge. **14...Bh7 15.Bxh6! Bxh2+** [15...gxh6 16.Qg4+ Kh8 17.Nf5 Rg8 *(17...Bg6 18.Qh4 Bxf5 19.Qf6+ Kg8 20.Qxf5)* 18.Re8!] **16.Kh1 Bf4?** [16...gxh6 17.Qg4+ Kh8 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.Qxf5 Qf4 20.Qh3 was needed even though White is better] **17.Bxg7!**

17...Kxg7 18.Qg4+ Kh8 19.Nf5 Bxf5 [19...Rg8? 20.Re8] **20.Qxf5 Qd6 21.g3** White is a piece down but has a winning attack. **21...Bh6 22.Kg2 b5 23.Bb3 Qg6 24.Qxg6 fxg6 25.Re7!**



The attack is decisive even in the endgame. **25...g5 26.Re6 Kg7 27.Rh1 Rh8 28.Re7+ Kg6 29.Bc2+ 1-0**

(2) Ian Nepomniachtchi (2624) - Aleksandr Alekseevich Kharito (2524) [B14]

Dagomys Dagomys (1), 04.04.2009

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd2 Nc6 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.a3 Bf6 12.Qc2 g6 13.Bh6 Re8 14.Rad1 Nce7 15.Ne4 Bg7 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Rfe1

White has a slight edge from the opening with a well developed game. **17...Nf5 18.Nc3 Nfe7 19.Ne5 b6 20.Qd2 Bb7 21.Ne4 Rf8 22.Ng5 Nc7?** retreating gives White extra time for the attack **23.Rc1 Ned5 24.Be4 Qd6**

White to move and win **25.Ngxf7! Rxf7**

26.Qh6+!! the blow that destroys the black positon **26...Kg8** [26...Kxh6 27.Nxf7+ Kg7 28.Nxd6 is finished] **27.Nxf7 Kxf7**

28.Rxc7+! simplifying to an easily winning ending **28...Qxc7** [28...Nxc7 29.Qxh7+ Ke8 30.Bxb7] **29.Bxd5 Kg8** [29...Bxd5 30.Qxh7+ Kf6 31.Qxc7] **30.Bxe6+ Kh8** Black could resign here. **31.d5 Qc2 32.Qc1 Qxc1 33.Rxc1 Rd8 34.f4 Rd6 35.Rd1 Kg7 36.Kf2 Kf6 37.Ke3 Rd8 38.Kd4 Bc8 39.Re1 h5 40.g3 Re8 41.h3 Rh8 42.g4 hxg4 43.hxg4 Bxe6 44.Rxe6+ Kf7 45.Re2 Rh1 46.d6 Rd1+ 47.Ke5 a5 48.Rc2 1-0**

(3) Nepomniachtchi,Ian - Sjugirov,Sanan [C42]

Russian Team Chp. Sharjah UAE (6), 24.02.2016

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.c4 Be7 6.d4 0-0 7.Bd3 Ng5 Black would probably do better with 7....d5 **8.Nc3 Bg4?** 8...Nsf3+ was needed. This meets a shocking response **9.Bxg5 Bxg5**

10.Bxh7+ What's this? It's the classic bishop sacrifice on h7, but it doesn't work does it? **10...Kxh7**

Now 11. Nxg5+ Qxg5 is simply winning for Black. Did White blunder? **11.h4!!** An amazing move that wins back the piece with the extra pawn. **11...Bd2+** [11...Bxf3 12.hxg5+ Kg8 13.Qxf3; 11...Bf6 12.Ng5+ Bxg5 13.hxg5+ Kg8 14.Qxg4] **12.Qxd2 Re8+ 13.Kf1 Bxf3 14.Qd3+!** Avoiding the doubled pawns. **14...Kg8 15.Qxf3 Nd7 16.Rd1 Qf6 17.Qxf6 Nxf6 18.f3** Nepo is a pawn up and efficiently converts the advantage to a win. **18...d5 19.c5 b6 20.cxb6 axb6 21.Kf2 b5 22.a3 b4 23.axb4 Rab8 24.b5 c6 25.Rhe1 cxb5 26.Rxe8+ Rxe8 27.Rc1 Ra8 28.Nxb5 Ra4 29.Rc8+ Kh7 30.g4 Rb4 31.Nd6! Rxd4 32.Kg3** Black resigns as f7 goes (32...Kg6 33. h5+ **1-0**

(4) Ian Nepomniachtchi (2792) - Levon Aronian (2781) [A13]
Paris FRA Paris FRA (5.5), 19.06.2021

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ Bd7 6.Qxc4 c5 7.Ne5 Qc8 8.b3 Nc6 9.Nxd7 Qxd7 10.Bb2 Be7 11.0-0 Rc8 12.Rd1 0-0 13.Nc3 a6 14.Rac1 b5 15.Qf4 h6 16.d3 Rfd8 17.Qd2 Qa7 18.e3 Qb6 19.Qe2 Nb4 20.a3 Nbd5 21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.d4 White has just a small edge from the opening with the bishop pair. **22...Nf6?!** [22...cxd4] **23.dxc5 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Bxc5 25.Bxf6! gxf6 26.Qh5 Bxa3?! 27.Rd7 Rf8**

28.Be4 f5 29.Qxh6! fxe4?

30.Rd5! Black is toast. **30...Qxe3** Aronian must lose the queen in any cast to stop mate. The endgame is easily winning for White. **31.Qxe3 exd5 32.Qg5+ Kh8 33.Qxd5 f5 34.Qd4+ Kg8 35.b4 Bc1 36.Qb6 Rf7 37.Qxa6 e3 38.Qc8+ 1-0**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. Qb7 Qxe5 2. Rxa2+ Bxa2 3. Nc2#

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Newsletter #997

December 4, 2021

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Follow the World Chess Championship Match between GM Magnus Carlsen and GM Ian Nipomniachtchi at these links:

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https://fideworldchampionship.com/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/https://fideworldchampionship.com/)

Current Score: Carlsen 3.5-Nepomniachtchi 2.5

Uptown Chess Club: Follow Up

by Abel Talamantez

I had the pleasure of attending the first meeting of the Uptown Chess Club on the corner of Capp and 17th street in the Mission. It is a self proclaimed dive bar, but the owner, Shae Green, embraces the term lovingly. As I walked in at about 6:30pm on Wednesday, I saw every booth filled with players playing chess, having drinks, and socializing. I ordered a drink, something very much needed after a full day coaching scholastic programs, and I walked around watching some games and meeting new people. I was surprised to learn nearly everyone was not a

tournament player or USCF member - they were people who play chess casually on Chess.com or Lichess, but not really interested in competitively-rated play. While the chess was casual and fun, it was no less competetive as players agonized over missed opportunities and wins and losses. However, at least in the relaxed atmosphere and ambiance, you could smile, have a drink, and play another game. Thanks, Shae, for starting this, it looked and felt like a great success! The club meets the first Wednesday of the month, but I have no doubt chess would be welcome at Uptown anytime!

TNM Round 5 Report

by Abel Talamantez

IM Elliott Winslow survived an opening gone wrong against Adam Stafford, outplaying him after he missed his chance to capitalize and extend his lead in the TNM after 5 rounds with a score of 4.5/5. Christophe Bambou and Daniel Wang drew their game in what was the final game of the evening to put both players at 3.5, along with Nathan Fong, Guy Argo, and Lucas Lesniewski.

Yuvraj Sawnhey (black) and Sebby Suarez are two young rising stars

In the under 1800 section, Adam Mercado is back on top of the leaderboard after a win against Stephen Parsons. He is the sole leader with 4.5/5. Two rising young players Yuvraj Sawhney and Sebby Suarez played in what promised to be a tough match, and the win went to Yuvraj, putting him in a tie for snd place with 4/5 along with Dean Guo, Adam Ginzburg, and Albert Starr.

Round 6 of 8 will be next Tuesday. It has been great having our live broadcasts with player commentary for post game analysis. Click here to watch the broadcast:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsnqvwHxoIQ (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsnqvwHxoIQ)

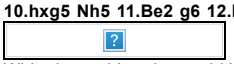
Here are some games form the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Fong,Nathan - Riese,Kayven [B56]

TNM, 02.12.2021

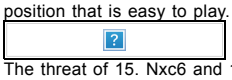
This is a rather one sided game, but the result of good preparation and maximal followup. **1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nbd7**

Kayven had played this move before and Nathan was prepared with his response. **6.g4!** The black knights are stepping on each others squares. The threat of 7. g5 makes Black play a less desireable continuation. **6...h6 7.h4 a6 8.Rg1** renewing the threat of 8. g5. **8...Ne5?!** [perhaps 8...d5 9.exd5 Nb6 is best White is still clearly better after 10.Qe2 or *(10.Nb3)*] **9.g5 hxg5 10.hxg5 Nh5 11.Be2 g6 12.Be3**



White has a big edge and it's tempting as Black to do something to try to change the course of the game. After a reasonable move like 12..Bg7 13. Qd2 White is all ready for action with a

position that is easy to play. Kayven decides to try something. **12...Ng7?!** unfortunately fianchettoing the knight doesn't help **13.f4 Nc6 14.Nd5!**



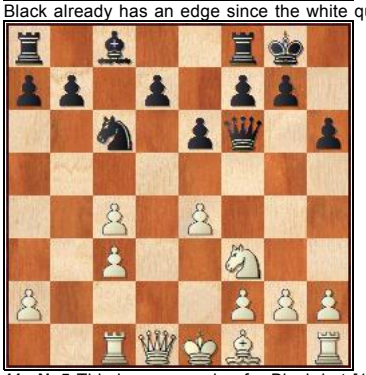
The threat of 15. Nxc6 and 16. Bb6 is looming. Relativley best is 14...Rb8 though Black is still lost after 15. Qd2 **14...Ne6 15.Nb3** [15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Bb6 is also good] **15...b5?!** [15...Bg7 16.f5] **16.Bb6 Qd7 17.f5** ouch **17...Nxg5 18.Nc7+ Qxc7** [White has too much fun after 18...Kd8 19.Nxa8+ Ke8 20.Nc7+ Kd8 21.Nxa6+ Ke8 22.Nc7+ Kd8 23.Nxb5+ Ke8 24.Nc7+ Kd8 25.fxg6 fxg6 26.Qd5] **19.Bxc7 Nxe4 20.Qd5! Kd7 21.Bb6 Nf6 22.Nc5+** Excellent play by Nathan. It should be a very long time before Kayven has a game like this where everything goes wrong. **1-0**

(2) Parsons,Stephen - Mercado,Adam [A19]

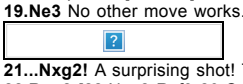
TNM, 02.12.2021

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.e4 c5 A good response, contesting the d4 square. Now White should at least play 4. e5 forcing the black knight back to g8. **4.d4?! cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qd1 Bb4**

Black already has an edge since the white queen had to recapture the d4 pawn and was driven back to d1. **7.Bg5 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Rc1 0-0 11.Nf3**



11...Ne5 This keeps an edge for Black but [11...b6 or; 11...Rd8 12.Qd6 b6 would be even better] **12.Be2 Ng6 13.0-0 Nf4 14.Nd4 d5?!** very active, but it gives up a pawn and undoubles the white c-pawns [14...d6!] **15.cxd5 e5 16.Nc2 Qg5 17.Bf3 f5 18.exf5?** White needed to play 18. Kh1 to get out of checks. Now the game goes from even to a big edge for Black. **18...Bxf5 19.Ne3** No other move works. White will lose material due to the active black pieces (knight, queen, bishop, rook). **19...Bd3 20.c4 Bxf1 21.Kxf1**



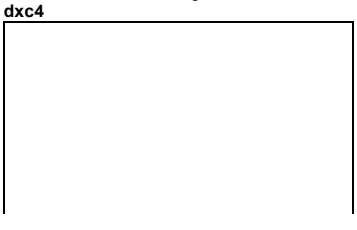
21...Nxg2! A surprising shot! The white g-pawn is defended three times, yet Adam just takes it. The white king cannot capture and both the white bishop and knight captures lose a piece back **22.Bxg2** [22.Nxg2 Rxf3 23.Qxf3 Qxc1+] **22...Qxe3 23.Rc2 Qc5** Blockading the white pawns to take away the advance to dark squares. White should now play 24. d6 anyway to keep some imbalance. Stephen plays safely and goes down without real complications. **24.Qg4 Rf6! 25.Qg3 Raf8 26.Kg1 Qd4 27.Re2 Rf4 28.Rc2?** [28.Qe3 Qxe3 29.Rxe3 Rxc4 would be a simple enough win Black anyway] **28...Qd1+** White resigns **0-1**

(3) Kaplan,Glenn (1735) - Acosta,Anthony (1787) [A26]

MI Nov-Dec 2021 TNM 1800+ San Francisco (5.13), 30.11.2021

1.c4 f5 The Dutch is becoming a popular opening at the Mechanics'. **2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 d6 6.d3** Glenn plays the position like an English Opening rather than transposing to normal lines with [6.d4] **6...Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bd2 Qe7 10.Nh4 Qf7 11.Nd5 Be6**

12.Nxg6! White has gotten a slight advantage from the opening and now begins the tactics. **12...Qxg6 13.Nxc7+ Kd7 14.Nxa8 Rxa8** With a rook and two pawns for the two knights White holds a slight edge. It's always complicated though when there is a material imbalance. **15.Qb3** [15.b4!] **15...b6** [15...Kc7! 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Ba5+ Kc8 is alright for Black] **16.Qa4 e4 17.d4 d5 18.c5 Qe8?** [18...bxc5 was needed when White is only slightly better] **19.Rac1 Qc8 20.b4!** now White is rolling on the queenside **20...b5** giving this pawn is probably the best defense. White has a clear material edge now. **21.Qxb5 Rb8 22.Qa4 Qb7 23.e3 a6 24.Rfd1 Ne8 25.Bf1 Nc7 26.Rb1 Ke7 27.Rb2 Bd7 28.Qb3 Ke6 29.Rdb1 Qa8 30.Qd1 Nb5 31.a4 Na3 32.Ra1 Nc4 33.Bxc4 dxc4**



34.b5! axb5? losing a piece. 34...Ne7 would hold out longer though Black would anyway be in serious trouble. **35.axb5 Qb7**

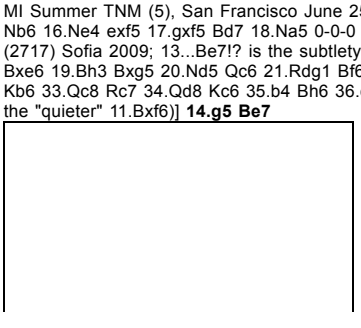
36.Bc3! Ne7 37.c6 Qc7 38.cxd7 Qxd7 39.d5+ Kf7 40.Bxg7 Kxg7 41.Qd4+ Kf7 42.Qxc4 Qxd5 43.Qxd5+ Nxd5 The endgame is easy with the extra exchange and two pawns. **44.Rd1 Ke6 45.Rc1 h5 46.Rc6+ Kd7 47.Rh6 Nc3 48.b6 Ke7 49.b7 Kf7 50.Rc6** Black resigns. Fine aggressive game by Glenn. **1-0**

(4) Stafford,Adam (1745) - Winslow,Elliott (2252) [B99]

MI Nov-Dec 2021 TNM 1800+ San Francisco (5.1), 30.11.2021

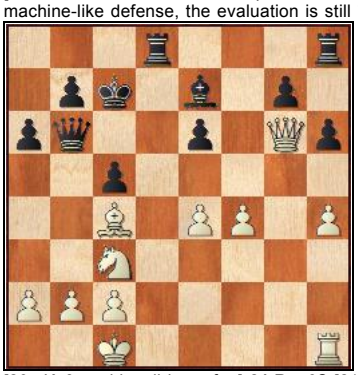
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4

[10.Bd3 was seen earlier in Riese-Winslow (round 4); in fact, the Bay Area has its footprints all over this opening.] **10...h6** [10...b5 is the old main line, when 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 has long been the most pressing continuation, not worrying about dropping a pawn. And now the latest games have Black "castling into it" (maybe!) with 13...0-0!? (13...Nc5 14.f6 (14.h4 b4 15.Nce2 Bb7 16.Ng3 d5 17.fxe6 0-0! transposes into 13...0-0, and a few games in Scandinavia... 18.Qg4 *(18.exf7+ Rxf7 19.Ngf5 dxe4 20.Qe3 Nd3+ 21.Kb1 Bc5 22.Bh3 Nf4 23.Bg4 Raf8 24.Qg3 Bc8 25.Ne3 Qa7 26.Nc6 Qb6 27.Ne5 Bxe3 28.Nxf7 Bxg4 29.Rd6 Qb5 30.Qxg4 Rxf7 31.Rhd1 Qe5 32.h5 Rf8 33.Rd8 Bc5 34.h6 e3 35.hxg7 Kxg7 36.R1d7+ Be7 37.Rxf8 Kxf8 38.Qh4 e2 39.Qh6+ Ke8* 0-1 (39) Lohou,S (2132)-De Firmian,N (2545) Gjovik 2008*)* 18...fxe6 19.Nxe6?! Nxe6 20.Qxe6+ Kh8 21.exd5 Rae8 *(21...Bd6!-+* was even simpler, when White's two pawns more aren't going to help him.*)* 22.d6 Qb6 23.Qd7 Bc6? *(23...Bxg5+ 24.hxg5 Qe3+ 25.Kb1 Bxh1 26.Nxh1 Qd2! 27.Nf2 Re1!* Black gets there first*)* 24.dxe7! Bxd7 25.exf8Q+ Rxf8 26.Rxd7 Qe3+ 27.Rd2 Rd8 28.Bd3 Qxg3 29.Re2 a5 30.b3 g6 ½-½ was the ancient game Wedberg,T (2435)-De Firmian,N Gausdal 1982.) 14...gxf6 15.gxf6 Bf8 16.Rg1!? *(16.Qh5 Bd7 17.a3 Qa5 18.Nb3 Nxb3+ 19.cxb3 Rc8 20.b4 Qb6 21.Kb1 Rg8 22.Qxh7 Rg6 23.Qh4 Rh6 24.Qf4 Qd8 25.Be2 Qxf6 26.Qe3 Rh4 27.h3 Qe5 28.Rhf1 Bh6 29.Qd3 Ke7 30.Bg4 Bg7 31.Qf3 Bf6 32.Rde1 Bg7 33.Qxf7+ Kd8 34.Rc1 Rh8 35.Qf2 Rf8 36.Qh4+ Bf6 37.Qh6 Ke7 38.Qh7+ Rf7 39.Qh5 Qxh5 40.Bxh5 Rh7 41.Bg4 Rc4* ½-½ was even more ancient: Matulovic, M (2490)-De Firmian,N Nis 1981, 16...Bd7 *(16...h5!?)* 17.Rg7 Bxg7 18.fxg7 Rg8 19.e5 0-0-0 20.exd6 Qb6 21.Ne4 Nxe4 22.Qxe4 Qxd6 23.Qa8+ Qb8 24.Qxa6+ Qb7 25.Qa5 Qc7 26.Qa8+ Qb8 27.Qf3 Qb7 28.Qxf7 Qd5 29.h4 Qxa2 30.Nb3 Qa7 31.Bxb5 Qe3+ 32.Kb1 Bxb5 33.Rxd8+ Rxd8 34.g8Q Rxg8 35.Qxg8+ Kc7 36.Qxh7+ Kd6 37.Qb7 Qg1+ 38.Ka2 Bc4 39.Qb4+ Kd5 40.Ka3 Bxb3 41.Qxb3+ Ke5 42.c4 Kf4 43.h5 Qc5+ 44.Qb4 Qxh5 45.c5+ Ke5 46.Qb8+ Kd5 47.Qd6+ Kc4 48.b3+ Kc3 49.b4 Qf3 50.c6 Kc4+ 51.Ka4 e5 52.Qe6+ Kd4 53.Qd6+ Kc4 54.Qc5+ Kd3 55.Qxe5 1-0 Wolff,P (2380)-Browne,W (2495) World op, Philadelphia 1987. Two locals for the price of one.)] **11.Bxf6** [Even here, 11.Bh4!? was pioneered by "honorary" Bay Area player Gadir Guseinov, who won almost every Mechanics' online TNM (or was it ever one?) with even positional play. But twenty years ago it was a different style entirely: 11...g5 *(11...b5)* 12.e5 gxh4!? (12...dxe5 13.fxg5 hxg5 14.Bg3 Bb4 *(14...Qb6 15.Nb3 Qc6 16.Qe2 Qxh1 17.Bg2 Qxd1+ 18.Nxd1 Nd5 19.Bxd5 exd5 20.Ne3 f6 21.Nxd5 Bd8 22.Nd4 Kf7 23.Nf5 Nb6 24.Nd6+ Ke6 25.Nxb6 Bxb6 26.Nc4 Bc7 27.Ne3 b5 28.Qf3 Bd7 29.Qf5+ Ke7 30.Nd5+ Kd6 31.Qd3 Be6 32.Nxf6+ Ke7 33.Ne4 Rhd8 34.Qe3 Bd5* 1-0 (34) Guseinov,G (2586)-Idrisov,T (2127) Baku 2007*)* 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Nf6 17.Nxe6 Bxe6 18.Qxb4 Nd5 19.Qe4 Nf4 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Bg2 Rc8 22.Rd2 b5 23.Qd4 Ke7 24.Re1 Qc4 25.Qd6+ Kf6 26.Qe5+ Ke7 27.Bd5 1-0 (27) Guseinov,G (2456) -Peng,Z (2391) Budapest 2001) 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.g5 hxg5 15.fxg5 Nh7 *(15...Nh5!?)* 16.g6 fxg6 17.Bd3 Nf8 18.Rhg1 Rg8 19.Rdf1 Rg7 20.Bxg6+ Kd8 21.Bh5 Rxg1 22.Rxg1 Qc5 23.Nce2?! *(23.Qf7! Qxd4 24.Qe8+ Kc7 25.Qxe7+ Bd7 26.Rf1 Qh8 27.Qxh4* with Black's king more exposed (although it might not be fatal)*.)* 23...e5 24.Qf7 exd4 25.Qe8+ Kc7 26.Qxe7+ Bd7 27.Rg5 Qc6 28.Nf4 Qh1+ 29.Bd1 Re8 30.Qf6 Nh7 31.Rg1 Qxg1 32.Nd5+ Kc6 33.Nb4+ Kc5 34.Nd3+ Kb6 35.Qxd6+ Bc6 36.b4 Ka7 0-1 (36) Guseinov,G (2557)-Kempinski,R (2561) Plovdiv 2003 CBM 098 [Gofshtein,L]] **11...Bxf6 12.h4 Qb6** [12...Nb6!? saw some local play by all-too-brief local resident Kyron Griffith: 13.g5 Bxd4 14.Rxd4 Qc5 15.Rd1 (15.Rd2 Bd7 16.Qd3?! *(16.Be2!+/-)* 16...hxg5! 17.fxg5 Ke7 18.e5?! Qxe5 19.Rh3 Bb5! Black starts to take over after this. 20.Qf3 Bc6 21.Qf2 Qc5 22.Re3 Raf8 23.Bd3 Nd5 24.Nxd5+ Qxd5 25.b3?! *(25.Be4)* 25...Qh1+ 26.Kb2 Qxh4 27.Rg3 Qb4 28.c3 Qc5 0-1 Wong,R (2200) -Griffith,K (2455) MI Summer TNM (5), San Francisco June 25, 2019) 15...Bd7 ½-½ Jirasek,L (50)-Griffith,K (2336) 19th Addison Memorial, San Francisco, June 23 2019] **13.Nb3 Nc5** [13...Qc7 14.e5 dxe5 15.f5 Nb6 16.Ne4 exf5 17.gxf5 Bd7 18.Na5 0-0-0 19.Nd6+ Kb8 20.Qxb7+ Qxb7 21.Ndxb7 Rc8 22.Nd6 Rc7 23.Rh3 Ka7 24.Ra3 was one crazy game: ½-½ (43) Shirov,A (2745)-Dominguez Perez,L (2717) Sofia 2009; 13...Be7!? is the subtlety where all the high-level play has led to: 14.Kb1 *(14.g5? hxg5 15.hxg5 Rxh1 16.Qxh1 Qe3+)* 14...Nc5 15.g5 Bd7 16.f5 hxg5 17.hxg5 0-0-0 18.fxe6 Bxe6 19.Bh3 Bxg5 20.Nd5 Qc6 21.Rdg1 Bf6 22.Rxg7 Bxg7 23.Ne7+ Kc7 24.Nxc6 Nxb3 25.axb3 Kxc6 26.Bxe6 Rxh1+ 27.Qxh1 fxe6 28.Qh7 Rd7 29.Qh8 e5 30.Qc8+ Rc7 31.Qe6 Rd7 32.Qc4+ Kb6 33.Qc8 Rc7 34.Qd8 Kc6 35.b4 Bh6 36.c4 b6 37.c5 dxc5 38.bxc5 Kb7 39.Qd5+ Kb8 40.Qd6 1-0 Guseinov,G (2650)-Kokarev,D (2588) Khanty-Mansiysk 2008. There he is again! (playing the "quieter" 11.Bxf6)] **14.g5 Be7**



15.Bc4!?N is not just a new move, but quite a good one! Stockfish makes it *winning*. **15...Bd7 16.g6! fxg6?** [Black had to castle into it again, with 16...0-0! but 17.Qh3!+- and the light-square threats can't be met. *(17.f5 fxg6!?* is good for White, but not as strong at all.*)*] **17.Qg4 0-0-0 18.Nxc5 dxc5**

19.Rxd7!? [Actually the straight-forward 19.Qxg6! is better. Stafford might have had "brilliancy against the master" on his mind, but he slips up on the next move:] **19...Kxd7 20.Qxg6?!** [20.Nd5! Qc6 21.Rd1 would require Black to find the desperate 21...Ke8! 22.Qxg6+ Kf8 when 23.Rg1! exd5! *(23...Rg8 24.Nc3* Black comes undone*)* 24.Qxg7+ Ke8 25.Qxh8+ Kd7 and after a machine-like defense, the evaluation is still "+/- 0.93". Sometimes Life is hard.] **20...Kc7**



[20...Kc8 could well be safer.] **21.Bxe6?** [21.Qxg7 Qd6 22.e5! Qc6! *(22...Qd2+ 23.Kb1 Rhe8 24.Bxe6+/-* is turning good for White*)* 23.Rf1 Rhe8 when after a deep think the "0.00"s show up.] **21...Bf6!** Now White has to be careful. **22.Qf7+?** And now it goes over to the Dark Side. [22.Bd5 Bd4 is the best try for both, when Black has the edge whether the queens come off or not; in either case White is squarely in it.] **22...Kb8 23.e5?!** White has lost the thread entirely. [23.Bd5] **23...Rhf8 24.Nd5 Qc6** It's as good as over. White hopes for an ending miracle, but it's not to be. **25.Qc7+ Qxc7 26.Nxc7 Kxc7 27.exf6 Rxf6 28.f5 g6 29.Rf1 gxf5 30.Bc4 Rd4 31.Bd3 Rxh4** So close! In any case, Adam is no 1745 player! Between his opening preparation and attacking spirit, he'll be banging down the doors with a little more experience and accuracy. **0-1**

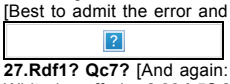
(5) Wang,Daniel (1700) - Bambou,Christophe (2097) [D11]

MI Nov-Dec 2021 TNM 1800+ San Francisco (5.2), 30.11.2021

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Bf5 5.Bg2 e6 6.0-0 h6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Nd2 0-0 The Slav formation is a solid counter to the Catalan. **9.e4** [9.b3!?] **9...dxe4 10.Ndxe4 Nbd7 11.Be3 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Nf6 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6**

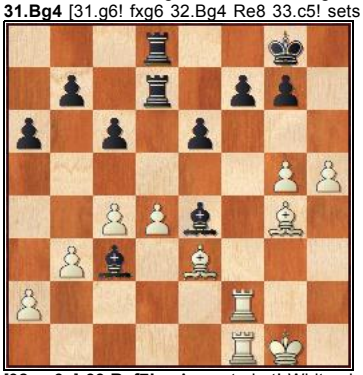
White has a bit more space but Black is very solid and can aim at the d4 pawn. Chances are equal. **14.f4?!** slightly weakening the kingside [14.Qb3=] **14...Qb6 15.g4** White decides this will be no quiet positional buildup, and sends his kingside pawns down the board! **15...Bh7 16.g5 hxg5 17.fxg5 Be7 18.b3?! Rad8** [18...e5!] **19.Qe2 Qa5 20.Kh1** [More solid is 20.h4] **20...Rd7** [20...Bxg5? 21.b4! Qxb4 22.Bxg5 Rxd4 23.Rfc1 Black does get a lot of pawns, but White is still better.] **21.h4 Rfd8**

22.Rf2? [22.Rad1 Bf5 23.h5 g6=/+] **22...Qc3?** [22...Rxd4!-+ takes Black apart pawn by pawn; White no longer has a defensive Qf2. 23.Bxd4 Rxd4 24.Kg1 Rxh4 25.Rxf7 Bc5+] **23.Rc1 Qd3** [Best to admit the error and go back: 23...Qa5=/+] **24.Qf3= Bb4 25.Rd1 Qf5 26.Qe2 Qa5**

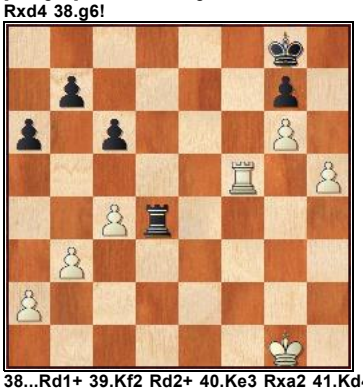


27.Rdf1? Qc7? [And again: 27...Rxd4 although it's not as crushing as before: 28.Bxd4 Rxd4 29.Rxf7 Rxh4+ 30.Kg1 Bc5+ 31.R1f2 Bg6! 32.Qxe6 Bxf2+ 33.Rxf2+ Kh7-/+ material is even, but White is suffering.] **28.h5?** [28.Bf4 Bd6 29.Qe3 Bxf4 30.Rxf4 Bg6 still favors Black, but White has good chance to draw.] **28...Qg3?**

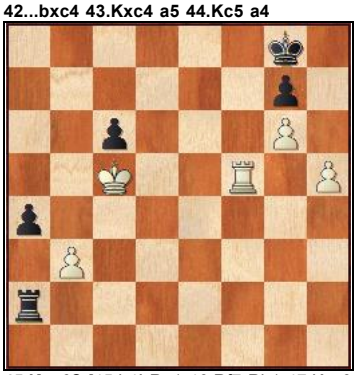
[28...Rxd4! What else! 29.Bxd4 Rxd4 30.Rd1 Rh4+ 31.Kg1 Bf5!-+ For the Exchange: a pawn, two great bishops, threats on f2, pawns falling. *(31...Bc5? 32.g6! Bxf2+ 33.Qxf2 Rxh5 34.gxh7+ Kxh7 35.Rd2+/=)*] **29.Qf3?** [29.g6! Qh4+ *(29...Rxd4 30.Bxd4 Rxd4 31.Rxf7* and somehow, White survives Black's kingside attack and is winning.*)* 30.Bh3! Qxh3+ 31.Rh2 Qg3 32.gxh7+ Kxh7 33.Bf4 Qc3 34.Be5 gives White a strong attack 34...f6?! 35.h6!] **29...Qxf3 30.Bxf3 a6** [30...Bf5 encourages mass liquidation: 31.d5 cxd5 32.cxd5 exd5 33.Bxd5 Rxd5 34.Rxf5 gets even fast.] **31.Bg4** [31.g6! fxg6 32.Bg4 Re8 33.c5! sets up threats to f8 (via Bxe6+) and give White the advantage finally.] **31...Be4+ 32.Kg1 Bc3?**



[32...g6=] **33.Rxf7!+-** A great shot! White should be winning now. **33...Bf5** [33...Rxf7 34.Bxe6 Rdf8 35.g6] **34.Rxd7 Rxd7 35.Bxf5 exf5 36.Rxf5** [36.Rd1; 36.g6 Bxd4 37.Kf2] **36...Bxd4 37.Bxd4 Rxd4 38.g6!**



38...Rd1+ 39.Kf2 Rd2+ 40.Ke3 Rxa2 41.Kd4 [41.Rf7! immediately threatens the b-pawn and gets the back rank mating threat going] **41...b5?! 42.Kc5?!** [42.Rf7! Rh2 43.Rc7 Kf8 44.Ke5!] **42...bxc4 43.Kxc4 a5 44.Kc5 a4**

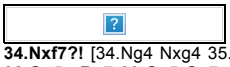


45.Kxc6? [45.b4! Ra1 46.Rf7 Rh1 47.Kxc6 a3 48.Ra7 Kf8 49.b5+- and it's clear why White should have kept both queenside pawns on the board.] **45...axb3 46.Rb5 Rc2+ 47.Kd5 Rd2+ 48.Ke4 Re2+ 49.Kf3 Re8** It's completely drawn now. **50.Rxb3 Rf8+ 51.Kg4 Ra8 52.Rb5 Rf8 53.Kg5 Ra8 54.Rf5 Rb8 55.h6 gxh6+ 56.Kxh6 Ra8 57.Rf6 Rb8 58.g7 Ra8 59.Kg6 Ra6 60.Rxa6** Another 1700 player for not very long. Plenty of slipups, but also some fine moves. **1/2-1/2**

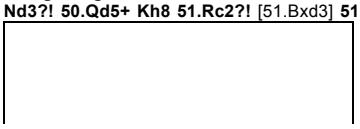
(6) Malykin,Erika (1693) - Long,Matt (1478) [E00]

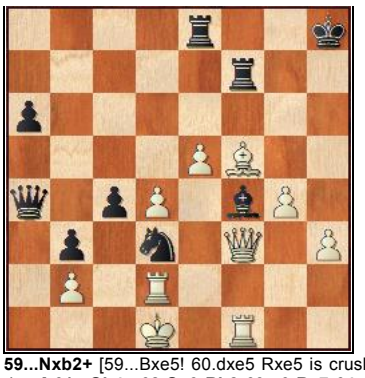
MI Nov-Dec 2021 TNM u1800 San Francisco (5.18), 30.11.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.c4 d5 4.e3 Be7 5.Nd2 h6 6.Bf4 0-0 7.Ngf3 Nh5 8.Be5 Nd7 9.Bd3 Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Nf6 11.Rc1 c6 12.0-0 Nd7 13.Nef3 We have a Queen's Gambit Declined position with a small edge to White. **13...dxc4 14.Nxc4 Nb6 15.Nce5 Nd7 16.Nc4 Nb6 17.Ncd2** no draw! **17...Nd5 18.a3 Qb6 19.Nc4 Qd8 20.Nfe5 Nb6 21.Nd2 Nd7 22.Nef3 c5 23.h3 Rb8 24.Ne4 b6 25.Bb1 Bb7 26.Qa4 a6 27.Rfd1 b5 28.Qc2 Bxe4 29.Qxe4 Nf6** Being careful to defend the mate on h7. **30.Qc2 c4 31.Ne5 Rc8 32.Ng4 g6! 33.Nxh6+ Kg7**



34.Nxf7?! [34.Ng4 Nxg4 35.hxg4 c3=] **34...Rxf7 35.Qxg6+ Kf8-/+ 36.Qh6+ Kg8** The black king is safe enough due to several black pieces around it, so Black holds the edge. **37.g4 Bf8 38.Qg5+ Rg7 39.Qe5 Qe7 40.Kf1 Rd8 41.Qh2 Qf7 42.f4 Nd5 43.Ke2 Bd6 44.Rf1 Rf8 45.Qf2 Qc7 46.f5?! exf5 47.Bxf5 Qe7?!** [47...Re7! gives Black a strong attack] **48.Qf3 Nf4+ 49.Kd2 Nd3?! 50.Qd5+ Kh8 51.Rc2?!** [51.Bxd3] **51...Rd8** [51...Nxb2! 52.Rxb2 c3+ 53.Kxc3 Qxe3+] **52.Qc6 Re8 53.Qf3 Rf7 54.e4 Bf4+ 55.Kd1 b4 56.a4 b3 57.Re2 Qb4 58.e5 Qxa4 59.Rd2**





59...Nxb2+ [59...Bxe5! 60.dxe5 Rxe5 is crushing] **60.Ke2 Bxd2?!** [60...Nd3 61.Bxd3 cxd3+ 62.Qxd3 Ref8] **61.Kxd2?** [61.g5!! gets checks on the black king and lets White squirm out with a draw] **61...Qb4+ 62.Qc3 Rb8 63.e6 Re7 64.d5+ Qxc3+ 65.Kxc3 Rd8?!** [65...Na4+] **66.Kxb2 Rxd5 67.Kc3 Rb5 68.Kxc4 b2 69.Rb1 Rc7+ 70.Kd4 Rb8 71.h4 Rc1** draw agreed, though Black is still better. An intense battle! **1/2-1/2**

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	T
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2252	W20	W19	W14	D11	W6				4
2	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**	12734479	2097	L5	W21	W23	W10	D7				3
3	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	13001390	2032	H---	W5	D10	H---	W11			H---	3
4	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)**	12517167	1884	H---	W17	W9	L6	W13				3
5	**Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)**	17039584	1855	W2	L3	D7	W18	W19				3
6	**Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)**	14257838	1745	W8	H---	W18	W4	L1				3
7	**Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)**	15361305	1700	W15	D13	D5	W19	D2			H---	3
8	**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2001	L6	W26	H---	W24	D9			H---	3
9	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1954	W25	D18	L4	W14	D8		H---		3
10	**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)**	16828914	1917	H---	X29	D3	L2	W23				3
11	**Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)**	12572270	1900	D12	W22	W13	D1	L3				3
12	**Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)**	16600505	1670	D11	D16	L19	W29	W21		H---		3
13	**David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)**	13776967	2023	W26	D7	L11	W20	L4				2
14	**Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)**	12601629	2017	H---	W24	L1	L9	B---				2
15	**Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)**	10451671	1914	L7	W25	X16	H---	U---	H---			2
16	**Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)**	12747074	1832	H---	D12	F15	H---	W24				2
17	**Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)**	12590374	1706	D28	L4	L20	B---	W26				2
18	**Brandon Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)**	12869947	2003	W21	D9	L6	L5	H---				2
19	**Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	15206848	1955	W27	L1	W12	L7	L5				2

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20	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1867	L1	D27	W17	L13	H---				2
21	Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)	17158733	1760	L18	L2	W25	W22	L12				2
22	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1746	H---	L11	H---	L21	W27			H---	2
23	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	H---	H---	L2	W26	L10				2
24	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	H---	L14	W29	L8	L16				1
25	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1735	L9	L15	L21	H---	W29				1
26	Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)	12328450	1800	L13	L8	W27	L23	L17				1
27	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1744	L19	D20	L26	H---	L22			H---	1
28	Krish Matai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16444206)	16444206	1937	D17	U---	U---	U---	U---				0
29	Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	12633251	1787	H---	F10	L24	L12	L25			H---	0

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	T
1	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1746	W34	W9	D26	W21	W7				4
2	Yuvraj Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	1593	D22	D20	W43	W26	W16				4
3	Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)	30257083	1549	W49	W33	W17	H---	H---				4
4	Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)	30268083	1540	W35	W18	D25	H---	W11				4
5	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	W37	W41	L6	X33	W18				4
6	Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)	17018168	1649	W43	W16	W5	L7	D9				3
7	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1611	W48	W27	D11	W6	L1				3
8	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	H---	L25	W51	W46	W28				3
9	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	12872385	1491	W53	L1	W37	W20	D6				3
10	Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)	13377410	1478	L25	W24	W40	W32	D13				3
11	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	14874734	1448	W29	W15	D7	W25	L4				3
12	Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)	15616166	1149	H---	H---	H---	W41	W26				3
13	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	H---	H---	H---	X39	D10				3
14	Jim Ratliff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	11163831	1632	H---	H---	W22	L16	W34				3

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15	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1542	W50	L11	L20	W37	W35				3
16	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1474	W38	L6	W30	W14	L2			H---	3
17	Ashwin Vaidyanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205719)	30205719	1444	W39	W32	L3	H---	D21			H---	3
18	David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)	13913131	1400	W31	L4	W44	W27	L5				3
19	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1400	H---	W51	L21	H---	W39			H---	3
20	Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	1278	H---	D2	W15	L9	W32				3
21	JP Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)	30150098	1229	W52	H---	W19	L1	D17			H---	3
22	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	1135	D2	X52	L14	X42	H---				3
23	Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	17005685	997	L26	L46	W49	X47	W33				3
24	Prasanna Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)	30279272	921	L27	L10	W50	W48	X42				3
25	Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12898987)	12898987	839	W10	W8	D4	L11	D27				3
26	Ronald Allen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30086796)	30086796	1501	W23	W28	D1	L2	L12				2
27	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1500	W24	L7	W31	L18	D25				2
28	Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)	30235937	1172	W46	L26	W47	H---	L8			H---	2
29	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	L11	L48	B---	H---	W45			H---	2
30	Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)	30223021	unr.	H---	H---	L16	D43	W44		H---		2
31	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	L18	B---	L27	H---	X41			H---	2
32	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1511	W36	L17	W48	L10	L20				2
33	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1447	W44	L3	W38	F5	L23				2
34	Cloe Chai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315197)	16315197	1254	L1	L37	W36	W38	L14				2
35	Maria Obrien (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15300977)	15300977	1036	L4	L44	W53	W40	L15			H---	2
36	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1014	L32	L40	L34	W49	W51				2
37	Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	16317000	970	L5	W34	L9	L15	W46				2
38	Cathal Dayton (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12930548)	12930548	784	L16	W49	L33	L34	X47				2
39	Vittorio Banfi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30308530)	30308530	unr.	L17	W50	W46	F13	L19				2
	Juan Elias											

40	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30325735)	30325735	unr.	L41	W36	L10	L35	W50				2
41	Deandre Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)	30255378	1399	W40	L5	H---	L12	F31	H---			1
42	Enile Ahmed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110092)	17110092	1356	H---	H---	H---	F22	F24				1
43	Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)	16694473	1219	L6	X53	L2	D30	F48				1
44	Marcus Casaes (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30290420)	30290420	unr.	L33	W35	L18	H---	L30				1
45	William Deegan		unr.	H---	H---	H---	U---	L29				1
46	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600	L28	W23	L39	L8	L37				1
47	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	H---	H---	L28	F23	F38				1
48	Don Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694467)	16694467	1219	L7	W29	L32	L24	F43				1
49	Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)	16757673	1125	L3	L38	L23	L36	X53				1
50	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1091	L15	L39	L24	W53	L40				1
51	Maxwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)	30329285	unr.	H---	L19	L8	H---	L36				1
52	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	L21	F22	U---	U---	U---				0
53	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	845	L9	F43	L35	L50	F49				0

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	T
1	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	U---	U---	W19	W16	U---				2
2	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	U---	W20	U---	U---	W21			H---	2
3	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1917	D12	W18	U---	U---	U---				1
4	Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)	12601629	2017	W13	U---	U---	U---	U---				1
5	Alexander Pa Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1859	U---	U---	W15	U---	U---				1
6	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	U---	U---	U---	W22	U---				1
7	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	W25	U---	U---	U---	U---				1
8	Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)	30250562	1459	U---	U---	U---	U---	W23				1
9	Prasanna Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)	30279272	921	U---	U---	U---	U---	W24				1
10	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	U---	U---	W20	U---	U---			H---	1
11	William Deegan		unr.	U---	U---	U---	W24	U---				1
	Andre Persidsky											

12	**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)**	12545869	1814	D3	U---	U---	U---	U---				0
13	**Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)**	30328281	1600	L4	D14	U---	U---	U---				0
14	**Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)**	30214657	1135	U---	D13	U---	U---	U---				0
15	**Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)**	10451671	1914	U---	U---	L5	U---	U---	H---			0
16	**Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)**	12465386	1800	U---	U---	U---	L1	U---				0
17	**Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)**	12773115	1746	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---				0
18	**Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)**	12559529	1720	U---	L3	U---	U---	U---				0
19	**Enile Ahmed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110092)**	17110092	1356	U---	U---	L1	U---	U---				0
20	**Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)**	15616166	1149	U---	L2	L10	U---	U---				0
21	**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)**	16757673	1125	U---	U---	U---	U---	L2				0
22	**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	17005685	997	U---	U---	U---	L6	U---				0
23	**Cathal Dayton (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12930548)**	12930548	784	U---	U---	U---	U---	L8				0
24	**Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	14708926	749	U---	U---	U---	L11	L9				0
25	**Maxcwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)**	30329285	unr.	L7	U---	U---	U---	U---				0

Mechanics' Thanksgiving Gobbler Open Report

The inaugural Mechanics' Gobbler Open brought 40 players together for a three-day Thanksgiving chess celebration for our community. The FIDE-rated event was in three sections, and we would like to thank all the participants who played. I want to also thank IM John Donaldson for signing copies of his book, three of which we gave away over the weekend as raffle prizes. Congratulations to section winners IM Elliott Winslow and NM Austin Mei who tied for 1st in the top section, Alexander Su in the 1600-1999 section, and Muradhan Sabyrov in the under 1600 section.

IM Elliott Winslow and NM Austin Mei played on board 1 during round 4 on Saturday

One player we will be following is Tianmu Wang. This 9-year old has been rising sharply over the last few months and had an impressive overall performance scoring 2.5 and raising her rating to 1088.

Tianmu Wang could be a future force in girls chess in the Bay Area and beyond

We want to thank the entire chess community for their continued support of our events, and we hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Thanksgiving Gobbler Open: Open

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	1-2	**IM Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2252	W8	H---	W5	D2	W4	W7	5.0
2		**NM Austin Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090452)**	16090452	2201	W4	W5	W6	D1	W7	D3	5.0
3	3-4	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**	12734479	2097	H---	H---	W7	L4	X6	D2	3.5
4		**Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)**	17039584	1855	L2	W8	H---	W3	L1	W5	3.5
5	5	**Ethan Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)**	16090467	1640	W7	L2	L1	D6	B---	L4	2.5
6	6	**Pranav Senthilkumar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14020007)**	14020007	2035	H---	W7	L2	D5	F3	U---	2.0
7	7	**Sam Sloan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11115292)**	11115292	1900	L5	L6	L3	B---	L2	L1	1.0
8	8	**James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)**	12621393	1867	L1	L4	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Thanksgiving Gobbler Open: 1600-1999

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	1	**Alexander Su (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12857329)**	12857329	1756	D5	W8	W2	W4	W3	W6	5.5
2	2-3	**Daniel Perlov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16465203)**	16465203	1533	W4	W7	L1	D3	D6	H---	3.5
3		**Kian Jamali (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761438)**	16761438	1446	L10	B---	W5	D2	L1	W9	3.5
4	4-7	**Scott Caldwell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11466435)**	11466435	1732	L2	X11	W8	L1	D7	D5	3.0
5		**Wentao Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16629782)**	16629782	1678	D1	D9	L3	W7	D8	D4	3.0
6		**Tom Boyd (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10495768)**	10495768	1600	H---	H---	D7	W9	D2	L1	3.0
7		**Axel Joseph (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30240086)**	30240086	1442	B---	L2	D6	L5	D4	W8	3.0
8	8-9	**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	12872385	1491	W11	L1	L4	B---	D5	L7	2.5

		12872385)										
9		Branislav Radakovic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15064653)	15064653	1449	H---	D5	H---	L6	B---	L3	2.5
10	10	Gary Bagstad (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10924031)	10924031	1700	W3	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
11	11	Nelson Sowell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11103405)	11103405	1727	L8	F4	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Thanksgiving Gobbler Open: Under1600

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6
1	1	Muradhan Sabyrov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30028106)	30028106	965	W18	W14	D4	W16	W3	W5
2	2	Austin Jin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17144712)	17144712	1207	D11	W19	W18	L3	W15	W9
3	3-6	Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	1278	W15	W12	W13	W2	L1	L4
4		Ivan Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17352346)	17352346	1209	W6	D16	D1	L5	W12	W3
5		Henry Lien (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15156603)	15156603	1068	W7	L13	W6	W4	W11	L1
6		Kairat Sabyrov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30362207)	30362207	unr.	L4	W20	L5	W18	W16	W1
7	7-8	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	L5	L11	W17	D10	W19	W1
8		Danny Cao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16939797)	16939797	1064	L16	H---	W19	D12	W14	H--
9	9-12	Sebastian Fotouhi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30192020)	30192020	1204	L12	D15	D10	W19	W13	L2
10		Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	16317000	970	U---	H---	D9	D7	W20	D1
11		William Leber (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30346394)	30346394	unr.	D2	W7	D16	W13	L5	L6
12		Brandon Shien (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30352643)	30352643	unr.	W9	L3	D14	D8	L4	W1
13	13-15	Hoa Long Tam (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16919862)	16919862	1299	W20	W5	L3	L11	L9	D1
14		Vinesh Jethva (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30035667)	30035667	1284	W17	L1	D12	L15	L8	W1
15		Tianmu Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16996027)	16996027	425	L3	D9	W20	W14	L2	L7
16	16-17	Deandre Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)	30255378	1399	W8	D4	D11	L1	L6	L1
17		Max Nurko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14822541)	14822541	786	L14	L18	L7	W20	H---	H--
18	18-19	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1361	L1	W17	L2	L6	H---	L1
19		Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	17005685	997	H---	L2	L8	L9	L7	W2
20	20	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	845	L13	L6	L15	L17	L10	L1

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Thanksgiving Gobbler Open: Extra Rated

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	**Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)**	12465386	1800	W4	W5	U---	U---	2.0
2	2-3	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**	12734479	2097	U---	U---	U---	W6	1.0
3		**Sam Sloan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11115292)**	11115292	1900	U---	U---	W7	U---	1.0
4	4-7	**Scott Caldwell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11466435)**	11466435	1732	L1	U---	U---	U---	0.0
5		**Nelson Sowell (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11103405)**	11103405	1727	U---	L1	U---	U---	0.0
6		**Ethan Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)**	16090467	1640	U---	U---	U---	L2	0.0
7		**Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)**	12872385	1491	U---	U---	L3	U---	0.0

Tony's Teasers

Tony is back and ready to challenge you to solve this problem: white to move and draw!

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Guthrie McClain Memorial Championship. December 4, 10AM. 4SS G/45;d5: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/McClainMemorialChampionshipG45InPerson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/McClainMemorialChampionshipG45InPerson)

Mechanics' Institute Championship Quads. December 11, 3PM. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsDec2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsDec2021)

IM John Donaldson Championship. December 18-19, 10AM FIDE Rated. 5SS G/90+30: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/3rdAnnualDonaldsonChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/3rdAnnualDonaldsonChampionship)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Fresh New
Scholastic Chess Bulletin #7 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/https://conta.cc/3xev44s)

In this issue:

- Monthly Scholastic In-Person Tournament - 2021 November Report
- Mechanics' Institute Thanksgiving Gobbler Kids - Friday, November 26 @ 9:30AM
- Chess Enrichment Highlight: Alice Fong Alternative School
- Upcoming Chess Camps
- Why I like Quads by Andrew Ballantyne
- Understanding Tournaments: Moves, moves, moves
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured Games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Scholastic-Chess-Bulletin–7–-Mechanics–Institute.html?soid=1103755398293&aid=O11PKTDUtfQ) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues.
(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess#bulletin)

All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead

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Problems in the Opening, Part Three

Last week I touched on a few different ways to approach the opening, and here's another idea for you: play something you've never tried before! Playing an opening for the first time (even with just a cursory look at a few lines) is a great way to get psyched into a game. You get a fresh look, the configuration of the pieces on the board is different than what you're accustomed to, there are new problems to be solved – chess feels new again.

Of course one must be careful. Trotting out the King's Gambit without studying a thing about it is a sure-fire way to land in hot water.

A few years ago I was paired with a strong master in the Tuesday Night Marathon. I played black, and I knew that he liked to play g3 systems against the King's Indian. Fair enough, I feel comfortable in those positions. But there was no doubt that he was far more booked up than I, and I wanted to make the game a fight that was not based on who knew more theory. I noticed he played 2.Nf3 on the second move rather than the more common 2.c4, and that gave me an idea: I'd take him out of his book on move two! And that's what happened.

Derek O'Connor – Paul Whitehead, Fall TNM 2017.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b5!

You could call this the Reversed Orangutan. Karpov was fond of this move. The best thing was that it completely took my opponent by surprise: he started to take a lot of time. It turned out that he was on unfamiliar ground as well. **3.g3.** Of all white's tries here, 3.e4!? is the sharpest. **3...Bb7 4.Bg2 e6 5.0-0 c5 6.a4 b4 7.Nbd2 cxd4 8.Nb3 Be7 9.Nbxd4 0-0.**

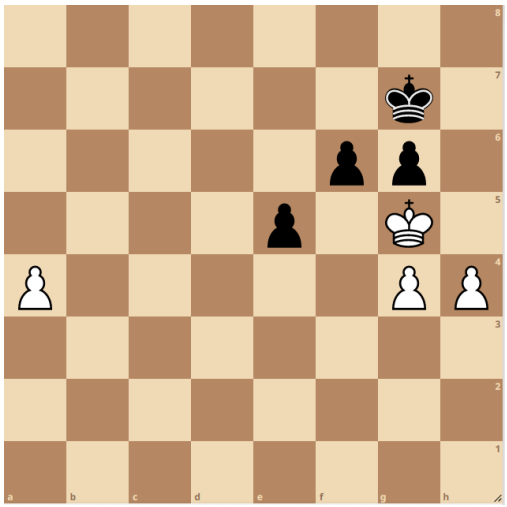
The opening has been a success for black. The pawn structure resembles a superior Sicilian Defense.

10.Re1 d5 11.Ne5 Nfd7 12.Nd3 Nc6 13.Nb3 Na5 14.Nxa5 Qxa5 15.Bd2 Rac8 16.e3 Ba6 17.Bf1.

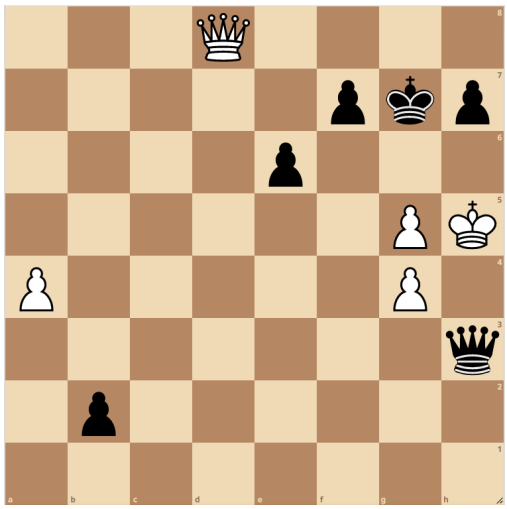
17...Bxd3?! Unnecessary. I was worried about 17...Qb6 18.a5 Qb7 19.Ra4, but 19...Bb5 deals, and black is better. **18.cxd3 Qc7 19.d4 a5 20.Ba6 Ra8 21.Rc1 Qa7 22.Bd3 Rfc8 23.b3 Qb7 24.e4!**

Opening the game for the 2 bishops. Now black must be careful. **24... Rxc1 25.Bxc1 Rc8 26.exd5 Qxd5 27.Be4 Qd6 28.Bf4 Qb6 29.Be3?!** Faltering. Now was the right time for 29.d5! **29...Nf6!** The start of a clever trap. **30.d5?! Qd8 31.Bg5?!** Somehow I knew white would play this way, but three dubious moves in a row is too much. White should settle for an inferior position a pawn down and try 31.Bf3. **31...Nxe4 32.Bxe7 Qxd5!**

Like 2...b5! I could tell this had taken white by surprise. His game is now lost, and despite some uneven play in mutual time-pressure I brought home the point: **33.f3 Nd2 34.Kg2 Nxb3.** Even stronger was 34...Nxf3! **35.Qe2 Qc4 36.Qf2 Nd4 37.Bg5 Qc2 38.Bd2 Nb3 39.Re2 Nxd2 40.Rxd2 b3 41.Kh3 Qf5+ 42.g4 Qf4 43.Qc5 Qxf3+ 44.Kh4 Rf8 45.Qxa5 Qe3 46.Rd8 g5+ 47.Kh5 Rxd8 48.Qxd8+ Kg7 49.h4 b2 50.hxg5.** An amusing line is 50.Qb8 Qe4! 51.Qxb2+ e5 52.Qb6 Qg6+ 53.Qxg6+ hxg6+ 54.Kxg5 f6# which deserves a diagram:



Instead this happened: **50...Qh3#.**



0-1.

Nick de Firmian's Column

Magnus needs to fight

(This article was written prior to game 6 on Friday)

The World Championship in Dubai has started out with many draws (again). The 2018 World Championship had all twelve classical games drawn, and the 2016 match before that had 10 draws from 12 games. Why can't Magnus, a super world champion, win games? I must put forth the theory that he isn't risking enough – he doesn't play these matches with the brash, fearless energy of his youth or the hallmark courage of Tal, Fischer, or Alekhine.

You may ask who am I (or anyone else for that matter) to tell Magnus what he should do to retain his title when he has been the king of the last decade and survived every challenge. It is true that Magnus knows more about chess than anyone on the planet. I say this isn't enough for a world champion. The champion has millions of fans following the quest to be king and one needs to show them a fascinating fight for the good of chess.
What good to be champion if fans lose their interest and don't watch?

Alright, it is hard to always put yourself at risk and besides there are two players in a game. Yet the challenger feels happy just to be in the match and a true champion embraces the fight. Magnus doesn't need to choose super risky lines. He just needs to not avoid risks, and also (probably the most important) to fight to the bitter end. We give below the two first match games in which Magnus had White where we would expect him to show his worth.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Nepomniachtchi,Ian [E05]
World Chp., 27.11.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 The Catalan is certainly a fair fighting opening. Magnus naturally wants to surprise Nepo in the opening. One thing is to have a terrific novelty that gets a big advantage. That's rare in a world championship match. The other plan is to confuse your opponent with rare lines. **4...Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 b5 8.Ne5!?**

This move is not common - 8. a4 being the usual choice. No doubt it is deep opening preparation by Carlsen's team. Is it really good though? **8...c6 9.a4** [9.Nxc6 Nxc6 10.Bxc6 Rb8 is just equal] **9...Nd5 10.Nc3 f6!** Typical aggressive Nepo play. He needs to challenge the center and doesn't worry about a slight weakeness on e6. **11.Nf3 Qd7 12.e4 Nb4 13.Qe2 Nd3** This knight deep in the white camp means Black has fully equal chances from the opening. **14.e5 Bb7 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Ne4 Na6** The knight can jump to good squares from here. **17.Ne5?!** A bit too direct. **17...Bxe5 18.dxe5 Nac5!**

19.Nd6!? An interesting and aggressive continuation, sacrificing the exchange. No faulting Magnus for creativity, but we ask again if the move is really good. **19...Nb3 20.Rb1 Nbxc1 21.Rbxc1 Nxc1 22.Rxc1 Rab8! 23.Rd1** [23.axb5 cxb5 24.Nxb7 Rxb7 25.Bxb7 Qxb7 is just a pawn ahead for Black with no complications] **23...Ba8 24.Be4 c3?!** Nepo had gained an edge from the opening battle, but decides to give back a pawn which evens the chances. 24...Qe7 was a little better for Black. **25.Qc2 g6** [25...cxb2?! 26.Bxh7+ Kh8 27.Bg6 leaves the black king in danger] **26.bxc3 bxa4 27.Qxa4 Rfd8 28.Ra1 c5 29.Qc4 Bxe4 30.Nxe4 Kh8 31.Nd6**

Black is a clear exchange ahead yet White has the monster knight on d6, which is nearly as good as a rook. **31...Rb6 32.Qxc5 Rdb8 33.Kg2 a6 34.Kh3 Rc6 35.Qd4 Kg8 36.c4 Qc7 37.Qg4**

37...Rxd6 A good practical decision by Nepo. Giving back the exchange simplifies the position to a drawable ending. Leaving the white knight on the board would have left Black with difficult decisions in the coming time pressure. **38.exd6 Qxd6 39.c5 Qxc5 40.Qxe6+ Kg7 41.Rxa6 Rf8!** This moves brings the black rook closer to the king. **42.f4** The only move to keep White's edge, but it allows a trade into a well known rook and pawn drawr ending. **42...Qf5+ 43.Qxf5 Rxf5 44.Ra7+ Kg8** The players continue, though both know there is no real chance for White to win. **45.Kg4 Rb5 46.Re7 Ra5 47.Re5 Ra7 48.h4 Kg7 49.h5 Kh6 50.Kh4 Ra1! 51.g4 Rh1+ 52.Kg3 gxh5 53.Re6+ Kg7 54.g5 Rg1+ 55.Kf2 Ra1 56.Rh6 Ra4 57.Kf3 Ra3+ 58.Kf2 Ra4 1/2-1/2**

(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Nepomniachtchi,Ian [C42]
World Chp., 29.11.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 Oh no, Petrov's Defense! Admittedly this leads to a more solid game and makes it a hard job to win. Bobby Fischer though never let the solid openings prevent him from pressing forward. **3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6** This and 6...Be7 are both very respectable lines. **7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.Re1 Bf5 10.Qb3 Qd7**

11.Nc3! Nxc3 12.Bxf5 Qxf5 13.bxc3 [13.Qxb7 Qd7 is equal since 14.Qxa8? Na4 15.c5 Na6 wins for Black] **13...b6 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Qb5 Qd7 16.a4** Naturally White can't take the pawn on d5. Magnus plays for a slight endgame edge, just as Fischer would have done. To win you should play the best move no matter where it leads to. **16...Qxb5 17.axb5 a5!** The only move to keep White's advantage very small. **18.Nh4!?** [18.bxa6 Nxa6 19.Rb1 Rfb8 20.Ne5 b5] **18...g6 19.g4 Nd7 20.Ng2 Rfc8** [20...Nf6 21.Bh6 Bxh2+ 22.Kh1 Rfe8 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Ne3 Bc7 25.g5 Ne4 26.Nxd5 wins the pawn back] **21.Bf4! Bxf4 22.Nxf4 Rxc3 23.Nxd5 Rd3**

24.Re7! Nf8 25.Nf6+ Kg7 26.Ne8+ Kg8 27.d5 The white d-pawn is guarded becuse of the knight fork. Both sides have passed pawns in a complex ending. **27...a4 28.Nf6+ Kg7 29.g5 a3 30.Ne8+ Kg8 31.Nf6+ Kg7**

What to do here? What would Bobby Fischer have played? The black a-pawn is very dangerous, but the white rooks and knight have chances for a mating attack with the black king hemned in. **32.Ne8+ Kg8 33.Nf6+** Draw? Even commentator Peter Leko (super solid reputation) was disturbed by this finish. You cannot claim to be the best chess player in history when you leave so much play in a game. This may be a very practical match decision to keep the score leveled, but spectators want more. White could have continues on move 32 with 32. Kg2 or 32. h4 and is certainly not worse, though there are risks for both sides. Maybe someone must lose a game before the real fighting begins. **1/2-1/2**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. Nc7!! b1=Q 2. Nb5+ Ke3 3. Rf3+ Kd2 4. Rf2+ Ke1 5. Re2+!! Kf1 6. Rf2+ Kg1 7. Rg3+ Kh1 8. Rh2+ (Any knight fork winning the black queen is a draw).

Submit your piece or feedback

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https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122135251/https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA)

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Newsletter #998

December 11, 2021

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GM Magnus Carlsen Retains Title Against GM Ian Nipomniachtchi 7.5-3.5

Read GM Nick de Firmian's column for more in the newsletter

https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/carlsen-nepomniachtchi-world-chess-championship-2021/1/1/1 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/carlsen-nepomniachtchi-world-chess-championship-2021/1/1/1)

https://fideworldchampionship.com/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/https://fideworldchampionship.com/)

Guthrie McClain Memorial Report

by Abel Talamantez

We had an excellent turnout for the McClain memorial with 45 players for the four-round, one-day event in honor of Guthrie "Mac" McClain, former editor of the California Chess Reporter and Mechanics' Institute Trustee. We had a particular strong top section for the weekend club event, with many of the Bay Area's talented youngsters participating. Local Mechanics' player Christophe Bambou took the top spot with 3.5/4, with Lucas Lesniewski and Rohan Rajaram tying for 2nd place with 3/4.

In the under 1800 section, Mechanics' TNM players Aaron Craig and Matt Long tied for 1st place with 3.5/4. Full results can be found below.

We want to thank all the participants for their support of Mechanics'!

SwissSys Standings. 20th McClain Memorial Championship: 1800+

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Pr
1	1	Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)	12734479	2089	W18	D2	W7	W5	3.5	26
2	2-3	Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)	17039584	1985	W11	D1	W9	D4	3.0	11
3		Rohan Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15739716)	15739716	1973	W12	D5	D4	W11	3.0	11
4	4-6	Xuli Dai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15931956)	15931956	2027	D9	W15	D3	D2	2.5	
5		Advay Bansal (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16068511)	16068511	2012	W14	D3	W8	L1	2.5	
6		Patrick Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1955	D16	L8	W13	W15	2.5	
7	7-12	Michael Da Cruz (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12554298)	12554298	2000	W10	W13	L1	U---	2.0	
8		Sricharan Pullela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15580337)	15580337	1943	D15	W6	L5	D9	2.0	
9		David Lakata (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12789796)	12789796	1801	D4	W16	L2	D8	2.0	
10		Advik Garg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16429697)	16429697	1717	L7	L17	X18	W16	2.0	
11		Wentao Wu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16629782)	16629782	1701	L2	W18	W17	L3	2.0	
12		Dylan Tang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16551237)	16551237	1694	L3	D14	D16	W17	2.0	
13	13-15	Fredric Dutter (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12343420)	12343420	1900	W17	L7	L6	H---	1.5	
14		Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	14257838	1760	L5	D12	L15	B---	1.5	
15		Tony Zhou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16147444)	16147444	1678	D8	L4	W14	L6	1.5	
16	16-17	Ethan Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	16090467	1683	D6	L9	D12	L10	1.0	
17		Zachary Filler (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14040236)	14040236	1651	L13	W10	L11	L12	1.0	
18	18	Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	12517167	1885	L1	L11	F10	U---	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. 20th McClain Memorial Championship: Under 1800

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Pr
1	1-2	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	12872385	1582	D13	W19	W17	W8	3.5	11
2		Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)	13377410	1426	W15	W3	D8	W6	3.5	11
3	3-7	Anvitha Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	16315087	1524	W21	L2	W18	W11	3.0	13

		16315087)									
4		Sankash Shankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12939328)	12939328	1495	X26	L12	W19	W13	3.0	13
5		Pavel Kolesnikov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30194161)	30194161	1465	D25	D13	W21	W10	3.0	13
6		Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)	30250562	1459	W20	W22	W12	L2	3.0	13
7		Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	14874734	1431	W24	L8	W22	W12	3.0	13
8	8-9	Arjun Sankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14542170)	14542170	1574	W14	W7	D2	L1	2.5	
9		Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	L19	D20	W24	W17	2.5	
10	10-16	Wyatt Binnard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30288726)	30288726	1409	W23	D17	D11	L5	2.0	
11		Arjun Nathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15943490)	15943490	1405	H---	X25	D10	L3	2.0	
12		Katherine Sunny Lu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16425316)	16425316	1329	W16	W4	L6	L7	2.0	
13		Tobiah Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	1289	D1	D5	W16	L4	2.0	
14		Eli Lee (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16707438)	16707438	1261	L8	D24	H---	W22	2.0	
15		Shubhankar Sharan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30358414)	30358414	unr.	L2	L18	W20	W21	2.0	
16		Tj Murphy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30312294)	30312294	unr.	L12	W23	L13	W24	2.0	
17	17-20	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	W18	D10	L1	L9	1.5	
18		Sebastian Fotouhi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30192020)	30192020	1198	L17	W15	L3	H---	1.5	
19		Jeffrey Dallatezza (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30264869)	30264869	1197	W9	L1	L4	H---	1.5	
20		Steven Pier Hicks (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15109093)	15109093	unr.	L6	D9	L15	B---	1.5	
21	21-23	Swaminathan Sankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14080777)	14080777	1249	L3	B---	L5	L15	1.0	
22		Eli Albukerk (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30219969)	30219969	128	B---	L6	L7	L14	1.0	
23		Jiri Zajic (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30341311)	30341311	unr.	L10	L16	B---	U---	1.0	
24	24-25	Eliott Leblond (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30332894)	30332894	unr.	L7	D14	L9	L16	0.5	
25		Noah Yang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30371222)	30371222	unr.	D5	F11	U---	U---	0.5	
26	26	Quinn Koster (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30226046)	30226046	1186	F4	U---	U---	U---	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. 20th McClain Memorial Championship: Extra Games

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize

1	1	**Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)**	12465386	1800	W4	W3	L2	2.0	
2	2	**Advik Garg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16429697)**	16429697	1717	U---	U---	W1	1.0	
3	3-4	**Swaminathan Sankar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14080777)**	14080777	1249	U---	L1	U---	0.0	
4		**Eli Albukerk (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30219969)**	30219969	128	L1	U---	U---	0.0	

TNM Round 6 Report

by Abel Talamantez

Lucas Lesniewski was on board 1 against IM Elliott Winslow for round 6 of the TNM, and he showed courage in bravely going for a victory against the tournament leader. After finding a shot with 27...Ne4+, he arrived at a position where it looked like he could achieve a threefold repetition if he wanted it. As chess players, we have all been there - deciding whether to press on when you think you have an advantage against a higher rated player or be happy with the draw. I was in a similar position a few years back against then expert now IM Ladia Jirasek, where after 4+ hours, I had a pawn advantage in an endgame and could have repeated moves for a draw. I decided to press on and go for the win, and eventually lost the game. He was a stronger player that played more accurately deep into the endgame, and unfortunately for Lucas, the same happened in this game. He adandoned the perpetual with 33...Bxe3+ and went for the win with 3 extra pawns to Winslow's piece. It was an inaccurate decision, but one for which the courage should be admired. That type of mentality will be rewarded with a big win someday, but it was not to be on that Tuesday evening. Winslow showed the accuracy and calmness of an IM finished with a win, keeping him a full point ahead in the tournament with 5.5/6. Christophe Bambou and Nathan Fong also won to stay within distance at 4.5/6.

In the under 1800 section, Adam Mercado win a sharp game against the MI veteran Albert Starr. Starr's unpredictable sharp play against the agressive Mercado delivered an entertaining attack/counter attack matchup, but Mercado prevailed to go to 5.5/6 and holds clear 1st in the section. Yuvraj Sawhney also won to go to 5/6, just a half point behind the leader. Five players are at 4.5, so there is still room for movement with two rounds to go.

Watch the broadcast from the evening by following this link HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8fgZqbut9o&t=201s).

Here are some games form the round, annotations by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Wang,Daniel - Weng,Nicholas [A45]

TNM, 07.12.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.f3 Nf6 An interesting choice by Nicholas against the Tropowski. Black has lost a tempo and given White f3 for free, but that may not be a very useful move. **5.e4!?**

Daniel charges ahead with this pawn sacrifice. The game is like a Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. **5...dxe4 6.Nc3 exf3 7.Nxf3 c6 8.Bc4 Bf5 9.Qe2 e6 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.h3 Nd5?!** [11...Nbd7] **12.Nxd5?!** [White could get a good advantage after 12.Bxd5! cxd5 *(12...exd5 13.Qe5 Be6 14.Qxg7)* 13.g4 Bg6 14.h4 h6 15.Bxb8 Rxb8 16.Ne5] **12...cxd5 13.Bxb8?! dxc4!** This correct capture gives Black a clear edge with great control of the light squares. **14.Bf4 Qd5 15.Rde1 0-0 16.g4 Bg6 17.h4 h6 18.h5 Bh7 19.Qe3**

Daniel is trying his best to quickly get an attack built up against the black kingside. He has threats with the g-pawn ready to break open lines. The problem is that Black also has attacking chances and that is quicker. **19...c3!** White must guard the a-pawn. **20.b3 Qa5 21.Kb1**

21...Bxc2+! 22.Kxc2 Qxa2+ 23.Kd3 Qa5 24.Kc2 Qa2+ These moves 23...Qa5 and 24 Kc2 were probably not played (DGT blib). The position is just repeated with this score and gets back to normal. **25.Kd3 Rfc8** Black has three pawns for the knight and the white king is running in the center. A tough defense for Daniel. **26.Ra1 Qxb3 27.Rhb1 Qc4+** [27...Qd5! 28.Kc2 b5 29.Ne5 b4 keeps a big advantage] **28.Kc2 b5?! 29.g5** [29.Qd3! either trades queens or wins the b-pawn] **29...hxg5 30.Bxg5 Bxg5** [30...f6 31.h6 is messy] **31.Nxg5 b4?!**

32.Qe4? This threatens check on h7, but that is not much of a threat. White could have played [32.h6! gxh6 33.Ne4 which would suddenly give White the more potent attack] **32...Rcb8 33.Rb3** ...b3+ had to be stopped **33...a5 34.Rab1?** 34. h6 had to be played to keep equal attacking chances. Daniel thinks to prevent the black pawns from advancing with his move. **34...a4! 35.Rxb4**

35...Qa2+! Black couldn't capture on b4 because of the other rook hanging on a8. Nicholas plays this check instead and it's deadly. **36.Kxc3** [36.R1b2 cxb2 37.Qh7+ Kf8 38.Qh8+ Ke7 goes nowhere] **36...Rc8+ 37.Kd3 Qc2+ 38.Ke3 Rc3+ 39.Kf4 Qh2+! 40.Kg4 Qg3#** An exciting attacking game. **0-1**

(2) Argo,Guy - Fong,Nathan [A02]

TNM, 07.12.2021

1.f4 Guy always plays interesting chess and here choses the unusual Bird's Opening. **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d3 d5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e3 Bg4 6.Be2 Qc7 7.0-0 Rd8 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 g6** both sides develop logically **10.Qe1 d4 11.Ne4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 Nb4** This attack on the c-pawn doesn't gain anything but doesn't hurt either. **13.Qf2 Bg7 14.a3 Nc6 15.Bxc6+ Qxc6 16.e4 c4 17.f5** Now Black could just castle with an even game. **17...cxd3!?**

18.fxg6! Qxg6 19.cxd3 Now White is a bit better with the more compact pawn structure. **19...Be5 20.Qf5?!** [simply 20.Bf4 to trade off the strong black bishop would keep the white edge] **20...Rg8! 21.g4 Qxf5 22.Rxf5 f6** The endgame gives Black at least even chances. **23.Rh5?!**

23...Rc8! Nathan ignores the threat to the h-pawn and concentrates on a queenside rook invasion. The position becomes very dangerous for White. **24.Rxh7?** [White needed to try 24.Kf2 Rc2+ 25.Kf3] **24...Rc2 25.Rh5 Kf7** There is no good way for White to stop the combined black forces once the rooks are doubled on the c-line **26.Rh7+ Kg6 27.Rh6+** [27.Rxe7 Rgc8 wins the white bishop] **27...Kg7 28.Rh5 Rgc8 29.Bh6+ Kg6 30.Rf1 Bh2+! 31.Kh1 Bg3 32.Bf4** [White last longer with 32.Rf3 Be5 33.Kg1 Rxb2 34.Rf2 Rb3 though that is still hopeless] **32...Rh2+ 33.Kg1**

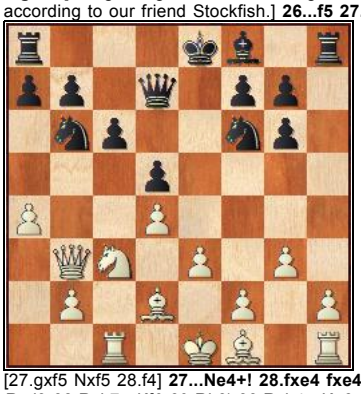
33...Rcc2! The mate threat on g2 forced White resignation. He is down a whole bishop after **34.Rf3 Rcg2+ 35.Kf1 Rxb2 36.Kg1 Rb1+ 37.Rf1 Rxf1+ 38.Kxf1 Bxf4 0-1**

(3) Winslow,Elliott (2252) - Lesniewski,Lucas (1855) [D12]

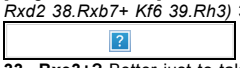
MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (6.1), 07.12.2021

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Bg6 7.Qb3 [Relevant is the superstar game, even if it was blitz: 7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.Rb1 Nbd7 9.c5 e5 10.b4 Be7 11.b5 Qc7 12.h3 exd4 13.exd4 Nf8 14.Qa4 Ne6 15.bxc6 bxc6 16.Ba6 Nd8 17.Ne2 0-0 18.Bf4 Qd7 19.0-0 Ne8 20.Qa5 Ne6 21.Bb7 Nf6 22.Bxa8 Rxa8 23.Be5 Ne4 24.Rb2 Kh7 25.f3 Nf6 26.Qa6 Nd8 27.Rb8 Rxb8 28.Bxb8 1-0 (28) Nakamura,H (2736)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2763) chess24.com INT 2021] **7...Qc7 8.Bd2 Nbd7** 8...Ne4 is vanishing. ("Vanishing"?) **9.Rc1** [9.cxd5 exd5 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.0-0-0!? *(11.h4!?)*] **9...Nb6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.g3 Qd7 13.a4**

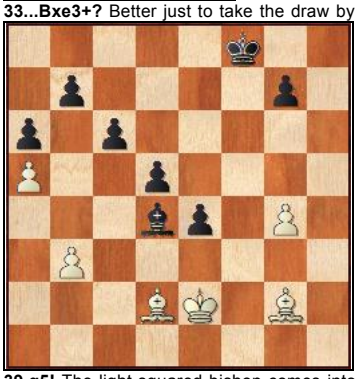
13...Rb8N [Black won the previous encounter here, with 13...Qf5 14.Be2 Rb8 15.a5 Nbd7 16.Qc2 Qe6 17.f3 Bd6 18.Kf2 Qh3 19.Rcg1 Qe6 20.Na4 Nh5 21.b4 a6 22.Nc5 Nxc5 23.bxc5 Bc7 24.e4 Nf6 25.e5 Nd7 26.Bd3 Nf8 27.Re1 Qd7 28.e6 Nxe6 29.Bxg6 Kf8 30.Qf5 Re8 31.Bh5 Re7 32.Bg4 Qd8 33.Bc3 Rh6 34.h4 Rf6 35.Qd3 Bxa5 36.Bxa5 Qxa5 37.h5 Qc7 38.f4 Ke8 39.Kg2 Rh6 0-1 (39) Wagner,S (2194)-Ertl,P (2050) Tschagguns 2006] **14.a5 Nc8 15.f3 Bd6 16.Kf2 Qf5 17.Qc2 Qg5 18.Ne2 Qf5 19.Qxf5 gxf5 20.h3 a6 21.Bg2 Bc7 22.g4 Nd6 23.b3 0-0 24.Ng3 fxg4?!** [24...g6 25.gxf5 Nxf5 26.Nxf5 gxf5 27.h4+/-] **25.hxg4 Nh7 26.Rh2?** This "brilliant plan" is almost the only way to *avoid* winning. [26.Rh4; 26.f4; 26.Bb4; 26.Rh5; 26.Bf1 All "+-" according to our friend Stockfish.] **26...f5 27.Rch1**



[27.gxf5 Nxf5 28.f4] **27...Ne4+! 28.fxe4 fxe4+ 29.Kg1 Bxg3 30.Rxh7 Bf2+ 31.Kf1 Bg3+** [31...Bh4+ 32.Ke2! Kxh7! *(32...Rf2+ 33.Ke1! Bg3 34.Rh8+ Kf7 35.Rxb8 Rxg2+ 36.Kf1 Rf2+ 37.Kg1 Rxd2 38.Rxb7+ Kf6 39.Rh3)* 33.Rxh4+ Kg6 34.Bb4 Rh8 35.Rxh8 Rxh8 36.Kf2+/=] **32.Kg1 Bf2+ 33.Kf1**



33...Bxe3+? Better just to take the draw by repetition! **34.Ke2 Bxd4 35.Rh8+ Kf7 36.Rf1+ Ke7 37.Rhxf8 Rxf8 38.Rxf8 Kxf8**



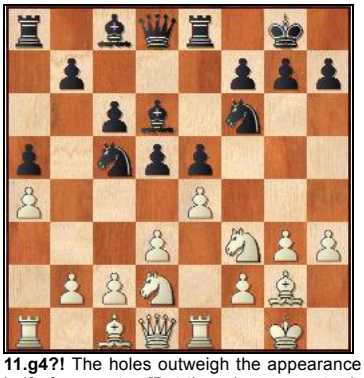
39.g5! The light-squared bishop comes into play to take the black pawns. **39...Ke7 40.Bh3 Kd6** [40...Kd8 41.Be3+-] **41.Bf4+ Kc5**

42.Bc7! Kb4 43.Bc8 Kb5 44.Bxb7 Bc5 45.Be5 Kxa5?! 46.Bxc6 Bf8 47.Bc3+ Kb6 48.Bxd5 a5 49.Bxe4 1-0

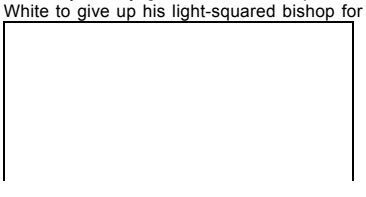
(4) Brownlow,Samuel (1832) - Askin,David (2023) [B10]

MI Nov-Dec TNM 1800+ San Francisco (6.8), 07.12.2021

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ngf3 Bd6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Re8 8.Re1 Nbd7 Thus far a very reasonable King's Indian Attack with about equal chances. **9.a4 a5 10.h3 Nc5**



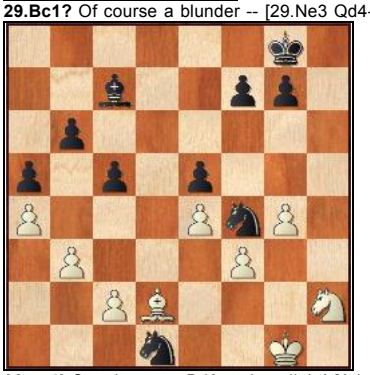
11.g4?! The holes outweigh the appearance of aggression (White never quite gets around to Nf1 and Ng3, and anyway ...g6 would probably be the end of that). **11...dxe4** securing the better half of symmetry. [But there is a computer insisting 11...d4!-/+ is the way to go.] **12.dxe4 Bc7 13.Qe2 b6 14.Rd1 Ba6 15.Qe1 Qe7 16.b3** [16.Nf1 Nfxe4 17.N3h2 Nf6 18.Bxc6 Qe6!-/+ dares White to give up his light-squared bishop for a rook.] **16...Ne6!** A wonderful concept. [And Stockfish? "Best is" 16...h5! 17.g5 Nfd7 18.Ba3 Nf8 19.Nf1 Nfe6-/+] **17.Ba3**



[17.Nf1] **17...c5** Not that there was much choice at this point -- but Black is willing to really relegate his dark-squared bishop to "pawn status" for the sake of all his other pieces til the end of the game. **18.Bf1 Bxf1 19.Qxf1 Rad8 20.Nh2**

20...h5 21.f3 hxg4 22.hxg4 Nh7 23.Nc4 Nf4 24.Ne3 Ng5 Nice knight maneuvers by David. Black has a clear edge. **25.Rxd8 Ngh3+ 26.Kh1 Rxd8 27.Rd1 Rxd1 28.Nxd1 Qd6**

29.Bc1? Of course a blunder -- [29.Ne3 Qd4-+ is domination as well. That one knight can't be everywhere at once.] **29...Qxd1! 30.Qxd1 Nf2+ 31.Kg1 Nxd1 32.Bd2**



32...c4! Opening up ...Bd6 and sunlight! [Admittedly 32...Bd8 also gets that long-dormant extra piece into motion.] **33.Kf1 cxb3** The score sheets end here, but Black is completely winning here and took the point. **0-1**

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2252	W18	W15	W7	D16	W11	W10		
2	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**	12734479	2097	L10	W23	W25	W8	D12	W11		
3	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	13001390	2032	H---	W10	D8	H---	W16	W9		H---
4	**Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)**	15499404	2001	L11	W28	H---	W22	D5	W12		H---
5	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1954	W20	D14	L9	W7	D4	W16	H---	
6	**David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)**	13776967	2023	W28	D12	L16	W18	L9	W19		
7	**Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)**	12601629	2017	H---	W22	L1	L5	B---	W21		
8	**Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)**	16828914	1917	H---	X26	D3	L2	W25	D13		
9	**Guy Argo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?**	12517167	1884	H---	W21	W5	L11	W6	L3		

	12517167)										
10	Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)	17039584	1855	W2	L3	D12	W14	W15	L1		U---
11	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	14257838	1745	W4	H---	W14	W9	L1	L2		
12	Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)	15361305	1700	W17	D6	D10	W15	D2	L4		H---
13	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1670	D16	D19	L15	W26	W23	D8	H---	
14	Brandon Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)	12869947	2003	W23	D5	L11	L10	H---	X25		
15	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1955	W27	L1	W13	L12	L10	W23	U---	
16	Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	12572270	1900	D13	W24	W6	D1	L3	L5		
17	Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)	10451671	1914	L12	W20	X19	H---	U---	U---		
18	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1867	L1	D27	W21	L6	H---	H---		
19	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	12747074	1832	H---	D13	F17	H---	W22	L6		
20	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1735	L5	L17	L23	H---	W26	W24		
21	Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)	12590374	1706	D29	L9	L18	B---	W28	L7		
22	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	H---	L7	W26	L4	L19	D27		
23	Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)	17158733	1760	L14	L2	W20	W24	L13	L15		
24	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1746	H---	L16	H---	L23	W27	L20		H---
25	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	H---	H---	L2	W28	L8	F14		
26	Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	12633251	1787	H---	F8	L22	L13	L20	W28		H---
27	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1744	L15	D18	L28	H---	L24	D22		H---
28	Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)	12328450	1800	L6	L4	W27	L25	L21	L26		
29	Krish Matai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16444206)	16444206	1937	D21	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---		

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8
1	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1746	W31	W5	D25	W12	W15	W10		
2	Yuvraj Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	1593	D13	D29	W32	W25	W11	W9		
3	Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)	17018168	1649	W32	W11	W10	L15	D5	W16		
4	Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	30268083	1540	W34	W28	D14	H---	W18	H---		

	30268083)										
5	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	12872385	1491	W51	L1	W44	W29	D3	W18		
6	Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)	13377410	1478	L14	W20	W46	W24	D22	W15		U---
7	Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)	15616166	1149	H---	H---	H---	W41	W25	W23		
8	Jim Ratliff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11163831)	11163831	1632	H---	H---	W13	L11	W31	W30		
9	Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)	30257083	1549	W50	W26	W27	H---	H---	L2		
10	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	W44	W41	L3	X26	W28	L1		
11	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1474	W45	L3	W21	W8	L2	W29		H---
12	JP Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)	30150098	1229	W53	H---	W19	L1	D27	W33		H---
13	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	1135	D2	X53	L8	X47	H---	W28		
14	Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12898987)	12898987	839	W6	W16	D4	L18	D17	W27		
15	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1611	W49	W17	D18	W3	L1	L6		
16	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	H---	L14	W52	W39	W33	L3		
17	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1500	W20	L15	W38	L28	D14	W35		
18	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	14874734	1448	W35	W23	D15	W14	L4	L5		
19	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1400	H---	W52	L12	H---	W37	D20		H---
20	Prasanna Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)	30279272	921	L17	L6	W42	W49	X47	D19		
21	Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)	30223021	unr.	H---	H---	L11	D32	W36	W38	H---	
22	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	H---	H---	H---	X37	D6	U---		
23	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1542	W42	L18	L29	W44	W34	L7		
24	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1511	W43	L27	W49	L6	L29	X45		
25	Ronald Allen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30086796)	30086796	1501	W30	W33	D1	L2	L7	H---		
26	Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)	12279170	1447	W36	L9	W45	F10	L30	W44		
27	Ashwin Vaidyanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205719)	30205719	1444	W37	W24	L9	H---	D12	L14		H---
28	David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)	13913131	1400	W38	L4	W36	W17	L10	L13		
29	Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	1278	H---	D2	W23	L5	W24	L11		
	Thomas Gu										

30	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	17005685	997	L25	L39	W50	X40	W26	L8		
31	Cloe Chai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315197)	16315197	1254	L1	L44	W43	W45	L8	D34		
32	Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)	16694473	1219	L3	X51	L2	D21	F49	W46		
33	Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)	30235937	1172	W39	L25	W40	H---	L16	L12		H---
34	Maria Obrien (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15300977)	15300977	1036	L4	L36	W51	W46	L23	D31		H---
35	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	L18	L49	B---	H---	W48	L17		H---
36	Marcus Casaes (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30290420)	30290420	unr.	L26	W34	L28	H---	L21	W48		
37	Vittorio Banfi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30308530)	30308530	unr.	L27	W42	W39	F22	L19	H---		
38	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	L28	B---	L17	H---	X41	L21		H---
39	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600	L33	W30	L37	L16	L44	W50		
40	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	H---	H---	L33	F30	F45	X52		
41	Deandre Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)	30255378	1399	W46	L10	H---	L7	F38	H---		
42	Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)	16953298	1091	L23	L37	L20	W51	L46	W49		
43	William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)	16716976	1014	L24	L46	L31	W50	W52	U---		
44	Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)	16317000	970	L10	W31	L5	L23	W39	L26		
45	Cathal Dayton (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12930548)	12930548	784	L11	W50	L26	L31	X40	F24		
46	Juan Elias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30325735)	30325735	unr.	L41	W43	L6	L34	W42	L32		
47	Enile Ahmed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110092)	17110092	1356	H---	H---	H---	F13	F20	U---		
48	William Deegan		unr.	H---	H---	H---	U---	L35	L36		
49	Don Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694467)	16694467	1219	L15	W35	L24	L20	F32	L42		
50	Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)	16757673	1125	L9	L45	L30	L43	X51	L39		
51	Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)	16741331	845	L5	F32	L34	L42	F50	B---		
52	Maxwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)	30329285	unr.	H---	L19	L16	H---	L43	F40		
53	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	L12	F13	U---	U---	U---	U---		

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
	Alexander Pa Chin									

1	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1859	U---	U---	W18	U---	U---	W17	2.0
2	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	U---	U---	W22	W19	U---	U---	2.0
3	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	U---	W24	U---	U---	W25	U---	2.0
4	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1917	D14	W21	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.5
5	Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)	12601629	2017	W15	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
6	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1511	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W15	1.0
7	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	U---	U---	U---	W26	U---	U---	1.0
8	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	W29	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
9	Alex Langrog (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12636476)	12636476	1489	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W23	1.0
10	Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)	30250562	1459	U---	U---	U---	U---	W27	U---	1.0
11	Prasanna Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)	30279272	921	U---	U---	U---	U---	W28	U---	1.0
12	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	U---	U---	W24	U---	U---	U---	1.0
13	William Deegan		unr.	U---	U---	U---	W28	U---	U---	1.0
14	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	D4	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.5
15	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	L5	D16	U---	U---	U---	L6	0.5
16	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	1135	U---	D15	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.5
17	Brandon Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)	12869947	2003	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L1	0.0
18	Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)	10451671	1914	U---	U---	L1	U---	U---	U---	0.0
19	Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)	12465386	1800	U---	U---	U---	L2	U---	U---	0.0
20	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1746	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
21	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	U---	L4	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0
22	Enile Ahmed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110092)	17110092	1356	U---	U---	L2	U---	U---	U---	0.0
23	Drew H Clark (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30178041)	30178041	1339	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L9	0.0
24	Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)	15616166	1149	U---	L3	L12	U---	U---	U---	0.0
25	Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)	16757673	1125	U---	U---	U---	U---	L3	U---	0.0
26	Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)	17005685	997	U---	U---	U---	L7	U---	U---	0.0
27	Cathal Dayton (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?	12930548	784	U---	U---	U---	U---	L10	U---	0.0

	12930548)									
28	**Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	14708926	749	U---	U---	U---	L13	L11	U---	0.0
29	**Maxwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)**	30329285	unr.	L8	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0

TD Corner: FIDE vs. USCF Rule Differences

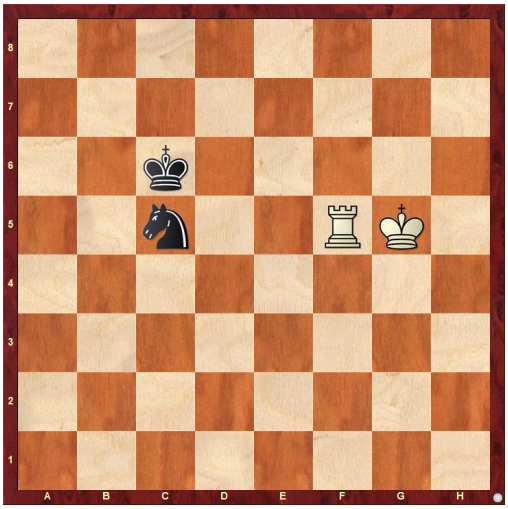
by Abel Talamantez

Judit and I have both previously written about differences in rules that govern FIDE versus USCF events and USCF events, and how these differences can cause confusion at the board.

According to the USCF rulebook: ***14E. Insufficient material to win on time. The game is drawn even when a player exceeds the time limit if one of the following conditions exists as of the most recently determined legal move.***

14E2. King and bishop or king and knight. Opponent has only king and bishop or king and knight, and does not have a forced win.

This means that if an event is USCF-rated, the following position would be drawn if white ran out of time.



This is because black does not have the requisite material to force mate.

However, FIDE sees it differently, since the material on the board is such that a mate can be constructed, as in this example.

The corresponding FIDE rule is the following:

5.2.2 The game is drawn when a position has arisen in which neither player can checkmate the opponent's king with any series of legal moves. The game is said to end in a 'dead position'. This immediately ends the game, provided that the move producing the position was in accordance with Article 3 and Articles 4.2 - 4.7.

In the case above, it is possible to achieve checkmate, however, it is just not a forced checkmate.

Such nuances are important for players to remember. I was directing a People's Tournament on the UC Berkeley campus where it was king and rook vs. king and knight, and the player with king and rook ended up flagging while trying to desperately achieve a mate on the board. The player did this thinking the worse that could happen is the game would be drawn. Players should take time to read these little differences, as many have to learn it the hard way.

Another rule that often affects the TNM games is accounting for the time elapsed when both players have not arrived at the start of the round. Based on USCF rules, the elapsed time between the start of the round and the time when the first player shows up must be split between the two players.

16K. Both players late. If both players arrive late, the first to arrive must split the elapsed time before starting the opponent's clock. For example, if the first player to arrive is 40 minutes late, the clocks should be set to reflect 20 minutes of elapsed time on each side.

The FIDE rule on this is different, all elapsed time is subtracted from white's clock:

6.6 At the time determined for the start of the game White's clock is started.

In smaller tournaments the arbiters start all clocks.
In tournaments with many players the arbiter announces the start of the round and states that White's clock is started. The arbiter then goes round the room checking that White's clock has been started on all boards.

In the case of FIDE, there is no splitting of times, the pressure is on white to show up and make a move and black's time only starts after white makes the first move.

In another incident that is good for club players to know is what happens when an ilegal move is made and the original position before the illegal move is not certain. This occurred towards the end of the evening during the Tuesday Night Marathon, a board 10 matchup between Glenn Kaplan and Teodoro Porlares. Porlares made an illegal move with 2 seconds on his clock and both players were not notating. There was difficulty restoring the original position since the record of the game was not being kept and both players were not certain on the original position. I had to lean on the following FIDE rule:

7.6 If, during a game it is found that any piece has been displaced from its correct square, the position before the irregularity shall be reinstated. If the position immediately before the irregularity cannot be determined, the game shall continue from the last identifiable position prior to the irregularity. The game shall then continue from this reinstated position.

Both players agreed upon the last position and play resumed from there, after adding 2 additional minutes to Kaplan for Porlares' illegal move.

I encourage players to flip through both rulebooks, as a little bit of knowledge can go a long way in a critical moment in a game. As always, get an arbiter if there are any issues during a tournament game, please do not try to resolve rule issues yourself at the board.

Check out the USCF Rulebook by clicking HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/us-chess-rule-book-online-only-edition-chapters-1-2-10-11-9-1-20.pdf).

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/https://www.fide.com/FIDE/handbook/LawsOfChess.pdf) for the FIDE rulebook.

Tony's Teasers

Tony is back and ready to challenge you to solve this problem: white to move and mate in 4

Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

Mechanics' Institute Championship Quads. December 11, 3PM. 3 Games G/30;d5: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsDec2021 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsDec2021)

IM John Donaldson Championship. December 18-19, 10AM FIDE Rated. 5SS G/90+30: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/3rdAnnualDonaldsonChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/3rdAnnualDonaldsonChampionship)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Fresh New
Scholastic Chess Bulletin #7 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122144430/https://conta.cc/3xev44s)

In this issue:

- Monthly Scholastic In-Person Tournament - 2021 November Report
- Mechanics' Institute Thanksgiving Gobbler Kids - Friday, November 26 @ 9:30AM
- Chess Enrichment Highlight: Alice Fong Alternative School
- Upcoming Chess Camps
- Why I like Quads by Andrew Ballantyne
- Understanding Tournaments: Moves, moves, moves
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured Games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

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FM Paul Whitehead

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Problems in the Opening, Part Four

There's one opening that we all know, for better or worse: the King's Indian Attack (KIA). As played successfully by Karjakin in his must-win victory over Shankland in the World Cup 2021, the simple sequence of moves 1.Nf3, 2.g3, 3.Bg2 and 4.0-0 – no matter what black plays! – seems to guarantee the perfect answer to that never-ending question: how do I get out of the opening alive?

Apart from being a safe beginning to the game, the King's Indian Attack is also a way to take the game into your own territory:

"You thought you were playing a French after 1.e4 then 1...e6? Well, then 2.d3! Take that!"

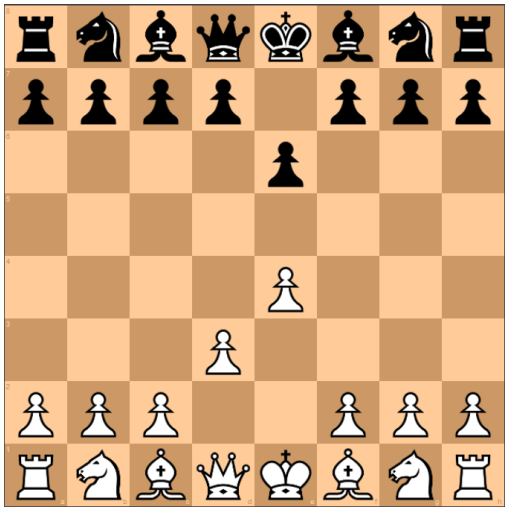
Or:

"Nice Sicilian Defense you got there, pal. We wouldn't want anything bad to happen to it now, would we? 1.e4 c5 2.d3!"

Here's the above-mentioned game:

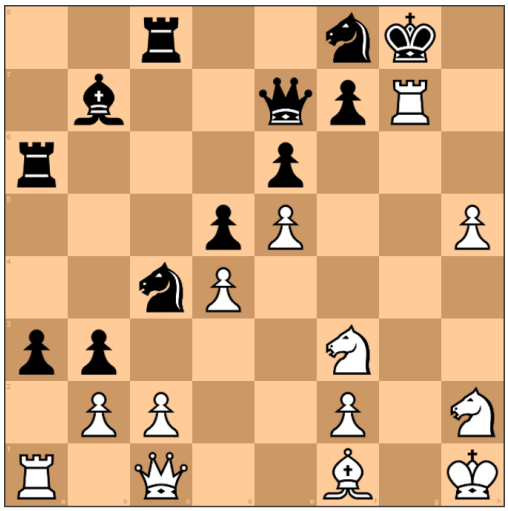
Karjakin – Shankland, World Cup 2021.

1. e4 e6 2. d3.



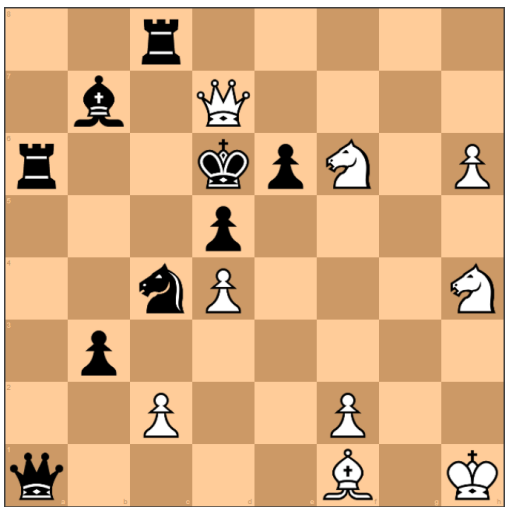
Avoiding main-stream theory - here we go!

1...d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. Ngf3 Be7 5. g3 a5 6. Bg2 a4 7. a3 c5 8. O-O Nc6 9. Re1 O-O 10. e5 Nd7 11. Nf1 b5 12. h4 Bb7 13. h5 h6 14. Bf4 Qb6 15. Qd2 Rfc8 16. g4 Qd8 17. N1h2 Ra6 18. Kh1 b4 19. Rg1 Nf8 20. axb4 cxb4 21. d4 Na5 22. g5 Nc4 23. Qc1 hxg5 24. Bxg5 b3 25. Bxe7 Qxe7 26. Bf1 a3 27. Rxg7+!!



This is what it's all about.

Kxg7 28. Ng4 f5 29. exf6+ Qxf6 30. Nxf6 axb2 31. Qg5+ Kf7 32. h6 Ng6 33. Nh4 bxa1=Q 34. Qxg6+ Ke7 35. Qg7+ Kd6 36. Qd7# 1-0



Trailing his opponent by a game, this victory essentially put Karjakin into the next Candidate's Tournament.

However, The King's Indian Attack is not suitable as an opening if your intention is to just play some moves and think you don't have to worry about anything. Chess doesn't work that way, as many have found out:

Nezhmetinov – Korchnoi, 21st USSR Championship 1954.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d3 Nf6 4. Nbd2 g6 5. g3 Bg7 6. Bg2 O-O 7. O-O d5 8. Re1 e6 9. c3 b6.

Black is using one of numerous possible setups against the KIA.

10. e5 Nd7 11. d4 f6 12. exf6 Qxf6 13. Qe2 Bb7. If white now goes for the e-pawn he loses the d4 pawn and gets nothing. But giving up the center completely, as he now does, is worse**. 14. dxc5 Nxc5 15. Nb3 Ba6 16. Qe3 Ne4 17. Nbd2 Nc5 18. Nb3 Ne4 19. Nbd2 Nxd2 20. Bxd2 e5.**

White's drifting play has landed him in hot water, and "Victor the Terrible" turns up the heat: **21. Ng5 Rad8 22. f4 e4 23. Nh3 Rfe8 24. Nf2 Na5 25. b3 Bf8 26. g4 Bc5 27. Qg3 e3 28. Rxe3 Bxe3 0-1**

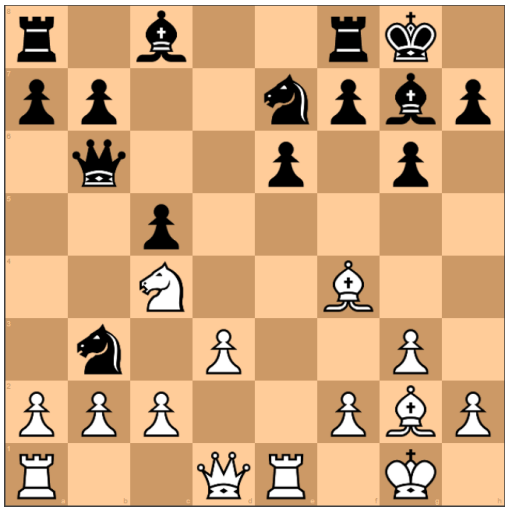
If 29.Bxe3 Qxc3, etc.

All well and good you might say: what an insipid opening! But die-hard advocates of the King's Indian dream of conducting incredible mating attacks like this:

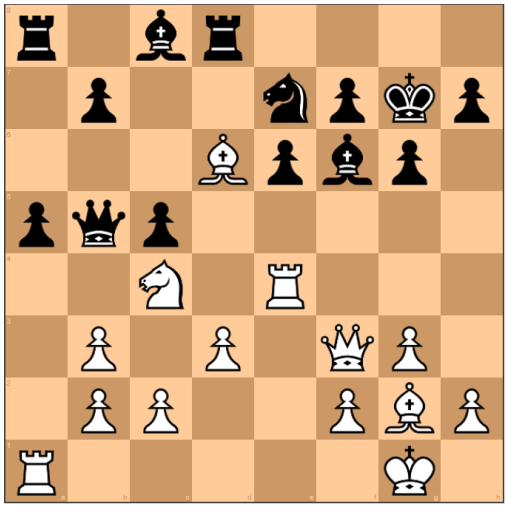
Petrosian – Pachman, Bled Yugoslavia 1961.

Annotations by **Bobby Fischer**.

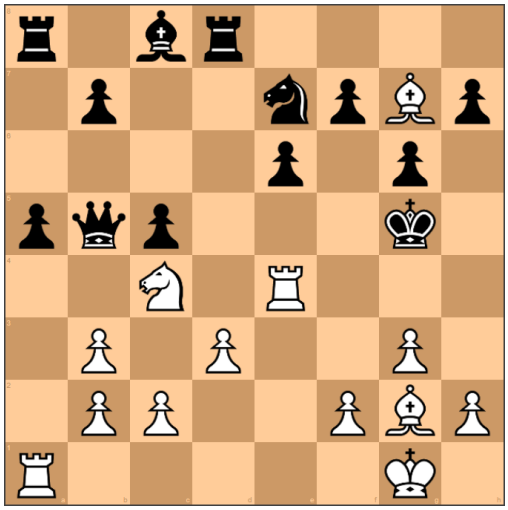
1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.O-O Bg7 5.d3 e6 6.e4 Nge7 7.Re1 O-O 8.e5 d6 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Nb3 Nd4 12.Bf4 Qb6 13.Ne5 Nxb3 14.Nc4. Very nice tempo move.



14...Qb5 15.axb3 a5 16.Bd6 Bf6 17.Qf3 Kg7 18.Re4. Now Petrosian is preparing for a very beautiful finish. **18... Rd8.**



19.Qxf6+! Kxf6 20.Be5+ Kg5 21.Bg7!! This is a real problem move. **1-0**



Black cannot avoid mate.

Already a steady user of the KIA, Fischer produced his own immortal version six years later:

Fischer – Myagmarsuren, Sousse Interzonal 1967.

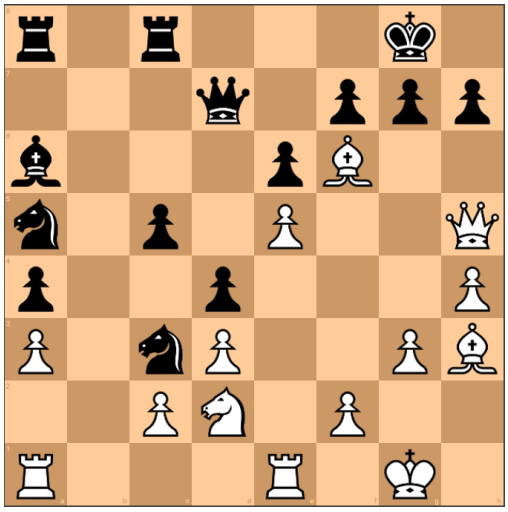
1. e4 e6 2. d3 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. g3 c5 5. Bg2 Nc6 6. Ngf3 Be7 7. O-O O-O 8. e5 Nd7 9. Re1 b5 10. Nf1 b4 11. h4 a5 12. Bf4 a4 13. a3.

This odd move, slowing down black's queen-side attack considerably, is Fischer's patent.

12...bxa3 14. bxa3 Na5 15. Ne3 Ba6 16. Bh3 d4 17. Nf1 Nb6

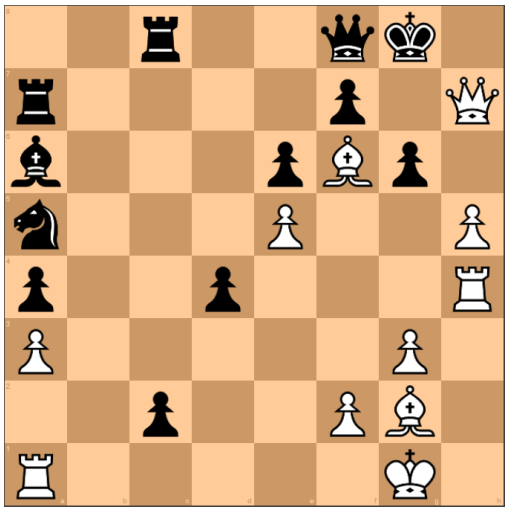
18. Ng5 Nd5 19. Bd2 Bxg5 20. Bxg5 Qd7 21. Qh5 Rfc8 22. Nd2 Nc3

23. Bf6!



What follows is a model white attack, precise and elegant in its execution.

13...Qe8 24. Ne4 g6 25. Qg5 Nxe4 26. Rxe4 c4 27. h5 cxd3 28. Rh4 Ra7 29. Bg2! Setting the stage. **29...dxc2 30. Qh6 Qf8 31. Qxh7+!! 1-0**

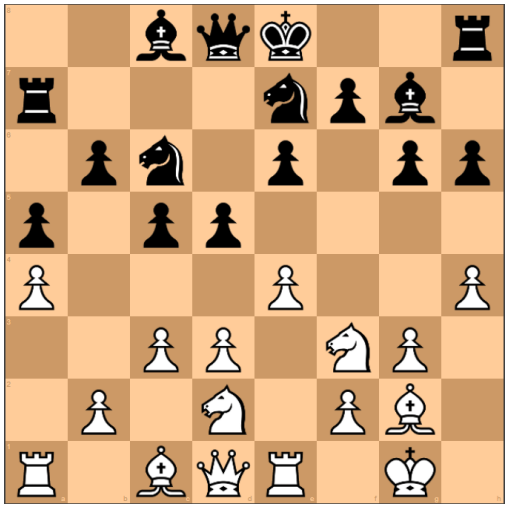


Another explosive finish. 31...Kxh7 32.hxg6+ Kxg6 (32...Kg8 33.Rh8#) 33.Be4#!

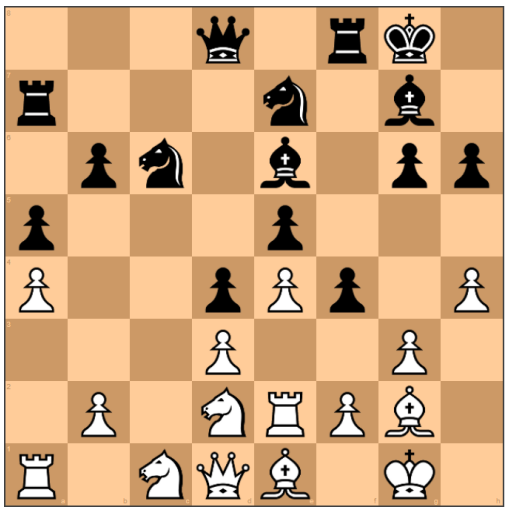
But for all of these brilliancies, there's always a cold shower somewhere for white, and another example of pointless play ruthlessly punished:

Ljubojevic – Kasparov, Niksic Yugoslavia 1983.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.Nbd2 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.O-O Nge7 8.Re1 b6 9.h4 h6 10.c3 a5 11.a4 Ra7.

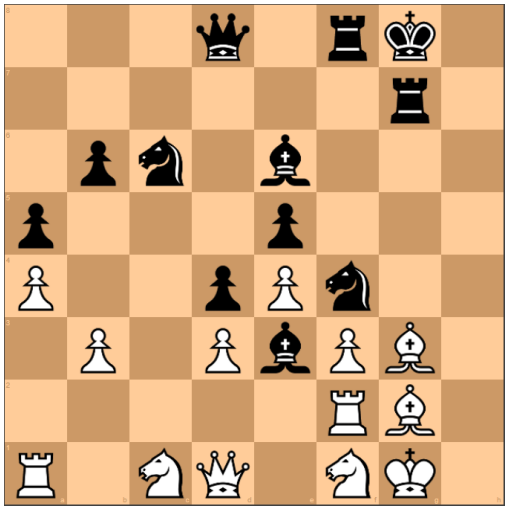


A very dynamic set-up for black in this opening. **12.Nb3 d4 13.cxd4 cxd4 14.Bd2 e5 15.Nc1 Be6 16.Re2 O-O 17.Be1 f5 18.Nd2 f4.**



White is already lost, and the axe falls over and over again, without mercy:

19.f3 fxg3 20.Bxg3 g5! 21.hxg5 Ng6! 22.gxh6 Bxh6 23.Nf1 Rg7 24.Rf2 Be3 25.b3 Nf4 0-1



Absolutely horrible.

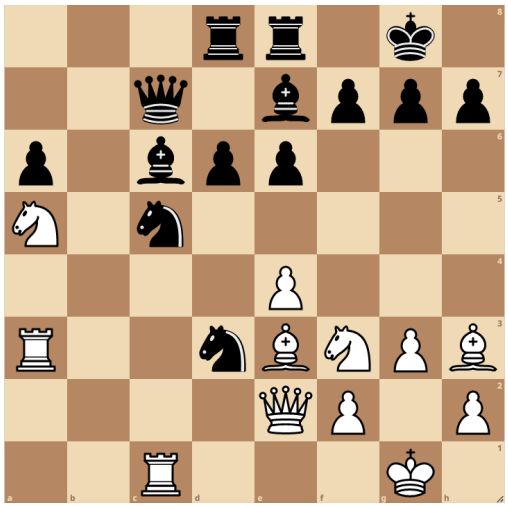
Finally, I must confess: I too, from time to time, have come under the hypnotic sway of this opening. But only out of laziness and cowardice – my games with white have resembled those of Nezhmetdinov and Ljubojevic, not those of Petrosian and Fischer, I'm afraid.

The year 1978 was my best in chess: I tied for 1st in the American Open and the US Junior, and won the Northern California State Championship held at the Mechanics' Institute, tying with my brother Jay. I also got lucky a few times, as a quick look at the following gruesome game will show:

Whitehead – Kennedy, No. California State Ch. / Bagby Memorial 1978.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0-0 e6 5.d3 Be7 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.e4 d6 8.Re1 c5 9.c3 Qc7 10.a4 Nc6 11.Nc4 Rad8 12.Qe2 Rfe8.

Black's opening set-up has been a success, while white's moves are pretty pointless. The trend continues. **13.Bh3 a6 14.b4? cxb4 15.Be3 Nd7 16.cxb4 Nxb4 17.Rec1 Nc5 18.Ra3 Bc6 19.a5 bxa5 20.Nxa5 Nbxd3.**



21.Qxd3? Ridiculous. White sacrifices his queen for three minor pieces and a lost game. 21.Nxc6 Nxc1 22.Nxe7+ Rxe7 23.Bxc1 Nxe4! was unappealing, but white has 2 bishops vs a rook and 3 pawns. The a-pawn is weakish and the rooks are not doing much. Unclear? But that was better than the game. **21...Nxd3 22.Rxc6 Qb8 23.Rb6 Qa8 24.Rxd3 Qxe4 25.Ne1 Rb8 26.Bg2 Qf5?!** 26...Qxe3! wins on the spot. Now white equalizes. **27.Rxb8 Rxb8 28.Nc6 Re8 29.Nxe7+ Rxe7 30.Rxd6 h5 31.Nd3?!** Misplacing the knight, which would have more potential on f3. **31...a5 32.h3?!** This pawn belongs on h4. **32...Re8 33.Kh2 Rb8.** Black's failure to play ...h4! breaking up white's king position here or sometime in the next few moves is puzzling. Time pressure for both sides is taking a toll. **34.Bc6 Rb3 35.Nf4 Kh7 36.Be8 Rb1** 36...h4! **37.Bc6 Qe5 38.Rd7 f6?! 39.Re7! Rd1?** Last chance for 39...h4! Now white takes over, and the minor pieces swarm in. **40.Rxe6 Qc3 41.Be4+ f5 42.Bxf5+ Kg8 43.Re8+ Kf7 44.Bg6+ Kf6 45.Re6+ Kg5 46.h4+.** Missing mate in one: 46.Nd3#! **46...Kg4 47.f3+ 1-0.**

After 47...Kxf3 48.Bxh5#.

The King's Indian Attack is like a piece of chocolate cake: sweet, but don't eat too much.

Nick de Firmian's Column

Long Live the King!

Magnus Carlsen has retained his title at the World Championship match in Dubai. (Technically it's not over at this writing, but it's over and will probably be official by the time you read this.) He strengthens his already impressive legacy among world champions, having defended his title four times. You may recall that the great Capablanca never had a successful defense of his title. He beat Lasker in 1921 and lost his first challenge to Alekhine in 1927. Kasparov beat Karpov and Anand in title defenses then lost to Kramnik. Alekhine won several matches defending his title (lost to Euwe but trounced him in the rematch). He and Fischer had the distinction of going to their deaths with the claim of champion, but avoiding the strong challengers make that claim weak. Botvinnik held the title for 15 years but is not in the running for greatest world champion as he never won a match against a challenger (a

tie with Bronstein and a tie with Smyslov). To his credit he won the rematches against Smyslov and Tal, though he seems to have benefitted from a favorable system to keep the title that long. Lasker kept the title an astounding 27 years and we must pay him his due even though the world (and chess world) was a very different place then.

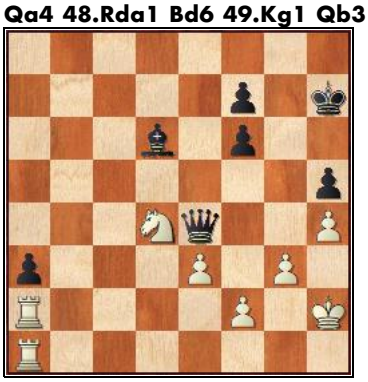
Magnus dispatched Nepo with relative ease in this 4rth title defense. How long can he keep it up? Already people are looking ahead to the next world championship match and wondering if young Firoujza or a re-energized Caruana can finally dethrone Carlsen. One can only wait and see, though I wouldn't bet against the king. He showed all the qualities of a great champion in Dubai while his opponent didn't match his skill, determination and experience. Below we give two games with key moments of the match.

(1) Carlsen,Magnus - Nepomniachtchi,Ian [D02]
World Chp, 03.12.2021 Game 6

This was the most important game of the match. It went back and forth in the opening/early middle game and then settled into a long, hard battle which tested both players stamina and determination. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3** A slow move instead of the usual 6. c4 Catalan continuation. **6...c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.c4 dxc4 9.Qc2 Qe7 10.Nbd2!?** Magnus offers a pawn sacrifice. **10...Nc6** Nepo chooses saftey and declines the offer. On [10...cxb3 11.Nxb3 Bd6 12.Na5 White has good compensation] **11.Nxc4 b5 12.Nce5 Nb4 13.Qb2 Bb7 14.a3 Nc6 15.Nd3 Bb6 16.Bg5 Rfd8 17.Bxf6 gxf6** Black has doubled pawn but the bishop pair in compensaton. Chances are equal. **18.Rac1 Nd4 19.Nxd4 Bxd4 20.Qa2 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 Qb7+ 22.Kg1 Qe4 23.Qc2 a5 24.Rfd1 Kg7 25.Rd2**

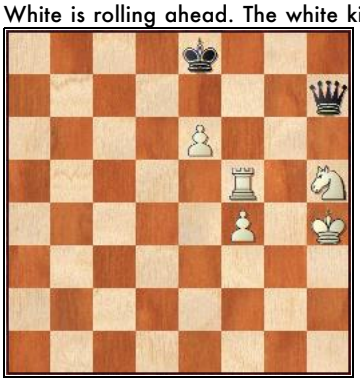
Chances are still equal and the spectators may have expected another draw. The players are in a fighting mood however. **25...Rac8!?** This trades two rooks for the white queen. Now the game is imbalanced. **26.Qxc8 Rxc8 27.Rxc8 Qd5 28.b4 a4 29.e3 Be5 30.h4 h5 31.Kh2 Bb2 32.Rc5 Qd6?! 33.Rd1?!** [33.Rcc2! Bxa3 34.Nf4 Qxb4?! 35.Rd7! gives White a strong attack and a big advantage] **33...Bxa3 34.Rxb5 Qd7 35.Rc5 e5?!** [35...Bxb4! 36.Rcc1 Be7 leaves Black with a big advantage] **36.Rc2 Qd5 37.Rdd2 Qb3 38.Ra2 e4 39.Nc5 Qxb4 40.Nxe4 Qb3 41.Rac2 Bf8 42.Nc5 Qb5 43.Nd3 a3**

The game is still roughly even yet there is lots of play in the position with the imbalanced material. **44.Nf4 Qa5 45.Ra2 Bb4 46.Rd3 Kh6 47.Rd1 Qa4 48.Rda1 Bd6 49.Kg1 Qb3 50.Ne2 Qd3 51.Nd4 Kh7 52.Kh2 Qe4?!**



53.Rxa3! Now White will have all the chances. The black queen is not as powerful with all the pawns on one side of the board. **53...Qxh4+** taking the h-pawn instead of the exchange is likely best **54.Kg1 Qe4 55.Ra4 Be5 56.Ne2 Qc2 57.R1a2 Qb3 58.Kg2 Qd5+ 59.f3 Qd1 60.f4 Bc7 61.Kf2 Bb6 62.Ra1 Qb3 63.Re4** The white e-pawn is weak and it's very hard to make progress. Magnus shows his character by being extremely patient. **63...Kg7 64.Re8 f5 65.Raa8 Qb4 66.Rac8 Ba5 67.Rc1 Bb6 68.Re5 Qb3 69.Re8 Qd5 70.Rcc8 Qh1 71.Rc1 Qd5 72.Rb1 Ba7?!** the bishop is not well placed on the seventh rank. Better would be [72...Bc5] **73.Re7 Bc5 74.Re5 Qd3 75.Rb7** It still hard to make progress but the white rooks are getting strong **75...Qc2 76.Rb5 Ba7 77.Ra5 Bb6 78.Rab5 Ba7 79.Rxf5 Qd3**

now what? If either rook to e5 there comes anyway 80...Bxe3+! **80.Rxf7+! Kxf7 81.Rb7+ Kg6 82.Rxa7** now White has a rook, knight and two pawns for the queen. The is no win in sight but Black will be struggling to draw for a long time. **82...Qd5 83.Ra6+ Kh7 84.Ra1 Kg6 85.Nd4 Qb7 86.Ra2 Qh1 87.Ra6+ Kf7 88.Nf3** White must retreat to stop the checks. **88...Qb1 89.Rd6 Kg7 90.Rd5 Qa2+ 91.Rd2 Qb1 92.Re2 Qb6 93.Rc2 Qb1 94.Nd4 Qh1 95.Rc7+ Kf6 96.Rc6+ Kf7 97.Nf3 Qb1 98.Ng5+ Kg7 99.Ne6+ Kf7 100.Nd4 Qh1 101.Rc7+ Kf6 102.Nf3 Qb1 103.Rd7 Qb2+ 104.Rd2 Qb1 105.Ng1 Qb4 106.Rd1 Qb3 107.Rd6+ Kg7 108.Rd4 Qb2+ 109.Ne2 Qb1 110.e4!** Finally a move forward! **110...Qh1 111.Rd7+ Kg8 112.Rd4 Qh2+ 113.Ke3 h4 114.gxh4 Qh3+ 115.Kd2 Qxh4 116.Rd3 Kf8 117.Rf3 Qd8+ 118.Ke3 Qa5?!** [118...Qb6+ 119.Nd4 Qb1] **119.Kf2 Qa7+ 120.Re3** Now the white king is safe and White can look to moving forward again. **120...Qd7 121.Ng3 Qd2+ 122.Kf3 Qd1+ 123.Re2 Qb3+ 124.Kg2 Qb7 125.Rd2 Qb3 126.Rd5 Ke7 127.Re5+ Kf7 128.Rf5+ Ke8 129.e5! Qa2+ 130.Kh3** White is rolling ahead. The white king finds shelter on the side so the pawns move forward. **130...Qe6 131.Kh4 Qh6+ 132.Nh5 Qh7 133.e6!**



White wins by tactical themes **133...Qg6 134.Rf7! Kd8** [134...Qxe6 135.Ng7+ Kxf7 136.Nxe6 Kxe6 137.Kg5 is a winning ending with just the one pawn] **135.f5 Qg1 136.Ng7** Nepomniachtchi resigns since the white king escapes checks by running up the board to g8. This was a game of will where Magnus showed true grit and determination. It was not just the win of one point. The effect of this marathon game began to break Nepo's spirit. **1-0**

(2) Carlsen,Magnus - Nepomniachtchi,Ian [C43]

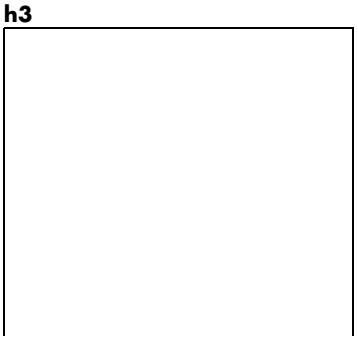
World Chp, 05.12.2021 Game 8

A match will usually have some mistakes (and even blunders) from both participants. Nepo was down in the match and had to remain steady. It seems he was still suffering from the grueling 136 move defeat and couldn't stay completely focused. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6** Petrov's Defense is a good match weapon - just trying to draw with Black. **3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Nd7 6.Nxd7 Bxd7 7.Nd2 Nxd2 8.Bxd2 Bd6 9.0-0 h5!?**

[an interesting choice, avoiding 9...0-0 10.Qh5 It provoked a long think from Magnus.] **10.Qe1+ Kf8?!** [10...Qe7 11.Bg5 Qxe1 12.Rfxe1+ Kf8 is only a tad better for White. This would be great drawing chances.] **11.Bb4! Qe7 12.Bxd6 Qxd6** White has a small middle game edge after the exchange of dark-squared bishops. **13.Qd2 Re8 14.Rae1 Rh6 15.Qg5 c6 16.Rxe8+ Bxe8 17.Re1 Qf6 18.Qe3 Bd7 19.h3 h4 20.c4 dxc4 21.Bxc4** White is a little more active with a slightly safer king. Now 21...Kg8 would be best. Instead Nepo makes a miscalculation. **21...b5?**

22.Qa3+! Kg8 Black must lose a pawn. [22...Qd6 23.Qxa7 bxc4? 24.Qa8+ is mate in two.] **23.Qxa7 Qd8 24.Bb3 Rd6 25.Re4 Be6 26.Bxe6 Rxe6 27.Rxe6 fxe6 28.Qc5**

White has an extra pawn and better pawn structure in the queen ending. There is no one in the world that is likely to save the game against Magnus - the best endgame player on the planet. **28...Qa5 29.Qxc6 Qe1+ 30.Kh2 Qxf2 31.Qxe6+ Kh7 32.Qe4+ Kg8** White is two pawns ahead but must be careful to avoid perpetual checks. Magnus played slowly and carefully, realizing the game was his if he would be very accurate. **33.b3 Qxa2 34.Qe8+ Kh7 35.Qxb5 Qf2 36.Qe5 Qb2 37.Qe4+ Kg8 38.Qd3 Qf2 39.Qc3 Qf4+ 40.Kg1 Kh7 41.Qd3+ g6 42.Qd1!** safegaurding the back rank to stop checks. The white pawns are ready to march forward **42...Qe3+ 43.Kh1 g5** despairetely going for counterplay **44.d5 g4 45.hxg4 h3**



46.Qf3! White is 3 pawns up and stops the checks. Nepo resigned. **1-0**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. Rb7!! Kd5 2. Nd8 Kc5 3. Be5!! Kd5 4. Rb5#

If 2...Kd6 3. Bd4 Kd5 4. Rd7#

If 1...Kf5 2. Rb6 Kf4 3. Kf2 Kf5 4. Rf6#

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Newsletter #999

December 18, 2021

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Mechanics' Chess Newsletter 1000 Will be Released on Saturday January 1, 2022!

The Mechanics' Institute chess newsletter will celebrate it's 1000th issue on January 1st! Begun more than 20 years ago by Mechanics' longest-serving Chess Director IM John Donaldson, we will have a very special issue with special guest contributors.

Ring in the New Year with a very special edition of the chess newsletter, coming very soon! We will not have a newsletter released on Christmas Day.

Mechanics' December Championship Quads Report

by Abel Talamantez

We had 56 players participate in the December edition of the Mechanics' Championship Quads. It was a strong field which had balance from top to bottom, making it suitable for players of all levels. The top quad saw a split in prize between Abhishek Mallela (2113) and National Rockefeller Elementary School Champion Henry Deng (2095). Click here to see the full results: http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202112116052-16681298 (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202112116052-16681298)

Final Standing of the 2021 December Mechanics' Monthly Quads

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 1

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Abhishek Mallela (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12888811)	12888811	2113	W3 (b)	L2 (w)	W4 (w)	2.0	30.00
2	Henry Deng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16681298)	16681298	2095	L4 (w)	W1 (b)	W3 (b)	2.0	30.00
3	Manas Paldhe (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16418854)	16418854	2019	L1 (w)	W4 (b)	L2 (w)	1.0	
4	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2013	W2 (b)	L3 (w)	L1 (b)	1.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 2

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)	17039584	1985	D4 (b)	D3 (w)	W2 (w)	2.0	60.00
2	Christian Goldammer (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12789435)	12789435	2002	D3 (b)	W4 (w)	L1 (b)	1.5	
3	Rohan Rajaram (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15739716)	15739716	1987	D2 (w)	D1 (b)	D4 (w)	1.5	
4	Rithwik Narendra (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14903560)	14903560	1979	D1 (w)	L2 (b)	D3 (b)	1.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 3

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Patrick Liu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16667410)	16667410	1955	D2 (b)	D3 (w)	W4 (b)	2.0	60.00
2	Andrew Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16192001)	16192001	1928	D1 (w)	W4 (b)	L3 (w)	1.5	
3	Ethan Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16761994)	16761994	1925	L4 (w)	D1 (b)	W2 (b)	1.5	
4	Fredrick Dutter (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12343420)	12343420	1900	W3 (b)	L2 (w)	L1 (w)	1.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 4

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Cailen Melville (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14006141)	14006141	1897	W4 (b)	W3 (w)	L2 (w)	2.0	30.00
2	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1867	L3 (b)	W4 (w)	W1 (b)	2.0	30.00
3	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	12747074	1833	W2 (w)	L1 (b)	L4 (w)	1.0	
4	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1778	L1 (w)	L2 (b)	W3 (b)	1.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 5

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Max Hao (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16083648)	16083648	1768	L2 (b)	W3 (w)	W4 (b)	2.0	30.00
2	Philip Gerstoft (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12913356)	12913356	1763	W1 (w)	L4 (b)	W3 (w)	2.0	30.00
3	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	14257838	1760	W4 (w)	L1 (b)	L2 (b)	1.0	
4	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1725	L3 (b)	W2 (w)	L1 (w)	1.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 6

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)	15361305	1715	D2 (b)	W4 (w)	W3 (w)	2.5	30.00
2	Ethan Mei (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16090467)	16090467	1683	D1 (w)	W3 (b)	W4 (b)	2.5	30.00
3	Yuvraj Sawhney (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	1612	W4 (b)	L2 (w)	L1 (b)	1.0	

4	Vikrant Ganesan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16786952)	16786952	1626	L3 (w)	L1 (b)	L2 (w)	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad7

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	12872385	1587	W4 (b)	W2 (w)	W3 (b)	3.0	60.00
2	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1612	W3 (w)	L1 (b)	W4 (b)	2.0	
3	Cesar Tamondong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12439091)	12439091	1600	L2 (b)	W4 (w)	L1 (w)	1.0	
4	Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)	10424364	1600	L1 (w)	L3 (b)	L2 (w)	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 8

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)	30268083	1552	L2 (b)	W3 (w)	W4 (b)	2.0	30.00
2	Ella Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16380657)	16380657	1545	W1 (w)	L4 (b)	W3 (w)	2.0	30.00
3	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1540	W4 (w)	L1 (b)	L2 (b)	1.0	
4	Anvitha Penagalapati (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315087)	16315087	1524	L3 (b)	W2 (w)	L1 (w)	1.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 9

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	L2 (b)	W3 (w)	W4 (w)	2.0	30.00
2	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1475	W1 (w)	L4 (b)	W3 (w)	2.0	30.00
3	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1500	W4 (w)	L1 (b)	L2 (b)	1.0	
4	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	L3 (b)	W2 (w)	L1 (b)	1.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 10

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Ramu Ganesan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12954008)	12954008	1469	W3 (w)	W4 (b)	W2 (w)	3.0	60.00
2	Ruyi Hu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16659933)	16659933	1455	W4 (w)	W3 (b)	L1 (b)	2.0	
3	Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)	30250562	1459	L1 (b)	L2 (w)	W4 (w)	1.0	
4	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	14874734	1431	L2 (b)	L1 (w)	L3 (b)	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 11

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Mannansh Nayyar (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15697026)	15697026	1219	W4 (w)	W2 (b)	W3 (w)	3.0	60.00
2	Andrew Ballantyne (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17079795)	17079795	1362	W3 (b)	L1 (w)	W4 (b)	2.0	
3	Deandre Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)	30255378	1382	L2 (w)	W4 (b)	L1 (b)	1.0	
4	Drew Clark (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30178041)	30178041	1339	L1 (b)	L3 (w)	L2 (w)	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 12

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Zee Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16965808)	16965808	1180	W3 (b)	W4 (w)	W2 (b)	3.0	60.00
	Hoa Long Tam							

2	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16919862)	16919862	1215	W4 (b)	W3 (w)	L1 (w)	2.0	
3	Matthew Ma (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30022553)	30022553	962	L1 (w)	L2 (b)	W4 (b)	1.0	
4	Wilson Steven (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12584515)	12584515	1213	L2 (w)	L1 (b)	L3 (w)	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 13

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Robyn Nakhimovsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16064063)	16064063	898	W4 (w)	W2 (b)	W3 (w)	3.0	60.00
2	Taurus Tong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16321755)	16321755	796	W3 (b)	L1 (w)	W4 (w)	2.0	
3	Leonard Chang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12767216)	12767216	837	L2 (w)	W4 (b)	L1 (b)	1.0	
4	Sabeek Pradhan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30322357)	30322357	unr.	L1 (b)	L3 (w)	L2 (b)	0.0	

SwissSys Standings. Mechanics' Monthly Championship Quads: Quad 14

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	Ethan Ma (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30021432)	30021432	670	W3 (b)	W4 (w)	W2 (w)	3.0	60.00
2	Yinuo Hu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17219612)	17219612	684	W4 (b)	W3 (w)	L1 (b)	2.0	
3	Callum Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235133)	30235133	unr.	L1 (w)	L2 (b)	W4 (b)	1.0	
4	Elizabeth Denhup (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30161536)	30161536	763	L2 (w)	L1 (b)	L3 (w)	0.0	

TNM Round 7 Report

by Abel Talamantez

Here we go, one round to go in the final TNM of 2021, and it looks like round 8 will decide the top spots in both sections. Nathan Fong held on to a draw in a tight endgame against IM Elliott Winslow as Fong was defending king and light squared bishop against king pawn and light squared bishop. Winslow tried to test Fong's defenses, but Fong seemed to know the position, making it impossible for Elliott to promote unharmed. Christophe Bambou got a win against Nicholas Weng, setting up a final round match to determine the winner between Winslow 6/7 and Bambou 5.5/7.

In the under 1800 section, Yuvraj Sawhney continues to rise quickly, as he defeated top seed Adam Mercado to take sole 1st with 6/7. Mercado, Adam Ginzburg and Timothy Bayaraa are close behind at 5.5/7.

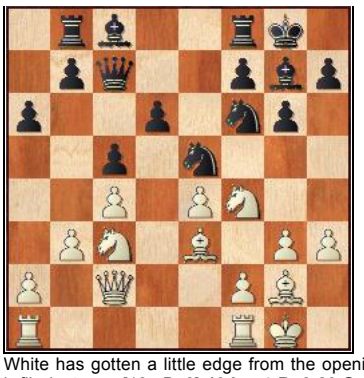
Watch the broadcast by clicking HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTtUh-H4Ir0).

Here are some games from the round, annotated by GM Nick de Firmian.

(1) Fong,Nathan (2522) - Winslow,Elliott (2032) [E69]

MI Nov-Dec 2021 TNM 1800+ San Francisco (7.1), 14.12.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.c4 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.e4 The Classical Fianchetto Variation **8...c6 9.h3 a6** Total on-the-spot improvisation. [9...Qb6 is usual] **10.Qc2 Qc7 11.Be3 exd4 12.Nxd4 Ne5 13.b3 c5 14.Nde2 Rb8 15.Nf4**



White has gotten a little edge from the opening. **15...b5 16.Ncd5** [16.cxb5 axb5 17.Rad1 b4 18.Ncd5 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Qd8+/=] **16...Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Qd8 18.Rab1?! bxc4?!** no reason to open the b-file just now [18...Be6] **19.bxc4 Be6 20.Qa4?!** [20.Rxb8 Qxb8 21.Rb1 Qa7 22.Qa4+/=] **20...Qd7!=/+** Nice! The endgame is very comfortable for Black. **21.Qxd7 Bxd7 22.Nb6 Be6 23.Bf4 Rb7** [23...Rfd8 24.Bxe5 Bxe5 25.Rb3 Bd4] **24.Bxe5 Bxe5 25.Rb3 Rfb8 26.Rfb1 Kg7 27.Nd5**

"½?" **27...Rxb3?** [The earlier intended 27...Bxd5! 28.cxd5 Rb4! 29.Rxb4 cxb4-/+ but Elliott forgot about it when he got here.] **28.Rxb3 Rxb3 29.axb3 a5** Despite Black's best attempts, this is just even. **30.Kf1 Bd7 31.Ke2 a4 32.bxa4 Bxa4 33.Kd3 Bd4 34.f4 Bd1 35.Nc7 Bf2 36.Ne8+ Kf8 37.Nxd6 Bxg3 38.Nb7 Bxf4 39.Nxc5 Ke7 40.Kd4** White has isolated pawns and Black has the bishop pair, but there is little to be done in this drawn position. **40...g5 41.Nd3 Bg3 42.e5 g4 43.hxg4 Bxg4 44.c5 h5 45.c6 h4 46.Kd5 h3 47.Bh1 Be2 48.Nc5 Bg4** "½-½?" **49.Ne4 Be6+ 50.Kd4 Bh2 51.Kc5?** giving up the e-pawn **51...Bxe5 52.Kb6**

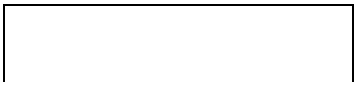
52...Bd5 53.Kc5 Be6 [53...Ba2 54.Kb6 h2 55.c7 Bxc7+ 56.Kxc7 Bd5 57.Nf2 Bxh1 58.Ng4! Bg2 59.Nxh2 f5 60.Kb6 Kd6 61.Kb5 Kd5 62.Kb6 Ke5 63.Kc5 Kf4 64.Kd6 Kg3 65.Ke5 f4 66.Kf5 is a draw] **54.Kb6 Bc8 55.Kc5 Ba6 56.Kb6 Bf1 57.c7 Bxc7+ 58.Kxc7 Bg2 59.Nf2 Ke6 60.Nxh3 Bxh3 61.Kc6 Ke5 62.Kc5 Be6 63.Bg2 f5 64.Bf3 Kf4 65.Bc6 Ke3 66.Kd6 Bc8 67.Ke5 f4 68.Kf6 Bg4 69.Kg5 Bf3 70.Bb5 Bd1 71.Bc6 Bc2 72.Kg4 Be4 73.Bb5 f3 74.Kg3 Bc2 75.Bc4 Bd1 76.Bf1 Be2**

Black is getting close, but it's still a draw **77.Bg2! f2 78.Bh3 Bc4 79.Bg2 Be6 80.Bf1 Bd5 81.Bh3 Ke2 82.Bg4+ Ke1 83.Bh3 Bc4 84.Kf4 Bf1 85.Be6 Bg2 86.Bc4 Bd5 87.Bb5 Bb3 88.Ke3 Ba4 89.Bc4 Bc6 90.Bd3 Bg2 91.Bc4 Bf1 92.Bd5 Bh3 93.Bc4 Bf1 94.Bd5 Bb5 95.Bg2 Bc6 96.Bh3 Bb5 97.Bg2 Bc6** ... ½-½, 117 **1/2-1/2**

(2) Weng,Nicholas (2001) - Bambou,Christophe (2097) [B40]

MI Nov-Dec 2021 TNM 1800+ San Francisco (7.2), 14.12.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bd3 Black gets simple equality after this move. **5...Nc6! 6.Nb3 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.a3** [Previously seen was 8.0-0 Bd6 9.N1d2 0-0 10.Ne4 Bc7 11.Ng3 f5 12.c4 Ndb4 13.Be2 Qf6 14.a3 Rd8 15.Bd2 Nd3 16.Bxd3 Rxd3 17.Qc2 Rd8 18.Nf3 Bd7 19.Rfe1 e5 20.Bg5 Qg6 21.Bxd8 Rxd8 22.Rad1 e4 23.Nfd4 Ne5 24.Nc5 Bc8 25.h3 Rxd4 26.Rxd4 Nf3+ 27.Kf1 Nxd4 28.Qd2 Qd6 29.b4 b6 30.Rd1 bxc5 31.bxc5 Qxc5 32.Qxd4 Qxd4 33.Rxd4 Bb6 34.c5 Ba6+ 35.Ke1 Bxc5 36.Rd7 Kf8 37.a4 Bb6 Nandhidhaa,P (2365)-Antolak,J (2306) Chess.com INT 2021 0-1] **8...Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.c4 Nf6 11.Re1**



11...e5N 12.Nc3 Be6 13.f3 h6 14.Be3 b6 15.Kh1 Rc8 16.Qe2 Nd4?! [16...Rc7 17.Rad1 Rd7=] **17.Bxd4 exd4 18.Nb5+/-**

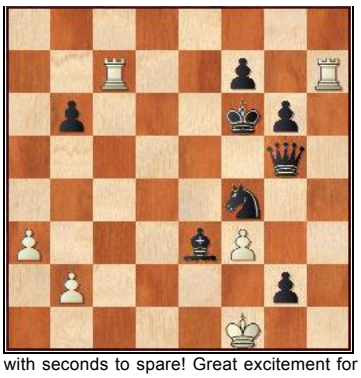
It looks like White is weak on the dark squares, but the weak black pawn on d4 is a bigger factor. **18...Bd6 19.Nxa7?!** [19.N3xd4!+- wins the pawn *and* reduces Black by a bishop.] **19...Nh5?** [19...Bxh2!? 20.Kxh2 Qc7+ 21.g3 Qxa7 22.Nxd4+/-] **20.Qe4!** [20.Nxc8] **20...g6** [20...Nf6 21.Qxd4] **21.Nxc8 Bf4**

Black probably knows he's lost, and tries to confuse the issue. **22.Rg1?** ...and succeeds! [22.g3! Bxg3 23.Rg1!+- dramatically makes use of the open g-file.] **22...Bxc8!** despite the material disadvantage, the position is somewhat in Black's favor. (Computer talking there.) **23.g3 Be3 24.Rgd1?!** [24.Rg2] **24...Re8 25.Qd5 Qf6?!** [25...Qc7! 26.Bxg6 (best try) 26...Nf6 27.Qxf7+ *(27.Bxf7+ Kg7-+)* 27...Qxf7 28.Bxf7+ Kxf7 29.Kg2 Rd8 30.Nd2 h5 The material imbalance of two bishops vs. rook and two pawns often, as here, leans towards the Bs.] Note that around here Bambou was really running low on the clock! **26.Be4!** White plays to seal it up. **26...Re5**

sets up some tricks! **27.Qc6?**

[27.Qa8!! Kg7 28.Qxc8 Rxe4 29.Rf1! just holds on! And should draw.] **27...Nxg3+!! 28.Kg2** [28.hxg3 Rh5+ 29.Kg2 Bh3+ 30.Kh2 Bf1#] **28...Nxe4** Bambou used most of his time (that is, almost a minute) but couldn't come up with the fastest win. Now he's running on fumes (seven seconds on his clock!). [28...Bh3+!! 29.Kxh3 Rh5+ 30.Kg2 *(30.Kxg3 Qg5#)* 30...Qh4! 31.Qe8+ Kg7 32.Qe5+ Rxe5 33.hxg3 Rg5 34.g4 h5 mate in short order. A lot of White spectators!] **29.Qxc8+?!** [29.Qxf6 Nxf6 30.Nxd4 Black still has a deadly attack! But with queens off and Black's electronic flag hanging, maybe something will go wrong.] **29...Kg7** Black should be delivering mate here. **30.Qh3 Nf2** [30...Rg5+ leads to mate in eight. 31.Kf1 d3! 32.Rxd3 Qxb2!] **31.Qg3 Rg5 32.Rf1 Rxg3+ 33.hxg3 Nd3** [33...Qe6!?] **34.Rab1 Ne5** [>=34...Qg5 was best, with ...Nf4+ and/or ...Bf4 in play. 35.Kh3

35...Nf4+! 36.gxf4 Bxf4 37.Rg1 Qf5+ 38.Rg4 h5 39.Rf1 hxg4+ 40.Kg2 Qh5 41.fxg4 Qxg4+ 42.Kf2 Qg3+ 43.Ke2 Qe3+ 44.Kd1 Qxb3+ 45.Ke2 Qe3+ 46.Kd1 Qd2#] **35.Rbd1-+ Nxc4 36.Rb1 h5** Where did that come from! [Again, 36...Qg5; Or if he wanted to get a pawn going, how about 36...d3!] **37.Rfd1 h4 38.Nc1 hxg3** [38...h3+! 39.Kxh3 Qxf3 here comes checkmate again...] **39.Ne2 Qh4 40.Rh1 Qg5 41.Rh3 Bf4 42.Rbh1 Ne3+ 43.Kg1 d3 44.Nc3 d2 45.Rh7+ Kf8** Best, although even stepping up to the fork was okay. **46.Rh8+ Ke7 47.Rc8 d1Q+ 48.Nxd1 Nxd1** [48...g2!] **49.Rc2 Be3+** Letting multiple mates slip away for the moment. [>=49...g2! 50.Re2+ Be3+ 51.Rxe3+ Nxe3 52.Rh7 Qg3 53.Rxf7+ Kxf7 54.b4 Qe1+ 55.Kh2 g1Q+ 56.Kh3 Qh1#] **50.Kf1?! Nf2** [50...Qf5] **51.Kg2 Nd3** [51...Nxh1 happens to be the fast mate, too.] **52.Rc7+ Kf6 53.Rh7 Nf4+ 54.Kf1 g2+**



with seconds to spare! Great excitement for the watchers! **0-1**

(3) Lewis,Edward (2017) - Argo,Guy (1884) [A84]

MI Nov-Dec 2021 TNM 1800+ San Francisco (7.4), 14.12.2021

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 e6 4.g3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Qc2 Qe8 9.Bf4 Na6

We have a fighting Dutch/Queen's Indian Defense. Lots of activity can come of this position. **10.a3 Qh5 11.b4 d6 12.h4 h6 13.Ne1!? Bxg2 14.Kxg2 e5?!** aggressive play by Guy, but it gives too little compensation for the pawn and loses the center. **15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Bxe5 Ng4 17.Nf3 f4**

18.Nd5! Rae8 19.Bd4? [19.Bxf4 is just two pawns up and winning] **19...c5 20.Bb2 fxg3** now Black has serious play on the kingside **21.Nxe7+ Rxe7 22.Kxg3 cxb4 23.c5!** playing actively often brings you chances **23...Nf6!?** [23...Qf7!] **24.Bxf6 Rxf6 25.Qc4+ Kh7 26.Qxa6?**

[26.axb4!] **26...bxc5?** [26...Re4! 27.Qd3 Rxf3+! 28.Qxf3 *(28.exf3 Qxh4+ 29.Kg2 Qg5+ 30.Kh2 Qh5+ 31.Kg3 Qg6+ 32.Kh3 Rh4+ 33.Kxh4 Qxd3* is a huge advantage for Black*)* 28...Qxh4+ 29.Kg2 Rg4+ 30.Qxg4 Qxg4+ 31.Kh2 bxc5 and Black should win the endgame] **27.Qd3+ Qg6+ 28.Qxg6+ Rxg6+ 29.Kh3** Now White has all the chances in the endgame. **29...b3 30.Rab1 c4 31.Nd4 Rb6 32.Rfc1 Rc7 33.Rc3 Ra6**

34.Rbxb3?? looks like it wins a clean pawn due to the pin, but there is a flaw **34...cxb3 35.Rxc7?** [35.Rxb3 gives some chance of drawing] **35...b2!** Here Lewis resigned as saw there is no way to stop the b-pawn from queening. 36. Rb7 Rb6 blocks the white rook. A tragedy for Edward after a fine fighting struggle. **0-1**

(4) Stafford,Adam (1745) - Riese,Kayven (1900) [B56]

MI Nov-Dec 2021 TNM 1800+ San Francisco (7.7), 14.12.2021

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nbd7 Kayven's signature but suspect variation. **6.g4! h6 7.h4 a6 8.Rg1 Nc5 9.Qe2** Nice preparation from Adam. White has a clear opening edge as he controls the black knights. **9...e5 10.Nf5?!** The aggressive looking move starts trouble for White. [10.Nb3!+/-] **10...g6!**

11.Nxh6?! [11.Ne3 Ncxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Bg2~/=] **11...Bxh6 12.Bxh6?!** [12.g5 Nfxe4 13.Nxe4 Bg7-/+] **12...Rxh6 13.g5 Rxh4 14.gxf6-+** Black now has control of the game **14...Qxf6?!** [14...Bd7! 15.0-0-0 Bc6-+ is the best setup for the black pieces; 14...Be6 15.0-0-0 Rc8-/+] **15.Nd5?!** [15.f3] **15...Qd8-+ 16.Bg2 Be6 17.0-0-0 Bxd5 18.Rxd5-+**

Extra pawn, good knight vs. bad bishop... **18...Qc7** [18...Qg5+! 19.Kb1 Ke7!] **19.Rgd1 Rd8 20.Qe3 Rf4 21.Rh1 Ke7 22.Rh7 Ne6 23.Qg3 Rf6 24.c3 Nf4 25.Rd2 Qc4 26.Kb1 Rc8 27.Rh1 Qb5 28.Bf1 Qc6 29.Bd3 Qb6** [Usually you don't want to give up a good knight but 29...Nxd3 30.Qxd3-+ g5! is a good plan] **30.Bc2 Ne6?!** [30...a5] **31.Bd1 Nc5 32.Bc2 Qc6 33.f3 b5?=** [33...Rg8-/+] **34.Rhd1** White has gotten his pieces coordinated well to gain equal chances. **34...Qb6** [34...Rg8] **35.b4**

35...Nb7?! [35...Na4 36.Bxa4 bxa4= 37.f4 Rxf4 38.Rxd6 Qxd6 39.Rxd6 Kxd6] **36.f4?!** [36.Rd3+/- Rf4 37.Qg5+ Kf8] **36...exf4?** [36...Rxf4= 37.Qg5+ Ke8 38.Rxd6 Nxd6 39.Qxe5+ Kf8 40.Qh8+ Ke7 41.Qe5+=] **37.Qg5+-** (+2) [37.Qh4! (+6)] **37...Rc6?**

[37...Qe3!?] **38.e5! dxe5 39.Rd7+ Ke6** [39...Ke8 40.Qxe5+ Kf8 41.Rh1] **40.R1d5?=** missing [40.Bf5+! gxf5 41.Qg8 with mate in 5] **40...Qe3?** [40...Nd6!= 41.R7xd6+ Rxd6 42.Qxe5+ Kd7 43.Qxf6 Qg1+ 44.Kb2 Rxd5 45.Qxf7+ Kd6 46.Qxf4+ should be a draw 0.00/0] **41.Bb3** Plenty good enough. **41...Rc4 42.Bxc4 bxc4 43.Rxe5+! Qxe5 44.Re7+ Kxe7 45.Qxe5+ Re6 46.Qc7+ Kf8 47.Qxb7** Queen against rook should be little problem to win despite the black pawns, **47...Rf6 48.Qc8+?!** [48.Qf3!] **48...Kg7 49.Qxc4** [49.Qc5! f3 50.Qf2] **49...f3 50.Qf1 g5** [50...f2] **51.Qf2 Kg6 52.Kc2 g4 53.Kd2 Kg5 54.c4 Rf4 55.Kd3 f5 56.a3 Re4 57.c5 Kf4** [57...Re2 58.Qf1 Kf4 59.c6] **58.Qh2+** taking away Black's last hope of pushing the pawns **58...Kg5** [58...g3 59.Qh4+ Ke5 60.Qxg3+] **59.c6 Re6 60.c7 Rc6 61.Ke3 Rc4 62.Qd2** A great battle. **1-0**

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: 1800+

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	To
1	**Elliott Winslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10363365)**	10363365	2252	W13 (w)	W17 (b)	W11 (w)	D18 (b)	W7 (b)	W14 (w)	D3 (b)	6.
2	**Christophe Bambou (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12734479)**	12734479	2097	L14 (b)	W19 (w)	W26 (b)	W12 (w)	D8 (b)	W7 (w)	W9 (b)	5.
3	**Nathan Fong (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13001390)**	13001390	2032	H---	W14 (w)	D12 (b)	H---	W18 (w)	W6 (b)	D1 (w)	5.
4	**David Askin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13776967)**	13776967	2023	W28 (w)	D8 (b)	L18 (w)	W13 (b)	L6 (w)	W22 (b)	W14 (w)	4.
5	**Kristian Clemens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13901075)**	13901075	1954	W24 (w)	D16 (b)	L6 (w)	W11 (b)	D9 (w)	W18 (b)	H---	4.
	Guy Argo										

6	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12517167)	12517167	1884	H---	W15 (w)	W5 (b)	L7 (w)	W4 (b)	L3 (w)	W11 (b)	4.
7	Adam Stafford (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14257838)	14257838	1745	W9 (b)	H---	W16 (w)	W6 (b)	L1 (w)	L2 (b)	W18 (w)	4.
8	Daniel Wang (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15361305)	15361305	1700	W21 (b)	D4 (w)	D14 (b)	W17 (b)	D2 (w)	L9 (w)	W12 (b)	4.
9	Nicholas Weng (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15499404)	15499404	2001	L7 (w)	W28 (b)	H---	W25 (w)	D5 (b)	W8 (b)	L2 (w)	4.
10	Joel Carron (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16600505)	16600505	1670	D18 (w)	D22 (b)	L17 (w)	W27 (b)	W19 (b)	D12 (w)	H---	4.
11	Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)	12601629	2017	H---	W25 (w)	L1 (b)	L5 (w)	B---	W15 (b)	L6 (w)	3.
12	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1917	H---	X27	D3 (w)	L2 (b)	W26 (w)	D10 (b)	L8 (w)	3.
13	James Mahooti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12621393)	12621393	1867	L1 (b)	D23 (w)	W15 (b)	L4 (w)	H---	H---	W24 (w)	3.
14	Lucas Lesniewski (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17039584)	17039584	1855	W2 (w)	L3 (b)	D8 (w)	W16 (b)	W17 (w)	L1 (b)	L4 (b)	3.
15	Marty Cortinas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12590374)	12590374	1706	D29 (w)	L6 (b)	L13 (w)	B---	W28 (b)	L11 (w)	W22 (w)	3.
16	Brandon Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)	12869947	2003	W19 (b)	D5 (w)	L7 (b)	L14 (w)	H---	X26	U---	3.
17	Ako Heidari (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15206848)	15206848	1955	W23 (b)	L1 (w)	W10 (b)	L8 (w)	L14 (b)	W19 (w)	U---	3.
18	Kayven Riese (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12572270)	12572270	1900	D10 (b)	W20 (w)	W4 (b)	D1 (w)	L3 (b)	L5 (w)	L7 (b)	3.
19	Ilia Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17158733)	17158733	1760	L16 (w)	L2 (b)	W24 (w)	W20 (b)	L10 (w)	L17 (b)	W28 (w)	3.
20	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1746	H---	L18 (b)	H---	L19 (w)	W23 (w)	L24 (b)	X25	3.
21	Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)	10451671	1914	L8 (w)	W24 (b)	X22	H---	U---	U---	U---	2.
22	Samuel Brownlow (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12747074)	12747074	1832	H---	D10 (w)	F21	H---	W25 (b)	L4 (w)	L15 (b)	2.
23	Kevin Sun (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16898540)	16898540	1744	L17 (w)	D13 (b)	L28 (w)	H---	L20 (b)	D25 (w)	W26 (b)	2.
24	Glenn Kaplan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12680193)	12680193	1735	L5 (b)	L21 (w)	L19 (b)	H---	W27 (w)	W20 (w)	L13 (b)	2.
25	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	H---	L11 (b)	W27 (w)	L9 (b)	L22 (w)	D23 (b)	F20	2.
26	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	H---	H---	L2 (w)	W28 (b)	L12 (b)	F16	L23 (w)	2.
27	Anthony Acosta (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12633251)	12633251	1787	H---	F12	L25 (b)	L10 (w)	L24 (b)	W28 (w)	U---	1.
28	Tony Lama (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12328450)	12328450	1800	L4 (b)	L9 (w)	W23 (b)	L26 (w)	L15 (w)	L27 (b)	L19 (b)	1.
29	Krish Matai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16444206)	16444206	1937	D15 (b)	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Under1800

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	To
	Yuvraj Sawhney										

1	(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17095004)	17095004	1593	D20 (w)	D19 (b)	W25 (w)	W18 (w)	W7 (b)	W15 (b)	W2 (w)	6.
2	Adam Mercado (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16571026)	16571026	1746	W38 (b)	W12 (w)	D18 (b)	W8 (w)	W10 (b)	W6 (w)	L1 (b)	5.
3	Adam Ginzberg (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30268083)	30268083	1540	W39 (b)	W34 (w)	D21 (b)	H---	W24 (w)	H---	W13 (b)	5.
4	Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)	15616166	1149	H---	H---	H---	W35 (w)	W18 (b)	W16 (w)	W12 (b)	5.
5	Jim Ratliff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11163831)	11163831	1632	H---	H---	W20 (b)	L7 (w)	W38 (b)	W36 (w)	W21 (b)	5.
6	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	W37 (w)	W35 (b)	L9 (w)	X32	W34 (b)	L2 (b)	W20 (w)	5.
7	Sebastian Suarez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16875347)	16875347	1474	W47 (w)	L9 (b)	W22 (w)	W5 (b)	L1 (w)	W19 (b)	W15 (w)	5.
8	JP Fairchild (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30150098)	30150098	1229	W53 (b)	H---	W14 (w)	L2 (b)	D33 (w)	W26 (b)	W9 (w)	5.
9	Romeo Barreyro (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17018168)	17018168	1649	W25 (b)	W7 (w)	W6 (b)	L10 (w)	D12 (b)	W11 (w)	L8 (b)	4.
10	Stephen Parsons (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16566932)	16566932	1611	W43 (w)	W23 (b)	D24 (w)	W9 (b)	L2 (w)	L13 (b)	W27 (w)	4.
11	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	H---	L21 (w)	W52 (b)	W42 (b)	W26 (w)	L9 (b)	W24 (w)	4.
12	Aaron Craig (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12872385)	12872385	1491	W51 (w)	L2 (b)	W37 (w)	W19 (b)	D9 (w)	W24 (b)	L4 (w)	4.
13	Matt Long (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13377410)	13377410	1478	L21 (b)	W27 (w)	W48 (b)	W17 (w)	D30 (b)	W10 (w)	L3 (w)	4.
14	Andrew Imbens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30102682)	30102682	1400	H---	W52 (w)	L8 (b)	H---	W41 (w)	D27 (b)	W23 (w)	4.
15	Dean Guo (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30257083)	30257083	1549	W44 (b)	W32 (w)	W33 (b)	H---	H---	L1 (w)	L7 (b)	4.
16	Nursultan Uzakbaev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17137317)	17137317	1542	W45 (w)	L24 (b)	L19 (w)	W37 (b)	W39 (w)	L4 (b)	W33 (w)	4.
17	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1511	W46 (w)	L33 (b)	W43 (w)	L13 (b)	L19 (w)	X47	W36 (b)	4.
18	Ronald Allen (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30086796)	30086796	1501	W36 (b)	W26 (w)	D2 (w)	L1 (b)	L4 (w)	H---	W34 (b)	4.
19	Tobiahs Rex (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30164211)	30164211	1278	H---	D1 (w)	W16 (b)	L12 (w)	W17 (b)	L7 (w)	W32 (w)	4.
20	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	1135	D1 (b)	X53	L5 (w)	X49	H---	W34 (w)	L6 (b)	4.
21	Eli Chanoff (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12898987)	12898987	839	W13 (w)	W11 (b)	D3 (w)	L24 (b)	D23 (w)	W33 (b)	L5 (w)	4.
22	Ambrogino Giusti (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30223021)	30223021	unr.	H---	H---	L7 (b)	D25 (w)	W28 (b)	W29 (w)	H---	4.
23	Richard Hack (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12796129)	12796129	1500	W27 (b)	L10 (w)	W29 (b)	L34 (w)	D21 (b)	W40 (w)	L14 (b)	3.
24	Samuel Agdamag (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14874734)	14874734	1448	W40 (b)	W16 (w)	D10 (b)	W21 (w)	L3 (b)	L12 (w)	L11 (b)	3.
25	Noah Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694473)	16694473	1219	L9 (w)	X51	L1 (b)	D22 (b)	F43	W48 (w)	W41 (b)	3.
26	Benjamin Anderson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30235937)	30235937	1172	W42 (w)	L18 (b)	W31 (w)	H---	L11 (b)	L8 (w)	W38 (b)	3.

27	**Prasanna Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)**	30279272	921	L23 (w)	L13 (b)	W45 (w)	W43 (b)	X49	D14 (w)	L10 (b)	3.
28	**Marcus Casaes (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30290420)**	30290420	unr.	L32 (b)	W39 (w)	L34 (b)	H---	L22 (w)	W50 (b)	W42 (w)	3.
29	**Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)**	30310731	unr.	L34 (b)	B---	L23 (w)	H---	X35	L22 (b)	X39	3.
30	**Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)**	12910007	1693	H---	H---	H---	X41	D13 (w)	U---	U---	3.
31	**Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)**	30328281	1600	H---	H---	L26 (b)	F36	F47	X52	W48 (w)	3.
32	**Michael Hilliard (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12279170)**	12279170	1447	W28 (w)	L15 (b)	W47 (w)	F6	L36 (b)	W37 (w)	L19 (b)	3.
33	**Ashwin Vaidyanathan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30205719)**	30205719	1444	W41 (b)	W17 (w)	L15 (w)	H---	D8 (b)	L21 (w)	L16 (b)	3.
34	**David Olson (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?13913131)**	13913131	1400	W29 (w)	L3 (b)	W28 (w)	W23 (b)	L6 (w)	L20 (b)	L18 (w)	3.
35	**Deandre Stallworth (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30255378)**	30255378	1399	W48 (b)	L6 (w)	H---	L4 (b)	F29	H---	W45 (w)	3.
36	**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	17005685	997	L18 (w)	L42 (b)	W44 (b)	X31	W32 (w)	L5 (b)	L17 (w)	3.
37	**Pratyush Hule (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16317000)**	16317000	970	L6 (b)	W38 (w)	L12 (b)	L16 (w)	W42 (w)	L32 (b)	W50 (w)	3.
38	**Cloe Chai (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16315197)**	16315197	1254	L2 (w)	L37 (b)	W46 (w)	W47 (b)	L5 (w)	D39 (b)	L26 (w)	2.
39	**Maria Obrien (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15300977)**	15300977	1036	L3 (w)	L28 (b)	W51 (b)	W48 (w)	L16 (b)	D38 (w)	F29	2.
40	**Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)**	30261226	452	L24 (w)	L43 (b)	B---	H---	W50 (w)	L23 (b)	U---	2.
41	**Vittorio Banfi (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30308530)**	30308530	unr.	L33 (w)	W45 (b)	W42 (w)	F30	L14 (b)	H---	L25 (w)	2.
42	**Nick Casares Jr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10424364)**	10424364	1600	L26 (b)	W36 (w)	L41 (b)	L11 (w)	L37 (b)	W44 (w)	L28 (b)	2.
43	**Don Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694467)**	16694467	1219	L10 (b)	W40 (w)	L17 (b)	L27 (w)	F25	L45 (b)	B---	2.
44	**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)**	16757673	1125	L15 (w)	L47 (b)	L36 (w)	L46 (b)	X51	L42 (b)	X51	2.
45	**Richard Ahrens (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16953298)**	16953298	1091	L16 (b)	L41 (w)	L27 (b)	W51 (w)	L48 (b)	W43 (w)	L35 (b)	2.
46	**William Thibault (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16716976)**	16716976	1014	L17 (b)	L48 (w)	L38 (b)	W44 (w)	W52 (b)	U---	U---	2.
47	**Cathal Dayton (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12930548)**	12930548	784	L7 (b)	W44 (w)	L32 (b)	L38 (w)	X31	F17	U---	2.
48	**Juan Elias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30325735)**	30325735	unr.	L35 (w)	W46 (b)	L13 (w)	L39 (b)	W45 (w)	L25 (b)	L31 (b)	2.
49	**Enile Ahmed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110092)**	17110092	1356	H---	H---	H---	F20	F27	U---	U---	1.
50	**William Deegan**	30390500	unr.	H---	H---	H---	U---	L40 (b)	L28 (w)	L37 (b)	1.
51	**Andrejs Gulbis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16741331)**	16741331	845	L12 (b)	F25	L39 (w)	L45 (b)	F44	B---	F44	1.
52	**Maxwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)**	30329285	unr.	H---	L14 (b)	L11 (w)	H---	L46 (w)	F31	U---	1.

53	Charles Faulkner (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)	12559529	1720	L8 (w)	F20	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.

SwissSys Standings. Nov-Dec 2021 Tuesday Night Marathon: Extra Games

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	To
1	Alexander Pa Chin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17050697)	17050697	1859	U---	U---	W21 (w)	U---	U---	W20 (w)	W22 (w)	3.
2	Erika Malykin (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12910007)	12910007	1693	U---	U---	W25 (b)	W23 (w)	U---	U---	U---	2.
3	Christopher Hallacy (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30310731)	30310731	unr.	U---	W27 (w)	U---	U---	W28 (w)	U---	U---	2.
4	Gaziz Makhanov (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16828914)	16828914	1917	D17 (b)	W24 (w)	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.
5	Edward Lewis (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12601629)	12601629	2017	W18 (b)	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.
6	Teodoro Porlares (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12773115)	12773115	1746	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W10 (b)	1.
7	Georgios Tsolias (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17266862)	17266862	1511	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W18 (b)	U---	1.
8	Albert Starr (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12844781)	12844781	1500	U---	U---	U---	W29 (b)	U---	U---	U---	1.
9	John Chan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12561007)	12561007	1500	W32 (w)	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.
10	Alex Langrog (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12636476)	12636476	1489	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W12 (b)	L6 (w)	1.
11	Anton Maliev (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30250562)	30250562	1459	U---	U---	U---	U---	W30 (w)	U---	U---	1.
12	Drew H Clark (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30178041)	30178041	1339	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L10 (w)	W26 (w)	1.
13	Don Chambers (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16694467)	16694467	1219	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	W28 (b)	1.
14	Prasanna Chandramouli (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30279272)	30279272	921	U---	U---	U---	U---	W31 (w)	U---	U---	1.
15	Christian Brickhouse (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30261226)	30261226	452	U---	U---	W27 (w)	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.
16	William Deegan	30390500	unr.	U---	U---	U---	W31 (w)	U---	U---	U---	1.
17	Andre Persidsky (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12545869)	12545869	1814	D4 (w)	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.
18	Daniel Massop (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30328281)	30328281	1600	L5 (w)	D19 (b)	U---	U---	U---	L7 (w)	U---	0.
19	Ian Atroshchenko (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30214657)	30214657	1135	U---	D18 (w)	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.
20	Brandon Estolas (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12869947)	12869947	2003	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L1 (b)	U---	0.
21	Steven Svoboda (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?10451671)	10451671	1914	U---	U---	L1 (b)	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.
22	Sam H Sloan (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?11115292)	11115292	1900	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L1 (b)	0.
23	Abel Talamantez (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12465386)	12465386	1800	U---	U---	U---	L2 (b)	U---	U---	U---	0.
	Charles Faulkner										

24	**(https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12559529)**	12559529	1720	U---	L4 (b)	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.
25	**Enile Ahmed (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17110092)**	17110092	1356	U---	U---	L2 (w)	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.
26	**Taras Smetanyue (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30068395)**	30068395	1200	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	L12 (b)	0.
27	**Timothy Bayaraa (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?15616166)**	15616166	1149	U---	L3 (b)	L15 (b)	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.
28	**Natan Gimelfarb (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?16757673)**	16757673	1125	U---	U---	U---	U---	L3 (b)	U---	L13 (w)	0.
29	**Thomas Gu (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?17005685)**	17005685	997	U---	U---	U---	L8 (w)	U---	U---	U---	0.
30	**Cathal Dayton (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?12930548)**	12930548	784	U---	U---	U---	U---	L11 (b)	U---	U---	0.
31	**Judit Sztaray (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?14708926)**	14708926	749	U---	U---	U---	L16 (b)	L14 (b)	U---	U---	0.
32	**Maxwell Fleming (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlMain.php?30329285)**	30329285	unr.	L9 (b)	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.

How Club Chess Can Be Like Sports

by Abel Talamantez

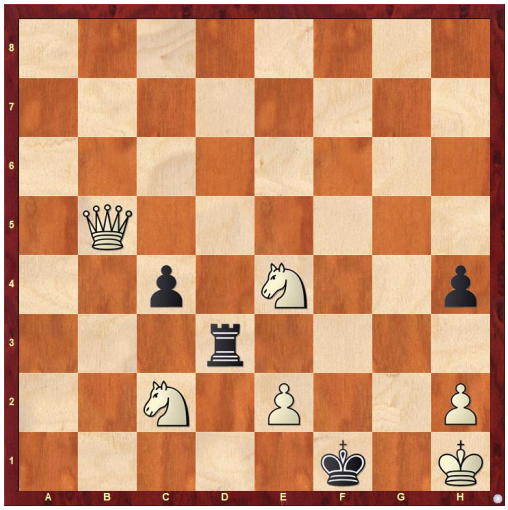
There can be so much more to a chess game than what is on the board, and it doesn't take a master to enjoy and appreciate riveting drama that brings all the excitement equivalent to watching a compelling sports competition. During last weekend's Championship Quads, I was watching a game between Daniel Wang (1715) playing white against Yuvraj Sawhney (1612). Here is the position.

An engine can look at this position and calculate optimal moves, but that won't begin to tell the tale of what was happening. Daniel Wang has the white pieces, but has two seconds left in a G/30;d5 time control while Yuvraj has a little more than six minutes. White's pawn is looking to promote, and I was wondering if black would look to sacrifice the rook for the pawn and force white to mate with king, bishop and knight in under 50 moves. But I noticed in black's moves that that was not the strategy. Black was looking to continue checking the king in hopes of white losing on time. If black sacrificed the rook, a win would not be possible due to insufficient mating material. The moves were frantic and you could see the pressure on both players' faces. There were a few people spectating the game, looking at players, looking at the position, and looking at the clock, and it all was a treat. The chess may not have been precise, but it was as exciting as any club chess game could be.

What was the result? Unfortunately for black, white was able to create a block with the knight to force promotion and won the game, keeping his 2 seconds on the clock by finding the win within the delay. Kudos to white for finding the winning combination, kudos to black for going for the win, even if the strategy may not have been the best. Who said club chess wasn't fun?

Tony's Teasers

Tony is back and ready to challenge you to solve this problem: white to move and mate in 3



Mechanics' Institute Events Schedule

Don't Miss our Exciting Upcoming Events!!

The Mechanics' Institute will continue to hold regular and online events. Here is our upcoming schedule for players:

IM John Donaldson Championship. December 18-19, 10AM FIDE Rated. 5SS G/90+30: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/3rdAnnualDonaldsonChampionship (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/Tournaments2021/3rdAnnualDonaldsonChampionship)

Mechanics' Institute Class Schedule

Click HERE (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online) to see our full slate of specialty chess classes, we offer something for everyone!

Scholastic Chess Bulletin

The scholastic news is covered in a dedicated publication:
Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Bulletin

Fresh New
Scholastic Chess Bulletin #7 is out! (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/https://conta.cc/3xev44s)

In this issue:

- Monthly Scholastic In-Person Tournament - 2021 November Report
- Mechanics' Institute Thanksgiving Gobbler Kids - Friday, November 26 @ 9:30AM
- Chess Enrichment Highlight: Alice Fong Alternative School
- Upcoming Chess Camps
- Why I like Quads by Andrew Ballantyne
- Understanding Tournaments: Moves, moves, moves
- Upcoming Tournament Schedule
- Tournament Results & Featured Games analyzed by GM Nick de Firmian

Please click the following LINK (https://web.archive.org/web/20220122154407/https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Scholastic-Chess-Bulletin--7---Mechanics--Institute.html?soid=1103755398293&aid=O11PKTDUtfQ) to read our latest edition.
Interested in reading the past issues? Click here to see the list of all issues.

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All of us at Mechanics' Institute would like to thank you for your support of our scholastic chess programming.

FM Paul Whitehead

pwhitehead@milibrary.org (mailto:pwhitehead@milibrary.org)

Murderer's Row

In 2013, I was in my first year as Chess Coordinator at the Mechanics' Institute and decided to throw my hat into the ring (yet again) and play in the Neil Falconer TNM, named for that longtime MI chess room advocate and trustee.

Are chess players superstitious? The answer is surely yes. **Tal** blamed the loss of his "lucky pen" for the loss of the World Championship in 1961. **Karpov** famously didn't wash his hair when he was on a winning streak. Was it **Miles** who didn't change his shirt for an entire tournament?

I don't think of myself as superstitious, but I started to think about Lady Luck (or the luck of the draw) recently when I heard someone complain they had three blacks in a row (it can happen!). Sounds bad, right? But what happened to me back in 2013 also seems pretty amazing - in retrospect.

The Chess Club has always attracted players born in far-away places. We have players from Mongolia, Ireland, Scotland, the Philippines, Kansas.

And of course Russia, and the countries that made up the former Soviet Union.

So, it shouldn't have come as too much of a surprise that I found myself paired with a veritable Murderer's Row of Russian Experts in rounds five, six and seven of the Falconer TNM.

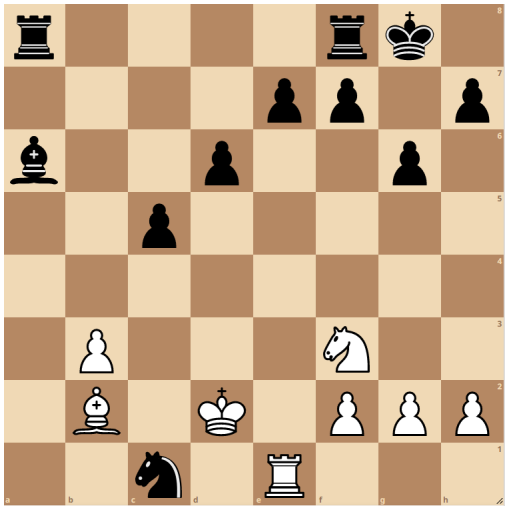
Luckily for me, Lazar Shnaiderman and Victor Todortsev were on a bit in age: both these gentlemen were in their '80s and going strong! I distinctly remember them, but not so much Mikhail Chernobilskiy, who was a few years younger than I – so no spring-chicken either!

Shnaiderman – Whitehead, Falconer TNM 2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 O-O 5.Be2 d6 6. Bg5 c5 7.d5 b5 8.cxb5 a6.

I'm fond of this Benko Gambit style against different white set-ups.

9.Nf3? This is actually a mistake. **9...axb5 10.Bxb5 Nxe4!** A well-known trap. **11.Nxe4 Qa5+ 12.Qd2 Qxb5.** Black has much the better game. 13.Bxe7 loses on the spot to 13...Re8**. 13.Nc3 Qc4 14.Rc1Ba6 15.b3 Qg4 16.Rg1 Nd7 17.Qf4 Qxf4 18.Bxf4 Nb6 19.Bd2 Bxc3 20.Bxc3 Nxd5 21.Bb2 Nb4 22.Kd2 Nxa2 23.Rge1 Nxc1 0-1**

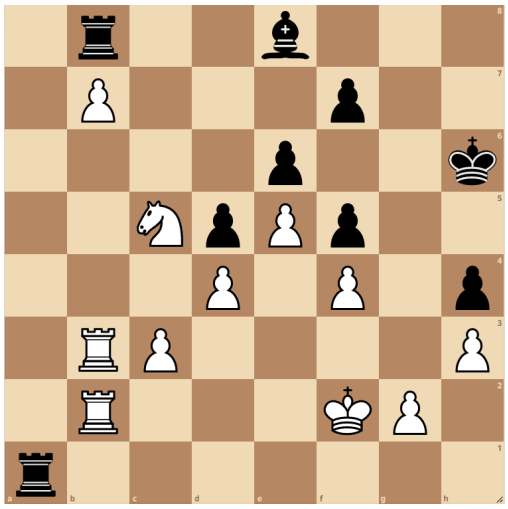


Whitehead – Todortsev, Falconer TNM 2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.d3 d6 6.Nbd2 g6 7.e5 d5 8.O-O Bg7 9. Re1 e6 10.Nb3.

Black is already in hot water – with the c-pawn and on the dark-squares.

10...Bf8 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Qd2 h5 14.Qc3 Rb8 15.Nxc5 Nh6 16.Nd4 Qc7 17.h3 O-O 18.b4 Qb6 19.a3 Kg7 20.Na4 Qb7 21.Qxc6 Bd7 22.Qxb7 Rxb7 23.Nc5 Ra7 24.a4 Rb8 25.c3 Be8 26.f4 Nf5 27.Nxf5+ gxf5 28.d4 Bc6 29.Kf2 Rg8 30.Rab1 Kh6 31.Re2 h4 32.b5 axb5 33.axb5 Rb8 34.Reb2 Be8 35.b6 Ra3 36.Rb3 Ra2+ 37.R1b2 Ra1 38.b7 1-0



Chernobilskiy – Whitehead, Falconer TNM 2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nb5 d6 6.c4 Nf6 7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3 Be7 9.Be3 b6 10.Be2 O-O 11.f4 Rb8 12.O-O Re8 13.Nc2 Bf8 14.Bf3 Qc7 15.Qe2 g6 16.Rad1 Bg7 17.Rd2.

White has played an excellent game, and black's next is risky. **17...e5?! 18.Rfd1 exf4 19.Bxf4 Ne5 20.Rxd6 Nxf3+ 21.gxf3 Nh5?** 21...Be6 was correct. Now 22.Rd8! would have won the game. **22.Bg5 Be6 23.Nd5?** Tempting, but 23.Ne3 was better. **23...Qxd6! 24.Ne7+ Qxe7 25.Bxe7 Rxe7 26.Ne3.** With a rook and 2 bishops for the queen, black is easily winning. **26... Nf4 27.Qc2 Rc8 28.b3 Be5 29.b4 a5 30.a3 axb4 31.axb4 Rec7 32.Qa2 Bxc4 33.Nxc4 Rxc4 34.Rd8+ Rxd8 35.Qxc4 Rd1+ 36.Kf2 Rd2+ 37.Ke1 Rxh2 38.Qb5 Bc3+ 39.Kf1 Bd4 40.Ke1 Be3 41.Kd1 Rd2+ 42.Ke1 Rc2 0-1**

I recently communicated with former MI Chess Room Director IM John Donaldson, trying to find out a bit more about these folks (they all stopped playing around 2015). We came to a somewhat of a standstill. Anyone have any recent news of Mr. Shnaiderman, Mr. Todortsev, or Mr. Chernobilskiy?

Nick de Firmian's Column

The Missing American

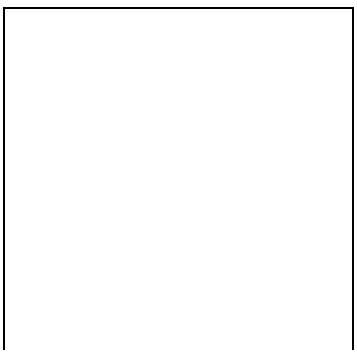
American chess has risen to the top of the world, with three players in the top 10 (Caruana, So, and now Aronian), plus #15 (Dominguez) and our own Sam the man Shankland at #29. No other country has so many of the very top players as we do, and we also have promising young players such as Jeffrey Xiong and Hans Nieman (the Demon). The all-time top ratings of players put Americans in the third and fourth spots behind #1 Carlsen (2889) and #2 Kasparov (2854). Those are Caruana (2851) #3 and Aronian (2835) #4. Wesley So has also been very impressive on the world stage, beating Carlsen in Fischer Random chess and also sometimes in rapid matches. One looks down the all-time rating list and sees the incredible Bobby Fischer at #21 with peak rating of 2789. That is an amazing number when you realize it was 49 years ago, and ratings were much lower. The number two rating in 1972 was only 2660, which was a tie between Karpov and Spassky.

One doesn't see Fischer on the current rating list of course as he passed away in 2008. What is most surprising though is you don't see the rating of another American whose peak rating of 2819 puts him at #10 on the all time list. He has disappeared not only from the rating list, but all competitions for world championship and all other classic chess tournaments. Yet he is only 34 years old! You may have guessed that our missing American is Hikaru Nakamura, renowned for blitz chess and now for streaming. He seems to want only fun, fast involvement with chess these days – something a number of our club players can relate to. Why struggle so hard for so many hours only to be disappointed like Nepomniachtchi? Quick and easy games don't tax you nearly so much and won't leave you depressed after a loss. Naka is making a lot of money streaming these days, and he still plays rapid and blitz chess at a very high level. Still one wonders if he had really struggled to become world champion whether he would have been playing for the title match this year instead of Nepo. We give below two of Naka's brilliancies in classical chess games. This makes one wonder what might have been if he had continued on the quest to be king.

(1) Vladimir Krasenkow (2668) - Hikaru Nakamura (2648) [A14]

Casino de Barcelona Barcelona ESP (2), 19.10.2007

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 a5 7.Nc3 c6 8.d4



Krasenkow has always been a very solid player, especially with White. This closed Catalan opening doesn't look like it will produce much excitment. **8...Nbd7 9.Qc2 b6 10.e4 Ba6 11.Nd2 c5** The pawn battles in the center start the action. **12.exd5 cxd4 13.Nb5 exd5** [13...Bxb5 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.Bxa8 Qxa8 16.cxb5 would be an unclear exchange sacrifice] **14.Nxd4 Rc8 15.Re1 b5 16.Bb2 Re8 17.Qd1** getting out of the c-file pin **17...bxc4** [17...dxc4? 18.Nc6 wins the exchange] **18.bxc4 Qb6 19.Rb1?! dxc4 20.Nc6?** This looks like a good move with the discovered attack on the b-file coming. There is a surprising flaw though in White's position. **20...Rxc6! 21.Bxf6**

What now? It looks like White is winning. **21...Qxf2+!!** This shocker gets the black queen out of attack, except of course it can be taken by the white king. Declining the queen sacrifice is simply lost. **22.Kxf2 Bc5+ 23.Kf3** The white king is caught in the crossfire of the bishops and must move up the board into danger. [23.Kf1 c3+ is even worse] **23...Rxf6+ 24.Kg4 Ne5+ 25.Kg5** [25.Rxe5 Bc8+! 26.Kh4 Rxe5 is mate in three moves 27.g4 Bf2+ 28.Kh3 Rh6#] **25...Rg6+ 26.Kh5 f6**

There's no hope. Black threatens 28...Rh6 mate. Throwing back material only delays the mate for a little while. **27.Rxe5 Rxe5+ 28.Kh4 Bc8** Krasenkow resigned as their is no way out. A brilliant game! **0-1**

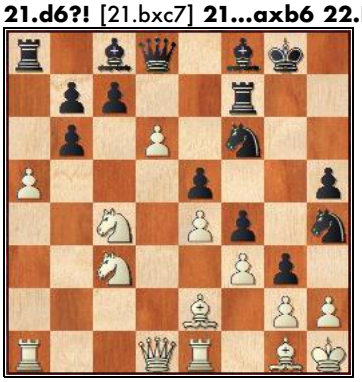
(2) Boris Gelfand (2761) - Hikaru Nakamura (2708) [E97]

World Team Championship Bursa TUR (5), 09.01.2010

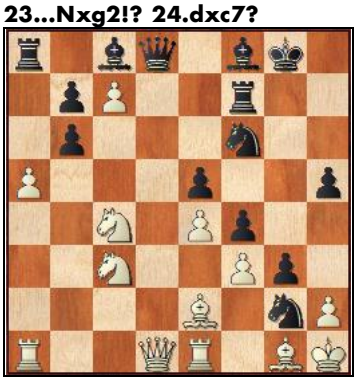
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 A fighting King's Indian Defense. That's typical of Naka's style, but Boris Gelfand was one of the very best at playing the white side of this opening. **6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Nd2 Ne8 10.b4 f5 11.c5 Nf6 12.f3 f4 13.Nc4 g5 14.a4**

This classic battle of White's queenside expansion against Black's kingside push allow both sides to achieve their strategic goals. Who gets there first though is the critical question, **14...Ng6 15.Ba3 Rf7 16.b5 dxc5 17.Bxc5 h5 18.a5 g4 19.b6** The black queenside is getting beaten down. The kings though are on the other side of the board. **19...g3 20.Kh1** [20.h3? cxb6 21.axb6 Bxh3! 22.gxh3 Qc8 is a big advantage for Black] **20...Bf8**

21.d6?! [21.bxc7] **21...axb6 22.Bg1** [22.axb6 Rxa1 23.Qxa1 cxd6 24.Rd1 Rd7] **22...Nh4 23.Re1**



23...Nxg2!? 24.dxc7?



Gelfand is rattled by Naka's sacrifice. [24.Kxg2 h4 would be a complex battle] **24...Nxe1!** White can take the queen on d8 and make a second queen, but it's to no avail as the little black pawn will go to g2 with mate! **25.Qxe1 g2+ 26.Kxg2 Rg7+ 27.Kh1 Bh3!** Naka must have enjoyed leaving his queen in take for so long. **28.Bf1 Qd3!**

yet again! **29.Nxe5** [29.Ra2] **29...Bxf1 30.Qxf1 Qxc3** Gelfand has avoided mate on g2 at the cost of a rook. Nakamura converts easily. **31.Rc1 Qxe5 32.c8Q Rxc8 33.Rxc8 Qe6** White resigned. It will be a piece and pawn down with no complications. **0-1**

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1. e3!! Ke2 2. Qh5+ Kf1 3. Qf3#

If 1...Rd1 2. Qc4+ Rd3 3. Qd3#

If 1...h3 2. Ng3+ Kf2 3. Qf4#

If 1...Rc3 2. Nxc3 and 3. Qf4#

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