Falconer TNM Round Seven Report

The giants fell in the final round, as Expert Eugenio Garcia defeated IM Elliott Winslow, taking clear 1st in the top section with a 6 – 1 score, while Nicholas Weng took down NM Michael Walder for clear 2nd. Walder finished alone in 3rd. Rounding out the prize-winners were Luke Widaja (Best under 2000) and Sebastian Suarez (Best under 1800).

Eugenio wishes to dedicate his victory in the TNM to his father, Mr. Clehir da Rocha Garcia, who passed away in March. He has written an article on chess and AI, with the link in FM Paul Whitehead’s column below.

The under 1800 section saw a dramatic finale, as Karl Stuart Kingma lost an epic battle to Austin Bourdier. Those two were joined at the top with 5.5 points by Dean Guo and Steve Sobel. Rishabh Bhatnagar took the Best under 1400 prize.

Neil Falconer (1923-2014) was a Mechanics’ Institute trustee. A remembrance penned by former Chess Room Director IM John Donaldson can be found here: http://www.uschess.org/index.php/April/Neil-Falconer-1923-2014.html

For TNM info, standings and results: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon

Follow the DGT action: https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tnm-2022/2/1/1
1.d4 e6 offering to play a French Defense if White plays 2.e4 2.c4 c5 offering to play a Benoni Defense if White plays 3.d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 d5 So we finally settle on a Semi-Tarrasch opening with symmetrical pawn structure. 7.b3 Ne4!? David changes the symmetrical tone of the game with this central charge. 8.Bb2 [8.Nxe4?! dxe4 9.Nd2 cxd4 10.Nxe4 Nc6 is good for Black] 8...Qa5 9.Qd3 f5 10.0-0 dxc4?! Thus far it has been excellent opening play by both players. This move however gives up some control of the central squares. Preferable would be [10...cxd4] 11.Qxc4 cxd4 12.Nxe4! fxe4 13.Nxd4 Fine play by Richard. White is now clearly better with well placed pieces and a target on e6 to attack. 13...Qc5?! [13...Qd5 is probably a little better] 14.Rad1 [White can just take the pawn with 14.Nxe6 Qxc4 15.Bxc4 Bxe6 16.Bxe6+ and have a tremendous endgame] 14...Qb6 15.Bg4 Kh8 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.Bxe6 Re8 18.Bd5 The game thus far has been completely in White's favor. He has two great bishops and will win a second pawn at his choosing. 18...Nd7 19.Bd4 Qh6! Black is objectively lost, but this is at least the start tricky play on the kingside. 20.Bxb7 Rab8 21.Bxe4 Bd6 White is still winning but must deal with the threat of mate on h2 and the loose
bishop on e4. 22.Bxg7+ Qxg7?
[22...Kxg7! nets a piece for the four pawns]
23.Rxd6 Rbc8 24.Bc6
[24.Qb5 is a simple win.]
24...Ne5 25.Qd5 Rf8 26.Kh1 Rg8
27.Rd1?
[27.g3! stops the threats on the g-file]
27...Ng4?
[27...Nxc6! wins a piece since 28.Rxc6 Rcd8 overloads the white queen. It has to defend mate on g2 and protect the rook on d1 29.Rd6 Rxd6]
28.Kg1 Rcf8 29.Rd7 Qf6

A critical phase of the game. White has 4 extra pawns now but Black has all his pieces on the kingside to make trouble. It can be very hard to handle such aggression. 30.Qd4?!
[30.f4! Nxe3 31.Qh5 Rg7 32.Rxg7 Qxg7 33.Rd7! Qa1+ 34.Kf2 would win. It looks scary but White controls the board.]
30...Ne5! Now Black has threats and will win something. White can still be clearly better after 31.f4 Nxc6 32.Qxf6+ with four pawns for the knight in the endgame. 31.Rd6?? Qxf2+

White resigns as back rank mate is coming. A fine game by Richard until the last move complications. David kept his chances alive even after losing the pawns and got a lucky break in the end. 0-1

□ Garcia,Eugenio 2103
■ Winslow,Elliott 2258
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (7.1) 12.04.2022 [Winslow/de Firmian]

1.d4 Nf6 7 2.Nf3 8 g6 3:59 3.g3 4.Bg2 4:00 11 5.0-0 8 d6 40
6.c4 23 Nbd7 49 7.Nc3 37 e5 6
Going with the usual Classical Defense.
8.h3 50 This has a few wrinkles over the usual 8.e4 and pops up every now and then. Including 44 years ago in Lombardy-Winslow, US Open (9), Fairfax 1976! 1-0 23. Maybe NOW it's time to learn how to meet this?
[8.e4 exd4!? 9.Nxd4 Re8 10.h3 Nc5 11.Re1 a5!? have become the current way to go at many levels. (and 11...Bd7!?)]
8...Re8 5:05
[Probably just 8...c6 although after
A) 9.dxe5 dx e5 10.Be3 Black can put up a stronger fight for c5 with Qe7 and he's better situated for the f-pawn thrust:
A1) 11.Qb3 Ne8!? (11...Nh5);
A2) 11.Qd2 Nh5!?;  
B) Lombard played 9.Be3;  
C) 9.e4 Black doesn't have the option of the ...exd4 lines above mentioned.]
[11.Qd2 ]
[11.Qc2 ]
11...Qa5?! 4:25 Always looking for trouble.
[11...Qe7!?], performing more defensive function, is more common, and even more so with transpositions. Luke McShane (2625) backed into this position (11...Re8) against Tigran Petrosian (2581), 2nd Sanjin Hotel Cup Tiayuan 2005, avoided repetition and went for two rooks vs. queen, and was outplayed (1-0, 59).

12.Rfd1N 8:20
[12.a3 (intending Qc2 and b4, or just Qb4!) has a couple draws after Nc5 13.Qb4 Qxb4 14.axb4 Nce4 (the other went 14...Na6 15.b5 cxb5)]

12...Nb6?!N 18:03
[12...Nc5 13.Qc2 Bf5 14.Qc1 Rad8 15.Nd2 Ne6 (15...h5) 16.g4!]

Bxg4! 17.hxg4 Nxg4 18.Nb3?! (18.Nde4=) 18...Qb4? (18...Rxd1+ 19.Qxd1 Qc7=) 19.Rxd8 Rxd8 White is doing well but 0-1 (63) Whatley, R-Rogers, N (2265), 24th World op, Philadelphia 1996]

(Diagram)

13.Ng5! 6:20 Garcia heads for the key square in this system: d6! 13...h6 6:17


16...Re7 29 17.Qc2 4:00

White has a clear advantage 17...Nc8?! 6:02 Getting rid of the knight was the intention all along, but there are tactics... [Stockfish 14.1 wants to toss in 17...e4!? 18.Bxe4 Nc8]

18.b4! 10:17

18...Qc7? 2:38
[18...Qxb4! 19.Rab1 Qxd6! 20.Rxd6 Nxd6 21.Bc5 Rd8 is "on computer" a clear plus still, but the unbalanced material give both sides chances.]

19.c5+- 1:57 So much for ... Nxd6! And Black has trouble squirming, as 19...Kh7 5:10 It's hard to suggest any moves for Black.

[19...Rd7 allows 20.Ne8 Qd8 21.Nxg7 Kxg7 22.Rxd7 Qxd7 23.Rd1 dominates.]

20.Rac1 4:59

[20.b5! cxb5 21.Nxb5 Qa5 22.a4]

20...Bf8?! 4:27

[20...a6]

21.f4! 8:20

[The computer continues to prefer 21.b5 although the played move creeps up to second after a while.]

21...Bg7?! 31

[Black was demoralized by now, and by this: 21...exf4]

A) 22.Bxf4 Nxd6 23.cxd6 (23.Bxd6 Qd8 24.Bxe7 Qxe7±) 23...Qb6+ at least gets rid of the knight, but otherwise is dreadful.;

B) 22.Nb5! cxb5 23.Bxf4]


5:43 26.Qh7 1:42

[26.Rf1 Qd7 27.Qh5 is the highest plus on Stockfish]

26...Re6 5:02 27.Bf5 2:00 it's just mopping up now 27...e4 2:08 28.Bf4 6:25 Qe7 3:43 29.Bxe6 3:24 Qxe6 30.Rd8+ 1:43 Ke7 20 31.Qxg7! 2:28 Garcia got the most out of an often-thought quiet variation, and won with a nice kingside attack.

[31.Qxg7 Kxd8 32.Qf8+]

1-0

D85

Walder,Michael 2073

Weng,Nicholas 1974

MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (7.2) 12.04.2022

[de Firmian]

1.d4 9 Nf6 29 2.c4 5 g6 11 3.Nc3 5 d5 6 4.cxd5 7 Nxd5 5.Bd2 1:11 Bg7 2:47 6.e4 8 Nxc3 5 7.Bxc3 6 0-0 58 8.Qd2 11 Nd7 10 We have an Exchange Grünfeld with White recapturing on c3 with the bishop. 9.Nf3 6:23 b6 2 10.d5 12:11

Bxc3! N 7:47

c5 15.Ne2 Bc6 16.Ng3 b5 which seems about equal though 0-1 (63) Manteiga,F (1915)-Miranda,R (2264) Montevideo 2022 ]

11.bxc3?! 41
[ 11.Qxc3 ± seems a little better ]

11...Nc5‡ 19 /= 12.Qd4 4:06
[ 12.Qe3= ]

12...e6 1:44 13.Bc4 1:38 exd5! 7:34
14.Bxd5 17 Ba6 9

active play by Nicholas to take advantage of his lead in development. Now White must worry. On 15. Bxa8 Nd3+ 16. Kf1 Qxa8 favors Black. Probably White should just play 15. Rd1

15.Ne5? 5:36 Qg5!+ 5:46 suddenly Black has terrible threats 16.h4 17:32

(Diagram)

Qxe5! 4:44 Black is clearly winning.
17.Bxa8 7:40
[ 17.Qxe5 Nd3+ ]

17...Rxa8! 28 18.Qxe5 7:15 Nd3+
19.Kd2 11 Nxe5 7

(Diagram)

The bishop and knight for a rook is solidly winning for Black in the endgame.

Nicholas shows good technique to wrap up the point. 20.Ke3 16:41 h5 2:44

Strongly threatening ...Ba4. 24.a4 4:37


29.Rd1 21 Ke7 59 30.g4 29 Rh8! 3:49 Threatens to win with ... hgx4. 31.g5 2:54 Ke6 6:15 32.Kg3 1:58 Re8 1:35

33.f4?! 1:21 tricky but hastening the end

33...Bxe4 2:54
[ 33...Nd6! ]
34.Re2 50 Nd6 35.Rde1 2:09
White resigned as 35...Kd5 or Kd7 solves everything.
0-1

Suarez, Sebastian 1601
Parsons, Stephen 1660
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (7.5) 12.04.2022
[de Firmian]

1.e4 c5 7 2.d4 cxd4 7 3.c3 4
The adventurous Smith-Morra Gambit.
7...0-0-0 1:33


(Diagram)

losing time going back and forth should get punished 13.Bxf7 9:20
17.Qe6+ 2:01 Rd7?! 3:08
[ 17...Kb8 18.Qxe7 Rd7 19.Qe6 Qc7+ wins the bishop back on f7 ]
18.Nxf6?! 1:53
[ 18.Rxd4! is simple and very nice for White ]
18...Bxf6! 12:42 This is an exchange sacrifice but probably the best choice.
19.Be8 33 Rxe8 3:59 20.Qxe8+ 7 Kc7?! 7
[ 20...Rd8 21.Qe6+ Kb8 is a safer place for the king ]
[ 22...Kb6 keeps him in the game ]
23.Qb8+! 13 Kd5 1:59 24.Qg8+ 2:33
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Nf3 c6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.Be2 c5 7.h3 c3 2:00 a5 2:40

10.Bc4?! 1:30
[10.Qd6 Re8 11.Rfd1 gives White some opening edge]

10...b5 11.Bd3 Qe7 12.Qe2 Ng5 1:38

16.b4 7:27 Luke decides to force the issue and make the black knight decide if it will take the bishop or not. This clarifies matters to an even position.

16...Nxd3 1:15 17.cxd3 Rfd8 1:34

22.Bc5?! 2:32
[22.Nxd5]

22...Qe6?! 5:17
[22...Qb7! is a clear pawn up for Black. Ed's friends would have been very happy with that.]
So we are back to an even position after Black moves the queen and White wins the pawn back on b5. However...  

24...Bb7?? 8:53 Oh no! Not that! Well, I expect Ed's Los Angeles friends cheered him up after this blunder.  

25.Nxe6 1-0

6.d4! d5  
[ 6...Nxg2+? 7.Kf1 and the black knight is trapped ]

7.exd6?!  
[ 7.Bxf4 dxc4 8.d5! would really push Black around ]

7...Qxd6 8.0-0 cxd4 9.Nxd4  
[ 9.cxd4 ]

9...e5?!  
[ 9...Nxd4 is a lot safer ]

10.Nb5  

(Qe7?!) Black is in trouble. A little better is to play the endgame with  
[ 10...Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Rb8 12.Bxf4 exf4 13.Nc7+ Ke7 though White is clearly better here too ]

Joel has a queen and pawn for bishop and knight, so certainly should be winning. Joshua fights on bravely with his king being fearless. 18.Nd2 Be7 19.Re1+ Kd6 20.Qxf4+ Kd7 21.Nc4 Raf8 22.Rd1+ Kc8 So now the black king has found safety for a while. Still, White has the material edge. 23.Qg4+ Kb8 24.Rd7 Bc5 The first sign of counterplay. 25.Qg3+ Ka8 26.Qc7 Bxf2+ 27.Kh1 Rb8 28.Nd6? Black gets back in the game after this. Instead [28.Rxg7 Rhe8 29.g3 should be

easily enough]

28...Rhf8 [28...Bb6 29.Nb5 saves the queen as taking on c7 gets mated]

29.Rf7?! [29.Nf7]

29...Bb6!

30.Qd7? [30Nb5 Ne5 31.Qxe5 Rxf7 is equal]

30...Ne5 suddenly Black has a big advantage. An amazing turnaround.

31.Qe6?! [31.Qxb7+ Rxb7 32.Rxf8+ Rb8 is two pawns for the bishop]

31...Nxf7 32.g3 [32.Nxf7 Rbe8 wins]

32...Nxd6 33.Qxd6 Rbd8 34.Qe7 Rf2 35.Qe1 Rxb2 36.a3 a6 37.c4 Rdd2

Joel played a great opening and was clearly winning, yet Joshua hung in there and seized his chances when the opportunities came.

0-1
On March 21st 2018, the world-famous author visited the chess room - on a break from giving a talk at the Mechanics’ Institute on her short story collection “Beautiful Days.” (Photo Mechanics’ Archives)

**April Quads**

There was a great turnout for the monthly championship quads held Saturday, April 9th, with 56 players competing in 14 sections. TD Judit Sztaray was assisted by volunteers Arjun Sankar and Aryan Achuthan (who also won the top section).

Cross-tables and prize-winners are here: [https://www.milib.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads#0409](https://www.milib.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads#0409)

Mark your calendar – our next Quads are on May 14th.

FM Paul Whitehead analyses a couple of games from the Quads: one sent in by Quad 8 winner Venugopal Mani, and another found on the floor of the chess room office...
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3
[2.Bf4 On the 2nd move shows up more and more now.]
2...e6 3.Bf4

Or on the 3rd move. 3...d5 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 cxd4 7.exd4 Qb6
Putting the Queen in front of the pawns is rather primitive.
[7...Be7]
[7...Bd6]
[7...Nh5]
8.Qc2 Be7 9.Bd3 h6 10.0-0 Nh5
11.Bg3?!
[Only 11.Be3 left hope for keeping an advantage.]

(Diagram)
11...Nxg3 12.hxg3 Bf6 13.Rfe1 0-0
[18.Ne3 intending Ng4 was one good idea here.]

The simplest moves can turn out to be mistakes. The range of black's 2 bishops increases. 18...Nxe5 19.dxe5 Bg5! Provoking white's next move...
20.f4?! Seriously weakening squares around the king - plus the g1-a7 diagonal is opened up... 20...Be7 21.b4?
An elementary blunder. White loses a key pawn and the game is over.
21...Qxc3 22.Qe3 Qxb4

(Diagram)
Two pawns down, white could resign. He makes a desperate attempt...

23.Qf3
Qd4+ 24.Kh2 Rc3 25.Re3 f5 26.exf6 Bxf6 27.Rd1 Qc5 28.Qh5 d4

29.Qg6
[29.Qxc5 Rxc5 is of course a lost endgame.]
29...dxe3 30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Bg6 Ke7 32.f5 e2 33.Re1 exf1N+

(Diagram)

Amusing, but promoting to a Queen wins just the same. 34.Rxf1 Qe5 35.Re1

Qxg3+ 36.Kh1 Qxe1+ 37.Kh2 Qg3+ 38.Kh1 Rc1#
0-1

[Reilman, James]
[Matthews, Bradley]
April Quads Mechanics' Institute (3)

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Bg5 h6?!
[3...c6 Is interesting.]
[3...e6 Is usual.]

(Diagram)

Dubious, as it considerably weakens the light squares. 4.Bxf6 gxf6?
[4...exf6 was necessary.]
5.e3 Threatens 6.Qh5#. 5...h5 6.Be2 Threatens 7.Bxh5+ with mate to follow.
6...e6? Black is going the wrong way with his king.
[6...Bg7 7.Bxh5+ Kf8 while pretty hopeless, is nevertheless a better option.]
10.cxd5
e5??
[ 10...Qb6 Simply holds on, which is sometimes our thankless task in chess. ]
11.d6+ Ke6 12.Qd5#

(Diagram)

1-0
Pandemic, war, strife, hardship, cruelty. These current day problems have been around since the dawn of human existence. Yet one land is mostly free from these and has almost all the good things in life – plus loads of chess too! That is wonderful Iceland, which just finished their annual super-swiss tournament at the Harpa Center in downtown Reykjavik. A number of Mechanics’ Institute players have visited Iceland because of this renowned tournament. They naturally enjoy the fabulous scenic sites as well as the chess environment. The incredible Blue Lagoon, glaciers, volcanoes, aurora borealis, and classic Nordic architecture are some of the pleasures to see. Add to that the natives are extremely friendly, polite and considerate and that the island now has no covid restrictions (due to extremely effective policy). Thus, you get an oasis of serenity in this troubled world.

Fifty years ago Iceland became the center of the chess world during the famous Cold War “Match of the Century” – Bobby Fischer vs Boris Spassky. The match, played in Reykjavik, was a great advertisement for the country, which then later hosted the thawing of the cold war with the Regan-Gorbachev summit. Chess has continued to be important in this country with only 350,000 people and so is a popular destination for the tourist chess player. This year’s Reykjavik Open had a number of Americans participating, including young grandmaster Hans Niemann, who came up through the ranks playing in our Tuesday Night Marathon. Hans didn’t win the event, though he had a respectable result. He lost a game to a famous Icelandic old timer, Johann Hjartarsson, who had beaten Korchnoi in one of the Candidates matches in 1988. We give this game below as an inspiration to our older players as evidence that age need not hurt your game much. Yet we also give the decisive last round game of the winner, 16-year-old Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, who benefited from the luck of brave (dare we say brash) that young players tend to have. Older players have a tendency to try to work things out instead of diving into dubious complications. The luck of the young players comes from the fact that chess is so complicated so there will always be mistakes. Young players don’t feel the need to be in control as much and just go with flow.
Hans plays actively to counter attack the d4 pawn. This is the only way to keep the balance. 9.e3
   11.Nxd5 Nxd4! 12.Nc7+ Kd8
   13.Nxa8 Nc2+ 14.Kd1 Nxa1
   keeps material even ]
9...Bb4 10.Bd2 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 g5 another aggressive move. It can be somewhat weakening on the king side but it gains space and attacks the knight. 12.Ne2 0-0 13.h3 Hjartarsson is a very experienced player and stops to take some control of the kingside light squares. 13...Rb8 14.g4 b5 15.Qd1 b4 16.Bd2 Ne7 17.Ng3 Ng6 18.Rc1 Nh4 19.Be2 Qb6 20.Rc5

(Diagram)

25.b3 The safe move from the older player. It's good enough, though
   [ 25.Nh5 Nhx5 26.Rg6+ Nxg6
   27.Qxd7 is quite decisive ]
25...Rxc6?!
   [ 25...Qb7 26.Rc7 Qb8 offers more resistance in this very bad position ]
26.Rxc6 Qd8 27.Bxb4 Black resigns. If 27...Re8 28. Rxf6 Qxf6 29. Qxe8+ So the old man was victorious against the young Demon - quite a surprise. 1-0

Slow 90min+30sec This was the decisive last round game to decide the winner of the tournament. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.a3 Direct play by Gukesh on the white side of the NImzo-Indian. White may get a little edge if Black now surrenders the two bishops. 7...Bd6 8.Qc2 b6 9.b4 c5?! Praggnanandhaa charges ahead in the center and accepts an isolated pawn. More circumspect was 9...a5 but young players often choose direct, aggressive moves. 10.bxc5 bxc5 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Nf3 Re8 13.0-0 Bg4

14.Rd1! Fine play by Gukesh, not worrying about getting doubled pawns on the kingside. The white king is safe enough and the black d-pawn is a target. 14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Bd6 16.Bb2 Be5 17.Bb5 Nbd7 18.Nxd5 Grabbing a pawn. Black has some chances against the open white king but objectively nothing worth a pawn. 18...Bxb2 19.Qxb2 Re5 20.Bxd7 Rxd5 21.Rxd5 Nxd5 22.Bh3 Bringing the bishop back to the weakened kingside is best. On g2 the bishop will help the defense and pressure the long white diagonal. 22...Nb6 23.Qe5 Qd2 24.f4 Qe2 25.Rc1 Qd3 26.Qc3 Rd8 27.Qc7! [27.Qxd3 Rxd3 gives Black the active rook in the endgame, so decent drawing chances.]

27...h6 28.Qxa7 Nd5 29.Bf1 Qg6+ 30.Bg2

(Diagram)

Thus far the game has gone White's way. Here we see Praggnanandhaa make the most of his chances. A good player is hard to put away. 30...Nc3! 31.Rf1 Qd3 32.a4 Rd6 Two pawns down, Black continues to play very aggressively and
brings all three pieces to bear on the white king. 33.a5 Rg6 34.Kh1 Kh7!?

35.Qd4?! Qf5! 36.Qe5?
[ 36.Qxc3 Rxg2 would be perpetual check if White takes the rook, but 37 Qe5! would be a good winning try. ]
36...Qg4 37.Rg1?

(Diagram)

Nd1! White has no good defense to 38... Nf2+ and resigned. One can say this was a lucky victory by Praggnanandhhaa, but it is similar to his rapid chess victory over Magnus Carlsen. Good players create trouble for their opponent even when they have a bad position. This Reykjavik Open victory is another indication that 16 year old Praggnanandhhaa will become a real force in the chess world.

0-1
FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere.

The New Yorker profiles GM Hikaru Nakamura:
[https://www.newyorker.com/culture/rabbit-holes/the-most-popular-chess-streamer-on-twitch](https://www.newyorker.com/culture/rabbit-holes/the-most-popular-chess-streamer-on-twitch)

Washington Square Park in New York is the place to learn life’s lessons:

Chess and… shotguns?

Benjamin Franklin was quite the chess player:

Maybe extraterrestrials are interested in chess:

Chess, zugzwang, pizza:

Chess, insanity, murder:

Local chess players should remember this gentleman, now the USCF FIDE Events Manager:

The best Chess Pie in the world is apparently made in Tennessee:

MANIAC beats human at chess:

There is a river named Chess in England, but it’s in the news for all the wrong reasons:
A stunning photo-essay on the charity Chess in Slums Africa:

A nice overview of top chess streamers on Twitch:

An article about chess in the movies – including a few we haven’t heard of:

Of course GM Magnus Carlsen is a fabulous poker player, apart from his side-gig as World Chess Champion:

He stands 5’9” and just turned 59 years old:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garry_Kasparov

Chess as a cure for boredom?
https://www.purewow.com/family/what-to-do-when-youre-bored

A ‘neural-network’ draws a picture of two cats playing chess:
https://www.seattletimes.com/business/technology/meet-dall-e-the-ai-that-draws-anything-at-your-command/

Newly minted Falconer Memorial TNM winner Eugenio Garcia writes on the intersection of chess and artificial intelligence:
https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/living-under-ai-supremacy-five-lessons-learned-from-chess-garcia

Finally, we loved seeing this ‘cat’ playing chess:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49JtNpQWAQY

Chess is everywhere.
A quick column this week to remind you all about a few things on what you should only do when it's your turn, or only do it when it's your opponent's turn.

Often, I see players doing the following things on their opponent's move, but really they should only be doing these when it is their turn:

- **Adjusting Pieces:** When you want to adjust any piece, you have to wait for your turn, say ADJUST loud and clear, and then touch the piece and adjust it to the middle of the square.
- **Scoresheet Update:** There are times when we get mixed up with our own notation. We can absolutely ask our opponent to show their scoresheet for a minute or so, but you should only do it on your move, and make sure to return the scoresheet to your opponent when you are back.
- **Pausing the clock to Clarify Rules:** Pausing the clock for complaints or resolving any issue is fine to do at any time or on anyone's move, but just for the sake of clarifying rules (such as draw claims, etc), you should only do it on your move. Same goes for asking any questions from your opponent.

On the other hand, there is one thing that you ideally should only do on your opponent's turn, after you made your move: that is using the bathroom. While there is no explicit rule on this, but it looks much better if you get up to use the bathroom after you made your move, and not when your opponent made the move, and it's your turn to think and move.

Please, keep these in mind during your next chess tournament, and hopefully we'll see/hear less and less "adjust" from players when the clock is up on the other side.

As usual, any questions or clarification regarding the topic, please feel free to reach out to us!
Farewell

It's with a heavy heart that I say partial goodbye to you all.

Starting next week, I begin a new adventure with chess.com serving chess organizers in the US and around the world by creating a dynamic chess organizer community where we all can connect, learn, reach resources and grow.

While my full-time employment with Mechanics' will come to an end this week, I will be sticking around helping with the various administrative duties on the tournament side as well as continue to direct some tournaments at the club.

I would like to thank all of you, every single one of you, for your kindness and support. There were so many of you sharing your support, and it meant more to me than I can ever express. I want to also express my deepest thanks to Paul, who has been an amazing friend and colleague.

Thank you for your support over the past three years. It has been an honor and pleasure to be part of the US oldest chess club.

Sincerely,

Judit Sztaray
Tony’s Teasers


Richard Hack
Stories from the Chess Café

“I think we should not allow the engines to define ‘the best move,’ but be more intelligent about it,” Gelfand writes in Positional Decision Making. “Winning the game is about delivering the deadly blow, not mathematics.” People should learn when and how to use this powerful technology.

“Still, at depth 26, the computer does not understand this move (48. Nh8!! in Gelfand-Yue 2010). Partly I like this move for aesthetic reasons, but computers have no understanding of such things!” He later shows how years later the computer found the winning combination in the last round of the 1990 Interzonal.

I suffer from a lot of bad thinking at the board, and I’ve been too stubborn about using certain opening lines. I look forward to again enlarging my repertoire from the get-go and playing 1. d4 as well as e4 and c4. I enjoy the Café more because the top players spend plenty of time encouraging other players and analyzing the games they dare to send in, which usually aren’t as bad as they think.

Paul’s parting advice: “Organize your thoughts around a game; tell yourself the salient points. Somebody’s gaining space . . . I try to find the story in a game I play or study.”

In the World Team Championship last November, Gledura had a perfect score going on Board 4. He beat Guseinov in their game, and we watched it here.

“Nice game.”

“A lot of unintuitive moves.”

Elliott Winslow quoted John Grefe: “It’s important that you master your one- and two-move tactics; in other words, take the piece.” Winslow spent a lot of time in New York. Said Johanna Lorenson of The Chess Shop certified that she was Bob Dylan’s inspiration for his long surreal and symbolic song “Visions of Johanna.” The Chess Forum was across the street from The Chess Shop and is still going.

“The more you stay with chess, the more you’ll meet interesting people,” said Paul. He talked about playing in Phoenix when it was 113 degrees and hanging out with the Russian Anatoly Lein (“Layne”). A big, barrel-chested talker.

“He was a boxer in Russia,” said Sal Matera.

“One of those guys who could pull railroad cars with his teeth,” said Paul.

Sal: “He read a dictionary when it wasn’t his move.”
Nick: “When those guys came over in the first Russian wave of chess immigrants in the ‘70s, we were mad because we weren’t going to win any more prizes, but we had to play better because of them.”

(Some of my latest quotes or discoveries may be old stuff to you, so send me your notes and quotes and stories, if you like, and I’ll try to relate them here, with or without your name as you prefer.)

Editor’s Note: Information for joining the Chess Café is here:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#Chesscafe

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**Upcoming Events**

**April USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com**
- Sunday April 17, 2022, 3PM. 6 games of G/15+2
- Saturday April 23, 2022, 3PM. 6 games of G/10+2
For information and links to register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2022-chesskidcom

**14th Annual Steve Brandwein / RaySchutt / Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz**
- Sunday May 1, 2022, 1PM. 6 Double Round Swiss. G/4min +2
(Registration coming soon)

**Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon**
- Tuesday, May 3rd 2022 - Tuesday, June 14th 2022. 6:30PM.
  - USCF + FIDE Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/ray-conway-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon
  Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/RayConwayMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon

**20th Charles Powell Memorial Championship G/45**
- Sunday, May 8th 2022, 10AM. 4 Round SS G/45;d5. USCF Rated.
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-charles-powell-memorial-championship-g45-person
  Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/20thPowellMemorialChampionshipG45
Mechanics' Institute May Championship Quads
Saturday May 14, 2022, 3PM. USCF Rated. 3RR G/30;d5
Information: [https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads](https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)
Registration: [https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsMay2022](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsMay2022)

Mechanics’ Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person
Saturday May 14, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 Games of G30;d5
Information: [https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institutemonthly-scholastic-swiss-person](https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institutemonthly-scholastic-swiss-person)

Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Ng3! Intending 2.Nc4#. If 1...Nxg3 2.Rc5#. 1...Bxg3 2.Kc4#!

Problem #2: 1.Qd3! Threatens 2.Qxh7+! Kxh7 3.Rh8#. If 1...Kxh5 2.Qxh7+ Bh6 3.Nf4#. The trickiest is 1...Rf5, but then 2.Bg4! Qb5 3.Ng5#.

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We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:
https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxcgcMA

You can now access our newsletter directly from the chess home page!
https://www.milibrary.org/chess