Conway TNM Round Two Report

Five players are perfect after round 2 in the top section: IM Elliott Winslow, NM Siddarth Arun, plus Experts Christophe Bambou, Nicholas Weng and Edward Lewis. Entering the tournament in round 3, with ½ point byes in rounds 1 and 2, will be Conrado Diaz, a strong master and winner of the Powell Memorial (see below) who hails originally from the Philippines.

The under 1800 section has an even larger group at 2-0, with eight players sharing 1st. Special kudos again to Nick Casares, who is finally on a mini hot-streak after some tough results lately. And a shout-out to unrated Nicolas Horde, also perfect.

The Conway TNM has two TD’s, with Dr. Judit Sztaray and former MI Chess Club Director Abel Talamantez alternating every other Tuesday.

Raymond (Ray) Conway was the Mechanics’ Institute Chess Room Director from 1971 to 1980. His tenure coincided with the ‘Fischer Boom’, and the Tuesday Night Marathon was started by Conway to make the most of the soaring interest in chess at that time.

Former Chess Room Director IM John Donaldson rounds out the little we know about his predecessor in a previous MI Newsletter, here:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/734

For complete TNM info, standings and results:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/ray-conway-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 e6 4.c4 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Bf4 Bg7 [Fischer also played this move, but 7...a6 is considered safer]
10...0-0 11.Bd3 This square is usually not as good in the Benoni for the white bishop as the simple e2 square. Black now gets equal chances. 11...Na6
14...a5! 15.a3 a4 [15...c4 16.Qd1 Na6]
16.Qc4 Na6 17.Ra2?! This is a funny square for the white rook. You have to worry how it will get back in the game. The idea seems to be that 17...b5 18.Nxb5 is good for White, but Black can do better. 17...Qa5

White is getting pushed back. After 30. Qc4 Black has an extra pawn and better position. Under pressure White blunders. 30.Re1? Qxf3! zwischenzug 31.Re7+ Rf7 32.Rxf7+ Kxf7

The checks are over. Black is a piece and pawn ahead and White has a bank rank issue. 33.Qc4 Qf4 White resigned 0-1
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8
4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 a6 6.Nf3 b5 7.Be2 c5?! This attack on the d-pawn is too hasty. 7...e6 first is better. 8.dxc5 Qxd1+ 9.Bxd1 e6

10.b4! Sometimes one is afraid to play this move since ... a5 can undermine the whole queenside. Here 10...a5 11. Nxb5 is too strong, so White has time to consolidate the protected passed pawn on c5. 10...Bb7 11.0-0 Be7 12.Be2 0-0 13.a4!

Now the black queenside pawns are the ones under attack. 13...Nc6 14.Rb1 bxa4 15.Nxa4 Nd5 16.Bd2 Rfd8 17.c4 Nf6 18.Nb6 Ra7 19.Rfc1 Nd4?! [Its a tough position to play, but this makes it easier for White. Perhaps 19...Ne4 20.Be3 Bf6 would offer some chances.]


28.c7! 1-0
1.e4 c6 Club players are beginning to learn the benefits of the Caro-Kann. It avoids a lot of the gambit openings one needs to learn after 1. e4 e5. The King’s Gambit alone is a cause for concern.

2.d4 d5 3.e5 Nick plays the aggressive Advance Variation, just as Tal used to do against Botvinnik. 3...Bf5

4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 c5 6.dxc5 Very direct, but Black gets easy development. 6. 0-0 or 6. Be3 is more complicated. 6...Bxc5

7.a3 Ne7 8.b4 Bb6 9.Bg5?! After advancing on the queenside with 8.b4 one could use the dark-squared bishop on that side. Here on the kingside it will probably just get traded for a black knight. 9...Qc7 10.Bd3 Nbc6 11.Bxe7

(Diagram)

Nxe7 A good solid move - Simone has played the opening very well. Instead black could grab a material with [ 11...Nxe5 12.Bxf5 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Qe5+ 14.Kd2 Qxa1 though that is quite complicated. ]

12.0-0 0-0 13.Nbd2 Rac8 Once again, fine play from Simone. The rook on the c-file makes problems for the c2 pawn. 14.Bxf5?! It would be better for White to keep the light-squared bishops on the board so that the c2 pawn isn’t so weak. 14...Nxf5 15.Ra2 Nd4 16.Nxd4 Bxd4 The white e-pawn is a goner. Thus far a positional masterpiece from Simone. 17.Nf3 Bxe5 18.Nxe5 Qxe5 19.Re1 Qf5 20.Re3 Rc7 21.c3 Rfc8 Black should be winning with the extra pawn and the backward white pawn on c3. 22.Rc2

(Diagram)

Rc4 [ 22...d4 is good but 23.Rd3 makes concerns about back rank mates ]

23.Rc1 Qf6 24.Qa4 a6 25.Qd7 In a bad position Nick plays actively - his best chance. The c3 pawn is doomed so White desperately needs some counter
chances. 25...R4c7 26.Qa4 g6 27.Qb3 d4! 28.Rd3 Rxc3 29.Rdxc3 Rxc3 30.Rxc3 dxc3 31.Qc2 Qd4 32.Kf1 Good defense in a bad position. Two pawns ahead is certainly winning for Black. A queen ending though can always be tricky as there are chances for perpetual check. 32...b5 33.g3 e5 34.Ke2! f5 This is fine yet just a little weakening of the black king’s defenses.

35.Qb3+ Kg7
[ 35...Qc4+? 36.Qxc4+ bxc4 37.a4! Kf7 38.b5 axb5 39.a5! and surprisingly White wins the king and pawn ending ]

36.Qe6 Qd2+ This is the start of the trouble. The black queen is well placed in the middle of the board. 36...c2 would win directly. 37.Kf1 Qd1+
[ 37...Qd3+ 38.Kg1 Qb1+ 39.Kg2 Qe4+ 40.Kg1 c2 (40...Kh6) ]

38.Kg2

(Diagram)

c2?
[ 38...Kh6!+ 39.Qe7 Qd5+ 40.f3 e4 41.Qh4+ Kg7 42.Qe7+ Qf7 43.Qe5+ Qf6 still wins ]

39.Qe7+ Kh6 40.Qf8+ Kh5 41.Qe7!= Wiley Nick has escaped with the active queen play. Simone was probably shocked at the turnaround and misses the harsh point to this move. 41...c1Q? oh no! 42.Qh4# A tragedy for Simon after playing a wonderful positional game. Resourceful play by Nick to seize his chances.

1-0
11.b3
   [It should be better to be a bit more direct in the central play and contest the black pawns with 11.d3 ]
11...Bd7 12.Bb2 0-0-0 Richard goes for direct, aggressive development. We will be getting an opposite side castling position, which usually means attacks on both sides. 13.Na4 Qd6 14.e3?!
The d3 square is weak after this. 14.Rc1 or castling would be safer. 14...Rg8
   [14...Nb4!]
15.0-0 g6 16.Rc1 Bg7 17.Bxg7 Rxg7
18.Qc2 h5 19.Rfd1 Rh7
   [19...Ne5 20.Nc5 Bc6 ]
20.Nb2
   [20.Nc5 ]
20...Ne5 21.d4 Nf3+

(Diagram)

22.Kh1?! This keeps the white king boxed in on h1. It looks a bit scary to give up the white bishop, but
   [22.Bxf3! exf3 23.Nc4 Qa6 24.Ne5 gives White as least equal chances ]
22...h4 The black attack is certainly dangerous. White needs to play actively and accurately. At least White's pieces are all developed to good squares.

23.Nc4 Qc6 24.d5 Qc5 25.b4
There is a temptation to do something active when the position is so tense. This move doesn't help though. White should get ride of the knight with 25.Bxf3! and his king will be safer. 25...Qxb4 26.Ne5?!
   [26.Bxf3 ]
26...Qd6
   [26...Ba4! is even stronger ]
27.Nc4 Qc5 28.d6

hxg3 The black attack crashes through. White has a lot of force lined up on the c and d files but it is too slow. Black's
kinght, pawn and both rooks are poised to take out the white monarch. 29.fxg3
[Only a little better is 29.h3 Rdh8
35.Kh1 Bf1# ]
29...Rxh2# An exciting battle! I look forward to the next encounter.
0-1

\[ Winslow,Elliott 2235  
\| Clemens,Kristian 1934  
\]  
MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (2.1) 10.05.2022 [Winslow,Elliott C]

Christian and I have now played six times. The games have all been in Tuesday Night Marathons, and I've always had White! Were we grandmasters we might be seeing a conceptual progression, but that has hardly been the case. Still, here and there there are new ideas... 1.d4 d5
2.c4 e6

[ 2...c6 Kristian switches between Classical and Slav, including against me. 3.Nc3 (3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3  
The one time we didn't play a ...e6 Queen's Gambit proper! Bg4 5.Qb3 Qb6 6.c5 Qxb3 7.axb3 Nbd7 8.b4 Bxf3 9.gxf3 e5 10.b5 If Black can't stop this Not-A-Minority Attack, then White is doing well: 1-0 (47) Winslow, E (2234) -Clemens,K (2004) Yudacufski TNM, San Francisco 3.3.2020.) Here is the one time Kristian won. 3...Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 Be7 and back to an Orthodox Queen's Gambit 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Qc2 0-0 8.h3 Re8 9.0-0-0 b6 Suspect, and gets in a lot of trouble, but... 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.Kb1 Rc8 13.g4 c5 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.Bf5 Ra8 16.g5 Ne4 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.dxc5 Qb8 19.c6 Bxc6 20.Qxc6 exf3 21.Qxf3 Qe5 22.Rd5 Qc7 23.Rc1 Qh2 24.Rh1 Qc7 25.Bxh7+ Nice combination, except: Kxh7 26.Qxf7 Qc6 27.g6+ Qxg6+ 11.05 Crosscheck! And White goes down. 0-1 (59) Winslow,E (2248)-Clemens,K (1956) Fall TNM, San Francisco ]

3.Nc3 Be7 A famous finesse, which I've played myself quite a few times during my own QGD days. Black waits for White's Ng1-f3 before allowing Bc1-g5. The Exchange Variation lines where White has Ng1-e2 are a problem for Black. Kasparov (and I!) won a few nice games with that plan, playing for f3 and e4.


4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5

5...Nbd7 6.e3
[This game reminded us both that Black might profitably not castle for a while either: 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Qc2 c6 8.e3 Nf8 9.Bd3 g6 10.0-0 Ne6 11.Bh4 0-0 12.Rab1 a5 13.a3 Ng7! and off with the light-squared bishops! A lot of moves went by, but a horrible mistake many moves later... 14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 Bf5 16.b5 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 Nf5 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.bxc6 bxc6

You can now ignore the next 45 or so moves as we struggled, both of us getting trouble at various points, until the near end: 20.Rfc1 Nd6 21.Nd2 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 Rb8 35.Ra6 Nc7 36.Ra7 Rb6 37.Qa2 Nb5 38.Rd7 Qf6 39.Qa8 Nd6 40.Qa2 Nc4 41.Qe2 Rb2 42.Qf3 Qxf3+ 43.Kxf3 Nd2+ 44.Kg2 Nc4 45.e4 dxe4 46.Nxe4 Ne3+ 47.Kf3 Nf5 48.Ng5 Nh6 49.h3 Kf6 50.Ne4+ Kg7 51.g4 hxg4+ 52.hxg4 Rc2 53.Rc7 Rc4 54.Rd7 Kf8 55.Kf4 f5 56.g5 Ng4 57.Nf6 Nxf6 58.gxf6 c5 59.Ke5 Rxd4 60.Rxd4 cxd4


6...0-0 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 c6 9.Qc2 Re8 10.h3?!

[10.0-0! was actually my intention, thinking of (but not studying before the game?) Yermolinsky's "The Road to Chess Improvement" where there is a whole chapter on the resulting position, with quite a few of Yermo's games! In fact, the only convincing response (per the book) is Yermolinsky-Yusupov, but the latest Stockfish has White better.]

[10.0-0-0 on the other hand is the sort of opposite sides castling prelude to big pawnstorms I've favored in general.]

(Diagram)
The problem I had was, too many scholastic classes. The Kids’ Koach Klassic Kaveat: "Castle As Early As You Can!" is a simplification; Winslow’s Rule for Castling is: "Castle as *late* as you can -- but not too late!" The point is to keep your opponent guessing as to where your king will be, so he/she can’t direct their attack in that direction. There are two problems, no three: (1) You might overlook some useful check, when it is too late (2) Your "other move" might in fact be a mistake in its own right.  

10. h3 here does something very hard to anticipate: it takes the square away from the knight on c3 (!!).

10...Ne4!

Making up for no ...Ne4 in the first game we played six years ago! At the time (2022 that is) I just thought “Doesn't this lose a pawn?” Oh, and this is (3) If Black can successfully play in the center, it might not matter which side the king goes on. Again, see Silman’s suggestions for Clemens in that Chess.com article.

[ 10...g6!? 11.Bh6!? ]

11.Bxe4?! 0.00 (!) I wanted to resist, but I'm a sucker for free pawns.


[The Grandmaster Play is 11.Bf4!?±

12...f5??

[ 12...Bxg5 13.Nexg5 Nf8!? 14.h4! Knight needs somewhere to go! h6 15.Nh3 Qf6! Something is wrong with White’s position! 16.Nhg1= Bf5= ]

13.Qc4+!N Keeping open b2-b4 as an answer to the check.


13...Kh8 14.Nd6!+-

(Diagram)
Rf8  15.Nf7+  Rxf7  16.Qxf7  Bxg5
17.Nxg5  Nf6 Of course the whole point is that the knight is immune to capture.
18.Qc4 Again keeping b2-b4 available.
   [But 18.0-0 is just as if not at least as good.]
18...Qa5+  19.b4  Qc7  20.Nf7+
   [Same here: 20.0-0]
20...Kg8  21.Ne5+  Nd5  22.0-0  Qe7
23.a3
   [23.b5! escaped my attention. More Minority Attacks?]
23...Be6  24.Qc5  Qg5

(up an Exchange and a pawn) going. 25.f4?! I wanted to shut down any aggression based on ...f4, but now I have less chance of a center mobilization. And Black's bishop could well join the knight on a central light square. But in fact, White's material advantage is so great that almost anything works, as long as Black doesn't deliver checkmate.
   [25.b5!]
25...Qh6
   [Stockfish likes 25...Qd8 but then offers 26.e4!? fxe4  27.f5  Bf7 28.b5!?]
26.Rae1  a6 This seemed inconsequential, but it does shut down b4-b5 (for now) 27.Nf3?! Some floundering.
   [Again: 27.e4! fxe4  28.f5! Bf7 29.Rxe4]
27...Rf8  28.Qd6 As I tell the kids: "Trade down to accentuate your material preponderance!" (I use smaller words though.) 28...Qf6  29.Ng5  Bc8  30.Qxf6
Nxf6  31.Nf3  Be6  32.Ne5 Cumbersome and maybe not worth the time. 32...Rd8
33.Rf2  Ne4  34.Rb2  Rd5  35.Rc1  Rd8
36.Kh2  Kf8  37.g4  Ke7  38.a4  Nd6
In fact, opening lines for the rooks is not at all easy.

(Diagram)

Now White just needs to get his assets

39.Kg3
   [39.b5! Yes it is! axb5  40.axb5  cxb5 (I missed 40...Nxb5  41.Rxc6!!)
   Probably overlooked because I'd looked at it earlier. bxc6  42.Nxc6+
   Kd7  43.Nxd8 ) 41.Rc7+ Kf8
   and White is winning fairly easily various ways.]
39...Kf6  40.g5+  Ke7  41.h4 So White resorts to the age-old strategy of waiting for the opponent to mess up...
41...Ne4+  42.Kh3  Nd6  43.h5  Bc8?!
into d5 made a lot more sense, not that it saves the game. 44.Nc4?!
[ 44.d5! cxd5 45.Rbc2 ]
44...Ne4?!

Allowing a nice little combination. 45.b5!
c5
[ 45...axb5 46.axb5 Nxc5+!?
doesn't work, but it almost looks like something... ]
46.dxc5 Nxc5 47.Nb6! Nd3 48.Nxc8+
[ 48.Rc7+ is "better" says the computer, but now we're bit-picking. ]
48...Ke8 49.Rbc2 Nxc1 50.Rxc1 axb5 51.axb5 Rd3 52.Kg2 Rxe3 53.Nd6+

Kd7 54.Nxf5 Rb3 55.Rc5 g6 56.hxg6
hxg6 57.Nh4 Kd6 58.Re5

Another wobbly win by Winslow (wait, that's me). And Kristian deserves better than this. At least he deserves White in our next encounter!
1-0

B72
Sankar, Arjun 1787
Walder, Michael 2075
MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (2.6) 10.05.2022

[Winslow, Elliott C]

Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be2

This is no longer seen much: there are more aggressive and pressing alternatives:
[ 6.Bg5 (the Rauzer) ]
[ 6.Bc4 (the Sozin) ]
[ 6.f3 intending the English Attack with Bc1-e3 and a later g2-g4. ]
[ 6.Be3?! immediately runs into Ng4 ]

6...g6 As recommended by various authors, including Sam Shankland in his Chessable course. But now you have to know something about the Dragon! At least you should be avoiding the Yugoslav Attack now! 7.Be3 Bg7 8.h3
[ 8.0-0 ]
[ 8.Qd2 ]

8...0-0 9.Qd2 White doesn't seem to know which way he is going. 9...Bd7
[ 9...d5 has a big plus score for Black! But there is the danger, if you can call it that, of too much liquidation. Mike said that, if his opponent were 500 rating points higher, he'd play that. ]
10.Bf3 A "novelty" for a good reason. Now Black can chase bishops. 10...Ne5
11.Be2 Rc8 12.0-0
[ 12.b3?? Qa5! 13.Nd5 Qxd2+
leads to wholesale exchanges as well, but this time with a won game:
14.Bxd2 Nc6! (or 14...Nxd5 15.exd5]
Rc5+-) 15.Nxc6 Nxd5! 16.exd5 when either recapture wins. 
12...Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4= Objectively quite equal, but the "latent advantage" of the Two Bishops makes its presence felt so easily. 14.Rfd1 Qa5 15.Qe2 Rfc8 Exchange sacrifices are in the air. 16.Nb3 Qa6 17.Nd2 White is sinking into passivity and the worse game. 
17...R4c6  
[ 17...Rb4! not worrying about doubled pawns, is a clear plus. ] 
18.Re1 Qxe2 19.Rxe2 a6  
[ 19...b5!± No need to wait! ] 
[ 24...Kf8 is a useful precaution. ] 
25.axb4 Rxb4

Completely caving in on the dark squares. 29...Nd7 30.Rea2 Nc5 31.Ra4 Bc3 32.Rc2 Bb4 33.Ra2 Nxe4  
[ The computer likes 33...a5! for its higher numerical value; humans like it for its aesthetic finality of dark-square control. ] 
34.Ra4 a5 35.Re2 f5 36.f3 Nc5 37.Raa2 e5 38.Re3 f4 39.Ree2 Nxb3 40.g3 Nc1 Not at all a flawless game; Mike gave Arjun chances to hold. But it didn't seem likely they were going to happen. 
0-1 

Bambou, Christophe 2101 
Talamantez, Abel 1800 
MI Conway TNM: Extra Games (2.30) [Winslow, Elliott C]

1.e4 Nf6 
[ 1...e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nce2 Compare to position after Black's sixth move! ] 
2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 Ne4 4.Nce2 e6 5.d3 Nc5 6.d4 Ncd7 Usually it's Black's move here! 7.f4 c5 8.c3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.Ng3 g6 11.a3 Regardless whose move it is, this is a typical blocked center French situation, where both sides probe for advances on the wings. 11...c4 Radically dealing with b2-b4 (which could still happen). 12.Be2 b5 
13.Be2 Na5 14.Nf1 Nb3 15.Ra2 a5 16.N1d2 a4 17.Nxb3 axb3 18.Ra1 Nb6 19.h4 Now to try the other side... 19...h5 20.Ng5 Na4 21.Qd2 Bd7 22.g4!? Neither side has much prospect, but what there is is tied around this move. White could prepare it -- or just play it now. 22...Qa5?!  
[ Standard reply: 22...hgx4 23.Bxg4 and now f6!? ] 
23.gxh5?!
23.Kf2!? connects rooks, importantly

23...Bxg5??
[ 23...gxh5? ]
[ 23...Nxc3! ]
[ 23...Nxb2!+ 24.Qxb2 Bxa3
activates Black’s main feature - the advanced pawns. Yes, the Two Bishops also still matter.... 25.Qb1!
Qxc3+ 26.Kf2 gxh5 27.Rg1! Qc2!
White may hold this, but Black gets to have all the fun. ]

24.fxg5! gxh5 25.0-0! White’s king:
totally safe. f7: in big trouble. 25...0-0-0?!
Be8 29.Rf6 Qd7 30.Bg2
A nice snaking around to h3. 30...Bg6
31.Bh3 Bf5? 32.R1xf5
1-0
GM Nick de Firmian

Americans Winning!

After not playing any classical chess games for two years, Hikaru Nakamura is back in the saddle and winning tournaments again. His successful life of streaming will continue, but he is focused again on being a top chess player and has climbed back to tenth in the world ratings. He just took first place in the Coinbase Grand Prix this last weekend. Admittedly this is an online, rapid play tournament that took only two days. Yet it shows fine form to beat out the other top players of the world. This is especially important as we head into next month’s Candidate’s Tournament in Madrid. The field for that is Nakamura and Caruana from the United States, Firouzja from France, Nepomniachtchi from Russia, Radjabov from Azerbaijan, Ding Liren from China, Richard Rapport from Hungary and Jan-Krzysztof Duda from Poland. The action begins June 16 and I predict an American will win!

The other American on fire is young Hans Niemann who just won another grandmaster tournament. On the heels of his victory at the Capablanca Memorial in Cuba Hans has won the Sigeman Tournament in Malmo, Sweden. His rating should be up to 2674, bringing him close to the elite 2700 club. At only eighteen years old he has a bright future in front of him. He is living and breathing chess and wants to do nothing else. He announced after his victory in Malmo “If you are organizing any strong tournaments, please invite me. I want to play non-stop!” Many of our MI club players remember playing against Hans five or six years ago when he was becoming a chess master and battling for first with the likes of Elliott Winslow. Perhaps young Hans will come through San Francisco again on his non-stop world travels.

Below we show a game each from our victorious American stars.
Blitz 10min+2sec This game was from the finals to decide the winner of the Chess.com Rapid Championship. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 An Open Catalan, which allows a lot of freedom for both sides. 7.Qc2 b5 8.Ne5 Nd5 9.a4 c6 10.Nc3?! [10.axb5] 10...f6! The best move, kicking the advanced knight. Black has an extra pawn even if his pawn structure is a bit strange. 11.Nf3 b4 12.Ne4 Ba6 13.Nc5 Bxc5 14.dxc5 Nd7 15.e4 b3! 16.Qd2?! [16.Qd1 Nb4 17.Qd6 is also better for Black but this keeps the exchange] 16...c3 17.bxc3 Bxf1 18.Bxf1 Nc7 19.Qd6 Qc8 20.Nd4 White has activity for the material so Hikaru must be careful to neutralize that. 20...Ne5 21.Nxc6 [21.f4 Rd8 22.fxe5 Rxd6 23.exd6 is an interesting queen sacrifice, though still better for Black] 21...Nxc6 22.Qxe6 e5?! [22...Rb8! clear edge to Black] 23.Bc4+ Kh8 24.Rb1 Now White's two bishops and activity make the game about even. 24...Rb8 25.Ba3 f5 26.Qd6 fxe4 27.Qxe5 Re8 28.Qf4 Qd7 29.Bb4 a5! giving this pawn for a tempo, which keeps White from consolidating 30.Bxa5 Nd5 31.Qh4? Fedoseev thinks to attack, but this is the wrong square for the queen. [31.Qd2 Qxa4 32.Qxd5 Qxa5 33.Rxb3 is about even] 31...e3 32.Bd3 exf2+ 33.Kxf2 Nf6 34.Rd1? (Diagram) b2! The winning move! Hikaru calculates accurately and presses home his advantage. 35.Bxh7 Qxd1 No fear! 36.Bg6+ Kg8 37.Qc4+ Qd5 0-1
Salem seeks to attack and is willing to let his bishop get traded to gain an attacking pawn on e5. 14...Be7 15.Qe2 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nd5 17.Qe4 g6 Chances are even. White has some attacking chances while Black is pretty solid and has the two bishops. 18.Nb5!? Bc5 19.Rad1 [19.b4? Nxb4 20.Qxb7 Nxd3 ] 19...h5 20.Rd2 Qe7 What to do for White. The black kingside looks a little loose but there is no easy way in. Salem decides a bit hastily to sacrifice a pawn. 21.Nd6?! Bxd6 22.exd6 Qxd6 23.Ne5 Qe7 24.Bc4 Qg5 25.Rad3 Rad8 26.h4 [26.Rg3 looks threatening but Qf5 defends very well ] 26...Qf5 27.Qxf5 gxf5 28.Red1?! Now Black becomes clearly better in the endgame with the extra pawn. [28.Bxd5 Bxd5 29.Rc1 is a better defense ] 28...Kg7 29.Bb5

Kf6! Hans sacrifices the exchange to get his pieces on very active squares. 30.Nd7+ Rxd7 31.Bxd7 Nf4 White can’t keep both the exchange and the g2 pawn. If 32.Rg3 Ne2+ forks. 32.Rd6 Bxg2 material is even - two
pawns for the exchange. Black is much better though with the broken white kingside. 33.Bc6 Rg8 34.Bxg2 Rxg2+ 35.Kf1 Rh2 36.Kg1 Rxh4 37.Rd7 Rg4+ 38.Kh1 Nh3 The black rook and knight plus the pawns make an attack even late here in the endgame. 39.Rd2 Ng5 40.Rd3 f4 41.Rxa7 f3 42.Rb3

e5! 43.Rxb6+ Kg7 Salem resigned as there is no decent defense. On 44. Rb3 e4 45. Rc7 Nh3 46. Rc2 Rg2 wins more material. 0-1
20th Charles Powell Memorial

A nice turnout of 67 players competing in two sections showed up for the Powell Memorial on Saturday, May 7. The top section was won by Master Conrado Diaz with 3.5 from 4 games, with 5 Experts trailing by ½ a point: Alan Finkelstein, Theodore Coyne, Advay Bansal (Diaz’s only drawn game), and Rohan Rajaram. The under 1800 Section also had a clear winner, with Zee Chin tallying a perfect 4-0. Taking clear 2nd place was Jeffrey Dallatezza with 3.5 points. There was a massive 8-way tie for 3rd place.

Full results can be found here: [https://www.milibary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-charles-powell-memorial-championship-g45-person](https://www.milibary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-charles-powell-memorial-championship-g45-person)

Charles Powell was 7-time Virginia State Champion and a former Armed Forces Champion. He moved to San Francisco in the late 1970s and died tragically young at the age of 46.

Powell is also noted for having defeated Bobby Fischer in a simultaneous exhibition:


The Dutch publishing firm New in Chess (https://www.newinchess.com/), which is coming up on its 40th anniversary, has recently released two new instructional works which should find a wide audience. The first, *100 Endgame Patterns You Must Know: Recognize Key Moves & Motifs and Avoid Typical Errors* (464 pages, $29.95) by Spanish Grandmaster Jesus De La Villa, is a follow up to his well-received works *100 Endgames You Must Know* and *The 100 Endgames You Must Know Workbook*.

The present work differs from its predecessors in that instead of trying to cover fundamental endgame theory the author wants to teach basic concepts. Here is how he explains his aims in the introduction. “The aim of this book is to present, with good examples and, therefore, in a clear fashion, those situations which I consider to be useful patterns in positions with few pieces, the study of which should allow us to eliminate mistakes which we can consider systematic. This book is not exactly a continuation of my earlier book *100 Endgames You Must Know*. It would be more accurate to say that they complement each other, since *100 Endgames You Must Know* concentrates on theoretical endgames, while this book deals precisely with the stage of the game that precedes the appearance of the theoretical endgames. Beginning with one book or the other, or alternating between them, may be a matter of experience or taste, but it is probably more systematic to start with the study of theoretical endgames.”

What does De La Villa mean by a pattern? Here is a simple but important one that occurs in rook and pawn endings that the author calls the *umbrella*.

**Alexander Zaitsev - Robert Hübner**

Büsum, 1969.

White has a two to one majority on the same wing which is almost harmless. White can only win if Black ‘forgets’ the mechanism of the *umbrella*.
57...Rb1??

With 57...Rc5, waiting on the fifth rank, Black draws easily, for example 58.f5 Rc1 and now if 59.Kh5 Rg1! and there is no way to make progress. (Reviewer: This variation might continue 60.Kg6 Rxc4 61.Kxf6 Ra4, and Black draws with his king on the short side and his rook on the long side despite his king being cut off. This necessary knowledge points to why it is a good idea for the student to first read De La Villa’s 100 Endgames You Must Know or other works concentrating on fundamental endgames by Dvoretsky and others before tackling the present book) 58.Kh5 Rg1 59.g5! This is the typical pawn sacrifice which sets up the umbrella. 59...fxg5 60.f5 Kf8 61.f6 1-0.

100 Endgame Patterns You Must Know: Recognize Key Moves & Motifs is an excellent book with well-chosen examples and clear explanations that will meet the needs of a wide audience of players from those in Class A (1800-2000) who have mastered some fundamental endgames, to FIDE titled players who are looking to review their skills. This book is also an excellent resource for those who teach the game.

The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement: Chess Engine Training Methods, Opening Strategies & Middlegame Techniques (560 pages, $29.95) by English Grandmaster Matthew Sadler is also a follow-up of sorts, in this case to the author’s
2019 classic *Game Changer*, which he co-authored with Natasha Regan. Chess players of all levels have long been familiar with the impact chess engines have had on top level chess, particularly in the area of opening preparation. What is not as widely known is that these silicon oracles also have much to offer amateur players. Sadler aims to correct this state of affairs with his new book which offers Chess Engine 101 and Training with Engines chapters early on to help those who are new to the field. He outlines his overall goals in the introduction: “This book is aimed primarily at a broad audience of chess players who wish to improve their knowledge and practical play and does so by:

1. adding new plans and ideas to their existing opening and middlegame ‘toolboxes’ – many of the games in this book are model games for handling typical middlegame positions arising from openings such as the King’s Indian, Benoni, French, (Semi)-Slav, and Sicilian openings;

2. helping them to use their engines more effectively and to better understand the moves they suggest;

3. providing insight into chess at the highest level in a comprehensible manner.”

Sadler, was the right person to write *The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement*. He is not only a world class Grandmaster who has written a number of fine books that are enhanced by his ability to break down and clearly explain complicated material, but he also works in the IT field. This combination of skills makes him an invaluable guide to what can be a bewildering subject, particularly for adult players who did not grow up tech savvy.

Players from 1800 on up will find this book fascinating.

Once upon a time...

...the end.
FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere

GM Yuri Averbakh dies at 100:

https://www.ft.com/content/14cce122-4b53-42ac-bea6-f45e4f1a165d

GM John Fedorowicz appears on the May USCF podcast, One Move at a Time:


Knight or Bishop?

https://dotesports.com/chess/news/is-a-bishop-better-than-a-knight-in-chess

Panera Bread is the place to play chess in Manchester, New Hampshire:


Chess player posts on Linkedin, breaks all records, then gets his account deleted:

https://frenchdailynews.com/culture/4715-a-young-chess-player-upsets-linkedins-algorithms

“All chess players are artists.” Chess and Marcel Duchamp:


FIDE does NOT equate wrestling and chess:


8 year-old kids demolished by a 6 year-old kid:


12 year-old Ukrainian refugee wins a tournament in Ireland:


National Championships are underway in Guyana:

https://newsroom.gy/2022/05/09/__trashed/
In Nigeria, two cryptocurrency CEO’s play a $2000 chess match for charity:

Garry Kasparov is interviewed by GM Cristian Chirila:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ragAKwOKk4

A Math teacher in Scotland uses chess in her class:
https://www.tes.com/magazine/teaching-learning/primary/how-i-use-chess-board-maths-interventions

Glamorous chess streamer Alexandra Botez is worth a cool million:
https://techiegamers.com/alexandra-botez-net-worth/

Disgraced GM Sergey Karjakin is reduced to making prank phone-calls:

Another large chess set is spotted growing in Ohio:

Legendary GM Nona Gaprindashvilli has just turned 81:

Want to play ‘Baby Chess’? Find the rules here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8n3wzssxFs

Chess is happening in Wyoming:

Finally, WIM Alexey Root covers the American Cup, and sneaks in a reference to the Mechanics’ Institute’s Chess Café:

Chess is everywhere.
Tony’s Teasers


“If to see with the bodily eyes is pleasant, the penetrating vision of the eyes of the mind is marvelous. And again, as the general is the preserver of the army, so reason coupled with education is the guide of life.” (Rhetorica ad Alexandrum, I., a work once falsely attributed to Aristotle.)

On May 9 we continued our discussion of the many games to which chessplayers have dedicated themselves. Paul showed us copies of both Asa Hoffmann’s The Last Gamesman and Oliver Roeder’s Seven Games, a much different book that mentions 15 places for chess in New York, including the Village Chess Shop on Thompson Avenue. Charles James noted that Hoffmann’s book has 7 chapters on 7 games, including chess, backgammon, horse racing, checkers, and apparently poker, among others. Paul noted that the only chess game in that book is his 18-move win over Bobby Fischer in an Evans Gambit.

Sal Matera recalled places on West Third Street, calling the West Village a haven for chess. Among others he mentioned the Chess Forum and the Chess Shop, Lisa Lane’s The Queen’s Pawn, and the most famous one, Rossolimo’s Chess Studio. In those days you could play for an hourly fee.

I later found http://anusha.com/fleas.htm, which has some material on the Flea House (once situated near a flea circus in Midtown), a name given to the Chess and Checker Club of New York, also famously featured in Stanley Kubrick’s 1956 film The Killing, about some desperate people who pull off a big racetrack heist. The site has dozens of links, some featuring Sam Sloan, one of the regulars who hung with Bobby Fischer. Sal Matera referred to their name “The Brat Pack,” which included Bernard Zuckerman, William Lombardy, Jackie Beers, James Gore, and a few others. John Donaldson briefly profiles Beers and Gore on pp. 111-112 of Bobby Fischer and His World (Siles Press, 2020), with a quote from Frank Brady as well (e.g., Gore’s condescending attitude toward players he defeated).

Elliott Winslow said he once wrote a critique of a performance by Hoffmann, that the latter replied to with “a brisk letter to the editor,” but when they met there were no hard feelings. Hoffmann even helped the young newcomer with advice like the following: “Go to the House of Games, walk straight back, and go past the ping-pong table. You can sleep in my easy chair.”

Michael Walder showed us his recent game against Stafford in the Tuesday Night Marathon—“The first tournament game I ever played against the Albin Counter Gambit.” Then he showed us one of the puzzles that Gadir Guseinov collects and distributes, an endgame with Queens and four pawns versus five. As usual, it was a big head-scratcher.
Sal noted that Yuri Averbakh’s recent death at age 100 made him the oldest grandmaster to die. He had played at the famous Zurich 1953 candidates tournament and was once champion of the USSR. A person who was modest, smart, and nice. He wrote three endgame books, Paul added, that were the standard before online chess, including the short treatise Chess Endings–Essential Knowledge.

Then we looked at the game Averbakh-Panno, an early game of the Averbakh system of the King’s Indian from the 1954 match between the USSR and Argentina.

Paul mentioned a great leap in technique in the 1950s. He called White’s developing move Ke2 "really a great move. The center is completely closed, and White builds up on the h-file."

Sal: “With the center closed he plays g4 (then h4, h5).”

Paul: “This is the move that stopped . . . e5.” At one point he sarcastically called Panno’s series of retreats “development.”

Sal mentioned that he had just interviewed the chess player Craig Chellstorp, who also became active in backgammon, blackjack, and progressive slots. Watched him wait until the betting built up, then place a bet on to of someone else’s. A grinder.

Alexey Root: “So you’re up to 72 [on your list of winners].”

Sal: “I got a long way to go.”

Mike Walder later wrote me: “I was surprised to learn Craig played blackjack. He was a Chicago legend in chess, bridge, and backgammon.”

I had asked Mike about his musical interests because he mentioned at the Café that he had a guitar and a bass. He said, “My favorite musical genres from top on down are jazz, classical, jazz and/or classical fused with rock, progressive rock, music from many different cultures, blues, rhythm and blues, and everything else.

“My dad was an independent recording engineer who recorded and mixed a lot of music for various artists. Because of that I could buy any record for a dollar. If my memory serves me right, at least one of them released their records on the Chess label. I worked as a technician and an engineer assistant in a couple of recording studios. Willie Dixon was a Chicago mainstay and my father recorded several hours of him jamming and writing songs on the fly in the studio. I also produced, recorded, and mixed three songs for a Chicago-based jazz/rock fusion band. My father also played chess casually. Had a natural talent. He surprised me when I was 16 by playing 13 moves deep into an acceptable line for White against the Najdorf Sicilian. I am not sure how he did that.”

(Information on the Chess Café is here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)
Upcoming Events

Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon - Ongoing
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

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
Registration: 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
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissMay2022

May USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com
Sunday May 22, 3PM. 6 games of G/15+2
Monday May 30, 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

57th Arthur Stamer Memorial G/45
Saturday June 4, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 Games of G/45;d5
Two sections: 1800+ and under 1800.
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/57th-stamer-memorial-championship-g45-person
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/57thStamerMemorialChampionshipG45
Solutions to Tony’s Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Qd5! Interference. If 1...Rxd5 2.Ng2#. Or 1...Bxd5 (1...g2) 2.Nf5#.

Problem #2: 1.Rg1! After which it all falls into place. 1...h6 2.Rg2 Kh4 3.Rh2#. Or 1...Kh6 2.Kf5 Kh5 3.Rg1#.

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

Newsletter

In This Issue
- TNM Report & Annotated Games
- GM de Firmian and FM Whitehead on Politics and Chess
- Dr. Sztaray on the rating of FIDE events

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