Conway TNM Round 5 report

IM Elliott Winslow maintains a ½ point in the top section at 4-1 despite taking a ½ point bye, as the matchups between Siddharth Arun vs Nicholas Weng and Christophe Bambou vs Edward Lewis both ended in draws. Joining those four at 3.5 points are Frederick Dutter and Adam Stafford, who also took 5th round byes. The upset of the round surely goes to Rohan Das (1944) who defeated the mighty Conrado Diaz (2344).

Anton Maliev continues to boss the under 1800 section. His victory over Dominic Croce puts him at a perfect 5-0. But right behind, also undefeated at 4.5, is Steve Sobel who downed Yorgos Tsolias. Rounding out the leaders with impressive 4-1 scores are veterans John Chan and Albert Starr.

Raymond (Ray) Conway was the Mechanics’ Institute Chess Room Director from 1971 to 1980. His tenure coincided with the ‘Fischer Boom.’ 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
This was the first board game of the round. 1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Nc3 Nxc3
[ 7...dxe5 may be the best way to play this as Black ]

8.bxc3 Qc7!? 
[ now 8...dxe5 9.Nxe5 is good for White since the knight exchange strengthened the white center ]

9.Bd2 b6!? 
[ 9...Bd7 ]

10.Bd3 
[ 10.Ng5?± ]

10...Bb7 11.Qe2 Nd7 12.exd6 

12...Bxd6 13.Ng5!? 

Siddharth wants to spice things up instead of a normal position after 13. 0-0

13...Nf6 
[ 13...Bxg2 14.Rg1 Bc6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Qxe6+ looks scary (e.g. 16...]

Kf8? 17. Rg7!) but Black may well be better after 16... Be7 ]

14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Bxe4 16.Qxe4 0-0 17.g3 Qc4

It's hard to argue with Nicholas if he wanted as safe secure edge in the endgame as he will get it now. 18.Qe2 Rac8 19.Qxc4 Rxc4 20.f4 Ra4 21.Ke2 Rc8

[ I like 21...b5 22.Rhb1 a6 to set the black pawns on white squares and keep the white pawn fixed on c3 as a target ]

22.Rhb1 Kf8 23.Kd3 Ke7 24.Rb5 g6 25.Rb2 Rc6 26.Rab1 Kd7 27.Rc2 Rac4 28.g4! looking for counterplay, as there is little White can do on the queenside 28...f5 29.gxf5 exf5 30.h4 using this pawn to break up the kingside chain 30...Kc7?! 

(Diagram)

31.h5
[ White could also get a slight edge winning the exchange with 31.d5!? R6c5 32.Be3 Re4 33.Bxc5 Bxc5 34.Re2 (or 34.h5)]

31...Kb7 32.hxg6 hxg6 33.Rg1 Bb8 34.Be3
34...b5! now 35...b4 is a possibility. Chances are even as both sides have targets to work on. 35.Rgc1 a6 36.Rg2 Bc7 37.Bd2 Ba5 38.Re2 Ra4 39.Rc2 Ra3 40.Re7+ Kc8 41.d5 This long awaited advance makes the game tactically sharp. 41...Rd6 42.Kd4 Ra4+ 43.c4 Bxd2 [43...Bb6+ 44.Ke5 Bc7 repeats] 44.Rxd2 Rxc4+ 45.Ke5 Rd8 46.d6 Black is a pawn ahead while White has an active king, advanced d-pawn and active rooks. The black rooks are also active which keeps the balance. 46...Re4+ 47.Kf6 Rxf4= 48.Kxg6 [48.Rc2+! Kb8 49.Rc6] 48...Rd7 49.Kf7 [49.Kf6] 49...Rh4 50.Ke6 Rh6+ 51.Ke5? [51.Kxf5 Rdxd6 52.Rxd6 Rx6 53.Ra7 (53.Rh7) 53...Kb8 54.Ke5! (54.Rh7) 54...Kxa7 55.Kxd6= is a drawn pawn ending, though White must be careful] 51...Rhxd6 52.Rxd6 Rxe7+ 53.Kf6 (Diagram)

Re8? Black had three moves that won; this isn't one of them. [53...Re2 54.Rxa6 Kb7 55.Ra3 f4] [53...Re3 54.Rxa6 Kb7 55.Rd6 (55.Ra5 Kb6 56.Ra8 f4) 55...f4 56.Rd4 Ra3] [53...Rh7 54.Kxf5 (54.Kg6 Rh2) 54...Kb7] 54.Rxa6= f4 55.Kf5 Kb7 [55...f3 56.Kg4 f2 57.Rf6 Re2 58.a3 Ra2 59.Kg3 Kc7 60.Kg2! holds the draw] 56.Rf6 f3 57.Kg4 Re2 58.Kxf3 Rxa2 59.Ke3 Rc2 60.Kd3 Rc8 61.Rh6 Ka7 62.Rg6 Draw agreed. A great battle to the end. ½-½

Bambou,Christophe 2101
Lewis,Edward 1998
MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (5.2) 31.05.2022
[Lewis,Ed / Winslow,Elliott]
EL: Ed knows that Ne4 is the best move but chooses to exchange in the center first and was suprised by Qxd4. 7...cxd4
[ 7...Ne4 8.Rc1!? b6 9.g3 Bb7
8.Qxd4 Nc6 9.Qh4

(Diagram)

Here, black tries to release pressure on the f6 square by offering an exchange of queens on d8 but this simply loses a pawn or gives up a rook for a bishop.

9...Ne8N
[ 9...Re8 10.Rd1 e5 11.g4± ]
29...Kh8  30.Rxh7+  Kg8  31.Rhg7+ Kh8  32.Rh7+  Kg8  33.Rag7+  Kf8  
34.Rf7+  Kg8  35.Rhg7+ ½-½ (35)

Schipper,B-Albarran,G (2275)  Torre Blanca Copa de Campeones, Buenos Aires 2002 ]

10.Qxd8  Nxd8  11.Bb4  EL: White would like to collect his pawn now.  11...d6  
12.0-0-0  Nc6  13.Bxd6  Nxd6
14.Rxd6+-

White is safe and happy with a pawn to the good.  14...e5  15.e3  Be6  16.Be2  
Rac8 Black is trying to generate play down the c-file and white is trying to consolidate his position a pawn up.
17.b3  b5

(Diagram)

18.Ng5?!
18...Na5!
   [ 18...bxc4  19.b4! ]
19.Nxe6  

19...fxe6  20.Bg4?!  Nxb3+  21.Kb2  Nc5
This has all gone South for White -- and now his king is getting "involved" (not a good thing) 22.f3  Rb8
   [ 22...bxc4 right away:  23.Bxe6+  Nxe6  24.Rxe6  Rfd8 gets a slightly better rook placement and would definitely be no worse. ]
23.Bxe6+

Kh8?! Asking for various troubles (N vs. B in a rook ending, back rank mate, loss of a tempo), but is promptly rewarded anyway:
   [ 23...Nxe6  24.Rxe6  bxc4+  25.Kc2
24...Rf6=  25.Rd5?
25...Nxe6  26.Rxe5  h6
[ 26...a6!?  27.a4  axb5  28.Rxb5  Rxb5+  29.axb5  Rf5= ]
32.Kc3  The binary beast accesses this as -0.9 but how does black continue?
32...Nc7
[ 32...Nf8 head to h4!? ]
33.e4  Kg8  34.f4  Ne8  35.Rd8  Kf7
36.e5  Ke7  37.Ra8  Rb7
[ 37...Nc7!? ]
38.g4  Nc7  39.Ra5  Ne6  40.f5  Ng5
41.h4  Ne4+  42.Kd4  Nf2  43.f6+  gxf6
44.exf6+  Kf7  45.g5  hxg5  46.hxg5  White offered a draw here and black
accepted. ½-½

But in fact nothing is much better...
13...Nxe4  Not as good as they thought!
[ 13...Nbd7!? leaves White wondering why he is a pawn down for nothing. ]
14.Qe1??
18.f5= at least has Black's king in the center. ) 15.Nxe4  0-0!  16.Nxd6  Bf6
Black gave back one pawn but is coming out and still up the other.
14...Bxh4  15.Qxh4  Nxc3
0-1
1.\textit{c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.e4 Nxc3 5.bxc3 g6 6.Rb1 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Bc4 c5 9.0-0 Nc6}

	extbf{(Diagram)}

10.a3?
[ 10.Bd5!? Na5 11.d4 keeps the struggle balanced. ]

10...Na5 11.Ba2 e6?
[ 11...c4! follows through, with a significant plus. ]

12.d4 cxd4?! no hurry for this 13.cxd4 b6 14.Qd3 h6?!

15.d5?
[ 15.Bf4! ]

15...exd5 16.exd5??
[ 16.Bxd5 Be6= Or maybe 17.h4 is some pull. ]

16...Bf5+ 17.Qb5 Bxb1 18.Bxb1 a6?!
Weakening b6.
[ 18...Rc8 getting the rooks and queen going is the obvious course. ]

19.Qd3 Nb7?!
[ 19...Rc8! 20.Qxa6 Qxd5 21.Qxb6 Rb8 22.Be4 Qxe4 23.Qxa5 Qd3 or some such -- Black's rooks will soon dominate. ]

20.Be3?!
[ 20.Bf4 ]

20...Qd6
[ 20...Nc5 ]

21.Rd1 Rfc8 22.h4 Rc3 23.Qd2 Rxa3?
[ 23...Qxa3! 24.Bxh6 Rxf3! 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.gxf3 Qxf3 27.d6 Qg4+ 28.Kf1 Rd8 29.Qc3+ (29.d7 Qh3+ and ...Qxh4; that pawn shall not pass!) 29...Kh7 30.Rd4 Rc8! Only move but winning. ]

24.Bxh6 Black's advantage has dwindled to "slight" in face of the weakened king position. 24...Bc3?!
[ 24...Qf6 25.h5 Rxf3?! ]

25.Qg5
[ 25.Qc1! Qb4 26.h5± ]

25...Bf6?!
[ SF 15 likes ... 25...Rb3!? (What is that?) ]

26.Qg4 Nc5??
[ 26...Bg7 27.Bxg7 Kxg7 28.Nd4 White is throwing everything at Black's king, but... Qe5! (28...Qf6 29.h5+-) ]
A) 29.Bxg6 fxg6 30.Qd7+ Kh6 31.Qxb7 Rf8 32.Qxb6 Ra2 33.Nf3 Qc3! Black has walked a narrow path of only moves, and even now it's unclear if it's holding up. 34.Qd4!? Qxd4 35.Rxd4 Ra5 36.d6 Rd8±;

B) The same "murky" evaluation applies to 29.Nf5+ Kh8! (29...Kf8? 30.Qb4+ Nc5 31.Qxa3; 29...Kh7? 30.Qg5! looking for f4! (or h5) ) 30.Nh6 Kg7 31.Nxf7 Kxf7 32.Qxg6+ Kf8 33.Qc6 Qg7!;

C) 29.Ne6+!? ]

27.Bxg6! fxg6?! Acquiescing but quite lost regardless. 28.Qxg6+ Kh8 29.Bg7+ [29.Ng5! Qe7 30.d6 Stockfish 15 (out for a month?) says mate in 10 -- we must believe. ] 29...Bxg7 30.Qxd6 Rb3 31.Ng5 Rb4 32.h5 Rg4 33.Qg6 Rxg5 34.Qxg5 a5 35.h6 Bc3 36.d6 a4 37.d7 Nxd7 38.Rxd7 Rg8 39.Qf5 Except for the Exchange loss (intentional?), a nice game. Defense is hard! 1-0

This is a classic, well played Center Counter Defense. White is a bit more active but Black has a very solid position that is hard to crack. Both sides have gotten what they've looked for from the opening. 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 N5f6 15.c3 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Nf6 17.Bc2 c5 The awaited break. White has just a small edge. 18.Qg5 cxd4 19.Rxd4 Rad8 20.Rh4 going after the king. Central play would have been [20.Qe3 Rxd4 21.Qxd4 b6 22.Rd1 ] 20...Rfe8?

(Diagram)

pawn f5 (22...Nf6 23.Qh8#)
23.Qxh7+ Kf7 24.Qh5+ g6 25.Qh6 Rh8 26.Qxh8 Rxe8 27.Rxe8± is a clear edge to White.

21...g6!= This should have been played on move 20. The game is equal now.

22.f4?! With no easy way into the black position Christopher charges ahead, but this move weakens White more than Black.

[22.Ba4]

22...Rd5
[also 22...Rd2! 23.Bb3 (23.Ba4 Red8) 23...Rxb2+]

23.Re5 Rxe5?! letting the white rook on h4 back in the game
[23...Rc8!±]

24.fxe5 Nd7
[24...Qc5+ 25.Kh1 Nd7=]

25.Qh6
[25.Qxe7 Rxe7=]

25...Nf8 26.Rc4 Rd8 27.Qe3 b6

28.Bb3 Rd7 29.Qe4 Rc7 30.Ba4
[30.Qd4]

30...Rxc4 31.Qxc4 Qc5+? The wrong choice of endings.
[31...Qg5! keeping the queens on allows Black to attack the e5 and b2 pawns. Joel would then have a clear edge.]

34.c4!! A brilliant move that should win the game. The passed c-pawn should win the knight with the black king and knight so restricted.

34...g5 35.c5 Ng6 36.c6 Ne7 37.c7 a5 38.Kf2 Kg7

39...Kg6 40.Bc2+ f5 41.exf6+?! It just got a lot harder. One suspects a time scramble!
[41.Kf3!]

41...Kxf6 42.Be4?!
[42.Bxh7± is still a solid plus, with another passed pawn via g3 and h4 possible.]

42...a4 43.Bxh7

(1 Diagram)

Now this needs to be taken 43...a3?
[43...b3! is a draw; the passed pawn created neatly counters White’s monster on c7. 44.axb3 a3 45.Bb1 e5 46.Kg4 e4 is a draw]

44.Bc2 e5 45.Kf3?
[45.Kg4! e4 46.Bxe4 b3 47.Bb1! b2 48.g3 The h-pawn will be enough to distract Black’s king, when White will send his king after Black’s pawns --]
45...Ke6 46.Ke4 Kd6 47.g3

and the *other* rook pawn will decide. (Black's knight is helpless of course.)

45...Ke6 46.Ke4 Kd6 47.g3

Ke6?

[ 47...Kxc7! Freedom for the knight! 48.Kxe5 Nc6+ Black plans ...Na5 (or ...Nd4) and ...b3! when White can't win. ]

48.h4! Kf6 49.hxg5+ Kxg5 50.Kxe5 Nc8 now an exchange of time pressure slips 51.Bf5?

[ 51.Ke6 ]

51...Nb6?

52.Be6! The end 52...Kg6 53.Kd6

A great battle and a fascinating ending.

1-0

[ Winslow, Elliott ]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3

[ Is it worth noting that Bg5 happened even earlier in the just-played So-Carlsen Armageddon game in Norway? It's a different story of course, but still... Oh, and So won in 50 moves. 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 d6 7.c3 a6 8.a4 Ba7 9.Nbd2 Qe7 10.0-0 g5 11.Bg3 Nh7 12.b4 Nf8 13.b5 Na5 14.Bd5 c6 15.Ba2 You might think Black has attacking chances on the kingside, but they just never really materialized. ]


(Diagram)

51...b3! =

Mott, Julien 1144
Brickhouse, Christian 1039

MI Conway TNM: u1800 (5.24) 31.05.22

C50
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nc3 c6 4.e3 b5
Nick plays aggressively to hold onto the pawn. The game is already a hard battle after only 4 moves.
5.a4! b4 6.Ne4 Bf5
7.Nc5?!  
[Either 7.Ng3]
[or 7.f3 should give White an edge in the opening]
7...e6 8.Bxc4 Bxc5 9.dxc5 Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1
So from a sharp opening we get an endgame. Things are pretty even but Black is for choice since White can't castle.
10...Nf6 11.Bd2 a5 12.Nf3?!
[12.f3! Nbd7 13.e4 Bg6 14.Be3]
12...Nbd7 13.Nd4

(Diagram)

Ne5! This active counter gives Black the initiative.
14.Nxf5
[14.Be2 Ne4]
14...Nxc4 15.Nd6+
[15.Nxg7+? Kf8 traps the knight]
15...Nxd6 16.cxd6 Rd8
[16...0-0-0 also attacks the d-pawn and gets the black king working]
17.e4?! Richard sees he will lose the d6 pawn and panics a bit. More defensive chances were to be had with
[17.f3 Rxd6 18.e4 Nd7 19.Ke2 and Black will have a lot of work to do to try to convert the pawn]
17...Nxe4 18.Be3 Nxd6 19.Ke2 Nc4
20.b3
[perhaps 20.Rhc1 Nxb2 21.Rxc6 could cause a little trouble]

(Diagram)

The black pawns will march up the center now. There is nothing White can do. 27.Rc5 e5+ 28.fxe5+ fxe5+ 0-1
Two huge events of the chess world are coming soon. The Candidates Tournament will start later this month in Madrid, and the Chess Olympiad will start later in July in Chennai (Madras) India. Meanwhile there are still many smaller events being played around the world, and there is one major event happening right now. That is the 10th edition of Norway Chess – a ten-player, round-robin tournament played live in Norway’s beautiful western coastal city Stavanger. There are many of the world’s very top stars competing, including world champion Carlsen who is trying to defend his home turf. The time control is traditional classical chess, which gives us long, carefully thought-out games. There is a new modern twist in this tournament that the scoring has changed to give a more fighting character. A win gets three points instead of the usual one. A drawn game requires the participants to play again in a short “Armageddon” game where White has 10 minutes, Black only 7 minutes, but Black wins if the game is a draw. The winner of the Armageddon game gets one and a half points for the round and the loser just one point. Therefore there is always a “winner” of the round by some margin.

One always expects Magnus to be the frontrunner, but the early lead goes to 52-year-old Vishy Anand. The older master is showing great form the last month since his comeback. Also playing well is America’s Wesley So, who won a fine game against Radjabov to start the tournament and defeated Carlsen in the Armageddon game the following round. We show below the fine classical game Anand played to start the tournament, and that wild So-Carlsen tie-break game.
Slow 90min+30sec 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Anand has kept up with the times opening wise. He eschews 3. d4 which would allow MVL's favorite Najdorf Variation. Instead we get a safe, rather even game with no opening danger to either side. 3...Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 g6 9.f3 Bg7 10.Be3 0-0 11.0-0

White has a bit of an advantage in space but Black is not cramped due to the exchange of the light-squared bishops. 11...a6 12.Nb3 e6 13.Qe2 Qe7 14.Rfd1 Rfd8 15.Rac1 Rac8 16.Nd4 Nd7
[It might be a good time to try the central break 16...d5!?]
17.b3 b5? MVL is an active player and decides to break now on the queenside. He looks to have the immediate tactics worked out, but there is a flaw. 18.cxb5 Nxd4 19.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 20.Rxd4 axb5 (Diagram)

So the b5 pawn cannot be taken because of the pin on the c-file. Black looks active, but... 21.Qd2! Now White wins a pawn while giving no compensation. 21...Rb8 22.Rxd6 b4 23.Ne2 Ne5 24.Rd1 Nc6

25.e5! Holding the key central squares. It seems the white e-pawn is loose, but it is not in danger. 25...Qa7+ 26.Kh1 Qf2 27.Rc1! Another forceful move, forcing Black to transform the e-pawn to a strong passed d-pawn. 27...Rxd6 28.exd6 Ne5 29.h3 Rb5 30.f4! Nd7 [30...Rd5 31.Qb2 and the black
knight on e5 can't move because of the back rank mate]

31.Qd4 Qxd4 forced 32.Nxd4 Rd5
33.Nc6 Rxd6 34.Nxb4 The two white passed pawns on the queenside decide the ending. 34...e5
[34...Rd4 35.Nc6 Rxf4 36.a4 Rf2 37.a5 Ra2 38.b4 and the pawns march through]
35.fxe5 Nxe5 36.Rc5 Rd1+ 37.Kh2 f6
38.a4 Rb1 39.Rc3 Ra1 40.Rc7!

MVL resigned. The powerful white rook on the seventh with the knight coming to d5 mops up the black kingside. This was a powerful game by Anand. He played as if he were still world champion, 1-0

An entertaining Italian Game! White has opened the queenside and Black presses on the kingside. 20...g4
21.hxg4 hxg4 22.Nh2 Nh5 23.d4 Nh5
24.Nb3?! [24.Nc4 would keep the chances even]
24...Ng6! [24...Nxb5 25.fxb5 Qg5 26.Re1 Qg7! would put Black in a strong position with dark square control]
25.Ra5 Nxc3 26.fgx3 Qg5 27.Re1 Nc6 28.Bxc6+ bxc6 29.Qa1 Rb8
[29...Qe7? 30.Qa4 0-0 31.Ra1 wins]
30.Rxa7 Rxb3 31.Qa2 Rb7 32.Rxb7 Bxb7 33.Qa7 Bc8 34.Qc7 0-0!
Better late than never. 35.Nf1 exd4
36.cxd4

The game is still even. Carlsen could play now 36..c5, but his move is also good. The problem is the clocks. At this point So had 1 min 57 seconds while Carlsen had just 29 seconds! 36...Qf6
37.Rd1 c5?!
   [ 37...d5 38.e5 Qg6 ]
38.dxc5 dxc5 39.Qxc5 Be6
Now it's a nagging edge for White plus the clock advantage 40.Ne3 Rc8
41.Qd6 Qg5 42.Qf4 Qc5?
   [ 42...f6 would still hold the draw. Now the black queen gets cut off ]
43.e5! Ra8 44.Qg5+ Kh7 45.Kh2 Rg8?!
   [ 45...Qf8 is the last hope ]
46.Qh4+ Kg7

(Diagram)

47.Nf5+! Bxf5 48.Qf6+ Kh7 49.Qxf5+ Kg7 50.Qf6+ Black resigns as losing the f-pawn is disaster - 50...Kh7 51 Qxf7+ Rg7 52 Qh5+ Kg8 53 Rd8+ 1-0
Going through Silman’s games from the early 1980s one can observe the traits that made him such a formidable opponent – strong positional play supported by accurate calculation backed by a strong tactical eye. This combination of skills enabled him to more than hold his own against the best California players of the time with only Grandmasters Walter Browne and Larry Christiansen his betters.

This was particularly true when Silman faced the Modern Benoni, an opening he consistently demolished with a lifetime score of 21 wins, 3 draws and 1 loss with victories over Grandmaster Nick de Firmian, International Masters Vince McCambridge, Elliott Winslow, Jay Bonin and Stephen Muhammed, FIDE Master Craig Mar and the always dangerous Dennis Fritzinger.

Long before the advent of powerful chess engines Silman was an excellent theoretician who came up with a number of theoretical novelties by burning the midnight oil. One of them, that he never received proper credit for, was 9.Qe2 in the Modern Benoni.

The following last round miniature, against a 2300 opponent, was the first time it was played. Notes are by Silman.
My opponent, a strong master, had never seen this before. After a long think, he reacts with an immediate mistake. 9...Bg4?? Believe it or not, the game is now over! 10.e5! Winning on the spot.

10...Bxf3

[ 10...Nh5 11.exd6+ Kd7 12.Ne5+ Kc8 13.Qxg4+ ]

11.gxf3 Nh5

(Diagram)

12.exd6+ Kd7 13.Bh3+ f5 14.Qe6# 1-0
Jeremy Silman facing Vassily Smyslov at Lone Pine 1976 with Frank Thornally looking on. This game, and the story behind it, are in Jeremy’s new book.

Silman shared first place with Charles Powell and John Grefe in the 1982 Bagby Memorial, an invitational round robin, with the winners sharing the title of Northern California Champion. A point behind their scores of 5.5 from 7 was the editor of this newsletter – Paul Whitehead.

International Master Vince McCambridge, who reached 2480 FIDE, is one of the strongest American players to never became a Grandmaster. He undoubtedly would have received the title if he had kept playing and not turned to a career in finance.

Notes by Silman.
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 exd5
5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6
   [ 6...a6 7.a4 g6 8.Nd2 Nbd7 9.e4 Bg7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Re8 12.h3 Qc7 13.Ra3± 1/2-1/2 (24) Silman,J-Grefe,J San Francisco 1982 ]
7.Bf4 a6
   [ 7...Bg7 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qb3 Qc7 10.e4 0-0 11.Be2 Nh5 12.Be3 a6 13.Nd2± 1-0 (39) Silman,J-DeFirmian,N San Jose 1982 ]
8.e4 b5

9.Qe2 Nh5
   [ 9...Be7 is more solid. ]
10.Bg5 f6?!
   [ 10...Be7 11.Bh6 favors White but was preferable to what happens. ]
11.Be3 Bg4?
   [ This bishop will soon be missed. Again 11...Be7 was preferable. ]
12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nd7 14.g4 Ng7
15.Qg3 Qe7 16.Bg2 0-0-0 It's not very often that Black castles long in the Modern Benoni. There is a reason why

20.Nb1
   [ Black's king is so vulnerable that the more direct 20.a4! bxc3 and 21.axb5 axb5 22.Qe2 ]
   [ 20.Nxb5 axb5 21.a4 also work. Silman prefers to keep the knight to have another piece to attack with. ]
20...Ne5 21.Qe2 Ne8 22.Bb6 Rd7 23.Nd2 f5 24.f4 Nf7 25Nb3 Bg7

(Diagram)
26.e5! dxe5 27.Rac1+ Nc7 28.Nc5 exf4 29.Qf2 Rxd5
[ 29...Bc3 30.Nxd7 Qxd7 31.a3 wins. ]

32.Qxd2 Bxd2 33.Nd5+ Bxc1 34.Nxe7+ 1-0
By 1983 Silman was moving on to other systems against the Modern Benoni. He used the setup with Bg5 and e3, seen in the following game, with success for many years before finally adopting the line 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+. This switch was made possible late in his career when he decided to face the Nimzo-Indian instead of playing 3.Nf3. FIDE Master Craig Mar of Oakland reached a peak rating of 2420 FIDE in the late 1980s.

Notes by Silman.

Heading for the c4-square and also preventing 10...g5 11.Bg3 Nh5. 10...Nbd7 11.Be2 a6 12.a4 Re8 13.0-0 Rb8 14.h3

It's surprisingly difficult for Black to create active play from this position.

14...g5 15.Bg3 Ne5 16.Qc2 Qe7 17.Rfe1 Bd7 18.a5 g4 19.hxg4 Nfxg4 20.Na4 Qg5 21.Nf1 Qg6?

Black's position was uncomfortable, but now he finds himself snuffed out with no chance to fight back. 22.Qxg6 fxg6 23.Nb6 Bf5 24.f3 Nf6 25.e4 Bc8 26.Bxe5 dxe5 Black loses material after 26...Rxe5 27.Nc4 27.Ne3 Nd7 28.Nec4 Nxb6 29.Nxb6 Bf8 30.Rec1 Kf7 31.Bd1! Making sure every piece reaches its optimal square. 31...h5 32.Ba4
A comic position. Black's pieces on c8 and b8 are entombed and helpless.  
32...Rd8  33.Kf2 As usual, I always try to deny my opponent counterplay. This move prevents ...Bf8-h6-e3+. 33...h4  
34.b4! Breaking through and ending Black's resistance. Now 34...cxb4 35. Rc7+ followed by 36.Rac1 is more than the enemy position can handle. 34...Bh6  
35.Rxc5  Bf4  36.Rc7+  Kf6  

37.Bd7! A pleasing finish.  
1-0
FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere

The chess metaverse arrives:

Chess-playing brothers in New Jersey are experts in raising $$ for charities:

The state of chess in Pakistan:

First Saturday chess resumes in Doylestown, PA:
https://patch.com/pennsylvania/doylestown/first-saturday-chess-resumes-june-4-doylestown

400 elementary school students compete in Gainsville, FLA:
https://mycbs4.com/sports/content/glen-springs-holds-2022-chess-challenge

“God has a new chess partner.” Cali drug lord known as “the chess player” dies in prison:

Chess returns to the Boys and Girls Club in Las Cruces, NM:

We always love the Fool’s Mate:

Canadian man retires, travels the World playing chess:
An academic discussion of online cheating in chess and college during the Pandemic:

Bobby Fischer’s net worth:
https://www.celebritynetworth.com/richest-celebrities/authors/bobby-fischer-net-worth/

The Medicine Hat Chess Club in Alberta hosts the largest chess set in the world:
https://mhchess.com/giant-chess-set

The Royal Jewelry Museum in Alexandria, Egypt, displays a priceless chess set:
https://see.news/royal-jewelry-museum-displays-king-farouks-golden-chess/

‘Eco-friendly and plant-based’ 3-D chess sets, depicting Glasgow and Edinburgh:
https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/in-your-area/lanarkshire/lanarkshire-designers-launch-landmark-chess-27051648

The coming Chess Olympiad in Chennai worries some local residents:

Play chess at the library in Sault Ste. Marie – but in Michigan or Canada?
https://www.sootoday.com/more-local/its-your-move-when-chess-day-comes-to-library-5427564

Chess thrives in Nigeria:
https://www.sports247.ng/childrens-day-celebrated-in-grand-style-with-life-chess-club-sequence-23/

Finally, we are thrilled to announce that MI regular Sebastian Suarez has qualified for the ChessKid Candidates, held concurrently with the Candidates Tournament in Madrid. More information as it becomes available, and we here at the MI wish him the best of luck. What a fantastic opportunity for ‘Sebby’!
https://new.uschess.org/intercontinental-chesskid-candidates

On Memorial Day I was thinking about the next day’s game in Round 5 of the Conway TNM. While preparing, enjoying the holiday with friends, remembering how our families back home used to gather at a certain park for picnics and ball games on May 30, I had some new thoughts and feelings about The Royal Game. How hard or impossible it is to play without mistakes; how thin the line often is between victory and defeat; how hard it is to control fear or joy while you’re calculating, and how important it is to follow your feelings, informed by experience and a certain amount of success, when you are trying to choose a good move, what the position seems to demand, while being both consistent and flexible. And how not to fall into a bad position early or late in the game, usually through carelessness, playing by rote, forgetting what you just told yourself not to do, or not paying good attention to what your opponent is attempting. And a few other things.

We had no Chess Café on Monday 5/30, so I looked back through my notes. In March 2021 we heard that the Mechanics’ might reopen in May. On April 26, 2021. Nick de Firmian mentioned the new official challenger, Nepomniatchi. Sal Matera noted that he plays very fast.

Juliana Gallin of Bernal Chess and a charter member of the Café had just played her first Sicilian, a Smith-Morra Gambit, which has a series of traps.

Nick: “This position [after 3. . . dxc3 and 4. Nxc3] is about equal.”

Paul: “She has a good version.”

Ako Heidari showed his game as Black against londonkid. “Our team was called Morphy’s Mojos.” They played G/45 with a 10-second increment.

There was a Bogo-Indian with a misplaced White knight.

Nick or Paul: “E4, not e3, is normal and ambitious, aiming to support d5, good for White.”

A bit later, Elliott: “In the Bogo, Black has complete freedom in moving the kingside pawns. For example, . . . g6 to prevent h4 or its advance.”
Nick: “Even after . . . Rc7, you had good chances. I think you’re just tainted by the result.”

Ain’t it the truth.

Alexey: “Someone should write a book on the U.S. Open.”

Sal: “Frank Brady is writing about the Marshall Chess Club, which is about to open up.”

Various people tell Paul to write a book on the Mechanics’ Institute. Today I know he has another large project involving his website full of his father’s photography from various parts of the world.

On Feb. 1, 2021 we saw a pic of 14-year-old Alexey Rudolph (now Root) in the MI Newsletter. She reminisced about two former Washington state champions (a title also won by John Donaldson), James McCormick (“Dirty Jim,” later “Uncle Jim,” rival of Viktors Pupols) and John Braley, who “never wore shoes and was the antithesis of McCormick.”

She said the Dallas Chess Club was open every evening, “almost 24 hours,” but had to close recently. There was also a Last Exit coffeehouse on Brooklyn Avenue in Seattle.

Mike Walder mentioned Café Picaro here on 16th St. near Valencia. Others mentioned the Blue Unicorn and the Meat Market, and Café La Scala in Berkeley.

Nick talked about the recent Tata Steel tournament in Wijk aan Zee, half an hour from Amsterdam, and how it’s been about 15 years since a great young generation came up. Now certain teenagers are breaking through, like Alireza Firouzja from Iran (who became the youngest 2800 player), the Russian Andrey Esipenko, and one from Holland, the first since Jan Timman 50 years ago.

On March 8, 2021 Alexey, Sal, and Paul talked about books on the Junior Championship and the Women’s Championship. When Urban Lehner asked a question about books, Paul recommended the Life and Games of Mikhail Tal. A week before he had said that his favorite chess book was Through the Looking Glass. Sal mentioned the three books by Paul Keres on his games: “The annotations are incredible.” He also showed the
ending from his game with Joel Benjamin, before the latter was a master, and how he figured the king and pawn ending would be easier to win than the rook and pawn ending.

Mike Walder once referred to Gelfand as “my favorite,” and here mentioned the latter’s books, Positional Decision Making in Chess and Dynamic Decision Making in Chess, as well as two of his other titles.

Nick mentioned the Games of Karpov. And said that Kasparov would not have become the player he was without those World Championship matches against Karpov.

We looked at Sal Matera’s 1973 win with a Ruy Lopez against George Kane, who had won the Marshall C.C. and Manhattan C.C. championships the previous year, when he also was the second reserve board for the U.S. team in the 20th Chess Olympiad in Skopje. His debut in the U.S. Championship was in 1973.

After White’s 19th move, Sal called it “a very unbalanced position.” Paul said, “A position in flux, double-edged for both. A three-result position.”

At the end of the fifth volume of My Great Predecessors (2006), Garry Kasparov provides quotes on Karpov from five Soviet World Champions, plus Max Euwe. Smyslov said, “In Karpov’s play I have always been staggered by his amazing ability to soberly and absolutely accurately evaluate the position . . . To evaluate quickly, without spending much time on analysis. This comes from his fantastic chess intuition, from his innate talent.”

Spassky: “[I]n the ideological sense he is similar to Botvinnik. [He] used the support of the Party to achieve his personal aims. And later he began to justify these as being the aims of the state . . . But one has to give him his due: as a chess player he is indeed great.”

Tal: “Karpov is fantastically purposeful. He is like a tank . . . His iron persistence is torture for the faint-hearted. . . Both in life and at the chessboard, he is extremely purposeful . . . [H]is strong aspects are precisely what I am lacking. Karpov has a simply classic way of converting an advantage—I have never learned how to do this. At critical moments he is able to control his impulses—I cannot restrain my emotions . . . Anatoly has always staggered me by his ability to defend, as they say, to the last, where many others would already have lost heart.”
Puzzles in the Library

Every week or so the Mechanics’ Institute’s Head of Technical Services, Steven Dunlap, puts up a chess puzzle in the library for our members to solve.

Steven sometimes plays in the Tuesday Night Marathon.

The puzzle this week is from *100 Endgames You Must Know* by Jesus de la Villa.
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

June USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com
Sunday June 5, 3PM. 4 games of G/20+10
Saturday June 18, 3PM. 6 games of G/15+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/40
Saturday June 4, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 Games of G/40;d5
Two sections: 1800+ and under 1800.
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/57th-stamer-memorial-championship
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/57thStamerMemorialChampionship

Mechanics’ Institute June Championship Quads
Saturday June 11, 2022, 3PM. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsJun2022

Mechanics’ Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person
Saturday June 11, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-monthly-scholastic-swiss-person
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissJun2022
21st William Addison Memorial (FIDE Rated) G/90+30
Saturday and Sunday, June 25th & 26th. 5 games of G/90+30
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/21st-addison-memorial-championship-fide-rated
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/21stAddisonMemorialChampionship

Solutions to Tony’s Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Nd6! Intending 2.Qb5#. If 1…Rh5 2.Qg4#. Or 1…d2 2.Nc2#.

Problem #2: 1.Re8! Intending 2.Qe3+. If 1…Rb3 2.Qa6+! Bxa6 3.Ra8#. Or 1…Bb7 2.Qe7! and 3.Qxb7# next.

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

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

The Mechanics’ Institute Chess Book collection.