The 2nd Peter Grey Memorial TNM kicked off on Tuesday July 12th, with 70 participants in two sections. The top section is very strong, with IM Elliott Winslow, IM Kyron Griffith, and IM Keaton Kiewra all playing, making this the toughest TNM in recent memory. The biggest upset in the top section was Kristian Clemens (1927) masterly takedown of NM Yusheng Xia (2275).

The under 1800 section saw a mix of the young and the old winning their first games, among them Addison u1800 winner Steve Sobel.

Peter Grey (1935-2016) was an Expert player and a mainstay of the Mechanics’ Chess Club from the 1960’s onward. He played in almost every TNM from 1971 until his passing.

For complete TNM info, standings and results:
https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-peter-grey-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon
But these days it's called the Dubov System, as he has led the charge playing it. Mind you, for a draw, not really so much to win, but it does a pretty good job in that department. And Max was playing instantly! I had this slightly uncomfortable feeling. I knew that this was a Big Thing lately but like so many opening ideas, I hadn't yet taken a serious look at it. What was I going to fall into? I couldn't even remember where I'd seen it. Probably some annotated game of Dubov's. Certainly nothing more extensive. 9.Nb3 A lucky guess.

[The other main move (including in a fairly recent New in Chess Yearbook article (#133, November 2019) by Moskalenko, entitled "Finally! A dynamic plan in the main Tarrasch." 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.0-0 0-0 Ideally White would like to get in e2-e4 and leave Black with some pawn weakness, but in practice... An early game with this was Marshall,F-Duras, O Budapest 1912: ½-½ (46).]

9...Bb6

[ 9...Bb4 is an older (and who knows, maybe even better) move, which has often happened through the English Opening, Symmetrical Variation (but not so symmetrical now!).

A) 10.Bd2 0-0 (10...d4 11.Nb5!)


(Diagram)

10.0-0


[ After I got home at the usual ridiculously late dinner, Mike Walder asked what if I just take the damned pawn with 10.Nxd5, and I had no answer, nor had I even noticed it! Good thing maybe! The article and games have Black doing quite well: Be6! ( 10...Nxd5 11.Qxd5 ) 11.e4 ( 11.Bg5? Bxd5 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Bxd5 Qxf2+ (This is embarrassing!) 14.Kd2 Rd8 15.Kc1 Be3+ 16.Kb1 Qf5+ 24.08 won without a fight: 0-1 (31) Holt, C (2549)-Srihari, L (2414) Chess.com Titled Tuesday intern op )

11...Bg4! The real point, when White can't do anything right. Dreev was the strongest player to essay this for a while (against Kobalia), and he won. ( 11...0-0 12.0-0 Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne5 14.h3 Nc4 15.Nd2 Nd6 16.Re1 Rg8 17.Nf1 Re8 18.Rxe8+ Qxe8 19.Be3 Qe5 20.Bxb6 axb6 21.Qb3 b5 22.Rd1 h5 23.Qb4 Rc4 24.Qd2 h4 25.b3 Re1 Qf5 27.Qb4 hxg3 28.Qxc5 Nf4 29.Bxe4 Nxe4 30.Nxg3 1-0 (30) Holt, C (2549)-Pantzar, M (2421) Chess.com Titled Tuesday 12.1. 2021. The obvious explanation for why the usually impeccably prepared Conrad Holt varied from a winning line to that other disaster is "they're blitz games!"

BUT WAIT!! Wesley So just played a novelty not mentioned by Moskalenko. Stockfish doesn't believe it, but it's highly unlikely So was caught as unprepared as -- well, as me. But to look at the game, it's quite possible: 12.Qd2!? ( 12.Qd3 Nxd5 ("!?” Moskalenko, but Stockfish 15 }
10...d4! The key move. And Hao was still moving without thinking.
[ 10...Be6 was the good old days (for White that is). ]
11.Na4 Carlsen, Ding, Giri, Nakamura
11...0-0
[ 11...Bc7!? ]
12.Bg5
[ 12.Nxb6 has happened... ]
[ 12.Bf4!? was an earlier Holt loss, but not a bad move. 0-1 (36) Holt,C (2549)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020 ]
12...h6 I don't remember if this move also came in an instant, but Max avoids the most modern, probably silicon thread.
[ 12...Re8!? is the main move in 2022, and where you see the super-GMs. ]
13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Rc1 Rd8
I was surprised but didn't see a concrete point.
[ 14...Re8 15.Re1 d3!? Stockfish 15, "-0.0x" or so (it's always up and down). And while I typed this it found 0.00. ( 15...Bg4 16.Bf3 Bxf3 17.exf3 Rxe1+ 18.Qxe1 Rd8 19.Qe4 d3 20.Rd1 16.06 1-0 (50) Jobava,B ]

All the computer line. And now they really go crazy: Bf5? ( 15...Be6! =/=+ ) 16.dxc6?? ( 16.Qf4/+/- )
16...Rxd2?! ( 16...bxc6!!+ ) 17.cxb7+ Kb8 18.Bxd2

10...Nxd5 13.exd5?! ( 13.Qxd5 Be6 14.Qxd8+ Rxd8 Black has a bit more than adequate compensation )
13...Qe7+ 14.Kf1 0-0-0 15.h3

gives White a little something)
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15.\textbf{Nbc5} N

It turns out this was all still previously played, and I'm the one who innovates.


15...Re8!

[ 15...h5 also here. ]

16.a3

[ 16.h3 ]

16...Bg4 17.Re1

Ne5?!

[FINALLY Black starts to falter: 17...d3!= 18.Qxd3 (18.Nxd3 Nd4) 18.h3 [18.Qd2±] 18...Bh5? [18...Bf5 19.Qd2 Rab8 White still has a slight slight advantage... ] 19.Ne4 [19.Qd2 is even better] 19...Qe6?! [19...Qd8±] 20.Nec5 I actually didn't realize I was repeating! 20...Bxc5? [20...Qf6 21.Qd2± again (I might have noticed this time around!)]

21.Nxc5+- Qf6 22.Qd2 Rad8?! [22...d3 23.Nxd3 Nxd3 24.exd3 Bf3 25.Qc3 and into the four rooks ending a pawn up.]

23.Nxb7

[I was loathe to play 23.g4!

\textbf{A)} 23...Nxg4 24.hxg4 Bxg4 25.Nxb7;

\textbf{B)} 23...Bxg4 24.hxg4 Nxg4 25.Nd3! is even more solid than the game, what with the d-pawn blocking the rook g5 (25...Qh4 26.Qf4) 26.Qa5 (26.Qb4; 26.Bf3!);

\textbf{C)} 23...Bg6 24.f4! for fear of getting checkmated in a few moves, but the computer says "No Problem"

23...d3?!

[23...Rb8 24.Nc5] 24.Nxd8 Rxd8 25.g4 For some reason *now* I was sure I wasn't getting mated. (An extra rook can do that.) 25...Bxg4 26.hxg4 Nxg4 27.exd3 Qd6 28.Rc4 Qc2+ 29.Kf1 Ne5 30.Qa5 It turns out there is a LOT more to this whole line! I feel lucky to have gotten through this alive. And I'm taking Max a lot more seriously next time!!

1-0

Maybe Nxd5!? 22...Rf7 Nope 23.Bc2 Qa5 24.Rb1 Be8 25.Bd1 Rc8 26.Rb3 b6 27.cxb6?! Now Black has prospects for his extra pawn. [27Nb1!±] 27...axb6± 28.Qb2 aiming for Ra3. 28...b5 29.Ra3 Qb6? [29...Qd8±] 30.Na4= (Diagram)

Qc7 31.Nc5 Those prospects have evaporated. It's balanced. 31...Re7 32.Rc2 Nd7 33.Nxd7 Rxd7 34.Qb4 Qb6 35.Rc5 Ra7 36.Rxa7 Qxa7 37.Bb3 Ra8 38.Kf2 Qa5 39.Qxa5 Rxa5 40.Ke3 Ra6 1/2-1/2
h5!? 7.h3 e5 8.0-0 Be6 9.d3 Qd7 10.Kh2 Here, h4 is the move allowing g4 to be played in order to undermind the g4 square in the near future. 10...f5 11.Bg5 Seems like a strong move, but the pestering h4 becomes apparent again with the idea of an f4 push to stir the pot. 11...Nh6 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.cxd5 Nd4 14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Qd2 Nd7

16.Bh4? [ 16.h4! 0-0 ( 16...Nxg5?! 17.Qxg5+- ) 17.exf5 gxf5 18.Bh3± ] 16...Bh6? White has a 2 point advantage after ...Bh6. [ 16...f4+- ] 17.f4 exf4 18.gxf4 0-0 Black is trying to escape after playing the opening incorrectly. 19.exf5 Ne5 (Diagram) Black is trying to generate counter play. 20.fxg6 Qf5 (Diagram) A centralizing move right in the middle of a chaotic sequence. 21.fxe5 Qxe5+ 22.Bg3 (Diagram) What does Black play now? 22...Bxd2
White is pawn hunting. 25...Rac8
26.Be4 Rc2 27.Rab1 Kg7 28.Kxh5

(Diagram)

Rh2 29.Rh1 Re2 30.Kg4 Re3
31.Rhg1 Kh6 32.Rbf1 Re2 33.Rg2
A liquidation mistake. 33...Rxg2+
34.Bxg2 Kxg6

(Diagram)

35.Be4+ Kf6 36.h4 Rg8+ 37.Kf3
Rg3+ 38.Kf2 Rh3 39.Rh1?

(Diagram)

Again a liquidation mistake, this one a bit harder to see. 39...Bg3+ 40.Kg2 Rxh1 41.Kxh1 Bxh4 42.Kg2

(Diagram)

This ending is a pure draw, but if anyone knows Ed Lewis, it's bamboozle time. (That is definitely Ed's note. - EW)

42...Ke7 43.Kf3 Kd6 44.Kg4 Be1

45.Kf5 Bd2 46.Kf6 b5 47.Kf7 a5 48.Ke8 Bg5 49.Bf3 a4 50.b3 axb3 51.axb3 Kc5 52.Kd7 Kb4 53.Kc6 Kc3

(Diagram)

Winslow: Ed had a dozen diagrams since the last one (!), but didn't give one here. The computer has been pegged at "0.00" since 39.Rh1? and, finally, now White's engine explodes. 54.Be4??

[Sometimes you just have to get it going: 54.d6 is the only move to draw.]
54...b4! And that is the only move to win. 55.d6

Kxb3! And again: that's the way to do it. 56.d7 Kc3 57.Bd5 Kxd3 58.Kb5 Kc3

(Diagram)

Winslow: I'm not going to try to figure out the early part of this game, but the later phase definitely has me scratching my head. :-)

0-1
resemble a Ruy Lopez Breyer. ]

7.0-0 g6 8.d4 Bg7? Black should not have allowed e5-e6.
[ 8...b5 9.Bc2 cxd4 10.cxd4
The computer wants black to open the c file and remove a defender of d5 before castling. Bg7 11.a4
White should play this thematic move rather than insisting on e5-e6.
( 11.e5?! dxe5 12.dxe5 Nd5 13.e6 fx6 14.Ng5 Ne5 The Nd5 is more stable than in the game and e6 is a proper sacrifice now. Computer gives -0.6. Honestly, the only reason that I gave this line?! instead of ? is that I would expect an even worse evaluation from SF. ]

9.e5 dxe5 10.dxe5 Ng4 11.e6!
This could barely even be called a pawn sacrifice, but if it is one then the material hardly matters in view of our newfound initiative. 11...fxe6 12.h3
[ 12.Qxe6 Seemed accurate due to b5 13.Qxg4 ( 13.Bc2?? Nde5 Flips the script on white. ) 13...Ne5 14.Qg3 bxa4 ]

12...Ngf6??
[ 12...b5 13.Bc2 Ng6 14.Ng5 ]
[ 12...Nge5 13.Ng5 b5 14.Nxe6 ]
13.Ng5 Qa5?! Computer hates it, but objectively speaking black is lost no matter what they play, so it's kind of harsh :
[ 13...b5 14.Nxe6 Qd6 15.Nxg7+ Kg7 Seemed like a more resilient defense to me. ]
[ 13...0-0 Is probably the trickiest line for black to select. 14.Qxe6+ Kh8 A) 15.Nf7+? This natural-seeming move is in fact a major blunder. Rxf7! 16.Bxd7 ( 16.Qxf7?? Ne5! ) 16...Kg8 17.Bxc8 Qxc8
Sure, white has a better pawn structure, but where did our crushing attack go?;
B) 15.Qxe7 Re8 16.Qd6 Qxd6
17.Nf7+ Kg8 18.Nxd6 A pawn and an octopus knight ought to win. ]

14.Qxe6 Rf8
[ 14...Qxa4 15.Qf7+ Kd8 16.Ne6# ]
15.Re1 Ng8 16.Bc2 Ndf6 17.Qc4 Bd7
18.Nxh7 b5
19.Qxc5
[ 19.Bxg6+ Kd8 20.Qxc5 Was perhaps more forcing. ]
19...Rc8 20.Bxg6+ Kd8 21.Qe5 Ne8 22.Qg3 Rf6 23.Bxe8 Bxe8 24.Qxg7 Rg6 Up a whole knight and several passed pawns, white should consolidate their gains and finish development. After that the game will practically win itself. 25.Rd1+ Kc7 26.Bf4+ Kb7 27.Qe5 Bc6 28.Ng5 Rd8 29.Nd2 Rd7 30.Qb8# 1-0

□ Zirbel,Dominic 1413
■ Perkins,Joel K 0
MI Peter Grey TNM: u1800 (1.27) 12.7.22
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ngf3
[ 7.Nd2 is the standard move (!), guarding d4 with the queen also, freeing the B/c1, keeping the other knight for e2 (maybe) -- or even h3. ]

7...Qb6 8.Qb3?!
[ 8.Nb3± cxd4 and all three recaptures (not Qxd4!) are something good for White. 9.cxd4! looks the best; a5 10.a4 ]

8.cxd4 9.Qxb6 Nxb6 10.cxd4
[ 10.Nxd4! Nxd4 11.cxd4= opens up f3 for the other knight again. ]

10...Nb4
[ 10...Be7 11.Kf2 Bd7= could just favor Black. ]
11.Kf2 Bd7
[ 11...a5 ]
12.a3 Nc6 13.Bd3 Be7 14.g4
[ 14.b4!? ]
14...0-0
[ 14...h5! 15.g5 0-0= ]
15.h4 f6
[ 15...a5!? ]

16.exf6?
[ 16.Kg3 keeps a space advantage ]
16...Rxf6?!
[ 16...gxf6!? 17.g5 Bd6 keeps pressure on the White pawns; ]
[ He could even play 16...Bd6! first, same position after 17.g5
( 17.fxg7? Rxf4+ ) 17...gxf6 ]
17.Nb3 Raf8
[ 17...Bd6 leaves f8 for the f6 rook, but White is then keeping space and
some marginal plus. 18.g5 Rff8 19.Kg3 Nc4 20.h5 ]
18.Ne5
[ 18.g5 first encourages Rxf4 19.Bxf4 Rxf4 20.Ke3 but here White is doing
a bit better (but not better enough to call it a meaningful advantage). ]

18...Bc8?? Undeveloping!
[ 18...Nxe5 19.dxe5 R6f7 20.Kg3± ]
[ 18...Bd6! ]
A) Note that 19.g5 lets Black blast it up with Rxf4+ 20.Bxf4 Rxf4+
material imbalance, but Black’s tally is higher. ) 22.Bh7+ Kxh7 23.Kxf4
Nd3+ 24.Ke3 Nxb2 is only a slight improvement. ) 22...Bxe5±
is just a material advantage (not to mention those ready-to-go center
pawns).;
B) 19.Kg2 is also fine, "0.00".;
C) 19.Ke2!= keeps the balance; ]

19.g5! Nxe5

18...Bc8?? Undeveloping!
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19.g5! Nxe5

20.Bxh7+??
[ 20.dxe5 R6f7 ( 20...Rxf4+ 21.Bxf4 Rxf4+ 22.Kg3 Ra4 23.Bb5 Re4
24.Rae1+- ) 21.g6! hxg6 22.Bxg6+- ]
20...Kxh7 21.gxf6 Ng4+ 22.Kg3 Nxf6
23.Nc5 Bxc5 24.dxc5 Ne4+ 25.Kf3
Nd5 29.Rg3 Nxf4 30.Ke4 Nc5+
[ 30...Nd2+ 31.Kxd4 Rd8+ 32.Kc3
Ne4+ ]
31. Kxd4 Rf5  
[ 31...b6! ]
32. Rg5

Ne2+??
[ 32...b6+ ]
[ 32...Nb3+ 33.Kc3 Nd5+ 34.Kxb3 Rxf2 ]
33. Ke3 Rxf2
[ 33...Bd7 ]
34. Kxf2 Ne4+ 35. Kxe2 Nxg5
36. hxg5+ Kg6 37. Rd1
[ 37.Rc1! Bd7 38.Rc5 ]
37...e5 38. Rd5
[ 38.Rd8 ]

38...Kxg5 39. Rxe5+ Kf6 40. Rc5
[ 40.Rb5! ]
40...Bg4+ 41. Ke3 b6
[ 41...Bd7 ]
42. Rc7 a5 43. Rc6+ A lot of sudden turns to this game -- Black had some fine chances! But White came through in the end.
1-0

00:00:00

Aslan, Muhammed
Schley, Andrew
MI Peter Grey TNM: Extra Games (1.36)
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 e6 2.f4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.d4 Nc6
5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 Nge7
8.a3 Ba5 9.b4 Bd6 10.Nf3 Nf5
14.bxa5 Bxa5 15.Bd2 0-0 16.Ng5 h6
17.Nf3 Qe7 18.0-0 c5 19.Rfb1 cxd4
Rx a1 23.Rxa1 Qc5 24.Kh1 Nxd4
25.Nxd4 Rc8 26.h3 Bb5 27.Kh2 Bc4
28.Rc1 Ra8 29.Rc3

Ra2?
[ 29.Ra1+ ]
30.Qe3?
30...Qb6
[ 30...Qa7!+ where it's protected!
31.f5 Bf1!! 32.Rc2 Rxc2 33.Nxc2 Qa2+ ]

31.f5 Bf1?
[ 31...exf5 32.Nxf5 Qe6± with still a pawn and fair chances. ]

32.f6??
[ 32.Nxe6!! sets up a nasty mate!
Rxg2+ ( 32...Qxe3 33.Rc8+ Kh7
34.Nf8+ Kg8 35.Ng6+ Kh7
36.Rh8# ) 33.Kh1 Rh2+
( 33...Qxe3?? 34.Rc8+ Kh7 35.Nf8+
Kg8 36.Ng6+ Kh7 37.Rh8#!;
33...Qb8 34.Qb6! Qa8 35.Ra3!
Qxa3! 36.Qd8+ Kh7 37.Nf8+ Qxf8!
38.Qxf8 Rg5! (only move) escapes
with only a slight disadvantage! )
34.Kxh2 Qb2+ 35.Kg3 fxe6!
and White is best to take the perpetual
with 36.Qf3 ( 36.fxe6?? Qg2+ 37.Kf4
Be2++; 36.Rc8+ Kh7 37.Qf3 Qxe5+
38.Kf2 Ba6= (or others) ) 36...Be2
37.Qe3 Bf1 Incredible! ]
21st William Addison Memorial
by Abel Talamantez

The William Addison Memorial concluded at the Mechanics’ Institute the weekend of July 25th-26th. This two-day FIDE rated tournament drew a packed house of seventy-eight players, with a stacked top section that included two IM’s, six masters, and 15 experts helping make up the field of 39. The vibrance of the weekend was enhanced by the sounds of the annual Pride Parade on Sunday morning on Market Street in downtown San Francisco. Nothing was getting in the way of this year’s first two-day FIDE-rated event at Mechanics’, and some of the best players in the Bay Area came out to play.

IM’s Kyron Griffith and Josiah Stearman led the field, with other top local talents FM Andy Lee, NM Conrado Diaz, NM Henry Wang. While the top section was stacked with youth, the bottom section had an even mix of older and younger players, with many adult learners looking to improve their game.

IM Josiah Stearman was only playing the first three rounds on the first day, so he would have to make the most of his opportunities. He won his first two games to set up a tough round three game against the very tough NM Conrado Diaz. Josiah came through and got the win, and with two half point byes for rounds four & five, would finish with four points. IM Kyron Griffith also won his first two games but would take a bye for round three. After winning his round four game against Theodore Coyne, he would face a final round challenge against FM Andy Lee for a chance to finish ahead of the field. However, both players held their ground, and they drew their game. With NM Henry Wang drawing his final game against Coyne, there would be a 4-way tie for first between, Griffin, Stearman, Lee, and Wang with 4/5. A very impressive showing in a strong weekend field.

In the under 1800 section, Steve Sobel had a weekend to remember as he maintained a perfect score to take clear first place with 5/5, a full point ahead of second. In second with 4/5 including Axel Joseph, Kian Jamali, and Katherine Sunny Lu. The win was impressive for Sobel, who has only recently started playing at the Mechanics’ Institute.

It was an exceptionally smooth tournament despite a packed house, and the players, parents, and spectators all conducted themselves with class. The big turnout and strength and balance of the field is a message to us about the value and importance of FIDE rated weekend events.

Full results and standings: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive?y=2022&t=76&e=313124

Thanks to everyone who participated! FM Paul Whitehead annotates five games from the event, one from each winner:
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6
The popular/boring/drawish/safe Berlin Defense. 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 A little side-step.
[ 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 equal, etc. ]
5...Nd6 6.a4 Another move white plays to keep it interesting.
[ 6.Nxe5 Be7 equal, etc. ]
6...Be7 7.Nc3 a6 8.Bf1
8...f6!? 9.d4 Nf7∞ Trying to hold on to everything would be the Steinitz approach. ]
9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Rxe4 d5 This should be dead equal, but one must still play chess...
11.Re1 d4! I like this move, gaining extra traction in the center.
12.Bc4 Bg4
[ 12...0-0 Makes a bit more sense, as the bishop might want to go to f5 instead. ]
13.h3 Bh5 14.d3 0-0 15.g4
Moving forward. Black has to be careful.
23...h6 24.h5 Bh7 25.d4 Kh8 26.Re5 f6?! Black is starting to feel the pressure. This weakens e6 and is not necessary. Alternatives are:
[ 26...Bg8! Creative defense. ]
26...c5! Seeking counterplay.

27. Re6  Qd8  28. Rae1

This involves a pseudo Exchange sacrifice. 28...f5?? Black panics, and his position falls apart.

[ 28...Bg8  29. Qf5  Bh7! Challenging the white squares was the way to defend here. ]

29. Re7! Targeting g7. 29...Qd6

There is no longer any defense. 30. R1e6 Qa3  31. Qe3! Qa1+  32. Kg2  fxg4  33. Rxg7!

A nice final blow. Black is mated by force, as the reader can work out for themselves.

1-0

D30

Diaz, Conrado 2338
Stearman, Josiah 2430
21st Addison Mem. (3) 25.06.2022

[Whitehead, Paul]

1. d4  d5  2. Nf3  Nf6  3. c4  c6  4. Qb3 dxc4  5. Qxc4  e6

[ 5...Bf5 ]

[ 5...Bg4 ]

6. Bg5  Qa5+  This seems random. 7. Bd2 Qb6?!  8. Qc2?! Not a bad move, but symptomatic of white's passive play in this game.

[ 8. Nc3! Calls black's bluff. If Qxb2 9. Rb1 Won't trap the queen, but white's lead in development should be worth something. ]

8...c5?

[ 8...Nbd7 ]

[ 8...Na6 ]

[ 8...Be7 ]

Emboldened, black plays a real lemon.

9. e3?!

[ 9. b4! Wins a clean pawn, as the
bishop hangs on c8 if black takes. ]

9...Nc6 Now black has a smooth development and no problems. 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Na4 Qc7 13.Rc1 0-0 14.Be2 e5 15.0-0 Bg4 16.h3 Bh5 17.Rf e1 [ 17.b4! is still the right idea. ]


The position is still balanced, but white has no plan. 20...Rac8 21.Qb1 f5 22.Red1 Qe6 23.Nc3?! [White's last chance for 23.b4! ]

23...e4 24.Nh2 Ne5 25.Ne2 Rxc1 26.Qxc1 Nd3±

(Diagram)

The game is essentially over, and black wraps it up with some flashy sacrificial play. 27.Qb1 f4 28.Ng4 f3 29.gxf3 exf3 30.Nd4

(Diagram)

Rxd4! A pretty Exchange sacrifice, with a couple of nicely calculated quiet moves to follow up. 31.exd4 Nh f4 32.Bxf4 Nxf4 33.Kh2 Bd6! Simply devastating. 34.Kg3

[ 34.Ne5 Qxh3+ 35.Kg1 Ne2# ]

34...Qd5!

(Diagram)

Another beautiful move, defending f3. 35.Ne5 Ne2+! 36.Kg4 Nxd4 And now it's just a massacre. 37.Rxd4 Qxd4+ 38.Kxf3 Bxe5 39.b3 Qf4+ 40.Ke2 Bd4 41.Qg1 Qe4+ 42.Kd2 Bc5 43.Kc3 Bb4+ 44.Kb2 Qe2+ 45.Kb1 Ba3

(Diagram)
White has had enough.

0-1

Lee, Andy 2318
Weng, Nicholas 2021
21st Addison Mem. (2) 25.06.2022
[Whitehead, Paul]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 c5 5.a3 Nc6 6.e3 0-0 7.Nge2 d6 8.0-0 a6

Black has defended well, and simply trading queens gives an equal game.

Instead we get a terrible blunder...

19...Ne5??


[20.Rd8+! Wins instantly. Rxd8
  (20...Ne8 21.Rxe8+!; 20...Bf8
   With queen for rook, it's all over. ]

20...Nxd5 21.Rxd5 Qc4 22.Nf4 Qxb4
23.axb4 e6 24.Rd1 Bb7 25.Bxb7
This position is dead equal, perhaps a bit better for black. But yet again we will see the stronger player making something out of nothing—with the opponent's cooperation, of course.

[Why not 30...Bxb4= ]

(Diagram)

Black should not lose this. 41.g4  h6  42.Kg2  f5 Black wants to "do something", so he weakens his pawn structure. It's not fatal... yet.

[ 42...Rc4= ]

43.gxf5  gxf5  44.Re6  Rd5  45.h4  Rc5  46.h5  Bf6  47.Nf4 Bg5 The concept of "passing" does not exist for black, whose bishop was already ideally placed. The move played puts black in immediate danger.

[ 47...Kf7= ]

48.Rg6+

Kh7? This probably loses, and it just
looks wrong as well.

[48...Kf7=]

49.Ne6! Rd5 50.Rg7+! White correctly targets the f-pawn.


50...Kh8 51.Rf7! Re5 52.Nd4 f4

53.exf4 Rd5? The final mistake.

[Black can still make it messy with 53...Kg8! 54.fxe5 Kxf7 But I expect white is still winning after 55.Kg3]

54.Rf8+ Kh7

[54...Kg7 55.Ne6++]

55.fxg5 Rxd4 56.g6+! Not too hard to spot. It's all over.

56...Kg7 57.Rf7+ Kg8

58.Rf5 Rd2 59.Re5 Rd4 60.Kg3 Rd3+

61.Kg4 Rd3+ 62.Rf5 Rc3 63.Kf4

1-0

[Whitehead, Paul]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bf5 5.0-0 h6 6.Nbd2 A popular setup is soon reached by transposition, but it promises white very little.

[Much more ambitious is 6.c4]
white is losing! Chess can be a strange game. 18.Ba3 A miserable square, a miserable bishop. 18...b5 19.Qb3 Nb6 20.Ra1 Nc4 21.Nxc4 bxc4 22.Qc3 Qb6 Black piles up on the b-pawn. 23.e4 Too late. 23...Rfd8! 24.Rd1 Bxe4 25.Bxe4 dxe4 26.Rxd8+ Rxd8 27.Qxc4 Rd2 A decisive infiltration. 28.Rf1 e3 29.Qf4 Bg5 30.Qf3 White is helpless, and turns in the wind. 30...Qa6! 31.Bc1 Rxf2 32.Rxf2 exf2+ 33.Kxf2 Bxc1 A piece ahead, black now wraps it up with some fine technique. 34.Qd1 Qa2+ 35.Kf3 Qd5+! 36.Qxd5 exd5 37.b5 Ba3 38.b6 Bc5 39.b7 Ba7 40.Kf4 Kf8 41.g4 Ke7 42.g5 hxg5+ 43.Kxg5 Ke6 (Diagram)

A smooth win by black over the winner of the recent Falconer Memorial TNM. 0-1

Quite a sophisticated opening for two class c-players, although it looks like white has lost the opening advantage
after the slow knight recapturing manoeuvre on c4. 11.dxe5 Nxe5
[Another possibility is 14.f4 Bxc3
15.Qxc3 Re8 16.Bf3= ]
14...Bxg4 15.Qe4 Bxc3 16.Qxg4?!
[Better was 16.bxc3 Be6=
Bishops of opposite colors. ]
16...Bf6 17.Rd1 Qb6 18.a5 Qb5
19.Ra4?
[White should pitch a pawn for activity:
although black is clearly better. ]
19...Rad8

XIIIIIIIY

Now black owns the d-file. 20.Rf1 Rd6
21.Qc4 Rfd8 22.Qxb5 cxb5 23.Ra1
Rc6 24.Rb1 Rc2! 25.b4 h5!

(Diagram)

Black has a won game, and impressively increases the pressure until the very end. 26.g3 Re2 27.h4 Rc8
28.Rb3 Rc3 29.Rb1 Rcc2 30.Rb3
Bc3 31.e4 Desperation.
[If 31.Kg2 Be1!+-]
31...Rxe4 32.Be3 a6 33.Bc5 Bd4!
Black switches over to a winning double rook ending. 34.Bxd4 Rxd4 35.Rfb1
Rdd2 36.Rf3 f6 37.Kf1 Kf7 38.Re1

(Rc4 39.Rb1 g6 40.Ke1 Rcc2 41.Rd1
Re2+ 42.Kf1 Ke7

XIIIIIIIY

43.Re1? Trading a pair of rooks makes things much easier for black.
[43.Kg2 continues to resist. ]
43...Rxe1+ 44.Kxe1 Rc4 45.Rb3 Ke6
Now the black king moves in, and the end is near. 46.Kd2 Kf5 47.Ke3 Kg4
48.Ke2 g5 49.hxg5 fxg5 50.Kf1 h4!
Creating an outside passed pawn.
51.gxh4 gxh4 52.Kg2 Rc2 53.Rd3
Rc4 54.Rb3 Kf4 55.Rh3 Ke5 56.Rb3
Rf4 57.Kf1 Kd5

(Diagram)
With the black king switching over to the queen's side, white collapses. But there was no defense in any case. 58.Rh3 Rxb4 59.Rd3+ Rd4 60.Re3 Re4 61.Rd3+ Kc4 62.Rf3 b4 63.Rf7 Re5 64.Rxb7 Rb5 65.Rc7+ Kd5 66.Rd7+ Ke6 67.Ra7 Rxa5 68.Rc7 b3 69.Rc3 Rb5 70.Rc1 b2 71.Rb1 a5 72.Ke2 a4 73.Re1 b1Q

An impressive game by Black, who showed a masterly patience and technique in the endgame. 0-1
FM Paul Whitehead
Chess is Everywhere

MI Chess Café habitué WIM Alexey Root has a new book out on the U.S. Women’s Chess Champions:

The chessboard used in the 1972 Fischer – Spassky match has been found:
https://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/culture_and_living/2022/07/11/a_50_year_old_mystery_of_a_historical_chess_table/ 

Cincinnati Bengals Chidobe Awuzie is the best chess player in the NFL:

Play chess at this beautiful park in Louisville, Kentucky:

A question-mark hangs over the World Championship:
Are you in London? The annual ChessFest is happening in Trafalgar Square:  
https://www.ft.com/content/de7b923f-3d20-478b-9a34-47ccfef99852

A nine-year old chess champion from Ames, Iowa is coming to compete in California:  

July 20th is World Chess Day, and the United Nations issues some stamps:  

The 2022 U.S. Senior and Junior Chess Championships have kicked off in St. Louis:  
https://new.uschess.org/2022-us-senior-and-junior-championships

“Chess-playing economics genius arrested over EasyJet bomb hoax...” is such a great headline:  

GM Judit Polgar takes down World Champion Magnus Carlsen at a public park in Madrid:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvbZCRid5CY

The Sautron Chess Club in France has built the largest chess piece in the world:  

Chess comes alive on the streets of Manhattan:  

Chess as part of Jewish culture:  
https://www.jewishnews.co.uk/pawn-again-the-world-of-jewish-chess/

In New Zealand? Don’t miss the Live Chess Challenge between the Women’s and Girls’ Champions:  

Garry Kasparov’s “Advanced Chess” idea gets dusted off:  

Chess is apparently a lot harder than boxing:  

Finally, chess wiped out the ancient Viking game of Hnefatafl – I kid you not:  
https://www.inverse.com/culture/viking-board-games-hnefatafl
Bernal Chess

**Juliana Gallin** is a Chess Café and MI Women’s Chess Class regular. She is a grass-roots chess organizer in San Francisco, and is profiled in the latest Mechanics’ Quarterly: [https://www.milibrary.org/sites/default/files/publications/1657641728/MI-Quarterly-July-Sept%202022.pdf](https://www.milibrary.org/sites/default/files/publications/1657641728/MI-Quarterly-July-Sept%202022.pdf)

Juliana sends in this report from sunny Bernal Heights, San Francisco:

“In addition to their Saturday game days at Progressive Grounds cafe, the Bernal Chess Club has also started a monthly lecture series at the Bernal Branch Library. The talks take place on the 4th Wednesday evening of every month and cover a variety of chess topics such as historical games, opening theory, and puzzle composition. Next up: on July 27 at 6pm, Dan Sevall will give a presentation on a beautiful game from chess history, followed by time for casual combat for those who want to play. All levels and ages are welcome. Calendar and mailing list at [www.bernalchess.com](http://www.bernalchess.com).”

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**July Scholastic Swiss and Quads**

On July 9th, the Mechanics’ Institute hosted its monthly double-header of Scholastic Swiss in the morning, Quads in the afternoon.

16 players showed up for the Scholastic in two sections: **Ethan Wang** took the top place in the 700+ section with 3.5 out of 4, just edging out **David Kuperman** on tie-breaks.

The u700 section was won by **Hayes Marvin** with a perfect 4-0.

Join us August 13th for the next edition!

For full results and standings, plus the link to register for the next Scholastic Swiss on August 13th go here: [https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-monthly-scholastic-swiss-person](https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-monthly-scholastic-swiss-person)

There was a big turnout for the Quads, with 66 players competing in 16 sections. Expert **Christophe Bambou** won the top Quad with 2.5 from 3.

For full results and standings, plus the link to register for the next Quads on August 13th please go here: [https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads](https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads)
1. Dr. E. Pakolska, 1928. White mates in 3 moves.

Richard Hack
Tales from the Chess Café

When the heat and dust of the moment of truth settled on quieter ground, I wondered how I came to blunder in that way. Some irrational force had pushed me into surrendering to pressure with a defensive move that wasn’t careful at all, and led right to a misstep that ended my long-built moment of riding free and in control.

It was the middle round of seven, and I was pushing for first place in the undersection of a TNM. I momentarily separated my shepherding king from one of my separated passed pawns on the sixth, and after it dropped I couldn’t come back. (I would have to defer that move to seven days later.) I had miscalculated in the final stage, afraid of some knight fork that would have only brought the win closer. They say stress emotions temporarily cause I.Q. to plummet, which may drop you into a pit of bad decisions.

In one book Boris Gelfand writes, “I feel that in general if we see a highly promising option and we have checked it and it works, we should go for it, and not spend a lot of time checking other options. Mistakes are born that way. Different approaches are good in different situations... We all have to find the way of playing chess that is most practical for us, and make our own considerations about how to balance between the practical and deep approach to decision-making.” Later he cautions against letting a great opportunity be obscured by a good one—selling yourself short and getting a big advantage instead of a winning one.

“What interests me are methods of finding the best move, not to understand it when you know it is the right choice... Even if we cannot see that one option is better than the other, we may see that one option makes life easier for our opponent than the other; and this is often enough in a practical game.” (Dynamic Decision Making in Chess, pp. 52, 90, and 176.)

We also find interesting people at every tournament. Some of their lives are immersed in playing, making their game broader and deeper, and knowing the scene in their own ways. Some follow developments in their favorite openings over decades; I see their annotations in this Newsletter and every chess place I visit. Many could be addressed as “Dr.” if they aren’t already, and given endowed chairs in chess, but even they have to hustle and scrape, take time off to work and parent and try to get lucky.

Many live more outside the global microcosmos of chess, but they understand its depth and the draw of its power and beauty. All are part of its life. I’m trying to pay more attention to the unique and ultimately familiar ways players convert their
advantages. At least I have the advantage of being able to play when I want. Does my response to this position make it a litmus test or a Rorschach blot? There’s always another game to inspire you.

Rumi, one of the prominent Sufi poets of centuries ago, wrote a prose poem (“The Sheikh Who Played with Children”) which ends: “Chew quietly your sweet sugarcane God-Love, and stay playfully childish. / Your countenance / will turn rosy with illumination / like the redbud flowers.”

(For more information about the Chess Café go here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe)

IM John Donaldson has noted the passing of

**Robert Sidney Moore 1939-2022**

Robert Moore, a long-time Mechanics’ member, who first joined the Institute back in the late 1950s, recently died. He was, until his passing, one of a handful of players still living who had played in the 1961 U.S. Open held at the Sheraton Palace Hotel (Tom Maser of Berkeley, James McCormick of Seattle, Martin Harrow of Chicago and Tibor Weinberger of Santa Monica are some of the others).

Bob Moore was born in San Francisco in 1939 and learned to play chess there but it was in Alaska he enjoyed his first success winning the state championship in 1960 and 1961. He returned to San Francisco the latter year to play in the U.S. Open and one of his games from that event, a win against Master Sven Almgren, can be found at https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/748.

Mr. Moore attended the University of Oklahoma at Norman where he received a degree in library science. He worked for many years as a librarian at Cornell University and was an expert on its collection of Willard Fiske, the great chess figure of the 19th century who will be inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame this fall.
A puzzle 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.

This position occurred in a recent offhand game between GM Judit Polgar (white, to play) vs World Champion Magnus Carlsen, where the Hungarian stunned the Norwegian with a sharp tactic. The whole charming episode was caught on video in a park in Madrid: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvbZCRid5CY

Upcoming Events

2nd Peter Grey Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon - Ongoing
Tuesday, July 12, 2022 - Tuesday, August 23 2022. 6:30PM. USCF + FIDE Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-peter-grey-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/2ndPeterGreyMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon

July & August USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com
Sunday July 17, 3PM. 6 games of G/15+2
Saturday July 30, 3PM. 8 games of G/5+2
Sunday August 7, 3PM. 4 games of G/20+10
Saturday August 20, 3PM. 6 games of G/15+2

21st Charles Bagby Memorial G/40;d5
Saturday July 16th. 4 games of G/40;d5

21st Walter Pafnutieff Memorial G/40;d5
Saturday July 30th. 4 games of G/40;d5.
Information: [https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/21th-pafnutieff-memorial-championship](https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/21th-pafnutieff-memorial-championship)
Registration: [https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/21thPafnutieffMemorialChampionship](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/21thPafnutieffMemorialChampionship)

Here is our chess calendar in full: [https://www.milibrary.org/chess/calendar](https://www.milibrary.org/chess/calendar)

Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.h3! Intending 2.Bg5 and 3.Re3#. 1...Be2 2.Re3+! Kxe3 3.Bg5#. 1...Rc6 2.Re6! and 3.Qf8#.

Problem #2: 1.Rf1! Intending 2.Bxe5, 3.g4 and 4.Rh2#. 1...Nd7/c6 2.Ree1! Kxg2 3.Rxg1+ Kxf3 4.Be2#!

Contact us

The Mechanics’ Institute Chess Club is on the 4th floor at 57 Post Street, San Francisco 94104. Our phone # is (415) 393-0110.

We welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today at [chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)
A moment in time...

IM John Donaldson sends in this historic photograph taken at the 1976 Interzonal Tournament in Manila, won by GM Henrique Mecking of Brazil. IM John Grefe is 3rd from the left with the mustache and pony-tail – he was GM Walter Browne’s 2nd for the event. Directly behind Grefe is Ex- World Champion Boris Spassky, and Dutch GM Jan Timman with the curly hair sits a bit further down. The dog remains unidentified.

One thing leads to another, and we were reminded of this brilliant game from the event:


1-0