Peter Grey TNM Round Six Report

IM Elliott Winslow and IM Kyron Griffith played to a tense draw on board one, enabling NM Conrado Diaz (who defeated the fast-improving Anton Maliev) to catch them at 4.5 points. The stage is set for a dramatic final round with Griffith and Diaz likely paired, while Winslow may face NM Yusheng Xia (4-points), but only the computer knows for sure.

The under-1800 section saw Steve Sobel and Dominic Zirbel both win and maintain a tied first at 5.5 each, their only draw a mutual one in round 3. It’s still too close to call, as Paul Henry Reed will be at 5.5 after a last round bye, while Yonathan Admassu and Christian Brickhouse, at 4.5 each, stand a chance of taking down one - or both - leaders in the last round.

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.

The TNM is co-directed by International Arbiter Judit Sztaray and FIDE Arbiter Abel Talamantez. For complete TNM info, standings and results: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2nd-peter-grey-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 dxc4 A critical line at the 2700+ level.

[There are all the old moves of course,
4...Be7 ]
[4...c6 ]
[4...c5 ]
[4...Bb4 ]
[4...Nbd7 ]
[And 4...a6!? has lit up lately with theoretical articles and interesting games.]

5.e3 I'd seen games with the sharp responses but frankly couldn't remember anything, so decided to play like it was the 1970s (for me), the lines of the Queen's Gambit Accepted with Nf3 and e3. There is a flaw, in that White's knight is already on c3, but it doesn't change too much.

[5.Bg5 a6! (5...Bb4)]
[5.e4! is the sharpest. It starts to look like a Giuoco Piano Moller Attack (!)...]

A) 5...b5!? 6.e5 (6.Bg5) 6...Nd5 (6...Nfd7 7.Nxb5 Nb6 just transposes) 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2 Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qd2!?

B) 5...Bb4?!

B1) 6.Bg5 c5 (6...h6; 6...b5);
B2) 6.Bxc4! Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3 Caruana has played this (7...Bxc3; 7...Nf6 and Caruana has played this!) 8.bxc3

Okay, the pawn on e6 definitely makes it NOT the Moller Attack. But still! Bd6! (6...Be7; 8...Bxc3?! 9.Rb1)

5...a6

(Diagram)

6.a4


6...c5 7.Bxc4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe2

[I didn't mind a draw, but could not bring myself to play 9.dxc5 Any, I'd probably get the worst of it with b4 weak.]

[A curious but interesting move is
9.Ne5 played by all sorts of impressive players. Gulko, Mamedyarov, Kamsky. I'd have thought Nxe5 (9...cxd4 might be best.) 10.dxe5 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 was good for Black, but Nd7 12.f4 -- well, maybe it's not so good, b6 13.Ne4 Bb7 ] 9...cxd4 [ 9...0-0 10.Rd1 Qc7 ] 10.Rd1 e5!? Kyron continues in forthright manner, as have many before here. [ 10...d3 is another way to avoid the IQP. 11.Bxd3 Qc7 when it's surprising it hasn't happened more often. 12.e4 (12.h3!?) ] 10...0-0 11.exd4 would be a "normal" Isolated Queen Pawn game. (11.Nxd4!? Qc7! 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 doesn't seem to be much of anything for White. ]

11.exd4 exd4

Over four hundred games! It turns out this is one of those variations used to demonstrate the problem with chess. Very Drawn Games. There was a time when I would dread all the center pawns dissolving like this. (If you are familiar with classic chess literature you recognize the exchange "You mean -- it *loses?!* "Worse my son -- it draws!") But as I noted earlier, I recognized that a draw was excellent equity going into the last round. Kyron plays Conrado Diaz (solid!), while who knows who I play! And as it went, we managed to show just how hard it can be to draw a <cough> simple ending... 12.Nxd4 White has tried every which way to swerve the train off the half-half track, but nothing is too convincing. 12...Nxd4 13.Qe5 Qd6 Now I thought I had ascertained peaceful intentions...

14.Qxd6 "½-½?" ... so I offered a draw. I think thought that my mask might have muffled my offer, but in any case the game went on. [ 14.Qxd4 (almost as common -- we're down to about 140 games each) Qxd4 15.Rxd4 gives Black some other options, but not ...Be5. ]

14...Bxd6 15.Rxd4

16.Rd1
[ 16.Rh4!? 0-0 17.Bf4 sees +3 =11 -0 in Mega '22:
B) 17...Re8!?
16...0-0 17.h3!?  [ 17.Nd5 ]
[ 17.Be3 ]
[ 17.Re1!? ]
[ 17.Bg5!? ]
17...Re8

52.h8Q+ Kxh8 53.Kf7 1-0 (53) Bocharov,D (2569)-Kharlov,A (2604) chessassistantclub.com INT 2004 ]

18.Be3

Bf5N
19.Bd4 Rac8 20.Bxe5 Rxe5 21.Rd4 Kf8 22.f4 After a while Stockfish concedes that this move is also "0.00" like the other nine above it... 22...Rec5
[ 22...Re7 23.g4 Be6 24.Bxe6 Rxe6 White is fine after 25.a5 ]
28...hxg5 29.Bxc6 Rxc6 30.Rd6

(Diagram)
Trade Fever! As soon as I let go I saw his next move, and thought I had blundered. The computer bails me out, it's still drawn. Theoretically! In fact, now some real blunders ensue:

30...Rxc3! Now it's Black with the ending initiative, and who knows what we'll do. 31.bxc3 Ne4+ 32.Kf3 Nxd6 33.Rxd6 with "0.00 x 6" in my Stockfish window. 33...Rc8= 34.Rb6

It so happens I have other paths:

[Just as good is 34.Ke4 Rxc3 (34...Kg7!? 35.Rb6 Rxc3 36.Rxb7) 35.Kf5 is fine Rxh3 36.Rb6 Kg7 37.Kxg5= ]
[ 34.Rd7 Rxc3+ 35.Ke4 ]

34...Rxc3+ 35.Ke4

(Diagram)

Rxh3

[Here I thought 35...Kg7 36.Rxb7 Kg6 37.Rb6+ f6]

was the winning line for him (he didn't see it at all); but would I have noticed 38.h4!! gxh4 39.Rxa6 and the rook gets to the h-file (via h8 or h5) in time to lock up the zeroes ("0.00") and the half point ("½-½")? Let's go with "maybe!" In fact, even looking at it a couple days later (since first seeing it) I don't see how easy it is for White. ]

36.Rxb7 Now I thought I was in the clear. Hah! 36...Ra3
37.Rb4?? Losing! The "0.00" list was five long:

[ 37.Kf5= is obvious and the most direct: Black's rook is mislocated in front of the a-pawn, like every ending student knows. Rxa4 38.Kxg5 Re4 tries to get a better position, 39.Ra7 Re6 40.Kf5 but it isn't really: draw. ]

37...a5?? We both played our 37th moves quickly -- and they're both blunders!

[ 37...Kg7 38.Kf5 f6+ 39.Rb7+ Kh6 40.Rb6 Rf3+ 41.Ke6 Kg7!! (41...Kg6? 42.Rxa6 Re3+ 43.Kd6 Re4 44.a5 Rxe4 45.Ke7 Re4+ 46.Re6! is the difference: Rxe6?? 47.Kxe6 g4 48.a6 g3 49.a7 g2 50.a8Q g1Q 51.Qg8++-) 42.Rxa6 Rf4 43.a5 Rxe4]

(Diagram)

38.Rc4??

[ 38.Rd4 f6 39.Kf5 Kg7 40.Rd7+ Kh6 41.Rd4 Rf3+ 42.Ke4 appears to just hold. ]

[ 38.Rb7! Rxa4+ 39.Kf5 Kg7 40.Rxa5= is that position from 37...Kg7, the previous diagram ]

38...Ke7??

[ 38...Kg7! 39.Kf5 f6 40.Rc7+ Kh6 41.Kxf6 Rxa4 42.Rc5 Rxg4 43.Rxa5 is lost to almost every move. ]

[ 38...f6 39.Kf5 Kg7 like before is a TP. ]

39.Kf5= f6 40.Rc7+

[ 40.Kg6= ]

40...Kd6 41.Ra7 Rxa4 42.Kxf6 Ra1 43.Kxg5 a4 44.Kg6 a3 45.g5 a2 46.Kg7 Rg1 47.Rxa2 Rxg5+

A close call! And so much for "an easy draw." Lesson learned -- I hope!

½-½
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5
4.Nf3
   [Ye Olde Main Lygne is 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 (5...Bf5)]
   [The modern tries are 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd2 (and 5.Bc4)]
4...Nf6 5.Bc4 c6 6.a3
   [6.0-0]
   [6.d4]
6.Bf5 7.0-0
   [7.b4?]
7...e6 8.d3 Be7 9.Re1 Nbd7 10.Qe2 0-0

11.b4?? Bxb4 12.axb4 Qxa1+-
Forget it. There's no way to take advantage of the queen's momentarily deep dive. 13.Bd2 Qa3 14.Rb1 b5!
15.Bb3 Qa6 16.Nh4 Rfe8
   [16...Bg6!]
17.Nxf5 exf5 18.Qf3 g6 19.h3 Ne5
20.Qf4 Nh5 21.Qg5 Qb6 22.Be3 Qd8
23.Qh6 Qf6 24.Bc5 Nxd3 25.cxd3 Qxc3 26.g4 Ng7 27.gxf5 Nxf5 28.Qf4

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5
4.Nf3
   [Ye Olde Main Lygne is 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 (5...Bf5)]
   [The modern tries are 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd2 (and 5.Bc4)]
4...Nf6 5.Bc4 c6 6.a3
   [6.0-0]
   [6.d4]
6...Bf5 7.0-0
   [7.b4?]
7.e3
7...Bf5 Both Karpov and Kasparov have been on both sides of this line. 8.Bd3
Xia accedes to the "quiet line." 8.Qd2!? keeps bishops on the board and has led to excitement of sorts. For example Nd7 9.f3 Nb6 10.e4 Be6 11.e5 h5 12.Bd3 Qd7 13.b3 Bh4+ 14.g3 Be7 ½-½ (41) Karpov,A (2705)-Kasparov,G (2740) World-ch32 (7) London/Leningrad 1986
8...Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Nf6 10.Nf3 Nbd7 11.0-0 Both sides continue placidly. Either or both players might consider other king placements. For example 11.h4 a5 12.Kf1!? Well okay, that didn't necessarily work out. 0-1 (58) Carlsen,M (2863)-
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6
[ 2...d5 3.Bf4!? (3.Bg5) ]
3.e4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h3 0-0 6.Be2
[ 6.Be3 ]
6...c6 7.a4 a5 8.0-0 Na6 9.Bf4 Nb4
10.Re1 Nd7 11.e5 dxe5 12.dxe5 Nc5
13.Qc1 Bf5 14.Rd1 Qc8 15.Nd4

Nxc2??

Rxf4
[ 23...Rad8 24.Nc3 Rd3+ ]
24.Kf2
24...Raf8†
[ 24...Rc4!+- ]
25.Nd2 Rxf3+?!
[ 25...Rf4= ]
26.Nxf3 Kg7 27.Rc1 Bb6 28.Ke2 c5?
29.Ng5 Rf6 30.Rg1 Rg6 31.Nxe6+
Kf6 32.Rxg6+ hxg6 33.Nf4?!
[ 33.Nf8= ]

½-½
33...Bd8  
[ 33...Kf5 ]

34.Kf3  g5  35.Nd3  Be7  36.b4  c4

47.a5??  
[ 47.axb5 axb5  48.Ne5+ Kf4 49.Nxc4= ]

47...Ba7??  
[ 47...Bc7+-]  
48.Ne5+=  
1-0

(Diagram)
Rxe5?? Forgetting about Enemy #1: the passed a-pawn; Black needs to be ready to meet the push with ...Ra2.
  [ 37...Ra3! right away is all "0.00" ]
  [ 37...Rh3! similarly keeps the draw.
  38.Ke2 Rxh2+ or pretty much anything that keeps the rook ready to get behind the a-pawn. ]
38.a5+- Rd5 39.a6??
  [ 39.Ra4! Rd7 40.a6 Ra7 41.Ke3 gets the king unstoppably to a5 (!), when that super a-pawn wins the game for White. ]
39...Rd2+! 40.Ke3 Ra2 Here the scoresheet ends moves, and "1-0" is written, "WHITE WON" is circled.
  [ 40...Ra2

(Diagram)

41.Ke4 ( 41.Rb4 Rxa6 42.Rb6 Ra2 43.h3 Ra3+ 44.Kd4 Rxe3 45.Rxc6 Kg7= ) 41...f6 42.Rb4 Rxa6 43.Rb6 Ra4+ 44.Kd3 Kf7 45.Rxc6 e5=
Stockfish has its infamous "Wall of 0.00s" here. ]
1-0

| Bayaraa,Timothy | 1442 |
| Sobel,Steve      | 1576 |

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Qc7 9.Be2?! A bit too va banque...
  [ 9...Qxc3+?! ]
  [ 9...dxe5! 10.dxe5 Be7± ]
10.Bd2 Qc7 11.Rc1 Nc6 12.0-0
  [ 12.h4?!± intending a happy Kf1, while the h-pawn and rook behind it throw forward. Where will Black's king go meanwhile? ]
12...Be7 13.Bd3 0-0?!
  [ 13...Qd8 ]

(Diagram)
14. Bg5  
[14.Ng5+- Bxg5 (14...g6 15.Nxh7!; 14...h6 15.Nh7! Rd8? 16.Qg4 Kh8 17.Bxh6 gxh6 18.Nf6 d5 19.Rf1+- The rook joins the attack and Black can't defend.) 15.Bxg5 f6 (15...dxe5 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.Bf6+- White's pieces converge nicely.) 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Bh6 Rf7 when White has various winning plays: 18.Be2! and Bh5 (as well as Rc3 and over) is the most convincing. (18.Re1; 18.Rc3; 18.d5 exd5 19.Re1)]

14...f6?!  
[14...dxe5 15.dxe5 Rd8 16.Qe2 g6 is safe]

15. exf6 gxf6?  
[15...Bxf6 16.Re1 Qf7 (16...Qe7 17.h4!) 17.Bf4 White has attacking chances for the pawn.]

16. Bh6+- Rf7 17.Re1 Qa5?!  
[17...Bf8 before it gets worse! 18.Bxf8 Rxf8 19.d5+- Oops -- it already has gotten worse.]

(Diagram)

18. Re4±  
[18.Ne5! Nxe5 (18...fxe5 19.Qg4+ Kh8 20.Qh5! is disastrous!) 19.dxe5+- and again, White is ready for a rook lift when Black's king has problems holding up.]

18...f5  
[18...Bd7 is a tighter defense.]

19. Rf4  
[19.Re1+-]

19...Bd7 20.Bg5?  

20...Kh8  
[20...Rg7!]

21. Bxe7  
[21.Rb1]

21...Nxe7 22.Bc4? Rg8?  

23.Qe2?  
[23.Rh4 Rg7 24.g3†]

23...Ng6 even better now 24.Ng5 Rf6?! †  
[24...Rg7+]

25.Rf3
Nh4?
   26...Rff8 27.d5 ( 27.Nxd6 Qc7!
   28.Ne4 b5 woops! ) 27...e5
   Black is taking over -- and is still up a
   pawn. ]
26.Rh3?!  
   [ 26.Rg3! Ng6!
   \[
   A) 27.Qh5 looks good but Black
   manages to hold: Rg7 28.Ne4!
   Rf8! ( 28...fxe4?? 29.Qxa5 )
   29.Qh6! fxe4 30.Rxg6 Rgf7
   31.Bxe6 Bxe6 32.Rxe6 Qxa2=
   33.Rf1 Rxf2 34.Qxf8+! Rxf8
   35.Rxf8+ Kg7 36.Rfe8 sets up a
   perpetual with a peaceful end.;
   B) 27.Qb2 Rg7 28.d5!? e5
   29.Ne6 Bxe6 30.dxe6 d5=
   sees Black activating the center,
   but White attacks -- on the
   queenside: 31.Ra3 Qd8 32.Rd1
d4 33.Rxa7=;
   C) 27.Nxe6!? f4 28.Nxf4 Rxf4
   29.Bxg8 Kxg8 is fairly balanced,
   maybe White has the better by a bit
   after 30.h4 Rf5! ]
26...Rxg5 27.Rxh4 f4  
   [ 27...Rg7!± ]

(Diagram)
Black's king escapes, and White loses material.  

It so happens that 31...Kg8! works as well (transposing if 32. Rxh7). ]

32.Bd3 Qd2 33.Rxh7+ Kg8 34.Rh8+  
[ 34.Rc8+!! A fantastic move! The bishop is drawn to a worse square, where it is en prise as well as it no longer guards e8. Bxc8 35.Rh8+ Kf7 36.Qf3+ Rf5  ( 36...Ke7 37.Qf8+ Kd7 38.Bb5+ Kc7 39.Qd8+ Kb8 40.Qxc8# ) 37.Bxf5  

A) 37...Qc1+ 38.Kg2 Ke7  
( 38...exf5 39.Qh5+ leads to mate ) 39.Bg6!;  
B) 37...exf5 38.Qh5+ Rg6 39.Rxc8+-+- Necessary; now material is even (!) but Black's king is fatally exposed. ]

34...Kf7 35.Qf3+ Rf5

36.Bxf5??  
[ 36.Rc7! Qc1+!? ( 36...Rxf3 37.Rxd7+ Kf6 38.Rf8+ Kg5 39.Rxg7+ Kh6 40.Rh7+ Kg5 41.Rg8+ Kf6 42.Rg6# ) 37.Rxc1 Rxf3 38.Be2+- Ra3 39.Rc7 Ke7 40.Bb5 Kd6 41.Rxb7 a6 42.Ra8 Rxa2 43.Raa7 ]  

36...Qxc1+⩫ 37.Kg2 exf5 38.Qxd5+?!  

[ 38.Qh5+ Ke7 39.Qe2+ Be6 40.Qe5 Kf7 41.Qb8 Qc6 ]  

38...Be6 39.Qxb7+ Kg6+ 40.Qf3 Rh7?  
[ 40...Qd2! ]

41.Rxh7 Kxh7 42.Qh5+?  
[ 42.d5! Bd7 43.g4 There is a Black pawn shortage -- White should draw. ]

42...Qh6  
[ 42...Kg7+- no more checks for White 43.g4 Qc6+ 44.Kg1 ( 44.f3 fxg4; 44.Kg3 Qd6+ ) 44...Qf3! 45.Qg5+ Kf7 46.gxf5 Bd5 ]

43.Qxh6+? Bad timing for a queen exchange.  
[ 43.Qe2 Bd5+! 44.f3  

A) 44...Qe6? 45.Qxe6 Bxe6 46.a3= ( 46.Kf2= );  
B) 44...Qf6+!]  

43...Kxh6 44.a3 Bd5+? Taking the square from his king!  
[ 44...Kg5 is very won. 45.f3 Kf6 46.Kf2 Bd7 47.Ke3 Ke6 gets to d5, when Black wins various endings: the bishop holds the kingside pawns, the king gets the a-pawn, and Black's last pawn queens. 48.Kd3 ( 48.g4 Kd5 49.gxf5 Bxf5 50.Kf4 Bc2 51.Kg5 Kxd4 ) 48...Kd5 ]
45. Kh3?  
[45.f3 manages to draw.]

45... Kg5  46. Kh2  Kg4  47. Kg1  Kf3
48. Kf1  Be4  49. Ke1  Bc6  50. Kf1  Bd5
51. Ke1  Bc4  52. a4  a5  53. Kd2  Kxf2
54. Kc3  Bd5  55. Kd3  Kxg3  56. Ke3  f4+
57. Kd2  f3  58. Ke1  f2+  59. Kd2  f1Q
60. Kc3  Qc4+
[60...Qc1+!  61. Kd3  Bc4+  62. Ke4  Qf4#!]

0-1

D00

Spolarich,Mike  1089
Reed,Paul Henry  1467
Mi Peter Grey TNM: u1800 (6.16) 16.8.22
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4  Nf6  2.Bf4  d5  3.e3  c5  4.Nc3
Nc6  5Nb5  e5  6.dxe5  Ne4  7.f3  Ng5
8.Nd6+
[8.Bxg5  Qxg5  9.Nc7++-]
8...Bxd6  9.exd6  d4  10.Qe2  0-0
11.0-0-0  Re8  12.e4
[12.Qd2]
12...f6  13.Bxg5
[13.Qb5+-]
13...fxg5  14.Qc4+  Be6?
[14...Kh8  15.Qxc5  Re5  16.Qa3
Be6=]
15.Qxc5  Rc8  16.Bc4
[16.Bb5!]
16...a5
[16...Kh8]
17.Bxe6+  Rxe6  18.Qd5  Qd7  19.a3
Kh8  20.Qxg5?
[20.Kb1  Rxd6  21.Qb5+-]
20...Rxd6=  21.Rd3?

Qc7?!†
[21...Nb4!!  22.axb4  Qa4+-]

22.Qc5  b6+  
[A surprising resignation! But indeed
White is lost:  22...b6  23.Qc4  b5
24.Qc5  Re6 ]

0-1

E14

Brickhouse,Christian  1058
Talamantez,Abel  1800
Mi Peter Grey TNM: Extra Games (6.36)
[Brickhouse,Christian/Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4  Nf6  2.c4  e6  3.Nc3  d5  4.e3  Bd6
5.Nf3  0-0  6.Bd3  b6  7.0-0
[7.e4!  dxe4  8.Nxe4  Bb4+
(8...Nxe4?!  9.Bxe4  c6; 8...Bb7)
Black had a relatively easy game;
½-½ (47) Le,Q (2715)-Nakamura,H
(2763) PRO League All-Stars (blitz),
Chess.com]
7...Bb7  8.Re1?!  c5  9.e4?
[9.dxc5!?  bxc5  10.b3  Nbd7  11.Bb2
Ne5  12.Nxe5  Bxe5  13.Qe2  Rc8
Bxb2  17.Qxb2  d4  18.Nxc5  Bxg2
19.Qxd4  Bf3  20.Qxd8  Rfxd8±]
but 1-0 (64) Vekshenkov,N (2462)-Ivanov,S (2546) Russian chT,Sochi 2004. ]

9...cxd4 10.Nxd4?!-+
[ 10.e5 Bxe5 ]

10...dxe4?! 
15.bxc3 White's knight is stuck on the edge and has doubled isolated pawns while black controls the open d-file and his doubled pawns are more mobile. Nbd7 ]

11.Nxe4 Bxh2+ 12.Kxh2 Qxd4 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Kg1 Na6 15.Qh5 White protects the h-file and baits black into weakening his king by threatening mate. 15...g6?! Black has no dark square bishop to counter white's, and g6 permanently weakens the dark squares around black's king. 
[ 15...h6 ]

16.Qh6 Nc5 17.Bc2 Qg7 18.Qxg7+ Kxg7 19.b4= White's sortie accomplished its goal of improving piece positioning. Compare with the position after 21.Ba4: white's rook is now on an open file, his light-square bishop controls more enemy squares and restricts black's knight, and his dark-square bishop is of its home square. Black, meanwhile, has advanced a single pawn and maneuvered his rook to e7 25...f5?! Black has invited a renewed attack on his rook. The threat of f6 is what prevented 25.Bg5, but with 25...f5, the dark squares are weakened again. 26.Bg5! Rc7 27.Bd8 Rf7 28.Be8 Rf8 29.Rd7+ Kg8 30.Rxb7 Rxe8 31.Bf6! Saves the bishop while setting up a number of threats by exploiting black's weak dark squares. 
[ 31.Rxa7!? Rxd8 32.Rxa6= What has equalized material and has a 3-on-1, but black's 4-on-2 could be more dangerous. ]

31...Nb8 32.Rg7+!? [ 32.b5 entombs the knight on b8. ] 32...Kf8! [ 32...Kh8?? 33.Rxg6# ]

33.Rxa7 Re6 34.Rxh7 Nc6 [ 34...Rxg6 35.Rh8+ Kf7 36.Rxb8± white wins back the minor piece with continued threats on the queenside. ]

35.Bg5 Nd4 36.Kf1 Rc6 37.c5? White goes for the wrong endgame. As we'll see in the game, white gives up his 3-on-1 for two isolated passed pawns which cannot be adequately defended leading to a likely draw. Instead, white should have actively defended the c4 pawn by threatening to trade into connected passed pawns (Thanks to Pagan Griso and Westerhold for their thoughts on this and later positions). 
[ 37.Rb7! Rxc4 38.Rxb6 
A) 38...Nc2? 39.Rxg6 ( 39.Bc1?! Re4 40.Bd2 Nxa3 41.Rxg6 white will have trouble defending the b4 pawn. ) 39...f4 ( 39...Nxa3? 40.Rf6+ Kg7 41.Rxf5 Rxb4 42.Rxe5 black has lost all his pawns while white still has connected passed pawns. ) 40.Ra6 Nd4 Black has lost his kingside majority with nothing to show for it.; 
B) 38...Rc3 39.Ra6 Rb3 40.Kg1]
avoids Rb1# Kf7± black’s rook does a good job defending the passed pawns, but white’s rook cuts off black’s king from escorting his kingside majority. ]

37...bxc5  38.bxc5  Ra6
[ 38...Rxc5??  39.Be7+  Kg8
40.Bxc5+- Black loses his rook and white has too many threats for black to handle with just king, knight, and three. ]

39.Be7+  Kg8  40.Rh3  Kf7  41.Bd6  Ke6
42.Re3  e4  43.g4!?  
[ 43.Rg3 ]

43...Nb5  44.gxf5+  gxf5  45.Rb3  Nxd6
46.Rb6??⊕ White sees the opportunity for two connected passed pawns and, wrongly, believes it is worth the bishop sacrifice. With more time for calculation, white should have seen that after Rxb6 cxb6 the knight and king prevent progress. 46...Rxb6  47.cxb6  Kd5

48.Ke2  Kc6  49.f3  Kxb6  50.fxe4  fxe4
51.Ke3  Ka5  52.a4  Kxa4  53.Kd2  Kb4
57.Ke1  e3  58.Kd1  Nb5  59.Ke1  Nc3
60.Kf1  Kd2
0-1
Before the Pandemic, I taught a Game Review class on Wednesdays in the Chess Room, where I went over the struggles of our club players. Often the games analyzed would be from the previous evening’s Tuesday Night Marathon. Sometimes both players would show up, as well as on-lookers, and lively discussions followed. One of our young players, Kevin Sun, was a regular attendee (with his Mom), and his spirited comments were often pointed and funny. The class was lively and well-attended.

After the Pandemic broke the Institute had to shut its doors temporarily, but the Chess Club roared on - virtually, under the sure-handed direction of Abel Talamantez (who became the USCF Chess Organizer of the Year) and Dr. Judit Sztaray. Many tournaments and international matches were held, and I continued teaching, but now everything was on-line. We kept the Game Review class and Kevin joined for a while, but that particular class seemed to have little appeal and was soon dropped.

The online Chess Café was started.

We began a new series of online classes: The Art of Attack, based on Vukovic’s book, and The Art of Defense, taken from Polugaevsky and Damsky’s book. These were quite well-attended, and both went through a couple of revolutions. IM Sal Matera even audited my class on The Art of Defense, as research for possible online classes for the Marshall Chess Club.

I also subbed in at times, teaching youth classes taught by Abel and other coaches, but that was not really my interest. To be quite frank: I don’t know how kids learn! One minute they are looking into outer-space and (seemingly) ignoring you, the next they are crushing you, and it’s all very confusing...

There were two classes I taught during the lock-down phase of the pandemic that I enjoyed the most. The first was a class on endgames that was comprehensive and a challenge to put together, but it was well attended and saw the highest number of reincarnations – four, I believe. The second was a history of the World Championship matches. With a whopping 10 classes, and tons of games – I thought this would be a winner, but no: only one person signed on, and, bless her heart, she stuck it out to the end – and gave it a great review! I rather liked the class myself, but there’s no telling what will interest people, and what will stick.
Finally, towards the end of lock-down and before the MI opened its doors, I took over the Free Introduction to Chess Class for Mechanics’ Members, also started by Abel, with the point being to keep the MI community engaged and together. This has been a very popular class that’s a lot of fun to teach.

And yet.

“When will in-person classes start again?”

While some folks we’ve engaged with live too far away from the MI and cannot attend in-person classes, many others are tired of online classes. The “real” world just cannot be denied!

Chess has adapted very, very well to the online world. It’s easy to play, watch, and learn from numerous on-line platforms. Hybrid events, streaming content – chess is now undeniably everywhere, and steadily working its way into the world of entertainment.

And yet the Institute has opened its doors, with the pandemic either waning or here to stay (in one form or another), life goes on, and, however appealing is the online world, we are a “brick and mortar” chess club, with wooden tables and chess sets!

I myself have jumped at the return, brushing aside the possibility of working some hours from home. For me, the action is at work, with all the difficulties and pleasures that brings, such as commuting, going out to lunch and coffee breaks, seeing co-workers in person, hanging out with the chess club habitués, solving problems with Tony, and getting my hands dirty (in a matter of speaking).

And so, I will begin teaching the Free Introduction to Chess Class for Mechanics’ Members in-person again, right after Labor Day. I have put online classes on hold for now. To tell the truth, I am tired of Zoom meetings and classes. I’d rather use a demonstration board with my hands, risking dropping the pieces on the floor, than another shared screen with endless clicks of the mouse and worries that the Internet might go down.

Maybe Kevin will drop by.

https://www.milibrary.org/events/introduction-chess-free-person-class-mi-members-every-wednesday-september-7-through-october
At the August 15 gathering of newcomers and regulars at this story-telling, chess corner of the online universe, we celebrated Alexey Root for becoming again the Women’s Chess Champion of Texas over the weekend with two games on both Saturday and Sunday. She tied with Nicole Niemi and Brenda Hardesty for best overall score, but she won the championship on tiebreak. She had won it outright in 1998 and had tied for first with Nicole Niemi in 2019, who took the championship on tiebreak that year, the last such tournament until 2022. Beginning in 1998 the tournament ran for seven years, then had a hiatus from 2005-07 and another from 2009-17 before resuming for two years straight before the lockdown.

At least two newcomers, Austina, a bright spirit from the women’s class—who incidentally knows the store One Half on Polk Street north of Jackson, with its interesting items of all kinds at modest prices, including children’s school supplies. This is a place that Paul told me about.

Anton Maliev dropped by as well. He won the last TNM in the Under1800 Section by starting 6-0 and drawing the last round. At a rating of 1633 (with much recent growth), he is now near the top third of the 1800+ Section and beat 1900 players in the 4th and 5th rounds, before losing one to 2340 Conrado Diaz. We had a discussion of his win over Frederic Dutter.

Paul mentioned that he had just started a review of Alexey’s book on U.S. women’s champions when John Donaldson sent him his that ran in Newsletter 1026.

People bring their own water and coffee to this café. I guess I was trying to mix the best cappucino of planning when I mentioned how I’ve lost many games by not taking draws, and got back good advice from other habitués: Be objective . . . and assess your strength and energy level late in the game. Yes, yes.

What steps will be unexpected in this dance from opening to result? What is the jazz of chess, or the moving picture of each game? It isn’t losing again with dumb moves. When I or you get beat or beat ourselves, do we add that to the moving beat of current life, and how now? What move do you make here?

We looked at Alexey’s games against the other two first-place finishers in the Texas Women’s.

First with Nicole Niemi as white.

Paul: “It’s a Pirc becoming a Closed Sicilian. The black queen to b6 not so good.”
Alexey suggested . . . Nh4 and then . . . Qh4.

“Rb1 is interesting because it threatens b4.”

“Bg7 adds to the merit of the Rb1 and it makes moving the b-pawn important.”

“It also shows . . . Qb6 was a real lemon.”

“We’re all still playing chess here.”

“White has a plethora of good moves.”

Alexey: “White is preparing too much. . . . Qh4, my only fun moment in the game so far.”

Paul: “The move e3 solves all of black’s problems.”

Alexey: “It does. Nicole thought I had a resource here, . . . Qxg6 winning the knight; the black knight then forks the white king and queen. The computer put up a 0.23 advantage to white. I offered a draw, and she accepted it.”

Then her game as white against Brenda Hardesty, who plays Chigorin’s Defense, 1. d4 d5 2. c4 Nc6.

Michael: “Now we transpose into a Ragozin with . . . Bb4.”

By move 10, “This is going well for white now.”

Paul: “Getting ready for e4.” The move b4 helps prepare it.

“Instead of trying e5, I wanted to open it up.”

Black mistakenly took at d5 with a piece instead of a pawn, allowing Ne5 to attack both the Qd7 and the Nc6.

She had the two draws to go with her wins. “There was no entry fee, no money prizes, but they fed you constantly, which prevented the usual stress.”

Then there was my drawn game with Craig Yamamoto in the August Quads (G/30) on Saturday the 14th. My Dutch was effective, but I glossed over a strong timely move of my black N to d3. Later with Q and R on g8-h8 and N on h7 pressuring the king nearby on the back rank, I missed a winning move by overestimating white’s defense. I realized then it was the ghosts of chess who were deviling me and narrowing my heretofore clear vision.

The 4th game we watched was played by Kit, who said modestly at the beginning, “I only won because he blundered at the end.”

“Doesn’t matter,” said Paul.
Jordi1983 vs. CheshireCat41. He moved 0-0-0.

“All right, you know where your opponent’s king lives. . . . Black’s b5 not as good as . . . Nf3-e4 with the idea of Nf2. . . . 13. . . Nxe5 a mistake. Your game got really bad here. If NxN, the black queen pawn is under fire from the Nc3 and the Rd1.

“Keep that 1-2-3 punching sequence in mind. What do I do now? Always try to give them difficulties, pose them the most troubling questions you can.”

“18. Rhe1 returns the favor in spades.”

“I have a few more ‘duhs’ coming up, actually.”

It gets to queen and rook vs. queen. “Consider checks and captures first. The violent moves get the highest priority. Chess is a place where you’re constantly adding to your bag of tricks. If you keep looking and don’t give up, there are resources. You can really demoralize your opponent that way.”

Our 5th game on screen share was from 1973, Petrosian-Kuzmin (“a GM and great theoretician,” says Mike).

“This game has a move Kasparov, Fischer, or Tal never would have made: 17. Kh1, a prophylactic move that is not necessarily clear. A typical Petrosian move, in preparation for something. The other three players would look for something more active.”

Alexey: “Now if h3, Nge5; Bf4 pins the N. Black can’t play . . . Nxf3+.

Mike: “This is a Steve Brandwein move. He would see such tactics in blitz and make such a move and you wondered why.”

Paul: “Next week I’ll have another Petrosian game with a funny king move.”

Our 6th game was Sherwood-Walder in Berkeley, a tale of yes and no.

Elliott had arrived and fanned his sheath of scoresheets from Round 5 of the TNM.

Then Maliev vs. Xia. Anton said he studied the French Tarrasch and French Advance in preparation.

“14. . . g5 would have been very sharp for black.”

“Nb4xBd3, a psychological victory.”

“27. . . Qe2 a nice active defense born of necessity.”

The ending Q, N, and B vs. 2 R, B, and N; 5 to 5 in pawns.

“Black is living by the skin of his teeth.”
A.M.: “I had a lot of fun with this, but it was scary the entire way.”

“You once missed an opportunity to take a master’s scalp with Bxf6+.”

“Here he offered a draw. Thinking I could win, I refused. So with two minutes left, I played a5 and almost lost the game.”

At 5:36 p.m. Paul mentioned that on November 17 M.I. will have an author’s event with Alexey and her book on U.S. women champions. “It’ll be an interview. Laura sticks to an hour format, so if you go, be on time.”

Some people asked Elliott about his record against Kyron Griffith, the second-highest rated of the three IMs and two NMs in the Tuesday night tournament. (Paired in Round 6, they drew.)

Maliev had a Round 6 game the following day with Conrado Diaz.

Someone said, “He likes playing boring positions, right, Elliott?”

Paul cheered on Anton: “Don’t be intimidated by their ratings—go for the throat!”

Terri showed us a chess book (by a former UT student, Alexey noted), How to Study Chess on Your Own: Creating a Plan that Works . . . and Sticking to it by Davorin Kuljasevic.

Michael had corrected some copy that appeared here two or three weeks ago and in reply to my email expanded on one of his many events:

“I was invited to a training session by Elijah Logozar that ended up being him, GM Timur Garev, some FM unknown to me with a screen name I don't remember, and myself. Elijah plays the London System, and when I described my work on lines against it, he wanted to see the work, but I only showed him one. He exchanged ideas with me on what, as a London player, he would try against it.

“Anyway, Timur's approach was to start at a tabiya and try to find interesting ideas with the engine off. After establishing what we thought was a good line, we would sometimes turn the engine on to see if we missed some tactic.

“Gadir, by the way, is great at figuring out why the engines come up with some mysterious move, so that we both understand it.”

(Corrections are welcome and help us re-create and develop these dialogues, descriptions, and thoughts. Email oxygeneditions@gmail.com or chessroom@milibrary.org.)

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Appended below are a selection of games discussed in the Chess Café.
Niemi, Nicole (1703) - Root, Alexey (2000) [B26]
Texas Women's (3), 14.08.2022
1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.h3 0-0 6.d3 c5 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Nge2 Rb8 9.f4 e5

Yamamoto, Craig - Hack, Richard [A86]
August Quads, Group 6, 14.08.2022
1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.c4 d6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Qc2 e5 8.Nd5 Nc6 9.d5 Nb4
24.Ra2 h6 25.Rb1 g5 26.hxg5 hxg5 27.Bf1 Ne5 28.Bg2 Rab8 29.Rb5 Qh5 30.Qe2 Nf3+
31.Kf1 Nh2+ 32.Ke1 Bc3+ 33.Kd1 Ng4 34.Kc2 Bf6 35.Kd1 Qh2 36.Bf1 Qg1 37.Rb1 Rf7
38.Rc2 Rh7 39.Qe1 Rh1 40.Qe2 Rh2 41.Ke1 Rh1 42.Kd2 Nh2 43.Bb2 ½-½

Jordi1983 (896) - CheshireCat41 (865) [C01]
Live Chess Chess.com, 15.08.2022
g6 23.Qc6 Re2 24.Qc8+ Kg7 25.a4 bx4 26.Qc4 Rd2 27.b5 axb5 28.Qxb5 Rxd1+
29.Kb2 Rb1+ 30.Ka3 Rxb5 31.Kxa4 Rb8 CheshireCat41 won by resignation 0-1

Tigran Vartanovich Petrosian - Gennadi Kuzmin [E54]
USSR Championship Moscow URS (2), 03.10.1973
10.dxc5 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Qa5 12.a4 Nbd7 13.c6 bxc6 14.Qc2 c5 15.e4 Qc7 16.Re1 Ng4
17.Kh1 Re8 18.h3 Ng6 19.e5 Nd5 20.Ng5 Ng8 21.f4 Bb7 22.Ne4 Ng6 23.Qf2 Nb6 24.Bf1
31.Bxf5 exf5 32.Qxf5 Nxc3 33.Rc4 ½-½

Maliev, Anton (1633) - Xia, Yusheng (2275) [C05]
MI Peter Grey TNM: 1800+ San Francisco (5.3), 09.08.2022
31.Qe3 Nxc5 32.Qxe2 Bd7 33.g4 Re8 34.Qf3 Bc6 35.Qc3 b6 36.g5 Re1+ 37.Kf2 Re5
38.gxf6 Rxf6 39.Be3 Rfxf5+ 40.Ke2 Be8 41.Kd1 Kg8 42.Bd4 Bh5+ 43.Kc1 Re1+ 44.Kb2
Kf7 45.Qg3 Re7 46.Qd6 Ne4 47.Nxe4 dxe4 48.Qxb6 Bg6 49.Be3 Rd5 50.Qb8 Rd7
51.Qf4+ Ke6 52.h4 Rd3 53.h5 Bf5 54.Qh6+ Kd5 55.Qb6 Ke5 56.Qxa5+ Kf6 57.Qc5
R7d5 58.Qf8+ Ke6 59.Qe8+ Kf6 60.Qf8+ Ke6 ½-½
Tony’s Teasers

   White mates in two moves.

   White mates in three moves.
**Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches**

Are you interested in joining the team at MI? The MI Chess Club is currently seeking Scholastic Chess Instructors for the upcoming school year. Qualified candidates should have a foundational knowledge of chess and should be familiar with or willing to learn chess instructional techniques. Candidates should also have a basic foundation in classroom management and conflict resolution strategies, particularly working with children. This is an in-person position and candidates must be able to commute to schools in San Francisco. If you’re interested follow the link below or reach out to our Chess Program Manager, Alex Robins, at arobins@milibrary.org.  
[Employment Opportunities | Mechanics' Institute (milibrary.org)]

**August Scholastic & Quads**

On August 13th, the Mechanics’ Institute hosted its monthly double-header of Scholastic Swiss in the morning, Quads in the afternoon.

17 players showed up for the Scholastic in two sections: **Ethan Liu** took the top place in the 700+ section with 3.5 points out of 4, while clear 2nd went to **Sebastian Ghoussaini** with 3 points.

The under 700 section was won by **Juny Tranel** with a perfect 4-0 score, while **Oliver Wallace** and **Altair Sabitov** tied for 2nd-3rd with 3 points each.

For full results and standings, plus the link to register for the next Scholastic Swiss on September 10th, go here: [https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institutemonthly-scholastic-swiss-person](https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institutemonthly-scholastic-swiss-person)

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There was a nice turnout for the Quads, with 52 players competing in 12 sections.  
Expert **Theodore Coyne** won the top Quad with 2.5 from 3.

For full results and standings, plus the link to register for the next Quads on September 10th, go here: [https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championshipquads](https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championshipquads)
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 is from 606 Puzzles for Chess Nuts (2008), p.15; puzzle 3. By Fred Wilson and Bruce Albertston.

White to play and win. A relatively simple example of the deadly “pin”.

- Upcoming Events -

Tournaments:

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
16th B. Smith Memorial G/40;d5  
Saturday August 20, 2022. 4 games of G/40;d5.  
Information and link to register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/16th-smith-memorial-championship

September Monthly Championship Quads  
Saturday, September 10 2022, 3PM. 3 games of G/40;d5.  
Information and link to register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads

Mechanics’ Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person  
Saturday September 10, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5  
Information and link to register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-monthly-scholastic-swiss-person

USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com  
Saturday August 20, 3PM. 6 games of G/15+2  
Saturday August 27, 3PM. 6 games of G/10+2  
Monday September 5, 3PM. 6 games of G/15+2  
Information and links to register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2022-chesskidcom

Vladimir Naroditsky Memorial TNM  
Tuesday, September 6, 2022 to Tuesday, October 18, 2022. 6:30PM. USCF + FIDE Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5  
Information and link to register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/vladimir-naroditsky-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon

2022 San Francisco Scholastic Championship - Online  
Sunday September 11 2022  
Annual heritage event for our scholastic community! Free event on chesskid.com and chess.com  
Information and link to register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2022-san-francisco-scholastic-championship-online

Free Women’s Online Class with FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams  
Every Sunday from 10AM – 12PM.  
Information: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class  
Registration: https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Classes/FREEWomensOnlineChessClassSundays1012
Solutions to Tony’s Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Bd3! Intending 2.Qc5#. 1...f5 2.Nd5#. 1...a4 2.Rc4#. 1...Bc3 2.Nc2#.

Problem #2: 1.Bd6! Intending 2.Qc7 and 3.Qb8#. 1...Bg3 (1...Bxa7 2.Qg2#! or 1...Bc5

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

With over 3,000 books and periodicals, The Mechanics’ Institute boasts one of the largest chess book collections in the U.S.

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