Peter Grey Memorial TNM Round Seven: Final Report.

IM Kyron Griffith defeated NM Conrado Diaz and took clear 1st in the top section with an undefeated 5.5-1.5 score. Finishing in the money with a tie for 2nd – 4th were NM Yusheng Xia, who took down IM Elliott Winslow, and Experts Abhishek Handigol and Theodore James Coyne who defeated Max Hao and Nathan Fong respectively. The best under 2000 prize was split between Om Chinchwadker and Max Hao, while the best under 1800 prize went to Christopher Powers.

Steve Sobel won the under 1800 section with an impressive 6.5-1/2 score, defeating Yonathan Admassu in the final round. 2nd place went to Dominic Zirbel with 6 points, and 3rd to Paul Henry Reed with 5.5. The best under 1600 saw a three-way split between Romeo Barreyro, Richard Hack, and Timothy Bayaraa, while Christian Brickhouse was best under 1400.

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

The Vladimir Naroditsky Memorial TNM starts up September 6th. Information and registration here: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/vladimir-naroditsky-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5
4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 The classic "Knights Before Bishops" approach. Nowadays the repertoire books go with more specific lines:
   [ 5.Bd2 (Negy) ]
   [ and 5.Bc4 (Shaw) have both been seen in various TNM games, with Black mostly holding his own. ]
5...c6 6.Bc4 Bf5 7.Bd2 Qb6
Rare here.
   [ 7...e6 "allows"
     A) 8.Qe2 Bb4!? ( 8...Qc7!; 8...Nbd7! );
     B) 8.Nd5 Qd8 9.Nxf6+
        B1) 9...Qxf6!? 10.Qe2!? Bxc2!?
        As some notes by Karsten Mueller went, this move "spielt mit dem Feurer." 11.0-0!? ( 11.d5; 11.Bc3!? );
        B2) 9...gxf6!? ]
   [ 7...Nbd7 8.Qe2 Qc7 has been seen in Carlsen and Grischuk rapid games, not to mention a few Esipenko "Titled Tuesday" blitz games ]
8.Qe2 e6 9.0-0-0 Bb4?! 10.Nh4
Kyron stays true to the classic formula.
   [ 10.Ne5!? Already seen a few times when Kramnik also toted it out to beat Malakhov in 2004. ]

(Diagram)

10...0-0 Diaz hopes the pawns on light will provide some central control and maybe even a nice square for a knight or two, but Griffith earns his first place with a textbook display of putting the steeds in their place.
   [ 10...Bg6 11.a3 Bxc3 12.Bxc3 Nbd7 13.d5!? cxd5 14.Bxd5 0-0-0? 15.Bf3 The computers have learned from Steinitz: Black is lost, the knights without outposts will be no match for the bishops. ]
11.Nxf5 exf5 12.Qd3
   [ 12.a3! when the queen might prefer f3 if the N/f6 has moved other than e4. ]
12...g6?!
[ 12...Nbd7! Black wouldn't mind trading f- for d-pawn, although certainly White has other trumps. ]

13.a3 Stockfish won't let go of
[ 13.h4!? But Kyron takes the "give him some rope" approach, and sure enough, Conrado gently unravels on the kingside anyway. ]

13...Bxc3 14.Bxc3 Nd5 15.Bd2 Nd7

16.Ba2
[ 16.h4! again! ]

16...N7f6 17.c4 Nc7 18.f3 Readying play on the long diagonal 18...Ne6

19.Bc3 Nh5

20.g3 By now everything wins! Griffith remains strategically consistent. 20...c5?! Doing White's work for him. 21.dxc5 Nxc5 22.Qd4 f6 23.b4 Ne6 24.c5 Qc6 25.Bc4 Again, there were many more incisive wins, but Kyron chose to accentuate just how bad Black's game is. Diaz resigned from frustration. 1-0
c5?!
  [ 16...Nh5! ]
17.dxc6?!
  [ 17.bxc5!? bxc 18.Be3 White has growing pressure against Black's pawn structure, between Ra1, Nb5 and possible sacrifices on c5 ]
17...Nxc6 18.Be3
  [ 18.Bg5 ]
18...Be6?
22.Qd3! Qb7?
  [ 22...Neg8 ]
23.Nd2!+– b5? Bad moves haven't worked; maybe simple oversights?
  [ 31.Nc4 ]
31...Nfd7 32.Bxd7 Nxd7 33.Rc7 Nf6 34.b6 Ne8 35.Rc2 Bf6 36.h4 Kg7 37.Rb1 h6 38.Bxf6+ Nxf6 39.b7 Nd7 40.Rc7 1-0
1. Nf3  c5  2.e3  d5  3.b3  Nf6  4.Bb2  g6

5.c4  Bg7  6.cxd5  0-0  
[ 6...Qxd5 ]
10.Bd3  Na6  11.e4  Nb4  12.Qb1  Bg4
13.Be2  e6  14.a3  Bxc3  15.dxc3  Nxd5
16.exd5  Qxc3+  17.Kf1  exd5  18.Qc1
Qf6  19.Ra2  Rac8  20.Qg5  Qe6  21.h3
Bf5  22.Kg1  Qb6  23.Kh2  Qxb3
24.Qd2  d4  25.Rc1

Be6  
[Black has a fantastic saving line: 25...d3!!  26.Rc3 (allowing ... Qd5 and ...
c4 isn't recommended) Qb6!  
27.Bxd3  Rfd8  28.Qe3  Qd6+  29.Ne5
Be6  30.Re2  c4  31.Bb1  f6  32.Qg3
fxe5  33.Bxg6!  Rc7!± Black's king isn't
exposed enough to matter with careful
defence. ]
26.Rb2  Qxa3  27.Rxb7  Rfd8  28.Qh6
Rb8  29.Rcb1  Rxb7  30.Rxb7

29.Qxe6+  Kf8  30.Qe8+  
[ 30.Nxe6+  Qxe6  (34...Kxe6]
35.\text{Qh}4+ ) 35.\text{Qh}8+ Ke7 36.\text{Rb}8 ]
34...\text{Ke}7 35.\text{Ne}4 \text{Qd}5
[ 35...\text{Rxb}7 36.\text{Qf}6+ \text{Kd}7 37.\text{Nxd}6 Kxd6 38.\text{Bxc}4 ]
36.\text{Rxd}7+
[ 36.\text{Qf}6+! Ke8 37.\text{Rb}8+ Rd8 38.\text{Bxc}4 ]
36...\text{Qxd}7 37.\text{Qh}4+ \text{Kf}8

38.\text{Nf}6?!
[ 38.\text{Nc}5 \text{Qd}6 39.\text{Nxe}6+ \text{Qxe}6
( 39...\text{fxe}6 40.\text{Qf}6+ Ke8 41.\text{Bxc}4 )
40.\text{Qd}8+ \text{Qe}8 41.\text{Qxe}8+ Kxe8 42.\text{Bxc}4-- ]
38...\text{Qd}6 39.\text{Qh}8+ \text{Ke}7 40.\text{Ne}4 \text{Qd}7
41.\text{Qh}4+ \text{Kf}8 42.\text{Qh}6+ \text{Ke}7 43.\text{Qg}5+ \text{Kf}8 44.\text{Qc}5+
[ 44.\text{Nc}5 ]
44...\text{Kg}7 45.\text{Qe}5+ \text{Kf}8 46.\text{Qc}5+ \text{Kg}7 47.\text{Bxc}4 \text{Bxc}4 48.\text{Qxc}4 \text{Qd}8 49.\text{Nc}5 \text{Qd}6 50.\text{Nb}3 d3 51.\text{Qc}3+ \text{Kg}8 52.\text{Nd}4 \text{Qa}6 53.\text{Nb}3 \text{Qd}6 54.\text{Qd}2 Kg7 55.\text{Nc}1 a5 56.\text{Nxd}3 a4 57.\text{Qc}3+ \text{Kf}8 58.\text{Nb}2 a3 59.\text{Nc}4 \text{Qc}5 60.\text{Qxa}3
1-0

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{chess_board.png}
\caption{Chess board with moves played.}
\end{figure}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{chess_board_diagram.png}
\caption{Diagram of chess board with moves played.}
\end{figure}

The data cruncher likes Ne2 or Nh3 better (+1.20) either choice. 5...\text{b}6 6.\text{c}4 \text{Bb}7 7.\text{Nc}3 \text{Qe}7 8.\text{Nf}3 0-0-0

(Diagram)
Although Black is already castled and has more pieces developed, the B on f8 hinders the rest of his development in the game. The toaster gives (+2.10) for White.

9.Be2 g5 10.Qa4 a5 11.d5 Ne5 12.Nd4 f4

Black begins his assault with the f4 push.

13.Nf5 Qe8 14.e4 d6

(Diagram)

This move invites an exchange of queens which White accepts. 15.Qxe8 Rxe8 16.b4 Kd8 17.bxa5 bxa5 18.Rb1 Ba6

A mistake that loses time. 19.c5! Bc8 20.Bb5 Nd7

(Diagram)
What should White play? How to continue? 21.Nd4! Ke7 22.cxd6+ Fixing Black’s pawn structure to impede the B on f8 from developing later. 22...cxd6 23.0-0 Kf7 24.Bxd7 Bxd7 25.Rb7 Re7 26.Rb1 Bg4 Trying to find a square for the B, but this helps White to consolidate his structure. 27.f3 Bh5 28.Nf5 Rxb7 29.Rxb7+ Kg8

What would you play here for White? 30.Nb5 [The silver box states that 30.e5!! (clearance!) is +10.50, and it’s more of a fire sale: dxe5 31.Ne4

White wins the piece right back, and Black is still locked down. ]
30...h6 31.Nbd6 Rh7 32.Rxh7 Kxh7 33.Nb7 Should Black take on a3 or push his a pawn? 33...Bxa3 34.Nxa5 Be8 35.g4 h5 36.h3 h4 37.Kg2 Kg6 38.Nc6 Kf7

White is winning in all variations, and yet chooses the least favorable continuation. Also, 2N vs 2B ending in which the knights are better is unusual. 39.e5?± [ 39.Nfd4 Kf8 40.e5!+- fxe5 41.Ne6+ when g5 falls, the rest follow. ]
39...fxe5 40.Nxe5+ Kf6 41.Nc4 Bc5?!
42.Nd2 Ke5 43.Ne4 Kxd5??
[ 43...Ba3 44.Nxg5 Kxd5 45.Ne4 Bg6± ]

43...Kxd5 loses a piece to the 44.Nf6 check, so Black resigned.
1-0
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Be7 5.Bg2 c5?! This will be a suspect Benoni with Black's bishop passively placed on e7. 6.d5 exd5 7.cxd5 d6 8.Nc3 White has some other options with the knights, but this is simple enough. 8...0-0 9.Nf3 h6 10.e4?!

[ 10.0-0 Typically White puts everything else in order, so that when the pawns advance in the center they're well backed up. ]

10...a6 11.a4 Bg4 12.Qb3 Qc7 13.0-0 Nbd7 14.Rfe1 c4 15.Qc2 Rfe8

16.Be3 Ne5?! 17.Nxe5 dxe5 Curiously not all that bad compared to the usual bishop at g7 Benoni's -- there the pawn on e7 blocks the bishop in, here it lets the bishop (on e7) out!

18.f4?!

Once again a bit too impetuous -- but Black accommodates and gives White just what he wants!

[ 18.a5! ]

18...exf4??

[ 18...Bd7‡ keeps White's center from becoming a dangerous mobile three pawns -- and might (computer here) even favor Black a bit. 19.fxe5 Qxe5 ]

19.gxf4+- Black has caved in, and gets desperate. 19...Bc5 20.Qf2 Bxe3

21.Qxe3 Bh5?! (That's no place for the bishop!)

22.e5 Nde7 23.Ne4

[ 23.d6! (d5 is an even better square for the knight) ]
Ted was positionally lost in any case; this just adds material to the (im)balance. But it does impart some confusion, which eventually works on Daniel. 24.fxe5 Qxe5 25.Qc3 Qc7 26.d6 Qb6+ 27.Kh1 Rad8 28.Qxc4 Bg6 29.d7 Re5 30.a5! So often in Benonis and Catalans it's about a late-game pawn at b7 (and a6) in trouble, with more passed pawns for Black to worry about. 30...Qe6 31.Qxe6 fxe6 32.Nd6! Rxe1+ 33.Rxe1 Rxd7 34.Nxb7 Completely winning. But Perlov allows a tactic by Porlares, which shouldn't even be enough, and loses his way.

34...Rc7
[ 34...Rd2 35.Nc5 Rxb2 36.Ra1! One a-pawn goes, the other queens. ]

35.Nd8
[ 35.Ra1! and b4-b5. Quality (a5-pawn!) over quantity (Black's pawns don't get far enough). ]

35...e5 36.Bd5+ Kh8 37.Rxe5?! Rd7

23...Nxe5?! Last chance! 38.Nc6?? White conspires with Black to produce...
[ 38.Bc4! ]
[ 38.Bb7! ]

38...Rxd5! ... a total train wreck! And it's suddenly a dead draw. "0.00" everywhere in the computer "Kibitzer" window. 39.Kg1
[ 39.Rxd5 Be4+ 40.Kg1 Bxd5 looks like some sort of chance, but no. The bishop deftly works both side of the board, defending a6 and supporting a pawn advance. When all is said and done White won't have any pawns left. ]

39...Rd1+ 40.Kf2 Rd2+ 41.Re2 ½-½

Ng4 33.Bxg4 Be5 34.Rxe3 Qh2+ 35.Kf2 Rf7+ 36.Bf3 Bc7 37.Qe6 Qf4 38.Rd1 Qh4+ 39.Ke2 Qc4+ 40.Rdd3 d4 41.Qxc4 bxc4 42.Rxd4 Bb6 1-0

15.Ne2
[ 15.e4!+- ]
15...a5 16.Ra1 Nd7 17.Ng3=
[ 17.a4?!± ]
17...e5! 18.e4!? exd4?
19.exd5 cxd5

20. Bxb5?? Why is this so bad?  
[ 20.Nh5!+ ]  
[ 20.Rae1!+- And these so good? ]  
20...d3!-+ That's why! 21.Qxd3 Bxa1  
22.Rxa1 axb4 23.Qxd5 Rxa3?!  
Still winning, but gives White a dream...  
[ 23...Ra5! 24.Bxd7 Rxc5!+  
Best but hardly necessary. ]  
24.Rxa3?  
[ 24.Rd1!? Ra5! (or 24...b3 ) 25.Ne5  
Nxe5! 26.Qxd8+ Qxd8 27.Rxd8+  
Kh7 28.Bf1 (28.Rxc8 Rxb5 29.c6  
b3 30.c7 b2  

31.Rh8+ Kxh8 32.c8Q+ Kh7

33.Qc2+ g6 34.Qb1 Nc4  
White's pawn queened but at the cost  
of a rook. Black's pawn will queen  
and it will cost ... White's queen! )  
24...bxa3 Can't White play 25.Rd1 --  
where'd all the rooks go?? (I really had  
that thought as I was entering and  
writing up the game! )  
25.c6 Nf6  
[ 25...Ne5! is snazzier, but they're both  
quite good. ]  
26.Qc5 a2 27.Qc1 Qa5 28.c7 Rd6  
29.Qa1 Qxb5 30.Qxa2 Rd1+  
0-1  

A00  
Starr, Albert Martin 1500  
Bayaraa, Timothy 1442  
MI Peter Grey TNM: u1800 (7.16) 23.8.22  
[ Winslow, Elliott ]  

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6  
This is one of the main Book Lines  
against the Orangutan. It is somewhat  
curious, why would Black give up a  
major center pawn for the b-pawn. But  
there are other issues... 4.c4 Nc6  
5.Bc3 0-0 6.d3 d5 7.Qb3 a5 8.a3  
11.Qb5 Nd4 12.Qb2 Re8 13.e4
Ng4!? Looking to send the f-pawn into battle!

[The computer suggests more serious reinforcements: 13...Ra6!]

14.Nge2 f5?!

[14...Ne5! turns out to be plenty (weak pawn at d3! And b3 beckons as well...) and best. 15.Nxd4 Qxd4 16.Rd1 b5!+ Oh yes, and the outside majority...]

15.g3?? Nf3+ 16.Kd1 Nxf2+ 17.Kc1 Nxd3+

0-1

C55

Tam, Hoa Long 1306
Blum, Paul 979
MI Peter Grey TNM: u1800 (7.28) 23.8.22
[Tam, Hoa-Long]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 h6

[3...Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.0-0 d6
7.h3 a6 8.Re1]


7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Qd3 0-0 9.f3

[9.0-0 Bxc3 10.Qxc3 Nxe4 11.Qf3]

9...d5 10.e5


10...Re8

[10...Nd7 11.Bb3 Nxe5]

11.Bf4

[11.f4 Ng4 12.Bb3 Qh4+ 13.g3
Nxe5 14.fxe5 Rxe5+ 15.Kf2 Bc5+]

11...Nh5 12.Qd4 Qh4+ 13.g3 Nxg3

14.0-0-0 Nhx1 15.Bb3 Nf2 16.Rf1

Nh3 17.Ne2

[17.Be3 Qxd4 18.Bxd4 Bxc3
19.Bxc3]

17...Nxf4 18.Nxf4 Qxh2

[18...g5 19.Qxb4 Qxf4+]


22.Qc3 Bxd3 23.Qxd3 Rae8 24.Qc3
R8e4 25.a3 Rxh4 26.Rd1 Rfe4

27.Qxc6 Qf4+

[27...Re1 28.Qxd5 Rxd1+ 29.Qxd1]
FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is Everywhere.

MI Chess Café habitué Suki K. writes in:

“Just saw this on NextDoor. If anyone at Mechanics’ would like it let me know and I’ll nab it and bring it into the club :-) I’ve never pondered a collision of the fraternity and chess worlds but I suppose this would be it.”

Here is the attached posting:

And we had this recent missive from Katherine C.:

“Hi Paul: I think the Chess Café really needs its own coffee mug. I propose this: ‘The unexamined chess game is not worth playing.’ – Socrates (sort of).”

We could not agree more.

Around the globe:

Chess brightens the world of a nursing home in Perrysburg, OH: https://www.wtol.com/article/life/heartwarming/game-of-chess-turns-into-much-more-for-nursing-home-residents-community-perrysburg/512-4cf1b4f4-a121-4ed4-a1a5-6636deeadcfd

Indian food company Amul celebrates GM Praggnanandhaa’s recent successes with a ‘rapid breakfast’:
Chess is never far from politics, as a Lebanese player withdraws from an event in the UAE when paired with an Israeli:

There is a Hip-Hop Chess Club in Milwaukee, WI:

Scholastic chess coaches are wanted in Virginia:
https://shoredailynews.com/headlines/scholastic-chess-group-to-resume-play/

Finally, a California inmate recalls playing chess with both Sirhan Sirhan and Charles Manson:

Kevin Sun is in the news again!

A heartfelt thanks to Kevin’s dad, Sun Conkai, who sent in this picture in with a note:

“Beautiful memory! This picture was taken when Kevin just started learning chess, about 3 years ago :)”
The Institute is very excited about the article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the main daily paper of our fair town. We appeared in the Sunday 8/21/2022 on-line edition: https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/downtown-san-francisco-chess-17384813.php

Here are some other *S.F. Chronicle* articles about chess from recent years:

On George Koltanowski:

On the scarcity of chess sets:

On the winning US Olympiad Team of 2016:

The Tuesday Night Marathon was profiled seven years ago:

The MI was consulted on the state of women’s chess around the Netflix series “The Queen’s Gambit“:
https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/movies-tv/will-netflixs-queens-gambit-bring-more-women-to-chess-s-f-team-weighs-in

From the *Chronicle’s* YouTube channel, a profile of chess players on Berkeley’s Telegraph Avenue:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKWzILBJDCs

Chessdryad has a whole archive of newspaper articles on chess, including *S.F. Chronicle* articles dating back to 1949. Check it out here:
http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/articles/index.htm

Here is just one sample, featuring local master Dennis Fritzinger as he plans to “Reap The Chess Craze”. From July, 1972:
Some Recent Games

A small collection of games played around the world in the last week that caught our attention:

**Magnus Carlsen (2864) - Hans Moke Niemann (2687) [B31]**

FTX Crypto Cup Miami, FL USA (2.1), 16.08.2022


[Diagram]


**Magnus Carlsen - Anish Giri [A48]**

FTX Crypto Cup Miami, FL USA (1.4), 15.08.2022


[Diagram]

R Praggnanandhaa (2661) - Magnus Carlsen (2864) [A40]
FTX Crypto Cup Miami, FL USA (7.4), 21.08.2022


Gunina, Valentina (2469) - Hou, Yifan (2650) [D38]
Women's Speed Chess Championship Main Ev Chess.com (40), 22.08.2022

Harry Grieve (2390) - Daniel W Gormally (2466) [B63]
Chessable British Championship Torquay ENG (6.3), 18.08.2022


Anton Guijarro, David (2668) - Arjun, Kalyan (2513) [C78]
Abu Dhabi International Chess Festival Chess.com (8), 24.08.2022

20.bxc3 d5 21.Ne4 Qc6 22.Nxf6 Qxc3 23.Qg7 1-0.
The Bernardo Smith Memorial drew 40 players for this 1-day 4 round G/40;d5 tournament. We had a great mix of Mechanics’ regulars and some new players playing in their first event at Mechanics’ Institute.

The top section had 10 players, but it was a competitive group. Expert Theo Coyne (2113) continues to inch closer to the NM title with a solid 3/4 performance, tying for 1st place with Adam Rosenthal (1966).

In the under 1800 section, Adam Stevens (1582) was the only perfect score in the 30-player section, a half point better than Matthew Ma (1407), who took sole 2nd place with 3.5/4. Special shout-out to Adam, as this tournament puts him over the 1600 rating mark.

This event was held in honor of Bernardo Smith, here is a brief bio from IM John Donaldson from Mechanics’ Chess Newsletter #759:

Bernardo Smith (1877–1952) was an important organizer and tournament director for the Mechanics’ Institute from the 1900s to the 1920s. By profession a musician and music teacher, he served as the captain for San Francisco in several of its telegraph matches with Los Angeles.

You can find a picture of Smith just before you enter the M.I. Chess Room. He is in the group photograph of the participants of the Western Chess Association championship that was held at the Mechanics’ in 1923 (he served as the tournament director).

Thank you to all the participants!
Abel has been on a roll lately: undefeated in his last nine games, he’s won six in a row largely due to fearless and aggressive play like this:

**Abel Talamantez** (1800) – **Joe Urquhart** (1972) [E10]
16th B. Smith Memorial, 20.08.2022
[Notes by FM Paul Whitehead]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.e3 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.d5 exd5 8.cxd5 d6 9.h3 a6 10.a4 b6 11.0-0 Bb7?! The bishop has little future here. Better were 11...Nbd7 or 11...Re8. 12.e4 Nbd7 13.Bg5 Qc7 14.Qd2 Rfe8 15.Rae1. White makes no bones about his aggressive intentions. 15...Rab8. 15....c4! 16.Bc2 Nc5 seems the right way to play. 16.Bh6 Ne5 17.Nxe5 Rxe5 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.f4. Black is getting over-run here. 19...Re8 20.f5!? 20.Bc4! Nd7 21.e5! might even be stronger. 20...h6? This weakening move leads to total disaster. Black should rush to the defense with 20...Qe7, 20...Rf8, 20...Re5, or even 20...Ng8. 21.fxg6 fxg6.

22.Rxf6!! A crushing move that lays bare the black king. 22...Kxf6 23.Qxh6 Ke7 24.e5! Abel was proud of this move, and rightly so: every white piece joins in the attack. 24...Kd8 25.Bxg6 Qe7 26.Bxe8 Qxe8 27.Qxd6+ Kc8 28.Rf1! 1-0.

A great game by the former MI Chess Room Director.
Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Cafe

Paul said to Mike Walder, “You’re the only person who sent in any games.”

I reminded him of one of two I sent last week that we didn’t get to. He went and got it pretty fast. I like the fact that in the last issue of this periodical, he included the scores of all the games we watched and talked about at the previous meeting on August 15. Now he made another pitch for games:

“If you play at an online platform, save your game as a PGN file. You can send us the link to the game, and we’ll play it on the screen here and discuss it. Or if you copy it as a .txt file, you can send that to us.”

When asked for a cross-table for the 2022 Texas Women’s Championship, Alexey provided a link to the one newly put up at U.S. Chess. I went there afterward and saw there were 9 players who competed for 4 rounds on Aug. 13-14, and there was 1 extra game in each of the first 3 rounds, including one with a man competing against one of the women.

“Post-tournament revisionism took away my sole champion title; now they’re calling all three of us co-champions. They went back and did the same with my first-place tie in 2019 when I didn’t win the tiebreak.” She did take the championship outright in the first such tournament in 1998.

Paul: “Stephen, did you play chess during your visit?”

“No, my friends don’t play chess.”

12 people had arrived by 4:05 p.m. There were 14 later.

Alexey’s interview at MI on Nov. 17 will occur on Zoom.

I did a reading early in the session from an analyst of the so-called Neo-Freudian school, Donald Winnicott, many of whose patients were children. I used five short excerpts from a 10-page section of the short book Playing and Reality.

For example: “The thing about playing is always the precariousness of the interplay of personal psychic reality and the experience of control of actual objects. This is the precariousness of magic itself, magic that arises… in a relationship that is being found to be reliable…

“The precariousness of play belongs to the fact that it is always on the theoretical line between the subjective and that which is objectively perceived...

“Playing is essentially satisfying. This is true even when it leads to a high degree of anxiety. There is a degree of anxiety that is unbearable and this destroys playing.”
Just a bit before this section, he wrote, “Psychotherapy has to do with two people playing together. The corollary of this is that where playing is not possible then the work done by the therapist is directed towards bringing the patient from a state of not being able to play into a state of being able to play.” Although I am able to play, this still might mean I could use a chess analyst, like many other folks.

“This is why the chess club will always live on,” Paul noted, “by keeping us related to childhood.”

Austina said she and her kids play. “It’s fun but debilitating in a way. For example, how do you control the panic?” She explained a little more.

Mike: “Know that nobody plays perfectly.”

Paul: “We’re all winning and losing at the same time.”

Mike: “I compared Tuesday night’s blunder to Kramnik and Tarjan. I had tried this intriguing line. Elliott thought it was more like two C-players. Thanks a lot, I said.”

Trish: “I’m glad Paul mentioned impulsiveness. It’s easy to get your momentum going too fast and then you blunder.”

The first game we looked at was Cardoso-Petrosian, 1975. Paul said Petrosian was famous for his king walks (and exchange sacs, Elliott added). “This is, I think, the most outrageous example of that.”

The game opened 1. e4 c5, an unusual choice for him. “He played the Caro-Kann and the French, which conformed more to his motto of don’t lose at any cost.”

At about move 6, g4 for white.

“The Keres spike attack.”

“My favorite weapon.”

There were white pawns at h5 and g5. It was dangerous for black to castle on either side.

“Here is the clear black strategy in the Sicilian of rook to c4, halfway down that file. Sometimes moving pawns in front of the king as an explosive defensive technique, blowing the position open to your advantage. After g6, fxg6 instead of dooming his bishop and knight. Knight gets the f6 square. The eccentric move . . . Qa8.

“Now we’re going to see …Kd7, …Ke6.”

Elliott: “The computer says Petrosian is lost. If white plays Rh5 to cut off the escape square f5 while Qf7 check is threatened.”
After that check we see... Kf5 because the rook went to g3 instead of h5. Then he really gets out in no-man’s-land.

“White has tried to surround the black king, but you see him now beat a retreat, and as the rook and queen check him, he gets back to g8.”

Paul: “A fun game and a flawed game, as all games are.”

Second was a short game by Alexey. A French Defense, Ft. Knox variation.

“6... Nf6 is wrong here. I needed... Nd7.”

A nice tactic on the long diagonal a8-h1: white queen at b7, black queen at d5, then white bishop to e4. White to play and win.

“I sat around waiting—will she play Qd2?” After which black cannot play Qxd4, for Bb5+ wins the black queen.

“An important part of my regular experience is combining chess and swimming. My opponent and her mom invited me to their room, then to use the pool outside.”

Game 3 was Michael Walder vs. Paetz, which opened 1. c4.

Paul: “If white plays d4 here, then... exd4; Qxd4, Na6 intending ...Bc5.”

Michael: “By move 5 a large advantage for white. My job is to tie down black’s bishops. 7... e4 is a mistake.”

Paul: “Sometimes when there’s no clear path to victory, you still have to play well and improve your position, maximize and optimize your pieces.”

Mike answered a question about the chess rivalry with Elliott. “We’ve played 42 games, 41 since 1991. I’ve won 6 with 20 draws.” Later Paul said he believed his own score with Elliott was 4-4.

Game 4 was my contest as white against Jeffrey Dallatezza in Round 2 of the August 13 Quads. I had a good situation staring at me: a clear advantage with an extra pawn and doubled rooks on the queen file after trading queens, but I didn’t go into it by taking the pawn on d6 with my queen backed up by one rook, but I felt I had to see just how I was going to win and didn’t follow the promising line I was offered. Instead I attacked the pawn again with my bishop, which wasn’t bad; but I rushed a little and passively let a knight be sacrificed for two pawns and only a bit of an attack. Perhaps you can guess the final result.

Later I remembered a note by Gelfand to one of his games, where he achieved a forward pawn structure and good piece position. Feeling sure he would have a good attack based on this, and not feeling it necessary at that point to formulate a detailed plan, he took the time to make two or three of those “useful moves” of prophylaxis and
piece improvement before launching a campaign against the enemy king. He said one of
his teachers told him to make such moves whenever he could.

There were good comments on the opening. Against black’s Najdorf Sicilian white
employed 6. Bc4, which Mike said is “not popular at all now.” When I asked about that,
he said, “I think Gelfand came up with good lines against it in the ’80s.” Elliott said white
can play Be3, Bg5, h3, and others. Paul said instead of 8. f3, white can play Be3, Qe2,
and O-O-O, as Velimirovich often did. When black took the white bishop at b3, he
suggested taking back the queen knight with the c-pawn, not the a-pawn, because the
black rook was not at c8. “Then move Kb1, Rc1, and Rd1 with a nice position.”

Elliott also mentioned the game Fischer-Byrne, perhaps at Sousse 1967, where “in
a sense Fischer refuted his own opening.”

There was more as we wound down to adjournment.

Someone said about a past encounter, “I lost the game but won the post-mortem.”
A common but curious term, someone said. I asked if maybe the post-mortem was the
afterlife. Paul thought that was an interesting transposition.

Kit: “We need a chess café mug.”

Someone suggested we might put on it a slightly altered version of a statement
attributed to Socrates or Plato. It was hard to gauge the general response to that.

But there will be more, much more food for thought.

A couple of games discussed in the Chess Café:

**Rodolfo Tan Cardoso - Tigran Vartanovich Petrosian** [B81]
Las Palmas Las Palmas ESP (5), 11.04.1975

10.h5 Nc6 11.Nc3 Qc8 12.Rh3 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Rc4 14.Qe3 Be7 15.f4 e5 16.f5 h6 17.g6
e4 31.Qf7+ Ke5 32.Rc3 Qe6 33.Rc7 Kf5 34.Rd7 Re8 35.Rd6 Qc8 36.Rxd5+ Kg4 37.Rd1
Qe6 38.Rg1+ Kh3 39.Qa7 e3 40.Qb7 Qe4 41.Qd7+ Re6 42.Qd1 e2 43.Qe1 Qe5 44.Rh1+
Kg4 45.Qg1+ Kf5 46.Qf2+ Kxg6 47.Rg1+ Kf7 48.Re1 Kg8 49.Kd2 Bg5+ 50.Kd3 Qd5+
0-1.

**Kalia Wang – Alexey Root** [C10]
Texas Women’s Championship, 08.13.2022

Tony’s Teasers

1. F.C. Collins 1868-1880.
White mates in two moves.

2. F. C. Collins 1868-1880.
White mates in four 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 rrobins@milibrary.org.

Employment Opportunities | Mechanics’ Institute (milibrary.org)

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.

The same position as last week, but with Black to move! From 606 Puzzles for Chess Nuts (2008), p.15; puzzle 3. By Fred Wilson and Bruce Albertston. Black to play and win (eventually). An example of the “forking” theme.
- Upcoming Events -

Tournaments:

**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

**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 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

**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

**21st Howard Donnelly Memorial (FIDE Rated)**
Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18, 9AM. 5 games of G/90+30.
Information and link to register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/21st-donnelly-memorial-championship-fide-rated

Free Women’s Online Class with FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams
Every Sunday from 10AM – 12PM.
Information and link to register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class
Solutions to Tony’s Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Qg3! e4 2.Nb3#. Or 1...exd4 2.Qa3#. Or 1...Kxd4 2.Ne6#. Finally, 1...Kd6 2.Ne4#!


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.

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The Newsletter is taking a brief hiatus. We will return on September 10th.