The Vladimir Naroditsky Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off on September 6th with 73 registered players in two sections. Three IM’s are playing, and while IM Keaton Kiewra and IM Kyron Griffith took ½ point byes in the 1st round, IM Elliott Winslow showed up to try to get a leg up on the competition. It was not to be, however, as Sebastian Suarez played a terrific game, hung tight, and earned a hard-fought draw. It was a round of upsets in the top section, as NM Michael Walder lost to Stephen Parsons (1719), while Expert Edward Lewis went down to Steve Sobel (1674).

The under 1800 section is almost twice as large as the top section, and old timers John Chan, Romeo Barreyro and Michael Hilliard are part of a large pool of 1st round winners.

Vladimir Naroditsky (d.2019) was a Mechanics’ Institute Trustee and the father of GM Daniel Naroditsky.

The games from every round of the TNM are uploaded to the main page of the tournament in .pdf and .pgn formats. That information is here, along with the current standings, pairings and results: https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/vladimir-naroditsky-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon

The TNM is co-directed by International Arbiter Judit Sztaray and FIDE Arbiter Abel Talamantez.
1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4
  A) 7...d6;
  B) 7...g6? 8.Ng5± Nxe5?
  Bg7 13.0-0 Qd6 14.Na3 Bd7
  15.Rad1 ( 15.Rfe1! ) 15...e6
  16.Nb5 Bxb5 17.Qxb5+ Qd7
  18.Qb4+- 6.21 but 0-1 (65)
Nepomniachtchi,I (2792)-Firouzja,A (2759) Paris GCT Blitz;
C) 7...d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6
  10.Na3 dxc3 11.Bxe6 Qxd1
  12.Rxd1 fxe6 13.Nb5 Rc8
it's all a big theoretical line. ]
6...d6 7.Bc4 dx e5
[ 7...Nb6 ]
[ 7...e6 ]
8.dxe5 Ndb4 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Na3

Be6
[ 10...a6! ]
11.0-0
A) 31...Bxh2? 32.g5 Rd2 33.a4 Re2± 34.Kf3 (34.Kd4);
B) 31...Bb6]

31...Rd2?

32.Bd4! Rd1 33.Bxg1 Rxg1 34.Ra4?! [34.Ke5!]

34...Rh1 35.Rxa5
[35.Ke5 Rxh3 36.Kf6 Kd6 37.Rd4+ Kc5 38.Re4 Rh4 39.g5 Rh2]

35...Kd6= 36.b4 Rxh3 37.a4
[37.g5 h6 38.gxh6 Rxh6 39.Rg5 Rh2=]

37...h5
[37...Rb3]
[37...Rc3]

38.gxh5 gxh5
[38...Rhx5=]

39.Ra6 Kc7 40.b5 cxb5 41.axb5 Rh1 42.Kf3
[42.Rxe6 Re1+ 43.Kf5 Rxe6 44.Kxe6 h4=]

42...Kd7 43.Ra7+ Kd6 44.Rh7 Kc5 45.Rh6 Kxb5 46.Rxe6 Rf1+ 47.Kg3 Kc5 48.Re5+ Kd6 49.Rhx5 ½-½

19.Nc2?? "½?" Agreed after using all but ten minutes of his time.
[19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Qa5 21.Qd2±]
[19.Nc2+ Bxc3 20.bxc3 Nxa2]
21.Qh4 Nxc1 22.Rxc1 e6 23.f5 exf5
Believe the computer when it tells you White can't make anything of the weakened dark squares around Black's king -- okay? ]
½-½

A08
Lamstein,Josh 1753
Bambou,Christophe 2125
M1 Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: 1800+ (1.3)
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.d3 e5
5.Nbd2 Be7 6.0-0 Be6 7.c4
[ 7.e4 ]
7...Nf6 8.a3 0-0 9.b3 h6 10.Bb2 d4
11.h3 Qd7 12.Kh2 Bf5 13.Ne1 Bd6
17.exf5 Bxf5 18.e4 dxe3 19.fxe3 e4
20.Nf4

Qc7?
[ 20...Rad8 21.Qh5= ( 21.Qd5+ Rf7= )]
21.Qd5+ Kh8 22.Bxe4 Rad8
[ 22...Bxf4 23.Rxf4+- ]

23.Bxf5?
[ 23.Ne6! Bxg3+ 24.Kg2+ Rxd5
25.Bxd5 ]
23...Bxf4 24.Qxc5??
[ 24.Rxf4 Rxd5 25.cxd5 Ne7
26.Be4= ]
24...Bxg3+ 25.Kh1

b6!+ With this little move White completely falls apart!
[ 25...Rd2?? 26.Qxf8# ]
26.Qb5 Rd2 27.Be4 Rh2+ 28.Kg1
Bf2+ 29.Rxf2 Rxf2
0-1
[ 12...0-0 ] 
[ 12...Rb8 ] 
[ 12...Ne7 ] 
13.a4 
[ 13.Be2 ] 
[ 13.Nce3 ] 
13...bxa4 14.Rxa4 Ne7 
[ 14...0-0 ] 
[ 14...Nb8 ] 
15.Bc4 0-0 16.0-0 a5 17.Qd3 Bc6 
18.Ra2 Kh8 19.Nce3 
19...Bxe3 20.Nxe3 f5 21.f3 
[ 21.exf5 ] 
21...Qb6 22.Kh1 fxe4 23.fxe4 Rxf1+ 24.Nxf1 Qf2?! 

(Diagram)
26.Rxa5! White grabs a pawn. Unfortunately for him he loses his way later...
[26...Rb8 27.Ra7?!]
[White has to defend for a moment with 27.Bd3]

A) 27...Ng8 28.Ra7 Nf6 29.Rf7 Kg8 30.Bc4 d5 31.exd5! Bb5!
32.Rxf6! Bxc4! (32...gx6 33.Bxb5 when on the recapture White will
pick off the rook, guarding f1!)
33.Rf7 Typical Sveshnikov: still a cliffhanger!

B) 27...Rxb2?? 28.Qf8+ Ng8
29.Ra7 Bb7 30.Bc4+- Triumphant return!

27...Bxe4 28.Qe3
[28.Qg3!? Qxg3 29.Nxg3 Bb7± with our standard technical
Sveshnikov situation.]

28...Qh4 29.b4 Nf5 30.Qd2
[30.Qe2]

29.Rf8 31.Rf7 Rxf7 32.Bxf7 Qf6
33.Bd5 Ne7 34.Bc4 d5 35.Bd3?!
[35.Bb5]

35...Bxd3 36.Qxd3

(Diagram)

e4! Even after all that's transpired and with so little left on the board, Black finds a tactic. 37.Qb5?
[37.Qb1 Qf2! (37...Qxc3?! 38.b5! when White's running b-pawn secures
equality ("0.00" everywhere on the screen).) 38.b5 e3 39.Nxe3 Qxe3
40.b6 Nc6 41.b7 Nb8 Both sides need luft! 42.h3 Qe4 43.Qb6 Qe1+
44.Kh2 Qe7 45.Qb5 Qd6+ 46.Kg1 g6= That's as far as it goes: White can't queen, but there's not a lot Black
can do either.]

37...Qxc3+ 38.Qe8+?!
[38.h3 Qa1 39.Kh2 Qe5+ 40.Kg1
Nf5 Black's queen dominates White's.]

38...Ng8 39.b5?! Qc4
[39...Qf6! 40.Kg1 Qd4+ 41.Kh1
Qf2]

40.Qf8 Qxb5 41.h4 h6 42.Ng3 d4
43.Nf5
[43.Nxe4 Qb1+]

43...Qf1+ 44.Kh2 Qf4+ The record grows unclear around here in the time scramble, but Parsons put the moves
together...

45.Kg1 Qc1+ 46.Kh2 Qc7+
47.Kh3 d3 48.Nd6 d2
0-1

Be4! 34.Qxe4 Rxf1+ 35.Rxf1 Nxe4+ 36.Kg1 Nxe4 37.Rf7+ Kh6 38.Rxb7 Qe3+ 0-1
B) 13.Bxb5?? d4+;
C) 13.exd5 a6 resigned Is the pawn passed or isolated?

12...Ng4?!
[ 12...Re8 ]
[ 12...a6 ]

Bxh2+
[ 15...Nxh2?? 16.Re1 And the knight is trapped. ]

16.Kh1 Nc5?!
[ 16...Nde5! 17.Be2 (17.Ne6 Qxd3 ) 17...Qd7

17.Be2?
[ 17.Nf5 h5 (17...Qxd3 18.Qxg4+-) 18.Bc2 Qxd1 19.Raxd1 Be5 ]
[ 17.Bc2 Bc7 18.e5 Nxe5 Black has material, but white has open lines and initiative. SF gives white +0.65 at depth 33. ]

17...Be5 18.Bxg4?
[ 18.Nf5 Qxd1 19.Raxd1 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Ne5 21.Ne7+ Kh8 22.f4 The Fish claims sufficient compensation for white. ]

18...Qxd4 19.Qb1?
[ 19.Qe2 Qd3 I planned to insist on trading queens. But at least this would not blunder f5. ]
[ 19.Qe1 Offers black an embarrassment of riches Nd3 (19...f5!? I had set myself calculating this while my opponent considered their queen moves. )]

19...Qc4
[ 19...f5! Despite calculating this in another line I had inexplicably failed to play it here... ]

20.Be2 Qe6 21.f3? The variations given later show that this move fatally exposes the white king. 21...Rd8?!
[ 21...Nb3 22.Qa2 Qf7 23.Rd1 Qh5! I missed this final blow. ]

22.Rd1 Bc8?!
[ 22...Nb3 23.Qa2 Bc8 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rd1 Rxd1+ Is strictly superior to 25...Rxd1+ in the text. ]

23.Qc2 Nb3 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rd1 Rx61+?
[ 25...Nd4 I didn't like self-pinning, but it's easy to break the pin. 26.Qc1 Rd7 ]

26.Nxd1?
[ 26.Qxd1 g5 27.Bf2 Kg7 ]

26...Nd4 27.Qd2 Nxe2 28.Qxe2 Qc4?!
Surely not the critical try, but I felt that even I could not lose the ensuing endgame.
[ 28...Bc7! 29.Ne3 (29.Bf2 f5! Opens the position favorably for black.) 29...Qe5 30.g4 h5+ ]

29.Qd2??
[ 29.Qxc4+ bxc4 Black probably doesn't win by force, but it'll be a difficult defense. ]

29...Qf1# The chess speaks for itself!
0-1
Making it harder for Black to achieve the e5 break without weakening his kingside. 12...d5 13.h3 Bf5 14.Nbd2 g5 15.Bg3 Mission accomplished. It is hard for Black to form a plan here. Meanwhile white has ideas of Nf1-e3, h4, a future f4, or just trading minors on e5. 15...a5 16.a4 e6 17.Nf1 Rc8 18.Ne3 Bg6 19.Ng4 My hope was to provoke an f-pawn push and weaken e6. I also wouldn't mind trading off bishops on e5 and removing his defenses. 19. h4 also looked tempting, but ...f5 seems to be a strong reply, shutting down my kingside activity.

[ 19.h4 f5 20.hxg5 f4 21.gxh6! Although, this line definitely looks fun. ]

19...Nc4 20.Bxc4 dxc4 21.Nxe5 Nxe5 22.Nxe5 Bh7 23.f4 Targeting Black's overextended pawns. 23...f6 24.Nf3 Qd5 25.Qd2 Rfe8 26.f5 A very anti-positional move, but my goal was to force Black's hand. ...g4 allows me to reroute my knight to a better square (e3) and further weakens black's kingside. 26...g4 27.Nh2 h5 28.Nf1 Qf5 Threatening a queen trade on d3 was a solid plan. I thought I would be equal at best, once Black's bishop pair comes alive. 29.Re3 [ 29.Ne3 Qd3 30.Qf2 Stockfish's preference, to boot the queen with Rad1. I suppose this formation is more harmonious for me. ]

29...Bh6 30.Qe2 Qc2 31.Nd2 I was happy with this move, and I felt the tables turning in my favor. It's hard for Black to deal with the threats down the e-file, and Qxb2 allows my rook to infiltrate with Rb1-b7. 31...Bd3 32.Qe1 e5? 33.dxe5 fxe5 34.Ne4 My opponent was probably expecting the tempting 34.Rxe5, but after 34...Rxe5 35. Qxe5 Black has enough counterplay on my poorly placed knight. Fortunately, I have the opportunity to use my knight to its fullest potential, threatening two forks and headed to g5.

[ 34.Rxe5 Rxe5 35.Qxe5 Qxd2 36.Qe6+ Kh7 37.Qxc8 Be4 Stockfish even gives Black a slight advantage here due to the strong mate threat. ]

34...Bxe4 My knight's long journey (10 moves!) has reached its end. 35.Rxe4 Qxb2 36.Rb1 Qa3 37.Rxe5 Qxa4 38.Rxb7 Material is equal, but Black's king is completely exposed while my king can be tucked away safely on h2. At the very least, a perpetual check is always an idea for me. 38...Qc6 39.Rbe7 I missed a crushing win with 39.Qb1! here, with an unstoppable kingside infiltration. These major-piece endgames always seem much clearer in hindsight...

[ 39.Qb1 Bh7 40.Rxg7+ A nice finish. ]

39...Rxe7 40.Rxe7 Kg7 41.Kh2 Kf8 42.Ra7 Re8 43.Qb1 Qc5?? 44.Bf2?? A very instructive tactical moment. This wasn't just for show (44...Qxf2?? 45.Qf5+ is mate in three), this seemed like the clearly best move, gaining a tempo on the queen...
while improving the bishop and securing the dominant a7 rook. However, it loses to the spectacular 44...g3+! 45.Kxg3 Re3+!, where both 46.Bxe3 Qxe3+ and 46.Kh2 Qxa7 lose a bishop. Neither of us spotted this idea in the game. I had rejected 44.Qb7, because after 44....Re7 45.Qb8 Re8 I didn't spot anything better than a repetition. However, I had overlooked 45.Bf2! holding everything together. In this line 45...g3 doesn't work because the a7 rook is defended. Lessons: always consider switching the move order on your tactical sequences. And always look for checks (even the most unlikely) especially in open positions with major pieces on the board. [44.Qb7 Re7 45.Bf2! (45.Qb8+ Re8 46.Qb7 Re7) 45...Qxa7 46.Qc8+! Re8 47.Bc5+! Kf7 48.Qf5+! Kg8 49.Bxa7 Beautiful line, courtesy of Stockfish.]

44...Qd6??
[44...Qxf2?? 45.Qf5+]
[44...g3+! 45.Kxg3 Re3+!! 46.Bxe3 Qxe3+]

45.Qf5+ Kg8? This blunders a mate in two, but the other options aren't much better.
[45...Qf6 46.Qxh5 Qxf4+ 47.Bg3 The best try, but my attack continues.]

46.Qf7+
1-0
calculating here as I did not see the continuation Kb6 22.Qd4+

A) 22...Kxb5 23.Rxa7 Qxa7
Missed that, Black is forced to give back the queen ( 23...Qc6 24.Qb4#; 23...Qc8 24.Qa4+ Kb6 25.Qa5+ Kc6 26.Nd4# I did not see the full mating sequence );

B) 22...Kc7 23.Rxa7+ Kd8 24.Rxd7+ Kxd7 This is what I missed, Black is completely busted here, the king safety is out of scope and my b5 pawn is a monster ]

18...Rha8 19.Ra3? The idea is to go to b3 but I overlooked that Black is controlling this square with the LSB. I realized immediately after playing Ra3 [ 19.Rab1+ Kc7 20.Rb2 Rxa4 21.Rfb1 Ra1 22.Rb7+ Kc8 I thought about this line after playing the ugly Ra3 ]

[ 19.Qd4+! Kc7 20.Qxg7 Overlooking a simple fork, I was obsessed with Black's king that I forgot the other side of the board ]

19...Rxa4 20.Rxa4 Rxa4 21.Rb1+ Kc7 22.Qe3 Kc8 23.Nd4 I thought the position was slightly better for Black as they have the bishop pair and a healthier pawn structure. Stockfish is saying +4 here (!). My plan is to redeploy my knight on d4 (monster square) and bishop on f3

[ 23.Qb6? Qc7 24.Ba6+ Kd8 I did not see a continuation here and noticed I was forced to exchange queen so my winning chances are lower here ]


24...Qxc6 25.Qxe7 Bxe2 26.Qxe2
Not the best continuation

[ 26.Qf8+ Kd7 27.Qxf7+ Kc8 28.Qe6+ Kc7 29.Qxe2 Even stronger as I grab a free pawn ]

26...Re4 27.Qf3 Qe8 I thought for a long time and I estimate that the endgame is better for me because of my extra pawn. 28.h3 Re1+ 29.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 30.Kh2 Qe5+ 31.Qg3

[ 31.g3! The idea is to start centralizing the king via g2 ]

31...Qf6 Here my plan is to start pressuring Black's king with constant check but I failed to do so. Better would had been to start centralizing the king via g1 32.Qg4+ Kc7 33.Qc4+ Kd7 34.Qg4+ Kc7 35.Qg3 Kc6

This is when I realized I messed up, I just offered Black extra tempi 36.Qe3?? Qe5+! I calculated for a long time and concluded that Black is going to grab my c3 pawn and the game is a dead draw. Activating my king and try to create counterplay against the c6 pawn does not work as Black will simply grab my f, g and h pawns. I was a little disappointed as I knew I clearly missed my chances but at least I stayed lucid to hold the draw. The drawing plan is to bring the king on d1-c1 and just do nothing

37.Kg1!? The only way to complicate. If I can hold on to my c2 pawn Black will have to prove how to win

[ 37.g3?? Qxe3 38.fxe3 Kc5 39.Kg2 Kc4 40.Kf3 Kxc3 41.Ke4 Kxc2 42.Kd5 Kd3 43.e4 Ke3 Completely lost for Black so I discarded g3 for that reason ]

[ 37.Qg3 Even if it's still a draw I am 100% sure this is super easy to play for Black Qxg3+ 38.Kxg3 Kc5 39.Kf4 Kc4 40.Ke4 Kxc3 41.Kd5 Kxc2 42.Kxd6 Kd2 43.Ke5?? ( 43.f4! Ke3 44.g4 Kf3 45.f5 Kg3 46.Ke7 Draw ) 43...Ke2 ]

37...Qxe3 38.fxe3 Kc5 39.Kf2 Kc4 40.Ke2 Kxc3 41.Kd1 My plan is just to move the king back and forth to c1 and d1, Black has no way to grab the e3 pawn without releasing control on the d2
square for my king 41...f5 42.h4 g6 43.g3 h6 44.Kc1 g5 45.h5 Keep some complications  
[ 45.hxg5 hxg5 This is helping Black getting the draw, why would I allow it? :)]
45...d5 46.Kd1 Just waiting 46...d4
47.exd4 Kxd4 48.Kd2 f4 49.gxf4 gxf4 50.Ke2 I thought I was winning here. My opponent asked if it was a draw and I said I don’t think so. I missed that Ke4 or Kc3 is actually still a draw because the h pawn will trap the White king in the corner 50...Ke4 This is when I realized it’s actually a draw because of the h pawn and my king can stay stuck in the corner.
51.Kf2 Kf5 52.Kf3 Kg5 53.c4 The only way to create some chaos 53...Kxh5 Here I knew he blundered for real
[ 53...Kf5! 54.c5 Ke5 55.c6 Kd6 56.Kxf4 Kxc6 57.Kf5 Kd6 58.Kg6 Ke6 59.Kxh6 Kf6 60.Kh7 Kf7 Draw ]
54.c5 Kg5 55.c6 h5 56.c7 Kh4! 57.Kxf4!
[ 57.c8Q Embarassing draw ]
57...Kh3 58.c8Q+ Kh4 59.Qd8+ [ 59.Kf3 Another embarassing draw ]
59...Kh3 60.Qg8 h4 61.Kf3 Qg2# on the next move. Overall I got a very good position as my opponent did not understand the pawn storm idea to create ideas. I knew I had a strong attack but missed the full continuation (sacrificing a rook without seeing the full variation in the first round is... ballsy). I still had chances later on until I blundered in the endgame. Then my opponent did not force the easy draw and unfortunately (for him) blundered at the end. So a bittersweet win.
1-0

D35
Barrack,Jahsun
Ly,Jennifer
MI Vladimir Naroditsky mem TNM: u1800 (1.27) [Winslow,Elliott]

White has found a pawn on the queenside, but in return Black has all her pieces directed towards White’s king. 25.f3?! Permits a fantastic continuation. [ 25.Rxd5 clears the air, somewhat! Look at this sequence: cxd5 26.Rc1 ( 26.f3 Nh4 27.Rf2 exf3 28.Qc1 Rxe2 29.Rxe2 fx e2 30.gxh4 b6 31.Nc6 Qxh4 )]
Quite a delicate calculation by Stockfish there! But follow the game, this position comes up later, with quite a fantastic resolution...

26...h6
(26...Nf8!?)

A) 27.Kh1;
B) 27.f3 exf3 28.Qxf3 Rf6 29.Qxd5 (29.Qg2 Qd7=+) 29...Qg4 30.e3 Qe2=;
C) 27.Nxb7! White continues on the queenside; he's going to need a clean slate there after he pays heavily to defend the kingside... 27...Nh4 28.gxh4 Rg6+ 29.Qg3!

Of course. Rxg3+ 30.hxg3 (30.fxg3? f5=+) 30...e3! 31.Nc5 Qg4 32.Kf1 exf2 33.Rc3 Qxd4 34.a5 Qb4 35.Nd3! Qxa5= White could hope to hold this.]

26.Nh4
[25...Rxd4!!

(Diagram)
27.Qf4?

[ 27.Rxd5! cxd5 28.Qc1 Rxe2 (covering c8!) 29.Rxe2 fxe2 30.gxh4 b6 31.Nc6 Qxh4 is the same position given after 25.Rxd5 cxd5 26.f3 above. But let's look further now: 32.Ne7+! Qxe7 (32...Kf8 33.Qc8+ is a perpetual -- really!) 33.Qc8+ Qf8 34.Qxf8+ Kxf8 35.Kf2]

27...g5! 28.Qb8+ Kg7 29.Rxd5 cxd5 30.Qd8 h6 31.Qd7 Nf5 32.Qxd5

Rxe2??

[ 32...fxe2 when 33.Qxe6 fxe6 34.Rxe2 is not a defence (+). Qg4 (34...Nxd4 )]

33.Rxe2 fxe2 34.Qe5+ Kg6?

[34...Kf8 35.Qxe2 Nxd4=]

35.Qxe2 With White's king safe now, it'll be the queenside that counts.

35...Nxd4??

[35...Nxd4? 36.hxg3 Qxg3+ 37.Kf1 Qf4+ 38.Qf2 Qc1+ 39.Kg2 b6 40Nb3± White has work ahead, but should prevail.]

36.Qe4+ Nf5 37.g4 Lets Black's queen out, not that that should save the game.

[37.Nxb7! sets White up for life (new life -- queens) and wins easily.]

37...Qe3+ 38.Qxe3 Nxe3

(Diagram)
39.h3?
[ 39.Nxb7 Nxg4 40.a5+- appears to be a won knight ending. Although it goes down to White's last (h-)pawn! ]
39...b6=

40.Kf2??
[ 40.Nc6= ]
[ 40.Nb7= ]
40...Nd1+ 41.Ke2 Nxb2 42.Nc6 Nxa4 43.Kd3 b5 44.Nd4 Nc5+ 45.Kc3 Ne4+ 0-1
Upcoming Changes

The major announcement to our readers is that the MI Chess Newsletter will henceforth be published on a monthly basis, rather than weekly during the TNM as has been traditional. Expect to see us on the 2nd Saturday of every month, with other changes being worked out as we move forward. As usual, we love to get your contributions – see this issue for what I believe to be outstanding submissions from our community.

Also in the pipeline here are more classes. I have transitioned the Free Introduction to Chess for Mechanics’ Members from an on-line Zoom class, started during the pandemic, to in-person, starting September 7th: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#beginner

And starting Thursday October 13th, I will be teaching an eight-week game review class, in which we will be looking at participant’s games, trying to identify areas of weakness and strengths, so as to make improvements in strategy and tactics, in opening, middle-game and endgame play. Stay tuned for more information and registration information.

Hans Niemann!

As the controversy continues to swirl around the 19-year old Grandmaster - who just defeated Carlsen in the Sinquefield Cup, triggering the World Champion’s withdrawal from the event amidst world-wide insinuations of cheating – we are reminded of earlier times, 2013 and 2014, when Hans was a regular participant in the Tuesday Night Marathon. But first these tidbits: Hans was born here in San Francisco, and I believe this makes him the strongest player ever from this town. And Hans shares my birthday!

We remember a brash, confident kid – he wanted your rating points! In his first TNM of January/February 2013, Hans won the best under 1200 prize of $160, scoring 3 points from 8 rounds. Just under 2 years later he won the Fall TNM outright with a score of 7.5 from 8 rounds, winning $650, and his rating went over 2200 for the 1st time.
Hans was coached for a while by IM John Grefe, and he spoke at John’s memorial at the Mechanics’. Afterwards he played GM James Tarjan a few games in the Chess Room. Hans won the 1st game before Jim hunkered down and fought back, but the Hans we knew never backed down from a challenge!

To round out this trip down memory lane I have made a quick and small selection of Hans’ games at the MI from those formative years. More gems can be found in our tournament and game archive: [https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive](https://www.milibrary.org/chess/tournament-game-archive)

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**Vichik, Adam (1262) - Niemann, Hans (1835) [B72]**

Mechanics' Neil Falconer TNM; 30/90, SD San Francisco (8.15), 24.09.2013


[Diagram]

**Niemann,Hans** (1835) - **Maser,Thomas** (1904) [C22]
Mechanics' Neil Falconer TNM; 30/90, SD San Francisco (9.7), 01.10.2013

1-0.

**Lee,Andy** (2320) - **Niemann,Hans** (2054) [B00]
Mechanics' Spring TNM; 30/90, SD/30 San Francisco (3.2), 01.04.2014

[Diagram]


Niemann, Hans (2135) - Askin, Michael (1964) [E08]
Mechanics' Fall TNM; 30/90, SD/30 San Francisco (5.1), 25.11.2014

[Diagram]

A few links throwing different shades of light on the Carlsen/Niemann brouhaha:
The reddit community weighs in: https://www.reddit.com/r/chess/comments/x7iqg5/megathread_hans_niemann_allegations/
GM Hikaru Nakamura: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KN3zNrvO8b4
Hans’ passionate defense of himself on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJZuT-_kij0

“May you live in interesting times”, is either an ancient curse or a simple statement of fact. The chess world is certainly living in its own version of that saying right now!
IM John Donaldson

Two new books by Gambit Publications

Gambit Publications (http://www.gambitbooks.com/) is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. During the past quarter century, the English company has published over 200 titles on all aspects of the game from opening books to game collections to middle game works. Two recent offerings reflect the diversity of its offerings.

Understanding Pawn Endgames (2022, 159 pages, $19.95) by the noted Ukrainian trainer, IM Valentin Bogdanov, covers a fundamental part of the in a most unusual way. Since almost all endings can end up becoming pawn endgames every player needs to have a basic understanding of such concepts as the opposition and triangulation. These are well covered in a number of books including Dvoretsky’s Endgame Manual, 100 Endgames You Must Know by de la Villa and Gambit’s Secrets of Pawn Endgames by Muller and Lamprecht. What is less common to see are books dealing with non-theoretical pawn endgames. These are typically positions with multiple pawns on both sides of the board and are quite difficult to properly analyze.

There seem to be few books in English devoted to this topic. Pawn Endings (Batsford 1974) by Averbakh and Maizelis is one and was a great book for its time, but the authors did not have (could only dream of!) the 7-man tablebase that analyses positions with 7 or fewer pieces perfectly. Nunn’s Chess Endings Volume 1 and the aforementioned work by Muller and Lamprecht present some of these types of endgames, but Understanding Pawn Endgames is the first book devoted entirely to the subject.

The 268 examples provided, played from 1981 to the present, but primarily in the 21st century, are taken entirely from grandmaster practice. Bogdanov has arranged his book by theme including chapters on breakthroughs, zugzwang, transposition to queen endings and calculation.

The latter deserves further mention. The positions given in this book, without exception, are challenging – to put it mildly! Some great players are shown to be mortal as the author acknowledges in his introduction where he writes:

*I should stress that the purpose of the book is not to belittle the level of play of the leading chess players.*

Who are the sort of players Bogdanov is referring to? How about a couple of former World Champions, in what is one of the simpler endings in this book:
Veselin Topalov – Garry Kasparov
Linares, 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.d3 Be7 6.0–0 Nf6 7.Nh4 Nd4 8.g3 Bg4

27.h4?

The result of the game hinges on the mutual zugzwang that we shall see in a few moves' time, but this is not the right way for White to bring it about. The symmetrical structure on the queenside does not allow either side to transfer the burden to move to the opponent, so it all comes down to tempo moves on the kingside. Thus, it is a mistake to advance a pawn that still had the choice of moving one square or two.

27.Kg4 g6 (27...h6 28.Kh5) 28.h3 h6 29.h4 is the correct method.

27...g6?

27...h6! 28.Kg4 g6 29.Kf4 g5+!, when White cannot make progress.

28.b4 b5 29.Kf4! h6 30.Kg4! 1–0.
According to Bogdanov some of the reasons why even great players go wrong in these endings include time trouble and carelessness and even ignorance of text book endings, but the most common cause is mistakes in calculation. This rings true and supports the author’s final sentence which makes the cause for pawn endings as the perfect exercise to improve this vital skill. Pawn endings unquestionably require accurate calculation and *Understanding Pawn Endgames* offers plenty of high-quality examples to solve with detailed solutions. Players rated below 2200 will find more elementary works on pawn endings sufficient, but those who are stronger (or are ambitious) will find this book just the thing to increase their skill in this phase of the game and also their calculating ability.

*Problem Chess: Art and Magic on the Chessboard* (2022, 112 pages, $19.95) by the late Goran Forslund is the rare chess related word that was written solely for the reader’s enjoyment. It offers an introduction to the world of chess problems from the mate-in-two variety to retrograde problems. This is not the book for those who want to improve their over the board play, but it will provide hours and hours of pleasure to those who enjoy solving problems.

### 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)](https://milibrary.org/employment-opportunities)
Hello Paul, Judit, and Abel,

I just got back from playing my first tournament abroad, and I felt like sharing my experiences—please feel free to use any, all, or none of this in a future newsletter if you think anyone might find it interesting. I know some of the players at the club have played abroad, and I’ve never really gotten to hear too much about their tournaments, so I figured I’d write in and tell how things went for me.

- Mechanics’ On the Move -

Ever since I studied abroad in Barcelona in 2012 (the year before I started playing chess seriously), I’ve been looking for an excuse to go back. This summer, I found two excuses: an annual cultural festival in one of my favorite districts and the Sants Open chess tournament. I had never played chess outside the US (my invitation to the Hungarian norm tournaments must have gotten lost in the mail), so the more relaxed European schedule was a welcome change.

I read an article about Richard Teichmann recently, and I feel like I inadvertently played like him: a few quick, crushing wins and a bunch of solid, rather unambitious draws. What can I say—Barcelona was too interesting to make me want to prepare much at my apartment! I finished with 3 wins, 1 loss, and 5 draws, and I skipped the last round to come home for my grandfather’s 93rd birthday dinner. It was a very well-run tournament, and I looked forward to playing every day even as I explored the city.

This tournament had several wonderful innovations: a huge projected screen with the top six active boards above the “elite” playing area that also had a SportsCenter-like results bar scrolling across it, name plates with club or country flags at every table, and a great little “cafe” in the playing hall where one could buy water, bananas, candy, beer, and even handmade sandwiches for absurdly low prices. Most of my games finished
before the time control (unlike my normal games here), so I had a pleasant routine of looking over my games on the metro while on the way to the beach or dinner.

I also wanted to practice my Spanish, which was once practically fluent but has lain mostly dormant since college. I asked the tournament director how to say some chess-specific terms like “adjust” and “I offer a draw” (“compongo” and “ofrezco tablas” respectively), and one of the highlights of the tournament was analyzing my games with the locals in Spanish without being laughed at. As I told one kibitzer, playing one game a day at 4:30 really is very civilized- I had plenty of time to get groceries, go sightseeing, and take a nap before taking the metro across town for every game. (Somehow, I don’t think GMs like Motylev, Vaibhav, or Narayanan, who were leading the A section, were strolling to museums or churches and shopping before their games)

Overall, it was a great experience, and I highly recommend playing abroad to anyone with sufficient means and vacation time. Besides the queen endgame I botched in my last game, my biggest regret is not having done this 5 years ago! I’d like to share two positions from my games (not engine-checked puzzles, just two positions I remembered):

**Clemens, Kristian - Sobrevia Castellar, Lluís, round 4:** White to play after 26...f5:

![Chessboard diagram](image)

My counterplay, like the fantastic Barcelona metro, came right on time: 27. c6 bxc6 28. dxc6 Qe6 (if Qxc6, then b5) 29. exf5 Qxf5 (if Rxg5, then fxg4 and Qb3, trading queens) 30. Qxf5 Rxf5 31. fxg4, winning a pawn with a great position that I managed to draw in time trouble.
Aleksanyan Israilyan, Nicolas - Clemens, Kristian, round 8. Black to play and win after 26. Rd1:

I played 26... Bxg4 and White resigned in view of 27. hxg4 Rxe3+ 28. Kf1 Rxf3+ 29. Nxf3 Qxf3+ 30. Kg1 Qf2#. White then showed me 26... Rxe3+ 27. Kxe3 Bc4+ 28. Ne4 (now that the king isn't on e2, this isn't double check, which is why I didn't play it- I stopped calculating here) Bg5+, and if 29. f4, Qxe4+, and if anything else, then ...Bxc1 wins the queen.

That’s all from me- I know it’s a little long, but at least it’s not a printed newsletter... feel free to edit as you see fit!

Thanks,
Kristian

Kristian: battling it out in Barcelona.
“I gotta figure this out.” The player studied the position while a few cronies and other colleagues hovered nearby, some during breaks from their boards and conversations on a day off from tournament and match play.

In silent moments stray noise traveled up from the street four flights down, some of it amplified by the narrow passage between the Mechanics’ Institute and the McKesson Building at the foot of Post, Montgomery, and Market Streets. A busy part of town pretty quiet on the weekend, but still a transportation hub with a flow of walkers, cyclers, and talkers.

Like many of us the player we were watching had a particular interest in this greatly analyzed and ever-fertile opening with its many interesting possibilities. In numerous tabiyas and game variations, he had made deep dives in sessions competitive, philosophical, and scientific.

He had a little motto or mantra he used when the way to a plan met a blank wall. To proceed further, he would say silently, Get to the point, get to the point. And he would inventory the position again, finding a little light through the spaces between the logs, then some more.

No one can deny the sport is exciting and the game compelling to anyone involved in it, even without rating points, treasure, and reputation on the line. The biggest winners often express their fear of being bested in the heat of the struggle for that point.

Sometimes when you’re hit with a sudden possible loss, a line or two of perennial clarity might filter through the momentary devastation. The recording might be from pages or speakers or singers like Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes (“If You Don’t Know Me By Now”), or The Main Ingredient (listen now):

“Everybody plays the fool, some-tah-eye-imes;
There’s no exception to the rule.”

Not that this would make you feel any better or play more observantly, but you’re still working on all that. Sometimes you get squeezed, and you can’t foresee everything. At least in chess, you die and come back to life for another go. By now you are many times immortal.
The movie *Chess Fever* also came up. A silent film from 1925 in Moscow during a big international tournament attended by none other than the World Champion Capablanca, who seems to appear in one or two brief shots. The whole town is mad for chess. In one upstairs room we see a young man frowning over the position on a peg-in-board while his young ladyfriend gets more and more impatient with his lack of attention to her. Finally she picks up the board and tosses it out the window. It lands on a load of hay in the back of a wagon conveniently parked. The teamster hears the sound and turns around to pick up the set, study it, and begin trying out moves.

In a corner of the chessroom as the afternoon peaked, a well-traveled expert in late middle age was telling one of his tall tales to a group of aficionados, some giving out with broad grins and amused laughter as he said:

“One night in a dream I was walking down Market Street with a famous chess master I used to take lessons from. In reply to a question I had, he snapped his fingers and we were suddenly in the Café de la Régence in Paris over a hundred years ago. I was shocked but tried not to show it. My guide silently nodded toward a game several tables away, and I recognized David Janowski.

‘I’m not dressed for this,’ I whispered. He put his finger to his lips, and as we walked on he told me quietly, ‘No one here will pay any attention to that.’ I followed him to a distant nook where a dignitary whose name I couldn’t recall was giving advice in English to another player as they pored over a critical position similar to the one I had asked my teacher about on the threshold of this journey, and he played through several tactical lines that interested me greatly.

‘Get used to the unexpected,’ he told his student. ‘Try not to show surprise when they move that way—at most lift a bored eyebrow slightly. Let them sweat out the reply while you take stock again and try to compose a complete refutation or at least a good fighting continuation that sweats them as they are surprised in turn.’ As he demonstrated some wonderful paths out of the dilemma on the board, I felt enlightened.

“My guide told me we could go anywhere in any year, to any club or pub where chess was played at a reasonably high level. He told me it was like going to the Louvre or the Met where so many went to enjoy other forms of art. ‘Anytime you want to travel like this again, just call, text, or email.’ But when I started writing down his contact data, he suddenly vanished and I woke up. Instead of being glad to be alive as usual, I was just mad that I couldn’t contact him directly. I closed my eyes again and tried to go back, but I couldn’t; and I think that’s why my rating never rose to 2200.”

His audience murmured with amusement, except for one stodgy curmudgeon who said, “That’s the craziest thing I ever heard.”
The storyteller glanced at him with surprise and shrugged. “That’s chess, I guess.”

“Yes and no,” said another thoughtful listener, which was our cue to continue on our ways of work and taking pleasure from a studious, two-fisted, head-butting sport with an international language that you’re learning all your life.

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.

From Dvoretsky’s Endgame Manual. Black wins by forcing the rook trade under favorable circumstances – but how? An illustration on the theme of “The Opposition”.
Tony’s Teasers

White mates in 3 moves.

White mates in 3 moves.
- Upcoming Events -

**Tournaments**

**Vladimir Naroditsky Memorial TNM - Ongoing**
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](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](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](https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-monthly-scholastic-swiss-person)

**USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com**
Sunday September 18, 3PM. 6 games of G/10+2

**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](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](https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/21st-donnelly-memorial-championship-fide-rated)

**Classes**

**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](https://www.milibrary.org/chess/free-womens-online-chess-class)
**Introduction to Chess: Free Class for MI Members**
Wednesday 9/7 to Wednesday 10/26
Information and link to register: https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#beginner

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**Solutions to Tony’s Teasers**

Problem #1: 1.Ra8! Intending 2.Ra4 and 3.Bd5#. If 1...g4 2.Ng5+ Bxg5 3.Bd5#. Or 1...Kg4 2.Be6+ Kh4 3.Qh2#.

Problem #2: 1.Bb8! Zugzwang. 1...Qxe3 2.Nxe3+ Kxh4 3.Rxh5#. If 1...Qxe4 2.Qf3+! Qxf3 3.exf3#. Or 1...Qb6 2.Qc5! Qxc5+ 3.e3#.

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**Contact us**

The Mechanics’ Institute Chess Club is on the 4th floor at 57 Post Street, San Francisco 94104. Our phone number 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