Chess Room Newsletter
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Recent Tournaments at Mechanics’ Institute

The Felix German Memorial TNM kicked off on November 8, with 84 players competing in three sections. This Mechanics’ Institute flagship event was started in 1972 by Chess Room Director Ray Conway, with attendance at the club booming during the Fischer-Spassky match in Reykjavik.

This tournament wraps up on December 20.

Felix German (pictured above), a Mechanic’s Institute stalwart of tournaments and match play, passed away unexpectedly in 2020.

The Felix German Memorial TNM info, standings and results can be found here. The tournament is co-directed by International Arbiter Judit Sztaray and FIDE Arbiter Abel Talamantez.

The 21st Guthrie McClain Memorial was held on Saturday, December 3 with 78 participants competing in three sections. 15 year-old Expert Niko Pompe had an outstanding result, winning the 2000+ section with a perfect 4-0 score and defeating both IM Elliott Winslow and IM Kyron Griffith along the way. Clear 2nd with 3 points was NM Jiangwei Yu, and four players tied for 3rd with Kyron at 2.5 points: Sricharan Pullela, Pranav Satish, Vedant Talwalkar, and Max Hao.

The 1600-1999 section also saw a clear winner at 4-0, with Quincy Chen rolling up the field. Second and third places were shared by Yuvraj Sawhney, Yali Dancig-Perlman, David Li, Kian Jamali,
and Glenn Kaplan, all with 3 points.

The under 1600 section was won by Simon Moisselin, who also scored a perfect 4-0. He was closely followed by Ansh Shrivastava and Melissa Xu at 3.5 points each.

The tournament was directed by FIDE Arbiter Abel Talamantez. The 21st McClain Memorial info, standings and results can be found here.

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**December Chess Social**

We had a great turnout for the Chess Social on December 2nd. We screened Chess Fever (1925) and of course ate some Chessmen cookies and snacks.

Join us Friday, January 6th for the next event!

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**IM Elliott Winslow: Annotated Games from the TNM**

A selection of games from rounds three through five of the Felix German Memorial TNM.
With this excellent win, Richard Chen assumes a tie for the lead with Luke Widjaja. I don't know much about Chen at all; his USCF ratings page shows he's played a mere handful of tournaments, but they're the World Open and some international events. In any case, this game shows he's no flash in the pan; creative opening, tactical alertness, crisp finish. We must pay attention to the current leader!

1.Nf3  d5  2.g3  g6  3.Bg2  Bg7  4.d4  Nh6

Something different to upset the symmetry!

5.c4  c6

[ 5...dxc4  6.Na3  Nf5 is another standard path in these Gruenfeld-like positions (even with the knight on its new path). ]

6.0-0  Nf5

7.c5?!N


7...h5  8.h4  White is slightly better.  8...b6  9.cxb6  axb6  10.Nc3  Bb7  11.Bf4  0-0

12.Ne5

[ 12.Re1± ]

12...e6

[ 12...Nd7 ]

13.e3

[ 13.Re1? ]

13...Nd7  14.Nxd7  Qxd7  15.Qb3?

[ 15.Na4!= and White is okay.  Qd8  16.Re1 ]

15...c5  16.Qxb6?  This actually and unexpectedly costs White the game!

[ 16.dxc5  bxc5  17.Rfd1 ]

16...cxd4  17.exd4  Bxd4  18.Qb3

[ 18.Qc7 gets the queens off, but Black picks off the g3-pawn (!) with Qxc7  19.Bxc7  Rac8  20.Bf4  e5+ ]

18...Ba6  19.Rfe1  White should just let Black have the Exchange.

19...Bxf2+! A very nice combination!

20.Kxf2  Qa7+  21.Be3  Nxe3  22.Rxe3  Rab8  Black can even take the time to get the rook into the game.  23.Qa3  d4!
The further check on the a7-g1 diagonal means that Black will be up a pawn; coupled with White's exposed king it's an easy win. **24.Rae1** This making it the Exchange down doesn't put out the fire at all. **24...dxe3+ 25.Rxe3 Qb6 26.b3 Rfd8 27.Qc1** Against Rd2+ **27...Rbc8** Too many annoying pins! **28.Be4** Inhibits Rd3. **28...Qd4 29.Kg2 Rc5** The threat of ...Rdc8 collapses this house of cards. **30.Qe1 Rdc8 31.Nd1 Rc1** Black is already thinking about mate **32.Bf3 R8c2+ 33.Kh3**

Now a flash of knives and it's over: **33...Rxd1! 34.Bxd1**

**Qxe3! 35.Qxe3 Bf1#** Very nice indeed! 0-1

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**Busch, Jonah 1940**

**Widjaja, Luke 2055**

MI Felix German TNM: 2000+ (3.4) [Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 The not-so-quiet Vienna Game. **2...Nc6 3.f4 exf4 4.Nf3 Nge7**


**5.d4 d5 6.Bxf4**

[Keeping apace is 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nxd5 Qxd5 8.Bxf4 with a normal sort of game.]

**6...dxe4 7.Nxe4 Nd5 8.Bg3 Qe7 9.Qe2?**

[ 9.Bd3]
A) 9...f5 10.Bh4 Qb4+ (10...Qe6 11.0-0! fxe4 12.Bxe4\#) Now that's more King's Gambit-like! 11.Nc3!
   A1) 11...Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qxc3+ 13.Kf2! Bd6! (13...Nxd4??
      18.Rxh8;
   A2) 11...Ne3!
B) 9...Bg4 10.0-0! Ne3 11.Qe1 Nxf1 12.Bxc7! Be6! (12...Qxc7??

9...Bf5\[

11.Kf2 Nxc2
[Here it's less clear which is better 11...Ng4+]
12.Rc1 0-0-0?
13.Rxc2 White's back in it. 13...Bxc2??
[Stockfish gives the outlandish 13...Qxe2+ 14.Rxe2 Nxd4 15.Re5 f6
25.Kg3 Bd6+ 26.Kf2 draw by repetition.]

10.Nc5N
(11...Ng4+! 12.Kg1 0-0-0+) 12.Rc1 N2xd4+ 0-1 Cuaycong,V-Lemke,B
DESC T0351 email 2015]
10...Ne3

(Diagram)
5, except that he took a bye in the next round.

0-1

Briancon-Marjollet, Victor 1627
Srinivasan, Sivavishnu 1366
MI Felix German TNM: 1600-1999 (3.10)
[ Winslow, Elliott]

This win put Briancon-Marjollet into the sole lead of the 1600-1999 section.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 These anti-theoretical lines often do fine when the opponent doesn't take them seriously.

3...e6 4.0-0 Nf6 5.Re1 Be7 6.c3 0-0
7.d4 Now Black must counter in the center before the pawns advance further.

7...cxd4

[ 7...Nxe4! captures White's bishop and rook in a pawn fork, thus eliminating the dangerous light-squared bishop. ]

8.cxd4

17.Qe8+ Rd8 18.Qe3 Rd5
21.Qxf7+ Kc6 22.a3+-
Pretty wowish. ]

14...Nxd4 Black takes over now.

15.Nxd4 Qxc5 16.Qf5+ Kb8 17.Be2
Rxd4 18.Qxc5 Bxc5 19.Kf3 Re8
This brings Widjaja even with Chen at 2.
10.Bb3 Total pawn symmetry, but White is better developed. 10...Bf5  
[ 10...Nc6 ]
11.Nc3 h6

12.Re5!? Certainly unexpected! 12...Be6  
[ 12...Be4! could turn out better.  
13.Nxe4 dxe4 and the rook loses White some time after ...Nc6. ]
13.Qe2 Bb4?  
[ Black could stop for 13...Qd7 ]

14.Rxe6!± Just like that -- and White is better. 14...Bxc3?  
[ 14...fxe6 15.Qxe6+ Kh8 16.Nxd5

(16.Ne5 Qe8! but White is still better here, too (just not by as much) )
16...Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Nc6± White has a pleasant choice here, probably best is simply 18.Be3 ]
15.Rxf6 Qxf6 16.bxc3+- Two bishops for a rook and no pawns: no contest.
16...Rd8 17.Ba3 Sensible, but the bishop might want to be eyeing h6 (maybe after Qd3/Bc2) 17...Nc6 18.Qb5  
Qe6 19.Re1 Qd7 20.Qd3 Re8 21.Ne5 Nxe5 22.dxe5 Rad8 23.g3  
23...Qe6 24.Re3 Kh8 25.Bd6 f6
26.Bxd5 Qd7 27.f4 fxe5 28.fxe5 Rc8
29.Qg6 Qb5 30.Be4 Kg8 31.Qh7+  
Kf7 32.Rf3+ Ke6 33.Qf5# That had to be fun to play!
1-0
Here on Board 1 Kevin Sun went down in a confusing game to now-tournament leader Richard Chen. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.0-0 Nf6 6.Re1 0-0 7.c3 d6 8.h3 a6 9.d4 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.dxc5+-.  

1-0
Woops! You have to keep track of those pawns! 11...Bf5 12.Na3 b5 13.Ng5 e6?! 14.g4 Same for bishops. 14...h6 15.Nf3 This is fine.  [15.gxf5! hgx5 16.fxe6 is even finer. ] 15...Nxc3


1-0

Sobel, Stephen 1933
Winslow, Elliott C 2241
MI Felix German TNM: 2000+ (4.3)  

[6.h3 e5 7.Nb3 (7.Nde2 h5) 7...Be6 8.Be3] 6...e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.h3  
[8.f3] 8...Nc6 9.Qf3 This is the Big Posture these days against various Sicilian lines. Indian GM Sethuraman has a book on this from White's point of view even. Sobel often seems very current!  
[9.Qd2]  
[9.Nd5?]  
[9.Qe2?]  
9...Be7  
[Black might get on right away with the queenside play. 9...Rc8 10.0-0-0 Na5 but it's a jungle of lines:  
A) 11.g4 Rxc3 12.bxc3 Qc7 13.Kb1 (13.g5; 13.Kb2) 13...h5 14.g5 (14.gxh5);  
B) 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Bxf6 (12.Kb1 b5) 12...Bxf6 13.Nd5 (13.Kb1) 13...Nxd6 (13...Bg5+; 13...b5)] 9...d5]  
10.0-0-0 0-0 And here also, one has to stop one's hand and forget about castling for a while.  
[10...Rc8] 11.g4 Rc8
11...Nd7
12.Kb1
[ 12.g5 Nd7 13.h4 Na5 14.Bh3 ]
12...Na5
[ 12...Nb4 13.g5!± ( 13.a3? Nxc2!  
14.Kxc2 Qe8 )]
[ 12...Nd7 ]
13.Nd5 This seems at odds with g2-g4.
[ 13.g5 Nd7 14.h4 Rxc3 might not be 
so dangerous for a change! ]
13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Bd7 Now nobody 
wants to exchange the knights:
[ 14...Nxb3 ]
15.Bd3
[ 15.Nxa5 Qxa5 16.Bd3 ]
15...Nc4
[ 15...Nxb3 16.cxb3 Bh4 ]

This seems at odds with g2-g4.
[ 13.g5 Nd7 14.h4 Rxc3 might not be 
so dangerous for a change! ]
13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Bd7 Now nobody 
wants to exchange the knights:
[ 14...Nxb3 ]
15.Bd3
[ 15.Nxa5 Qxa5 16.Bd3 ]
15...Nc4
[ 15...Nxb3 16.cxb3 Bh4 ]

16.Bc1?!
[ 16.h4! ]
16...b5?
[ 16...Bg5! And who is going to play 
the computer's greatly preferred 
17.Be3 ]
17.g5? a5?
[ I used to like pawns... 17...Bxg5 
is (acc. to Stockfish) just very good 
for Black. ]
18.h4 a4 19.Nd2 a3 20.b3 Nb2?
21...f5 22.gxf6 Rxf6 23.Qh5 g6± 
24.Qe2 Qf8 25.Rdf1 Rf4!? ]
[ 23...Rc5!? 24.h5! Bxg5 25.hxg6 
24.gxf6?!
[ 24.h5+- ]
24...Rx6f6± 25.h5 Rf4 26.Ne4 g5!
27.h6?
[ 27.f3! h6 28.Bxb5 Qb6! 29.a4 
Rxf3± 30.Kxb2 ]
27...g4! 28.Rdg1?
[ 28.Rhe1= ]
[ 28.Rde1= ]
28...Qb6??
[ 28...Kh8! 29.f3 gxf3 30.Nxd6? 
Qf8!+ ]
29.Rg3 Kh8 30.f3
[ 30.Rh5!? Re8!? incomprehensible. ]
30...Rcf8? Here I *really* lost the thread.
[ 30...Qb7! 31.fxg4 ( 31.c4 Bf5+ ) 
31...Qxd5± ]
31.fxg4 Rxg4??
[ Last chance for 31...Qb7! 32.c4 
Qa8± ]
32.Rxg4 Bxg4 33.Kxb2 Rf4 34.Rf1 
Rxf1 35.Bxf1 Bf3 36.Nc3 Bf8 37.Qh4 
b4 38.Qf6+ Kg8 39.Qe6+ Kh8
40Nb5?
[ 40.Qf6+ Kg8 41.Qxf3+- bxc3+ 
42.Qxc3 Bxh6 43.a4 Stockfish says 
this is won... ]

(Diagram)
Stephen finally succumbed to the lure of a repetition, not seeing that he did have a win:

\[
44.Bd3! \text{ e4 } 45.Qe6+ \text{ Kg8 } 46.Nxd6 \text{ Qd4+ } 47.Kb1 \text{ Qg1+ } 48.Bf1!!+–
\]

\[
44...Bxd5 \text{ 45.Be6+}
\]

\[
\frac{1}{2}–\frac{1}{2}
\]

Both players have pushed their plusses to the max! But the route to success is about to get bumpy:

\[
38.Nxf7 \text{ Nxf7 } 39.Bxf7 \text{ bxc3 } 40.Qc1 \text{ Qb4 } 41.Qb1 \text{ Qb2 } 42.Ke2 \text{ a4 } 43.Qxb2+? \text{ cxb2 } 44.Kd2 \text{ a3 } 45.Kc3+ \text{ Yes the pawns are stopped. But how will White ever heal on the queenside? } 45...Bd7 \text{ 46.Rg8?? }
\]

\[
46.Bg6?? \text{ Kc7–+ } \]
\[
46.Bg8!? \text{ Rd8 }
\]
\[
46.Rb1! \text{ Rd8 } 47.Rxb2+! \text{ axb2 } 48.Kxb2 \text{ How’s that for healing!? The Gordian Knot solution. And that evaluation! How does White proceed? (besides Bg8 of course) }
\]

\[
46...Rc8= ?
\]

\[
46...Rxh7!+ (The only winning move, for that matter the only move to get any advantage at all) 47.Rxf8+ \text{ Kc7 A) } 48.Rxh7 \text{ b1Q } 49.Kd2 (else 49...Qe1#) c3+ (49...a2 ); B) 48.Rb1 \text{ Rh3+ and 49...a2 }
\]

\[
\text{Diagram}
\]
47.Be8?? White makes a crazy bid to win -- which succeeds!
[ 47.Rg7= ]
[ 47.Rxc8+ Kxc8 48.Bg8 Kd8 49.f7 Ke7= Just in time. Now neither side can do anything! ]
47...Bxe8??
[ 47...Rxe8 48.f7 Rc8 49.Rxc8+ Kxc8 50.f8Q+ Rxf8 51.h8Q Rxh8 52.Rxh8+ Kc7 53.Rh1

I wasn't sure how Black would win, but fooling around with Stockfish brought it up. Black forces White's rook to go to b1, where it is lost for the a- and b-pawns with ...a3-a2. How? He brings his king to f2 and his bishop to f3!! White's rook has no place to go on the first rank except b1. White's king of course can never participate. Maybe there's some other win, say by playing ...Bxc2 (!!) and ...Kxd4, with four passed pawns (well, five when e5 falls as well). But the first method has that <ping> of perfection. Here's how it comes about: Kd8 54.Rg1 Be8 55.Rh1 Ke7 56.Rh7+ Bf7 57.Rh1 Bg6 58.Rf1 Bf5 59.Rg1 Kf7 60.Rf1 Kg6 61.Rg1+ Kh5 62.Re1 Kg4 63.Rf1 Be4 64.Re1 Kf3 65.Rf1+ Ke2 66.Rg1 Kf2 67.Rd1 Bf3

There it is! King and bishop dominate rook. 68.Rb1 a2 etc. ]
That was so interesting I almost forgot to include how the game went! 48.Rxh8 Ka7 49.f7 a2 50.Kxb2 c3+ 51.Kxa2 1-0

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 This pin is actually pretty annoying (and indeed, this is overwhelmingly the move played - EW) 5...e6 6.Bb5 The other move but I wasn't fan of moving the bishop twice in the opening 7 Bd2 Bh6 7...Bxd6 8.c3 8.Bxd5 exd5 9.Re1+ Ne7 White gives up the bishop pair for no clear compensation 9...Qd7?! Stockfish does not like this move for

Keeping the destination of the b1 knight and c1 bishop secret and anticipating a future retreat for them on f1 9...Qd7?! Stockfish does not like this move for
some reason but it makes sense to me i.e. finishing development and connecting the rooks  
[EW: The main suggestion is 9...Nce7 to get on with ...c5.]  
**10.Bd3** Sneaky move, threatening the bishop on g4  **10...f5** I thought I was better after inducing f5 so the plan is to continue development and start targeting the backward e6 pawn  
[10...Rae8  11.Bxh7+ Kxh7  12.Ng5+ Kg8  13.Qxg4]  
**11.h3 Bh5 12.Nbd2**  
[12.g4?? fxg4  13.hxg4  
**A**  13...e5! Direct refutation to the g4 idea 14.gxh5 (14.Ng5 Bxg4) 14...Qg4+;  
**B**  13...Bxg4  14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Ng5+ Kg8  16.Qxg4 I estimated this position as way too dangerous for White, my king is completely naked]  
12...Nf4 13.Bf1 Black starts accumulating pieces on the king side so it seems logical to justify the e1 rook by moving the bishop back to its original square  **13...Rf6**  **14.Nc4!** Start taking off some pressure 14...Rg6  **15.Kh1**  
[15.a3 Illustrating Black's threat: Nhx3+  16.Kh1 Nxf2+]  
**15...Rd8**  
(Diagram)  

**16.Nxd6 Qxd6 17.Bxf4!** Giving back the bishop pair by exchanging my last undeveloped piece for a piece that has moved multiple times **17...Qxf4** My idea is that Black's attack has been severely reduced so the plan is to start exchanging pieces and target the e6 pawn in the endgame. If the queens are off the board White is winning  **18.Bc4?**  
[18.Qd2! Qd6 (18...Qxd2 19.Nxd2 The ideal endgame)]  
[EW: maybe even better is 18.Be2 and then 19.Qb3. But it's less thematic (as per Nicolas's comments above).]  
18...Rd6  
[18...Bxf3! 19.Qxf3 Qxf3 20.gxf3 We both have weaknesses so the position is equal]  
**19.Qd2?**  
[19.Be2 And now I threaten Qd2 and forces the exchange of queen (and my kingside pawn structure will remain intact)]  

(Diagram)
Decisive blunder, I thought this forced the exchange of queens 19...Qxf3!!+ I Completely overlooked Black can take in that order, this basically ends the game.

[ 19...Qxd2 20.Nxd2 is a clear advantage for White. ]
[ 19...Bxf3 20.Qxf4 Rxg2 21.Qxf3 Winning for White. It's ironic that I saw the windmill but did not see the other move order ]

20.gxf3 Bxf3+ 21.Kh2 Rg2+ Windmill
Second windmill so I resigned. I think I played a very good game until the final tactic. If I had managed to exchange queens I would have had a winning endgame but kudos to Abel to not let his opportunity pass

[ EW: Specifically, 26...Rg2+ 27.Kh1 (27.Kf1 Be4+ and mate ) 27...Rxb2+ Why not be greedy :-) 28.Kg1 Rg2+ 29.Kh1 Rxa2+ And again! a7 is protected, so "giving" White the a-file is okay. (Sometimes it isn't!) 30.Kg1 Rg2+ 31.Kh1 Rh6 32.Bf5 Rg5+ and ...Rx f5. ]

0-1
advantage" is probably fair enough, whether it is enough to win is unclear. Stockfish makes it around -0.4.

14.Qe2 Bf5 15.Ne1 Qb6
[ 15...Nxa2! right away doesn't let the pawn get away, and is balanced. ]

16.Be3
[ 16.a3 Nc6 17.Be3 keeps the pawn but not any significant advantage. Stockfish generates Rad8 18.Nc3 Nxe5 19.dxe5 d4 20.Bxd4 Rxd4 21.Nf3 Rd3 and White doesn't have enough of an edge to turn = into ± (+= if you don't get the Chessbase font). ]

[ 23...Bxc3 24.bxc3 a5 will be hard to win, yet the computer gives it a few hundredths more. ]


31.b3?
[ 31.bxa3 Bxa3 32.Rcb1 b4 is a clear plus but a better defence. ]

31...Bxc5?!
[ 31...a2!! 32.bxc4 bxc4! Stockfish says -5.31 (d27). It's at times like this that I wonder if there's a big bug in the latest update or something. ]

32.bxc4?? White forgets about bishops of opposite color?
[ 32.dxc5 b4! ( 32...Bxb3 33.Rc3 Ba5 34.Rxa3 Rxa3 35.Rxa3 b4 36.Ra6 b3 37.Bd4 because of the bank rank mate threat White gets the bishop to b2, with a draw! ) 33.Rc1!! Bb5 Fairly precarious, but not lost. ]

32...Be7 33.cxb5
[ 33.cxd5?? b4 ]

33...Rxb5 34.Be1

Bg5?? Everything else (not quite literally but close!) was winning for Black.

35.Rxa3! Suddenly White has a clear advantage! Maybe not enough to win here either, but what a reversal!

35...Rab8 36.Rc2 h5 37.Kf2 Rb1 38.Bd2
[ 38.Ra5+- ]

38...Bh4+
[ 38...R1b2 ]

39.g3 Bd8 40.Rac3 Bb6 41.Rc8+ Rxc8 42.Rxc8+ Kh7 43.Ke3?!
[ 43.Bc3! is a solid win-size plus ]

43...Rb2
[ 43...Rb3+ 44.Bc3 Ba5 45.Kd3 Ra3 is not going to be a win ]

(Diagram)
44. Be1?
   [44.Bc3 Rxe2 45.Rf8 Kg6 46.Rb8! Ba7 47.Rb7 Ra2 48.Rd7 wins]
44...Rxh2 it's "rows of 0.00s" time
45.Rc6 Rb2 46.Rd6 Rb3+ 47.Ke2
Bxd4 48.Rxd5 Bb6 49.Bd2 Rb1
50.e6 fxe6 51.Rxe5+ Kg6 52.g4 Bd4
53.Kd3 Bf6 54.Rc5 Rb3+ 55.Ke4 Ra3
56.Rc4 Ra2 57.Be1??
0-1

Widjaja, Luke 2055
Seitzer, Phillip 2129
MI Felix German TNM: 2000+ (5.2)
[Winslow, Elliott]
g6 5.e5 Ng4 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.h3 Nh6
8.g4 Bg7 9.d3 b6 10.Bf4 f5 11.g5 Nf7
12.Qe2 Be6 13.Qe3 Qd7 14.0-0-0
0-0-0 15.d4 c4

Diagram

16.d5 cxd5 17.Nd4 h6 18.h4 hxg5
19.hxg5 Rxe1 20.Rxe1 Rh8 21.Rxh8+Bxh8

22.Ncb5 Kb7 23.Qa3 a6 24.Nxe6
Qxe6 25.Nd4 Qd7 26.e6 Qd8 27.exf7
Bxd4 28.Qh3!

[38.Ke2 Kd4 39.b3 Kc3 40.g4]
1-0

14...Nxe4

[14...c5!? 15.g4 1-0 Winslow,E (2311)-Davila,C (2131) Mechanics' Fall TNM; G/2 d5 2017 (6.3)]

15.Qxe4 Nf6 16.Qe2 Qd5 17.Ka1?

Madness.

[17.Ne5! (stockfish15) leaves too pawns hanging, but not really (Black's h-pawn will go in return, when White's h-pawn starts to matter). And meanwhile, White gets ready for g2-g4 (maybe also f2-f3 if needed). Still, can Black really be worse?]

[17.Be3 has been the "book" move; Ng4 18.Bc1 Rfd8 19.Ne5 Nf6? (19...Nxe5 20.dxe5 Qb5!?) used to be thought better than it looks at first, but the current brand of computer (well, Stockfish) no longer has us humans really believing in it. 21.Qxb5 cxb5 22.Be3 and the pawns might still be trouble. I like the following computer line: Kf8 23.Rxd8+}
Bxd8 24.c3 Rc8 25.a3+ putting all those pawns on the color of the bishop was unexpected! 20.f3?! (20.Rhe1!; 20.f4! Really !?) 20...b5?! (20...Qb5) 21.g4± f3-f4 will happen after all; 1-0 (40) Winslow,E (2315)-O'Connor,D (2157) Berkeley 2016 [Winslow,E].


[23...f5?! Computers again! Enamored with 24.Ng6 Bf6 25.Be3 Bg5 26.Bd4 repeating!]

24.Re1 Nd6 25.Nf3?


25...Bxd4 26.Nxd4 Rd8 27.Kb1 Ne8= 28.f3 Nf6 29.g4 Rd5 30.Kc2 Kf8

31.a4 Nd7±

[31...a5]

32.b3

[32.b4]

32...a6

[32...a5]

33.b4 Ke7? 34.f4?

[34.Nf5+

A) 34...Kf8?


A2) 35.Ne3?!;

B) 34...Kf6 35.c4 Re5 36.Rd1 Re2+ 37.Kc3 Nb6 38.a5±]

34...Nf6="1/2?" 35.Nf5+ Kf8 36.Ne3 Rd7 37.Rd1?

[37.a5±]

37...Rxd1 38.Kxd1 Nd5

[ I was more concerned with 38...g6 39.hxg6 fxg6 40.Ke2 -0.14 h5 41.gxh5 gxh5 but 42.c4=]

39.Nxd5 exd5 40.Ke2

[40.a5 Black's ...g6 will be adequate distraction. (= 0.00)]

40...b5 and it locks up. 41.axb5 axb5 42.Ke3 Ke7 43.Kd4 Kd6 44.Ke3 f6 45.Kf3 Ke6 "1/2?" Well done, Mr. Lesniewski.

½-½

B01

Li,David Z 1711
Lin,Aung Tun 1641

M Felix German TNM: 1600-1999 (5.11) [David Z Li]


[19.b4]

19...Bf6 I was most worried about 19...c5 after which Black seems to solve his cramping issues.

[19...c5 20.Nc4 Qa6=]

20.Ne5 Either b4 or c4 were probably better here since there's no rush

[20.c4]

20...g5 21.Bg3 c5 22.Nexf7?

Far too hasty. Instead, after

[22.Ng4 Bg7 23.dxc5 Nxc5 24.b4 Na6 25.c4 the knight is monster]

22...Rxf7 23.Nxf7

[23.Rxe6!]

23...Kxf7 Despite the lack of space, the two knights are better than a rook without open files, and Black manages to defend this position 24.d5 e5 25.c4
Qb4 26.Qd3 Nh8 27.a3 Qa4 28.Re4
Ng6 29.Rbe1 I was concerned about the black queen infiltrating on c2 after I swing my queen over to f3 or f5. This prepares R1e2 which defends all my pawns. 29...Re8 30.Qf3 Qa6 31.h4 Kg7 32.Qf5 Qd6 33.hxg5
[33.h5 Ne7 34.Qg4 Kf7 35.b4]
33...hxg5 34.b4 b6 35.f4? This doesn't really work due to Rf8 followed by Bh4, but the position is complex and we both had around 20 minutes left at this point.
35...gxf4 36.Bxf4 Re7? 37.Bd2 Qf7 38.Rf1?
[38.Rg4!]
38...Qf8?
[38...Nf4!]
39.Rg4 Bg5 40.Qxf7+ Qxf7 41.Rxf7+ Kxf7 42.Bxg5 Ndf8 43.Kf2 Nh7 44.Ke3 Nxd5 45.Rxg5 Kf6 46.Rxg6+ Kxg6 47.b5
1-0

24.Bxb5 Kh8 25.Bd3?
[25.Re1 f5 26.Kg1 f4!]
25...f5! 26.Kg2 Qd2+ 27.Kh3 fxe4 28.Qb6 exd3 29.Rf1 Qg2+ 30.Kh4 Qxf1
[30...g5+! 31.Kxg5 Rg8+]
31.Nc4 g5+ 32.Kxg5 Rg8+ 33.Kh4 Qf6+ 34.Kh3 Qh6#
0-1

□ Srinivasan,Sivavishnu 1366
■ Parsons,Stephen 1749
M Felix German TNM: 1600-1999 (5)
[Parsons,Stephen]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
14...Ba8?! 15.cxb5
[15.Bd3?? Nd4!]
15...Nd4! 16.Qc4 0-0 17.f3?? Qh4+
18.g3 Nxf3+ 19.Kf2 Qf6! 20.Ke3 Nd4
21.Rxd4! exd4+ 22.Qxd4 Qg5+
23.Kf2 axb5?
[23...f5! 24.Bc4+ d5 25.exd5 f4 26.d6+ Kh8]
IM John Donaldson

New books by Thinkers Publishing

Pandemic Shark: A Journey Through the World of Chess Improvement (229 pages, $30) by Danny Gormally

The Essence of Chess History: Pawn Structures (493 pages, $43) by Boroljub Zlatanovic

The Passed Pawn Power of the Passer (237 pages, $32) by Efstratios Grivas

Danny Gormally’s latest effort, Pandemic Shark: A Journey Through the World of Chess Improvement, brings back memories of his earlier work, A Year Inside the Chess World (Chess Evolution 2016). Both books feature a mixture of instructive annotations, improvement advice, and personal revelations that make the English Grandmaster a unique voice in the chess world.

Some of the ground Gormally covers will be all too-familiar to those who played chess during the pandemic from online play to streaming to the hugely underrated juniors that are the sharks in the title. He examines these topics and others from the perspective of an older Grandmaster (age 46) no longer at his peak (2573). Still playing at a high level (2466), Gormally wants to regain his old form and tries a number of things to raise his rating. His discussion of the challenges facing older players trying to regain their old strength will ring true to veteran players.

Pandemic Shark: A Journey Through the World of Chess Improvement is an instructive and entertaining read for adults in the 1800 to 2200 range, but this is not the book for younger readers due to the author’s frank discussion of various non-chess topics including gambling, drinking, and depression.

The Essence of Chess History: Pawn Structures by Boroljub Zlatanovic is a follow up to his earlier work, The Essence of Chess Strategy – Volume 1 – Strategic Elements (Thinkers Publishing 2022). This massive (493 pages) work is a systematic guide to the subject with chapters on passed, doubled, backward, and hanging pawns as well as pawn chains. There is a lengthy section on isolated pawns. The 226 examples, which are well-annotated, range from classics to recent games. Players in the 1800 to 2200 range will find this work provides a useful grounding on an important subject.

Those expecting The Passed Pawn: Power of the Passer, by the Greek Grandmaster Efstratios Grivas, to be filled exclusively with middle game examples will be surprised. Chapters 8-10 and 12-15 are either exclusively or largely devoted to the power of passed pawns in the endgame. In one case in Chapter 13, which is devoted to the Reti Maneuver (remember his famous pawn endgame study), Grivas ventures off subject in instructive fashion. One of the examples he gives suggests where Richard Reti may have gotten his inspiration for his famous pawn endgame study and speaks to Lasker’s tremendous skill in the endgame.

Ruy Lopez C83
Emanuel Lasker – Siegbert Tarrasch
St. Petersburg 1914


In this game between the World Champion Emanuel Lasker and Siegbert Tarrasch, Black exchanged down into this pawn ending because he thought that it was a simple win. White used an unusual maneuver to save himself.

40. h4! Kg4 41. Kg6! The only move. 41. Kf6? loses to 41... c4 42. Ke5 c3 43. bxc3 a4.

41... Kxh4. The text move is forced and the white king gains a tempo to return on a different diagonal which is not obstructed by his pawns.

42. Kf5 Kg3. 42... c4 43. bxc4 bxc4 44. Ke4 c3 45. bxc3 Kg5 Black also has a draw in this line but not 45... a4 46. Kd3 Kg5 47. Kc4 winning for White!

43. Ke4 Kf2 44. Kd5 Ke3 45. Kxc5 Kd3 46. Kxb5 Kc2 47. Kxa5 Kxb3 ½ – ½

Sarah Beth Cohen

When Women First Organized Chess

Today’s women, even while they haven’t gained equal sovereignty over chess as men, have attained a previously unimaginable stature in chess as players, teachers, journalists, and streamers with exclusive female events attracting sponsors, news coverage, and prize funds that would have made the ladies from even recent history dizzy.
It wasn't until the end of the 19th Century that women, who, with a few exceptions, were mainly relegated to solving chess problems, playing at home or by mail, began to emulate the opposite gender and form chess groups or clubs complete with tournaments and matches, sometimes even against their male-dominated counterparts. This was a global situation at a time when most women were also denied the right to vote.

Let's look at some of those exceptions.

The *Illustrated London News* alluded to a ladies' chess club, called The Penelope Club being formed in 1847, but with no further mention. It's reasonable to assume it never got off the ground. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert of Boston (this is the famous Ellen Gilbert of the lengthy announced mates) formed a chess club around 1860 called the Queen's Chess Club that was either for women only or open to both sexes (it's unclear but the name suggests women only). In the August of 1860 edition of *Chess Monthly*, Willard Fiske noted that 60 people attended the Queen's Chess Club's 4th of July celebration.

The first verifiable chess club for women in England, the Ladies' College Chess Club, was founded in April, 1878 and seemed to have nothing to do with a college. Brighton had a ladies' chess club that lasted 3 years from 1881-1884, and the German chess village of Ströbeck formed a women's chess club in 1886. The UK had ladies' sections for chess in many of the county events. Eliza Thorold is mentioned having won the ladies' section of the Redcar meeting as early as 1866. In the 1883 Brighton vs. Sussex County match, Brighton fielded 3 women who won 4 out of 6 of their games. Madame Ludovici, an English lady living in Germany was noted as having "won a prize in the Wiesbaden Tournament as early as 1880" without clarifying whether it was overall or in a women's section.

But these were either isolated or short-lived cases.

The first chess organization for women that survived any length of time was the Women's Chess Club of New York, founded on Jan. 6, 1894 by the industrious socialite, Miss Eliza Campbell Foot, and endured for about 50 years (until shortly after WWII). It started with 32 dues-paying members and maintained a healthy membership roll throughout its existence. It also was involved in organizing the 1st and 2nd American Women's Chess Congresses (1908 and 1921).

On January 14th of the following year, 25 ladies met in London and formed the Ladies Chess Club of London. This club participated in many city-wide leagues and seems to have lasted at least 20 years. Rhoda A. Bowles, one of its founders, also came up with and helped organize the First Women's International Tournament in 1897.

Edinburgh Scotland formed a Ladies' Chess Club in 1904 that lasted 63 years. Originally called the Ladies' Victorian Chess Club, after a few years it changed its name to the Edinburgh Ladies' Chess Club. Several of its members played in the British women's championships.

Anna Katerina Beskow of Stockholm, Sweden, founded the Kvinnliga Schackklubb of Stockholm (Women's Chess Club of Stockholm) in March, 1912.
Britain had the first continual series of national chess championships for women starting in 1904. The US wouldn't have a national championship for women until 1937, a decade after FIDE conducted the first Women's World Chess Championship.

Women in the Soviet Union were part of the government controlled chess system from its start in the early 1920's, playing in tournaments or working with chess in the educational programs. The first Soviet Women's chess Championship took place in 1927. In a sense they were always organized.

Organized women's chess during its nascent years couldn't begin to compare to women's chess of today, but, by the same token, today's environment wouldn't have been possible without these pioneering efforts.
Confessions of a Chess Coach

The Wednesday chess class at Buena Vista Horace Mann is a squirrely assortment of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders united by their interest in chess. I am a middling online chess player and an inexperienced classroom wrangler. But the students in this class and I have a common philosophy, “chess should be fun.”

To give you a picture of a typical class, I start standing at the front of the room with a display board dangling from the wall. The plastic sleeves hold 32 flat plastic chessmen in their beginning position. After taking roll, I have about ninety seconds to capture their interest before their eyes start wandering. My bespoke lesson plan is only seven minutes of content but in order to get through the plan, and through the student's attention span, I'll need to move briskly.

In the world of competitive chess, by age 13 these kids would be fighting for international norms and grandmaster titles. In my class, we still call the knight a horse. Fortunately, the goal in my class is not to prepare for competition. There are many good books and much better chess teachers for that end.

Instead, I am trying to connect the students with something more fundamental, something for which there are fewer books. I'm trying to communicate my love for the game.

I know the value of passion because I nearly lost that spark in my own chess career.

Growing up, I learned how the pieces moved from my dad. By middle school, I had picked up some openings and tactics from a desktop copy of Chessmaster. But once I made it to high school, I found a space to play.

Mr. Mulfinger was the math teacher and coach of the chess team. He kept boards and clocks in his classroom for lunch time games. All during lunch, his room brimmed with trash talk and laughter punctuated by the chatter of moving pieces and slapping clocks. I played blitz games with friends during lunch hour for years. This raucous setting is where I spent most of my lunch hours and it’s where I learned to love chess.

Playing well in Mr. Mulfinger’s lunchroom encouraged me to compete in a classical tournament at my local chess club. My style of play had grown up around splashy exchanges and tactical use of the clock. I preferred openings categorized as “fun” over those that were “sound.” Why endure a labyrinthine Queen's Gambit instead of an explosive King's Gambit?

But classical play was a different beast. Where blitz games might offer many paths to redeem a losing position, an early mistake in a classical game would permanently hobble my chances. A losing position could drag on for hours. Instead of addressing my weaknesses, I avoided this slow, calculated style of play. My USCF record reflects my preparation, a perfect 0 wins and 8 losses.

When I graduated from high school, I lost my community of blitz players and consequently lost my connection to the game. From then on, I lived without chess. Like a stationary bike that becomes more for hanging clothes than exercising, chess became an abandoned hobby. Surely next year is the year I dust it off and get back on. 
The recent pandemic was a boon for internet chess. The tide of new and returning chess players included me as I finally had the chance to tend to the old flame. With time at my disposal, I began playing blitz on lichess.org and began to fall back in love with the game.

My preference for over-the-board play led me to several Bay Area Facebook chess groups where I came across a job posting for the Mechanics' Institute scholastic program. The Institute needed teachers and I needed a chance to play regularly. More importantly, I saw a chance to share that passion for the game that I felt in Mr. Mulfinger's lunch room.

I have been teaching the Buena Vista Horace Mann for about three months now. I don't record head to head record or average centipawn loss, but I do hope that students in my class are able to demonstrate some kind of improvement over the course of the class.

Many of the students in the class know how to play but have never explored the tactical landscape of advanced beginner chess. This is the bullseye for my lesson plan, an introduction to the most essential tools on the chessboard and ample space to play.

Recently, I introduced the pattern of pins. What they are, how to use them, and where they tend to appear. Many bishops developed to b5 and g5 that week!

But as a follow up, I had something fun prepared.

Up in front of the class with my prepared presentation mat, I began to play. It's an e4 opening with a Philidor defense. Before the class has a chance to look away, I project my voice across the room, “Paul Morphy was the greatest chess player ever relative to his peers!”

Provocative, sure. But I need their attention. I include several lurid details of Morphy’s meteoric life to ensure they’re hooked.

The game is “The Night at the Opera” (1857) against Count Isouard. We call out each pin as it’s laid and watch Morphy brutally exploit each piece trapped to its square. I make gruesome sound effects on each piece capture and feign shock when Morphy's queen is sacrificed. I challenge the students to find Morphy’s mate before it’s played.

When the presentation is done, I turn them loose to play. Chairs shuffle on the floor and the energy picks up. It sounds just like Mr. Mulfinger's lunchroom. There's commotion and laughter in the air. While watching one game, I hear a student at another table cry out “No! He can't! It's pinned.” There's a chorus of “Ooh”s from onlooking players.

Just like that, chess is fun again.

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The Chess Scuttlebutt

Links to some of the news that make up our world:

The Marshall Chess Club hosts an Anti-Cheating – Fair Play panel with Dr. Kenneth Regan.
“Show me the evidence.” IM John Donaldson defends GM Hans Niemann.

China takes Gold at the World Team Championships, WIM Alexey Root covered the event for FIDE.

GM John Nunn wins the World 65+ Senior Championship.

Soccer stars Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi play chess for luxury brand Louis Vuitton.

A Toronto chess club hires WGM Anna Burtasova to attract more female members.

Cincinatti Reds first baseman Joey Votto “flattened by a 9-year old” at chess tournament.

Interested in betting on chess? Here is an amazingly detailed breakdown of the odds on the players at the upcoming Tata Steel Chess tournament.

Visiting Raccoon Valley in Iowa? The Perry Public Library is offering chess instruction.

More fallout from the Carlsen/Niemann brouhaha, as security measures in Germany left Indian GM SL Narayanan feeling “humiliated.”

13-year old Alexander Collins wins the Vermont Open.

Ready to purchase a bluetooth chessboard?

Legendary GM Judit Polgar will be inducted into the World Chess Hall of Fame.

Chess.com and Magnus Carlsen respond to Hans’ lawsuit.

A hilarious video shows how to cheat at chess, ala that suggestion by Elon Musk.

A museum in Turkey houses 727 chess sets from 110 countries.

Cops and kids square off in Chicago over the chess board.

Dallas Mavericks star Luka Doncic prefers chess to Twitter.

An interesting look at chess in popular culture.

A podcast discusses Stefan Zweig’s classic 1943 novel Chess Story.

An appreciation of English IM Michael Basman, who passed away in October.

Blitz chess and sport in war-torn Ukraine.

Face masks might hinder decision making skills in chess, in this study from the University of Queensland.

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**Recent Games**

A collection of games played around the world in the past month that have caught our attention.
A cute little game, in which the recently deceased English IM tries to give the former World Champion a taste of his own medicine.

1.f4 d6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.c4 0-0 6.Nc3 c6 7.0-0 d5 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.e3 Nc6

½-½
Black's loose kingside was the deciding factor, and 33.Be5+!! was a classic interference sacrifice to end the game.


White's desperado exchange sacrifice on move 25 sets up a lovely one-two punch at the end.

Black's energetic play throughout made the difference here, but the tide turned on move 17, where white might have stopped 17...f4! by playing that move himself.  1.e4  e5  2.Nf3  Nc6  3.Bc4  d6  4.d4  Nf6  5.Nc3  Bg4  6.d5  Nd4  7.Be3  Nxf3+  8.gxf3  Bd7  9.Rg1  g6  10.f4  exf4  11.Bxf4  Bg7  12.Qf3  Qe7  13.0-0-0  0-0  14.Rde1  Nh5  15.Bg5  Qe5  16.Qe3  f5  17.Be2?
A wild fight. Black chased white's queen around, more fireworks ensued, and a huge lead in development eventually netted him the exchange for the win.


So, Wesley
2760
Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar
2741
4th Tata Steel India Rapid Open 2022 (3.5)

A nice little combination on the 23rd move gives white revenge over his loss to the same opponent at the Olympiad.


19.Rxc5! bxc5 20.f5 Re5 21.Bg5 1-0


(Diagram)
An instructive rook ending. White's error on the 39th move only encourages the enemy king to move forward, and black finishes with a nice sacrificial breakthrough.

Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café

Maybe a game is like a double attempt to make order out of chaos. But we start with the order of the original position and rearrange it artfully, we hope, to produce an advantage in the battle to control the board and gain the full point. In the practical struggle, one or both sides push order back down into chaos as they position themselves and dissolve other structures. In competing for a winning position, an early or late mistake can be fatal. A soon-to-be winner can draw or lose from irresolution, wrong sequencing, miscalculation, lack of courage, or just overreach. Then there is the beauty of understanding that lights one up when thorough investigation produces the path to follow to get the win and relieve the pressure at last.

Are the creation myths linked to chess and other forms of competition that go by a clear rulebook and code of conduct? Something “Laskerian” was quoted from Tal at the café, “Take your opponent into the forest where 2+2 = 5, and there’s only room for one player to get out.” Which might fuel a desire to have a chess analyst who is also psychologically aware of quicker remedies than talk therapy for troubled players who lose focus at certain times and suffer from streaky play of the bad kind. Assisted by other beacons in the darkness like words from that person in your life, or another player, director, organizer.

This link gives us the first of six dispatches from Jerusalem 2022 written by WIM Alexey Root, Ph.D., on the recent World Team Championship. She also did 43 video interviews one to two minutes long with people like Gadir Guseinov, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, and Hans Neimann.

A small correction and apology to John Donaldson when I called him “coach” instead of “captain” of the U.S. team in Jerusalem. I actually knew better from a couple of years ago, but tried to impose another meaning on the real one. John was quoted after the tournament, “The U.S. lost because they failed to convert winning positions.” Always a straight shooter and encouraging about the story that might have been.

Another type of player is the overwhelming immortal who has reached heights untouched by many. In John Donaldson’s Bobby Fischer and His World, Peter Biyiasas speaks about how it felt to lose 17 straight blitz games when Bobby visited. He couldn’t see how he did it, but the result of every game was the same, and he finally had to stop. “It just wasn’t interesting.”

Another is the average-level player of whom there are many. They work to understand some of the learning of the masters. They love the game and provide a major part of the audience, more so than those who achieve expertise and mastery.

The pleasure one takes from inquiring into a game and feeling it deeply at times, lets it teach greater appreciation of life and the ways of creating and understanding one more of a million examples of good play. “There’s a story in every game,” FM Paul Whitehead likes to say, encouraging players to read it for themselves, develop their own ideas about the game, and write the story in one form or another whenever they play.

For more information about the Chess Café – and to join the conversation – look here.
More on Meltwater, Magnus Group, and the Mechanics’ Institute

The Meltwater Champions Chess Tour wrapped up here in San Francisco on November 20, with World Champion Magnus Carlsen the decisive winner. Here are the full results.

The Mechanics’ Institute is proud of its association with the Finals – we attended the opening ceremony at SHACK15 in the Ferry Building where the event was held, hosted GMs Anish Giri, Ramesh Praggnanandhaa, and Wesley So at the club, and provided chess sets and boards used for skittles and other promotional events. Our staff and club members were interviewed and feted by the organizers throughout. We enjoyed the company of television presenters IM Tania Sachdev and Sverre Krogh Sundbo, and that of Play Magnus organizers Annemarta Strand Mugaas, Konrad Becker, and Will Stewart.

Highlights of the local chess community’s engagement can be found on chess24’s YouTube channel, hosted by Ms. Sachdev. Here are our favorite moments:

- Juliana Gallin talking about organizing the Bernal Chess Club here in San Francisco.
- IM John Donaldson on the changes that have taken place in the chess world.
- TNM regular Drew Clark on being a local chess fan.
- Local organizer Allyson Wong hangs out with GM Christopher Yoo, and talks up femchess.
- Mechanics’ Institute Chess Coordinator FM Paul Whitehead takes a trip down Memory Lane.
- Hip-Hop Chess Federation founder Adisa Banjoko riffs on music, martial arts and chess.
- IM Elliott Winslow marvels at the changes in the chess world.
- TNM regular and upcoming junior Sebastian “Sebby” Suarez talks about meeting his chess heroes.

This was an incredible opportunity for chess fans to meet their idols, and we are already looking forward to next year’s final – again scheduled for San Francisco!

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Henry Lien
ChessPals

If you are reading this newsletter, it is because you love chess as much as I do. You know that chess is a dynamic strategic game that uses your brain and how much fun it is to compete, win or lose. My name is Henry Lien, and I am currently a junior in high school in Marin County. I love chess so much that I started a nonprofit, ChessPals, to teach chess for free to elementary school students after school in Marin County in 2018. I saw how quickly the kids learned the basics of the game and how much they enjoy playing every week. I realized that a lot of schools and families do not have the resources to pay for an after-school chess program so many children are not being exposed to this wonderful game. According to Edsource.org, for every child entered into an afterschool program, three are either unable to enter a program or even have the opportunity to do so. We work every day to change this reality.
In Marin County, we currently have 4 teachers who are teaching in 5 schools and have taught over 400 kids this year. Currently, ChessPals has chapters in three regions in California and we are continuing to expand nationally. We are seeking high school chess players who want to expand the program into the Peninsula, South Bay, and East Bay and teach chess in their communities. Our teachers receive community service hours and leadership experience, but equally as important, they develop true mentoring and bonded relationships with our youth. We truly strive to foster and develop a sense of community through our love for chess.

As Abel Talamantez, the Chess Program Director at Hamilton K-8 School in Novato, CA said, “The importance of chess programs in schools and the roles of chess clubs in providing a space for people to develop their skills and socialize with others, cannot be stressed enough. Chess teaches critical thinking, but it also teaches fundamental social skills such as sportsmanship, and learning from mistakes.”

At ChessPals, we help students gain confidence in their chess abilities, and take youth to local tournaments to compete and learn with their fellow peers. Recently, Talamantez ran one of these local tournaments, and we coached 7 kids from our summer camp to compete there. All of them placed high in their standings, with 2 of them even placing in the Top 15. It was very moving for all of us as it gave students a sense of confidence and accomplishment that their work over the summer was worthwhile. One of my students, Robert, was crying at the end of the tournament and I couldn’t figure out why. I then asked his mom and she said that he was not crying because he could not win all of his games, but because he got to play with his friends and other students in his first tournament.

According to Talamantez, “I think chess clubs that promote the joy and fun of chess while providing opportunities for competition is the best way to create lifelong learners and players that stay engaged with the game. Whether it be a scholastic chess club, or a larger more organized club, it really is all about the people. If a club can establish and promote a strong sense of community and belonging among the players, it makes for a very special and unique thing.”

For any student interested in bringing ChessPals to their community, we have developed a full curriculum, guided by the principles of Courage, Curiosity, and Learning using chesskids.com as a foundation. We will train new leaders how to do outreach, attract students, and oversee the program. And, we provide all the funding as well for chess boards and membership to chesskids.com. To learn more about our non-profit organization, visit Chesspals.org. Feel free to reach out to me at henry@chesspals.org if you are interested in learning more.

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**Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches**

Are you interested in joining the team at Mechanics’ Institute? The Institute 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)
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.

White to move and win. From 606 Puzzles for Chess Nuts (2008), by Wilson and Albertson. Steven provides a hint from GM Jesus de la Villa: the knight is “Slow but dangerous.” The answer is given below, under Solutions.
Tony’s Teasers

1. A.V. Lebedev, 1930.
   White mates in 2 moves.

   White mates in 3 moves.
Upcoming Events

Tournaments

**Felix German Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon – Ongoing**
Tuesdays, November 11-December 20, 2022. 6:30pm. USCF + FIDE Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5
Information and link to register.

**Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person**
Saturday, December 10, 2022, 10am. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5.
Information and link to register.

**Monthly Championship Quads**
Saturday, December 10, 2022, 3pm. 3 games of G/40;d5.
Information and link to register.

**4th Annual Donaldson Championship G/90+30 (FIDE rated)**
Saturday-Sunday, December 17-18, 10am. 4 games of G/90+30
Information and link to register.

*All tournament participants must wear masks until further notice*

Classes

**Free Women’s Online Class with FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams - Ongoing**
Every Sunday from 10am-12pm. Information and link to register.

**Introduction to Chess: Free Class for Mechanics’ Institute Members with FM Paul Whitehead**
7 classes, in person. Wednesdays, November 16-December 28, 2022, 5-6pm.
Information and link to register.

Other Offerings

**Chess Café, Mondays 4-5:30pm, ongoing.**
Information and link to register.

**Chess Social, First Fridays 5-6pm, See attached flyer.**

Solutions

Library Puzzle: 1.Qc4+!! Kxc4 (Taking with the rook is illegal, and if 1...Kd6 2.Qc5+ wins the black queen) 2.Ne3#!

Tony’s Teaser Problem #1: 1.Qb4! Threatens 2.Qb2# and sets up the Interference Theme, e.g. 1...Rb3 2.Nc2#, or 1...Bb3 2.Qc3#.

Tony’s Teaser Problem #2: 1.Rg1! The only square which allows the emerging queen her full range, e.g. 1...Ne7 2.b8=Q+! Kh7 3.Qh2#. Or 1...Nd6 2.bxa8=Q+! Kh7 3.Qh1#. Or 1...Kh7 2.bxc8=Q! anywhere 3.Qh3#. 
Join the Chess Room for Chess Socials!
Free and encouraged for MI Members

5-6pm
First Fridays of the month:
  December 2nd
  January 6th
  February 3rd
  March 3rd
  April 7th
  May 5th

Unwind from the week with fellow chess players. We’ll have rousing game replays on the big screen, snacks, and lively conversation. Wine available for purchase in the Meeting Room provided before the CinemaLit program. Stick around for CinemaLit at 6pm!

Questions?
Contact chessroom@milibrary.org
Contact Us

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club is on the 4th floor at 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA.

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

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