The newly-painted Chess Room Annex.

Contents

Recent Tournaments at Mechanics’ Institute – IM Elliott Winslow: Annotated Games from the TNM
The Chess Scuttlebutt - Recent Games from Around the World – IM John Donaldson: Two New Books by Everyman Chess
-Richard Hack: Tales From the Chess Café – A New Puzzle in the Library
Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches - Tony’s Teasers – Upcoming Events – Solutions – Contact Us
Recent Tournaments at Mechanics’ Institute

On August 12, Mechanics’ Institute hosted our monthly double-header of Scholastic Swiss in the morning, Quads in the afternoon.

The Quads had a nice turnout of 61 players competing in 15 sections, with Patrick Liu (2218) and Aryan Achuthan (2157) tying for first in the top Quad with 2 points each.

Complete results for the August Quads can be found here.

The August Scholastic Swiss saw 21 players competing in 2 sections.

In the 600+ section, Tanav Kyabarsi (770) and Keshav Raman (750) tied for 1st and 2nd places with 3-1 points apiece. Tied for 3rd through 5th places with 2.5 points each were Neeraj Rao (770), Zane Chu (659), and Rishab Sehgal (1010).

Jimmy Sanchez (370) scored a perfect 4-0 and won the u600 section outright. Tied for 2nd through 4th places with 3 points each were James Zukin (584), Nicholas Sun (540), and Josh Kyauk (339). Bailey Shapiro (434) took 5th place with 2 points.

Complete results for the August Scholastic Swiss can be found here.

Both the August Quads and the August Scholastic Swiss were directed by Local TD Arthur Liou, assisted by Local TD Michael Hsu.

A great turnout of ninety-one players turned out for the 17th Bernardo Smith Memorial, divided into 4 sections and held on August 19.

The 17th Bernardo Smith Memorial gets underway.
Abhishek Handigol (2114) won the 2000+ section with a perfect 4-0, and tying for 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points apiece were Patrick Liu (2218), Tony Kukavica (2136), and Alex Shrauger (2017).

The 1600-1999 section saw a tie for 1st and 2nd places between Jayden Lee (1756) and Kanwar Sethi Jr. (1636), both players scoring 3.5 points. Splitting 3rd place with 3 points apiece were Christophe Powers (1747) and Kian Jamali (1584).

Ansh Shrivastava (1318) won the 1200-1599 section with a perfect 4-0, and clear 2nd was Nguyen Pham (1569) with 3.5 points. There was a six way tie for third place with 3 points each between Romeo Barreyro (1523), Drew Clark (1401), Chain Singh (1394), Tao Ni (1298), Maksim Manakov (1239), and Shanhuan Fan (1163).

The under 1200 section saw a five-way split for 1st through 3rd places. Scoring 3 points each were Andrew Harms (862), Charles Zuo (unr.), Eric Ji (unr.), Timothy Taylor (unr.), and Tess Alexander (unr.).

Complete results for the 17th Bernardo Smith Memorial can be found here.

The 17th Bernardo Smith Memorial was directed by Local TD Arthur Liou.

Bernardo Smith (1875-1952) was the Mechanics' Institute's key organizer and tournament director in the early 20th century.

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The WIM Ruth Haring Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon ended on August 22, with 108 players competing in four sections.

Abhishek Handigol (2073) took clear 1st in the 2000+ section with an impressive 6-1 score, and Alex Shrauger (1996) took clear 2nd with 5.5 points. Tied for 3rd and best under 2200 with 4.5 points apiece were IM Elliott Winslow (2182), NM Archit Dasika (2204), and Rishabh Gokhale (2149).

William Gray (1948) and Christopher Powers (1764) split 1st and 2nd places in the 1600-1999 section with 5.5 points each. Tied for 3rd and best under 1800 with 5 points each were George Sanguinetti (1900), Wilson Wong (1794), and Karl Kingma (1794).

The 1200-1599 section also saw a tie for 1st and 2nd places, with Sam Calvert (1474) and Aradhana Arivoli (1140) both scoring 5.5 points. In clear 3rd was Sheng Jian (1336) with 5 points. Tying for best under 1400 with 4.5 points apiece were Nick Hollon (1086), Shiv Sohal (1285), and Martin Long (1256).

Romeo Nehme (1175) took clear 1st in the under 1200 section with 6 points. Tied for 2nd and 3rd with 5 points each were Jack Conklin (1082), Matthew Ahearn (1066), and Caleb Kim (unr.).
**John Pirone** (675) won the best under 1000 prize with 4 points.

Complete results for the WIM Ruth Haring Memorial TNM can be found [here](#).

The WIM Ruth Haring Memorial TNM was co-directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

WIM Ruth Haring (1955-2018) represented the United States five times in the Chess Olympics and was a frequent contestant in the U.S. Women's Championship during the 1970s and 80s. Her many contributions to chess included a service of four years as President of the United States Chess Federation.

On Tuesday, August 29 we hosted the **Sizzling Summer Blitz**, as we took a week’s break between the WIM Ruth Haring TNM and Fall TNM.

47 players showed up to do battle in one open section, and when the dust settled GM **Vinay Bhat** (2570) took clear 1st with an impressive 9-1 score. Vinay was nicked for draws by IM **Ladia Jirasek** (2433) and NM **Dipro Chakraborty** (2278), who both tied for 2nd and 3rd places with 8.5 points apiece. **Rajiv Arun Chockalingam** (1296) was best under 1800 with 7 points, while **Sabeek Pradhan** (1089) and **Maksim Manakov** (1239) both scored 6 points and shared the best under 1300 prize.

Complete results for the Sizzling Summer Blitz can be found [here](#).

The Sizzling Summer Blitz was directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason**.

The **2023 Fall Tuesday Night Marathon** kicked off on September 5 and runs until October 17 with 85 players competing in four sections. There is still room to join the Fall TNM and information may be found [here](#).

Current standings for the 2023 Fall TNM can be found [here](#).

The 2023 Fall TNM is co-directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

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**IM Elliott Winslow**

A selection of annotated games from rounds six and seven of the WIM Ruth Haring TNM, and round one of the Fall TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow and the players. All the games from the current TNM can be found [here](#), and games from previous TNMs are in the Tournament [Archive](#).
Two rounds to go, and a face-off between the two players with four from five. Handigol started fast with three wins, then a draw with Russell Wong and another half point bye gave Shrauger, who had lost to Russell but then an impressive three wins (including against Winslow and Hao) a chance to catch up to even first-second. And Dasika is alone at half a point off, above five with three.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3

Alex plays the Catalan. Ages ago thought to be a "quiet" opening but no more: the pawn sacrifices for long-term pressure on the queenside (The long diagonal! The c-file!) plus Black’s myriad tries to make something of that extra pawn, lead to plenty of chances for the whole point for both sides. 3...d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Nf3

a6 6.0-0

[ 6.Ne5 is a contender, stopping Black’s ...b5 for now, but
A) 6...c5 is another heavily investigated line, when White has really gambited it up with 7.Na3 cxd4 8.Nxc4 Bc5 (8...Ra7!? ) 9.0-0;
B) 6...Bb4+ 7.Nc3 Nd5
"That’s my plan, and if you refute it, I’ve got another plan." (Groucho, if he played chess.) 8.0-0!? and a *lot* of pawns go, with a mess.
]

6...Nc6

(Diagram)
[And here's Duda on the other side(!) and on the same day(!!)(July 8):
Nc6 32.Kg2 Qc7 33.Nf1 Qe5 34.Ng3 Nc4 35.Qg2 Ng5 36.Bxc4 0-0 37.Qg7 Nd3 38.Bb2
½-½ Duda,J (2732)-Firouzja,A (2777) Zagreb SuperUnited Blitz 2023 (9) ]

9.b3 Again the main move. Clearly Shrauger and Handigol know their Catalan! (Well, more than me (Winslow), making note to catch up.) 9...cxb3

10.axb3 Bb7 Black has a pawn, is well on the way to completing development -- but the usual problems (a- and c-files, backward pawns) persist. A clear case of "Pawn gone = half-open file".

11.Rd1!? The old adage "rooks before bishops" (or do I have that wrong...) -- nowhere near as often played, but looks sensible (and also keeps open a possible Ba3). Probably the lure of the c-file.

[ 11.Bb2 has done rather badly ]
[ Still, 11.Bd2 hasn't done all right, if not particularly earth-shaking. It's more on point, with a better rook play in mind.


B) 11...Bd6!? (probably better! Black has the "other plan," ...e5. If later dxe5 happens, Black's 3-to-1 queenside majority (he *is* up a pawn!) could become serious. Still, there's something cinematic about

that sole pawn on b3 holding back Black's three pawns...) 12.Rc1 0-0 13.Ne1 (the only move played -- 24 times!) when Black has done well here, with various moves: Qe8 intending ...e5 (13...Qd7!? 14.Nd3 Rfe8 ("Ditto"); 13...Nd5; Even 13...Ne7 14.Bxb7 Rxb7 15.Rxa6 Ne4 ]

11...Nb4 12.Bb2
14.Bxe7 Nxc3 15.Qc2 Qxe7
f5 27.Re5 Nxc5 28.Rxc5 Rd6 29.b4 c6 30.Re5 Re8 31.Rc5 Rc8
32.Re5 Ra8 33.Qf4 h6 34.Nf3 g5
35.Qxf5 exf5 36.Rxe7 a5 37.bxa5
Rxa5 38.Ne5 Ra8 39.Rc7 Ra6
½-½ Garriga Cazorla,P (2392)-Lianes Garcia,M (2236) ESP-ch 81st Linares 2016 (4) ]

12...Be7 13.Nbd2
[ 13.Nc3 has been played a couple times ]

13...0-0 14.e4 Nd7
[ 14...c5!† No more fooling around. ]

15.Nf1 Qe8!? #1 Actually the Stockfish
16.Bc3 Rd8

(Diagram)
How they managed to play this far without a new move is -- what, impressive? Curious? In any case, Stockfish 16 has no problem giving Black an advantage (-0.46/26). "Clear pawn up." Is it so easy? 17.Rac1N
17...c5 18.dxc5 Bxc5±

(Diagram)

19.Qb2!?
[SF16 #1: 19.h4! Ah, those computers and their rook pawns! ]
19...Bxe4? Black hits the "complications!" button, inappropriately.
 [ 19...f6 )
22.Bh6! The mate threat provokes some further loosening of the kingside.
22...e5!? 
[ 22...f6 23.Bxf8 Bxf8= (-0.12/28 down from higher) -- but Black has what edge there is (and still! -- a pawn). ]
23.Bxf8?
23...Bxf8± With ...e4 available, Black's extra pawn is mattering. 24.Ra1!? 
[ 24.Qc3 e4 25.N3d2 Bc5 keeps the queen out? 26.b4! Bd6 27.Rd1!? Be5 28.Qc1 The result? quite unclear if Black can turn it into a win or White can hold. ]
24...e4!!+ 25.Re1 Bg7?!
[ 25...Bb4! 26.Re3 Qe7+- thinks about contesting the *dark* long diagonal with ...Qf6. ]
[ 26.Qc1!+ Qe7  (26...Bxf1? 27.Bxf1= makes no sense now.) 27.N3d2 ]
26...Bxf1! 27.Kxf1

Ne5! Black in two moves clears the d-file for the rook to attack the queen, and unpins the e-pawn to take on f3! 28.Nd4 Qd7 And the pin wins. So Handigol at 5, Dasika 4.5 (on an unplayed point, when Brad Diller had to call in sick).
[White should play one more move:
  28...Qd7 29.Rxe4 Ng6! (Well, 29...f5 wins also; 29...Nc6? 30.Nf3! Qxd2 31.Nxd2 Rxd2 32.Re8+ Bf8 33.Bxc6 )]

0-1

- Wong, Russell 2200
- Kagle, Sasha 1939

Ruth Haring mem TNM: 2000+ (6.3)
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 e5 6.d3 Nge7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Nh4 d6 9.f4 f5

(Diagram)

16.g4+ h6?!
1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3
Spur of the moment. I've played Max five times before, four wins as White then one as Black. But I didn't do a proper preparation before the game: I remembered he knew the latest ("Dubove stuff") on the Tarrasch Queen's Gambit (although I'd handled the theory better the time he played that against me -- that wouldn't happen again!), but I didn't think to see what he plays as White. In general, unless you *really* know your openings, it doesn't seem like a good idea to play what your opponent plays. He might know what he's been worried about seeing -- and play it against *you*...

4...dxc4 5.Bg2 Bb4+
Of course Black has a huge selection of continuations here. 6.Bd2 a5 A principled and interesting follow up. Who knows, Black might play the "beginner's move" ...Ra6 down the line...

7.0-0 Natural, but maybe not best. I'm hesitating giving it a "?!" since I'm friends with the player of White, yet there are quite a few other moves, essayed by the very top players, which have done a bit better as well.

[ 7.Qc2?! ]
[ 7.a3?! ]
[ 7.Qc1?! even ]

7...0-0 8.Qc2
[ 8.Bg5?! ]
[ 8.e3?! ]

8...b5
[ 8...b6! was the move worrying me, and indeed it scores quite well. ]

9.a4! bxa4!

10.Ne5!? We're already in rarefied territory.
[ 10.Rxa4 is the more staid move:
  Bb7 11.Bxb4 axb4 12.Rxa8 Bxa8
  17.e3 Ra8= l+ ) 14...Nc6= ]

10...Ra7
[ 10...Ra6!? 11.Rd1 c5 12.Rxa4 Nd5
  13.dxc5 Qc7± sayeth Stockfish.
  Stockfish 16: 14.Nxc4 Qxc5 15.Rc1
  Nc6 16.Qd1 Qa7 17.Nc3 Nxc3
  18.Bxc3 Rd8 19.Qe1 Bxc3 20.Rxc3
  h6 21.Bxc6 Rxc6 22.Rxa5 Ba6
  23.Qa1 Qb7 24.b3 Bxc4 25.bxc4
  Rcd6 26.Rc1 Rd2 27.Re5 Rb2
  28.Re3 Rdd2 29.c5 Qc6 0.38/26 ]
[ 10...Qxd4!? 11.Bxa8 Qxe5 12.Bf3!±
certainly sets up an imbalance. ]

11.Rxa4
[ 11.Qxa4!? c5! ( 11...Qxd4??
  12.Bxb4 Qxe5 13.Bxf8; 11...Bxd2?!
  12.Nxd2 Qxd4 13.Ndxc4± )]

11...Bxd2
[ 11...Qxd4!? 12.Nxc4 Nd5= ]

12.Qxd2

Nbd7?!
[ 17...Qb6 ]
[ 17...Rc8 ]

Re8 23.Nd4 Qg5 24.e3 Nc5 25.h4 Qh5

This win put Wilson Wong in clear first, half a point ahead of the field, going into the last round. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 This "delayed Alapin" (until after ... d6) has been quite popular of late at the club level. Black's 2nd move provides White some nice tactical opportunities. 3...Nf6 4.Be2 Of course the e-pawn isn't hanging!

[The same could be said for 4.h3 ]
[Even with 4.Bc4 since Nxe4! walks into 5.Qa4+! Nc6 6.Bxf7+! although it might be noted (by Stockfish of course) that Kxf7 7.Qxe4 d5 8.Qf4+ Kg8 is just an even game by the number, even if the position is anything but. ]

4...g6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.Re1 0-0 7.Bf1 Nc6 8.h3 d5? I knew I could play 8..e5 and clamp down on d4 but I didn't trust myself to play a stonewall pawn structure. Instead, I made sure my opponent wouldn't be able to do the same.

[ 8...e5! Mainline. (Black is slightly better even. ) ]

[ 13...c4 I could've gone this route and continue pushing my queenside pawns and leave White with an isolated a-pawn which I could try to win, as well as having a protected passed pawn on c4 as an endgame threat. ]

14.Qd2 Qa5?
[ 14...Qa5 15.cxb4 cxb4 16.a3 bxa3 17.b4 Qb6 18.Rxa3 This would've allowed White to maintain a strong d4 pawn to take advantage of a big space advantage while still having Bh6 as an option. ]
[ 14...Qa5 15.cxb4 cxb4 16.Bh6 b3 17.axb3 Qxd2 18.Bxd2 ]
[ 14...bxc3 15.bxc3 Qa5 Better move order than the game continuation. ]

15.Bh6 bxc3 16.bxc3 cxd4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.Qxd4 Qc7 20.Nh2 a5 21.Re3? Ba6 22.Qf4 Kg8?! [ 22...Bxf1 Better to include this move first to make my king safer and avoid scenarios where White can trade his bishop for my knight. ]

23.Qh6 Nxe5
[ 23...Nxe5 24.Qf4 f6 25.Ng4 Qg7 26.Nxf6+ Qxf6 27.Qxg7 Rf6 28.Rxe5 White had the option of winning back the pawn. ]

[ 28...f6 29.Qd2 -0.52 ( 29.Rf3 e5 30.Rd3 This pawn structure is a lot more mobile and secure. ) ]

29.gxf5 Rxf5 30.Qd2 Rf8 31.Rxe3 Re8 32.g3 Rd6 33.Qd4 Rc6 34.Kg2 Qd6 35.Rd1 Rec8 36.Rdd3 Qa3 37.Qf6 Rf8 38.Qe5 Qd6 39.Qd4 Rb6 40.Re2 Qc6 41.Rde3 Re8 42.f4 Qb7 43.g4 Rb2?! 44.Kg3 Rxe2 45.Rxe2 Qc7 46.Re5 Kf7 47.Kf3 Rc8 48.Re3! Qd6 49.g5 Rc4 50.Qf6+ Kg8! 51.Kg3 Re4 52.Rf3?
[ 52.Rxe4 dxe4 Tricky to play but best drawing chance for White. ]

52...Qf8! 53.Qxf8+ Kxf8 I have good chances of winning the endgame.

54.Kf2?
[ 54.Kf2 Ke7 55.a3 Kd6 56.Kg3 Ra4 57.Kf2 Rxa3 ]

54...Ra4 55.Ke3 Rxa2 56.Kd4?! Ra4+ 57.Ke5?! Ke7!

0-1
7...bxc6 8.Nxd4
9.Be3 Bd7?! Too early/committal as the bishop would be more active on a6 [9...Bb6]
10.0-0 0-0 11.Nd2
[9.f3 Ng5 12.f4 Ne4 13.Nd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Bb6 15.c3 I had the exact same position without f2-f4 in a previous TNM game vs young]

Bc5!? I was debating between Bc5, c5 or Ba6. I decided for that move because worse case scenario I just transpose into a position I've had before in the TNM. It's actually SF 2nd choice but only if Black finds the correct continuation (which I did not)
[8...Ba6 My initial intuition because White loses kingside castling right. Not sure why I chickened out]

9.Be3 Bd7?! Too early/committal as the bishop would be more active on a6 [9...Bb6]
10.0-0 0-0 11.Nd2
[11.f3 Ng5 12.f4 Ne4 13.Nd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Bb6 15.c3 I had the exact same position without f2-f4 in a previous TNM game vs young]

I knew it was a key move because I deeply analyzed my loss against T. Gu. 15.exd7 cxd4 16.cxd4?! I think my opponent wanted to keep pieces. SF does not dislike taking with the pawn but I think it's not a good practical choice. Black's DSB is much more active than White's who is tied to the defense of the d4 pawn. On top of it I don't see a way for White to make progress as they need their DSB to release protection of d4 in order to target the a and c pawns. Hence I concluded Black has the initiative now 16...Qxd7 17.a4 a5
18.Rac1? Just dropping a pawn [18.Qd3 The only counter play is on the light squares]
18...Qxa4 19.Rc2 Rfe8 20.Rfc1 Re4 21.Rd1 Rb8!? 21...Rae8 22.Rcc1 h5
SF recommendation. White is paralyzed so the idea is just to grab as much space as possible. This looks too complicated for me.

22.b3? I think they were trying to open the b file to generate some counter play. White’s problem is that they have no active plan otherwise 22...Qxb3 23.Rb2 Qa4 24.Rdb1 Ree8 The initial plan was to load against the d4 pawn but now Black is just up two clear pawns so there’s no need to complicate the position. The idea is to keep the d4 pawn for White as it paralyzes their bishop, double everything on the a file and push the a pawn 25.Rb5 Targeting d5 but they missed that Black can force exchanges now 25...Ba7! There’s no intermediate shenanigan against the a5 pawn because of back rank mate issues 26.Qd3 [26.Qxa5?? Qxa5 Back rank mate issues] [26.Rxa5?? Rxb1+ 27.Qc1 Rxc1+ 28.Bxc1 Re1#] 26...Rxb5 27.Qxb5 [27.Rxb5 More resilient to keep pieces OTB Bxd4] 27...Qxb5 28.Rxb5 Rb8! I think they missed that move when playing Qxb5. They are targeting a4 and c7 but Black has a nice way to save them both due to back rank mate 29.Rxb8+ Bxb8 Forcing a very easy endgame with 2 extra pawns with 1 passer 30.Bd2 a4 31.Kf1 Ba7 32.Bc3 Kf7 33.Ke2 Ke6 34.Kd3 c5 35.dxc5 Bxc5 36.f3 a3 37.g4 d4 38.Ba1 White’s bishop is trapped 38...Kd5 39.h4 g5 I can also move my bishop back and forth to a7-b6 <> c5 until White is in zugzwang but this is faster 40.h5 [40.hxg5 fxg5 Zugzwang] 40...h6 Zugzwang 41.Ke2 Bb4 42.Kd3 Bc3 Finishing cleanly 43.Bxc3 dxc3 44.Kxc3 Ke5 0-1
does much better) 9...a6 10.Ba4 Ba7
11.Qb2 b5 12.Bc2 Nf6 13.a4 0-0
14.axb5 axb5 15.Be3 Ng4 16.d5
Nxe3 17.dxc6 Qxc6 18.fxe3 Bxe3+
Ra8 22.Qb2 Bc5 23.Qxb5 Qxb5
24.Nxb5 Bb6 25.Ba4 Rxa4
0-1 Yoo,C (2606)-Svidler,P (2692)
Aimchess Play In op Chess.com INT
rapid 2023 (5)
[In perusing the games in the
database I see that 6...b5!? has a plus score! (Well, okay, if White
takes it goes to 52.6%) 7.Bxb5 Nxd4
8.Nxd4 exd4 9.0-0!?]

7.0-0 Nf6?
[7...Bb6 frees a5 for the knight]

[Diagram]

8.Qb3?
[White has an enviable 80% with
8.Ba3! d6 (8...Qd8 ugh) 9.d5
picks off the bishop on a5 with
Qa4+. (9.Qa4 similar)]

8...0-0½

Black has slipped by the danger and is
now doing very well. 9.Ba3
[Here’s quite an upset, even though
it’s an online blitz game: 9.d5 Nb8
Qe7 13.Rad1 d6 14.Bb5 a6 15.Be2
Bb7 19.g3 Na5 20.Nf5 Qe6 21.Nd2
Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Qxf5 23.Bd3 c4
0-1 Sarkar,J (2365)-Jiang,A (1715)
PNWCC Online Blitz JP 22 Chess.
com INT 2021 (3)]

9...d6 10.Nbd2 Bb6N And what does
White have for the pawn? Not much at
all.

[In fact, after 10...exd4! 11.cxd4
(13.Rad1 Bb6+) 13...Qf5
it’s (1) two pawns (2) even less than
not much.]

11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nd4?! Nfg4?!
[12...Nxe4! 13.Nxe4 Nxc4 14.Qxc4
Qxe4+] 13.Rae1+/- 13...Qh4?!
[13...c5 14.N4f3 Nxc4 15.Nxc4
Be6+] 14.h3 Nf6 15.f4?!
[15.N2f3 Nxf3+ 16.Nxf3 Qh5 17.e5
Bxh3!]? 15...Nxc4 16.Nxc4
After five rounds three players had 4-1 -- and two of them took half point byes! This left the path open for Sheng Jian to take the post by winning -- which he did here. Note that in the Round 6 file three weeks ago, this game was somehow erroneously a copy of another game. Here now is the correct score. White played an excellent game! 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 d6 5.h3 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.d5 Nb8 8.c4 White's advantage in space is typically a game-long problem for Black in these lines, and the current game was no exception -- in fact an exemplary example of how to play for White. 8...Nbd7 9.Nc3 c5 10.0-0 a6 11.Be3 Re8 12.a3 Rb8 13.b4 White gets there way ahead of Black. 13...b6 14.Qc2 Nf8 15.Rfb1 Bd7 16.Rb3 Qc7 17.Rab1 b5? 18.bxc5 dxc5 19.Qb2?! [19.cxb5! c4 20.b6! Qc8 21.Bxc4 Qxc4 22.Nd2 Qc8 23.b7 Qc7 24.Qd3 is overwhelming, piece down notwithstanding. ] 19...Rb7? [19...b4!? 20.axb4 cxb4 21.Na2 a5 22.c5± ] 20.Qe2 Rc8 21.cxb5+ c4? 22.Bxc4 [ 22.b6! ] 22...Qxc4?! [ 22...axb5!? ] 23.Qxc4 Rxc4 24.bxa6 Rxb3 25.Rxb3 It's fairly over. 25...Bd6 26.a7 Rc8 27.Rb6 Ra8 28.Rxd6 Bc8 29.Nxe5 N8d7 30.Nxd7 Ne8 31.Rb6 Rxa7 32.Nc5 Rx a3 33.Rb8 Kf8 34.Rxc8
Rxc3 35.Nd7+
1-0

[Long,Martin]


8...Nxd5 [8...Nxc4 9.Nxf6+ Bxf6 10.dxc4 b5 11.cxb5 Bb7=]


12...Bb7 [12...d5]

13.Ng5?! h6? [13...Nxb3 14.Nxh7 Kxh7 (14...Nxa1 15.f6+-) 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Rf3 f6±]


14.Bxf7+! Rxf7 15.Nxf7 Kxf7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.b4

[I had intended to play 17.f6! here, but lost my nerve and went for the safe material instead. Stockfish far prefers f6, giving the following line Bxf6 18.Rxf6! gxf6 19.Rf1 Qf7 20.Qh4 Rf8 21.Bxh6+-]

ecw: There's hardly anything wrong with 17.b4 though, with a solid material advantage. 17...c5

[17...Bf6]

18.bxa5 Qxa5 19.f6! Bxf6 20.Bxh6

[20.Rxf6 gxf6 21.Qg6+ with mate in 11 apparently]

20...Qc3 21.Rac1 Qd4+ 22.Kh1 Rf8

23.Qg6 Qb2! My opponent sets up a cunning trap and I fall straight into it. (Luckily for me, it doesn't quite work.)

24.Rxf6?

[24.Rf3 is safer]

24...Qxc1+! 25.Bxc1 Rxf6 forking the queen and Rf1# 26.Qe8+ Rf8 27.Qe6+

I didn't notice I had this saving resource when I played 24. Rxf6. I was feeling very lucky here. 27...Kh8 28.Kg1 Rf6 29.Qd7 Ba6 30.Qxa7 Bc8 31.Qb8 Rf8 32.Qxd6

1-0

[Ruth Haring mem TNM: 1200-1599 (6.21) [Long,Martin]]

[Clark,Drew]

14.Bxf7+! Rxf7 15.Nxf7 Kxf7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.b4


ecw: There's hardly anything wrong with 17.b4 though, with a solid material advantage. 17...c5

[17...Bf6]

18.bxa5 Qxa5 19.f6! Bxf6 20.Bxh6

[20.Rxf6 gxf6 21.Qg6+ with mate in 11 apparently]

20...Qc3 21.Rac1 Qd4+ 22.Kh1 Rf8

23.Qg6 Qb2! My opponent sets up a cunning trap and I fall straight into it. (Luckily for me, it doesn't quite work.)

24.Rxf6?

[24.Rf3 is safer]

24...Qxc1+! 25.Bxc1 Rxf6 forking the queen and Rf1# 26.Qe8+ Rf8 27.Qe6+

I didn't notice I had this saving resource when I played 24. Rxf6. I was feeling very lucky here. 27...Kh8 28.Kg1 Rf6 29.Qd7 Ba6 30.Qxa7 Bc8 31.Qb8 Rf8 32.Qxd6

1-0

[Ruth Haring mem TNM: 1200-1599 (6.21) [Long,Martin]]
develop their LSB 5.Bc4  
[ 5.Bb5 is the other  option ]
5...e6 6.f5 Nge7 the main line  
[Recently, albeit in Titled Tuesdays 
and other Blitz games, Black has had 
a lot of success after 6...gxf5 7.d3 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0½ per SF16 ]
7.0-0  
[ 7.fxe6 is the main line, where Black 
has the option of how to recapture 
fxe6 leads to very forcing lines such as ( 7...dxe6 8.d3 0-0 9.0-0 Na5 
10.Bb3 Nxb3 11.axb3 appears to be the 
calmer route ) 8.d3 d5 9.Bb3 b5 
10.0-0 c4 11.dxc4 dxc4 12.Qxd8+ 
Kxd8 13.Nxb5 cxb3 14.axb3 
as played twice in Titled Tuesdays by 
FM Dragan Popadic ]
7...0-0 a safe route avoiding 
complications  
[ 7...d5! 8.fxg6! and now Black has a 
big choice to make  hgx6!? ( 8...dxc4 
9.gxf7+ Kf8½ leads to a very double 
edged game and was first tested out 
in 1974! by WIMs Wagner Michel and 
Porubsaky Angyalosine ) 9.Bb5 a6 
10.Bxc6+ Nxc6½ was the choice of 
Super GM Grischuk in a round of the 
Speed Chess Championship against 
GM Artemiev ]
8.Qe1?  
[ 8.fxg6 relieving the tension fxg6 9.d3 b6 ( 9...d5!? 10.Bb3 ) 10.Bg5 h6 
11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 Bb7∞ is a line 
foreseen by SF16 with equal chances 
for both sides ]
8...exf5?  
[ 8...d5! first, and Black is on the cusp 
of winning 9.Bb3 c4 10.f6! 
an necessary pawn sacrifice to stop 
the LSB from developing ( 10.Ba4 
exf5 11.exf5 Bxf5+ and Black is up 
a pawn with extremely active pieces in 
a great position ) 10...Bxf6 11.Ba4 d4 
12.Nd1 Qa5 13.Bxc6 Nxc6½ ]
[ 8...gx5!? is another option 9.d3 fxe4 
10.dxe4 d5 11.exd5 exd5 12.Bb3 и 
and Black controls the center and will 
develop his LSB ]
9.Ng5?  
[ simply 9.d3 fxe4 10.dxe4 Nd4 
11.Qh4∞ with complications abound ]
9...h6 10.Nxf7 Rxf7 11.Bxf7+ Kxf7+  
12.Qh4  
[ 12.exf5! gxf5 trying to open the 
king up ]
12...Kg8 13.d3 Qf8 14.Nb5 Nd4 
15.Nxd4  
[ 15.Nc7!? an interesting forcing line 
Nxc2 16.Nxa8 Nxa1 17.Be3 g5 
18.Qh5 Nc2 19.Bxc5 d6! freeing the 
the White knight escapes but Black 
can force the Endgame Qf7 22.Qxf7+ 
( 22.Qe2 Bd4+ 23.Kh1 Ne3+ 
and Black has a great attack on the 
king ) 22...Kxf7+ ]
15...Bxd4+ 16.Kh1 g5?!  
[ 16...Bg7 bringing the bishop back to 
defend is safer ]
17.Bxg5? too rash in my opinion  
[ 17.Qh5? ]
[ 17.Qg3!? either move keeps the 
tension, and the game is far from 
over ]
17...hxg5 18.Qxg5+ Qg7 19.Qxg7+  
[ 19.Qh5 in my view, keeping the 
queens on the board is necessary to 
give White any chance ]
19...Bxg7 20.exf5 White gets three 
pawns for the bishop, but Black’s piece 
activity will more than compensate 
20...Kf7 21.c3 b6 22.Rf2 Bb7 23.Raf1 
Bf6 24.c4?!  
[ 24.h3!? with the idea of playing Kh2 
and g4, trying to give White some 
counterplay ]
24...Rg8 and White’s position is more or 
less frozen 25.h4  
[ for example if a random move like 
25.a3 Black has Nxf5 and White can’t 
take due to 26.Rxf5 Bxg2+ 27.Kg1
Be4+ 28.Kf2 Bxf5 nor can he free his
king due to all the pins]

25...Rg4 26.Kh2 Bxh4 27.Kh3 Bxf2
now it's simply a matter of conversion

31.Re2 Nxf5 32.Re8
[32.Rxg2 Ne3+]

32...Ne7 33.Rf8+ Ke6 34.Kg3 Bc6
35.Kg4 Ng6 36.Rf1 Ne5+ 37.Kh5
Nxd3 38.Kh6 Nb4 39.a3 Nc2 40.Kh5
Nxa3 41.Rf8 Nb1 42.Rc8 Nf2 43.Re7
Nxb3 44.Rxa7 Nd2 45.Ra6 Nc4
46.Ra2 b5 47.Rc2 b4 48.Rxc4 b3
49.Rc1 b2 50.Re1+ Kd5

0-1

Conklin, Jack 1082
Nehme, Romeo 1175
Ruth Haring mem TNM: u1200 (7.33)
[Nehme, Romeo]

Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 In Rd.2 I played a
Najdorf, so I decided to switch it up to
avoid prep. 6.Be3 Bg7 Move order is
important here.

[Keep in mind the following trap:
6...Ng4?? 7.Bb5+ Bd7 (if 7...Nc6
10.Bxa8+- ) 8.Qxg4+- and White is up
a piece.]

7.Qd2
[7.f3 The critical move, controlling g4,
and leading to the Yugoslav Attack.
0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 (A) 9.Bc4
Bobby Fischer's preference, where
Black has several options to chose
from (B) 9.0-0-0 the positional
choice, which continues d5 10.exd5
13.Bc5 Be6!! 14.Ne4 Re8
with a complicated game ahead )
9...Bd7 ( 9...Nxd4 an old line which
Brent Larsen used against Fischer in
Portoroz 1958 in the 2nd of Fischer's
60 memorable games. More recently
Anish Giri has tried resurrecting it in
his book on the Dragon ) 10.0-0-0 Rc8
(10...Rb8 the Chinese Dragon;
10...Qa5 ) 11.Bb3 Ne5 the main line]

7...Ng4 this is possible because the
White queen no longer attacks g4,
nullifying the Bb5+ trap
[7...0-0 8.f3 and we're back in main
line territory]

8.0-0-0?!
[Keeping the bishop pair is a must

8.Nxe3† 9.Qxe3 Nc6 10Nb3!
0-0† weakening White's long castle,
while Black's king is completely safe]

10...0-0 11.Kb1 Bd7 12.h4 h5 13.f3
Ne5
[13...Rc8! inviting 14.g4 hxg4 15.h5
gxf3 16.hxg6 where Black is doing
good after Ne5! 17.gxf7+ Rxf7†]

14.Be2
[14.g4!? immediately hxg4 15.f4 Nf3
16.Be2= (16.h5?! is met by Qb6!†
taking the venom out of White's
attack)]

14...a6? this takes away the b6 square
from the Queen, which we will see is
crucial
[14...Rc8= continuing to develop, and
if 15.Qxa7 Black has the thematic sac
Rxc3† 16.bxc3 Qc7 17.Qa5 b6
18.Qb4 Nc6 19.Qa3 Rd8∞
and a great attack]

15.Nd5?
[15.g4! hxg4 16.f4 Nf3 17.h5!
except this time there is no Qb6 to
exchange queens e5 18.f5 gxf5
19.Bxf3 gxf3 20.h6 Bf6 21.Rxd6+-
and Black's position crumbles]

15...Rc8 16Nb6 Rc6 17.Nxd7 Qxd7=
18.g4 hxg4 19.h5
[19.fxg4! and if Black takes back
Nxd4 White can mount an attack with
19...gxh5? 20.Rxh5± Rfc8!?
trying to create counterplay 21.Nd4?
[21.c3 and Black's counterplay is
dead, and White must convert after
something like gxf3 22.Bxf3 Ng6
23.Rg1+-]
21...gxf3? unnecessary complications
[21...Rc5 22.Rdh1 Ng6 23.fxg4
Bxd4 24.Qxd4 Rxc5 25.gxh5 Ne5
26.Rg1+ Kh7= and Black holds ]
22.Bxf3+-
[during the game, I was quite worried
about 22.Rg1!? which threatens fxe2
(however after 22...Ng6! 23.Nxc6
fxe2 24.Nd4± White doesn't have
enough to win ) 23.Rxg7+ Kxg7
24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.Qh8# ]
22...Ng4?? more unnecessary
complications
[22...Rc5 and White's path to victory
is very complicated, even to SF16
who proposes 23.Rh2 Qa4 24.Bh5
Ng6 25.Bxg6 fxg6 26.Qg3 Qe8+-]
23.Qg5 Ne5 24.Bg4??
[White wins on the spot after 24.Nf5
Ng6 25.Nxg7 Kxg7 26.Qh6+ Kf6
(26...Kg8 27.Rg1! and the pin on the
knight means Black can't stop Qh8#)
27.e5!! and Black has to give up the
queen or get checkmated on the next
move ]
24...Qxg4+ 25.Nf5?
[playing out the Endgame following
25.Qxg4 Nxg4 26.Rg5 Ne5 27.Rdg1
Ng6 28.Nxc6 Rxc6+ is White's only
hope ]
25...Qxd1+
0-1

It should be noted that Stockfish
decidedly prefers Black here. 10.g4!?
But -- these are humans, and confusion
reigns! 10...e4
[Stockfish 16: 10...b5!]
11.Nd4

(Diagram)
Nb6? and White equalizes, as we like to say.
[11...Ne5 12.g5 Nfd7 sees Black heading for d3 after 13.Nxd5 Nc5+ 14.Nf4 b5 Very derivative -- and hard to find!]
12.Rg1
[12.h3± followed by 0-0-0 isn't so bad or anything.]
12...Be6
[12...Bxh2!]
13.g5 Nfd7 14.d3± White continues to press the initiative. 14...Rc8 15.dxe4
[15.0-0-0!]
15...Bb4 16.a3 Bxc3+ 17.Bxc3 Qc7 With this double attack Black is awarded "0.00" by Stockfish, but it's a treacherous path... 18.Rc1 Qxh2!

(Diagram)

19.Kd2?
19...Qd6?
[19...Nc5! 20.Rh1 Qxf2+ at least]
20.Rh1
[20.e5! Qxa3! 21.Bd3 g6 22.f4± with thoughts of kingside attack for the pawn.]

(Diagram)

20...dxe4??
[20...g6! 21.Rh4 Rfe8 22.Rch1 Nf8= 23.e5! Qxa3! (23...Qxe5 24.Nxe6 Qxe6 25.Bg4)]
21.Qxe4 The smoke clears, White crashes through. 21...g6
[21...Rfe8 22.Qxh7+ Kf8 is no defense.]
22.Rxh7! Rxc3 23.Rch1! Rc2+ 24.Qxc2 f5?! 25.gxf6 1-0

Wong,Russell 2200
Winslow,Elliott 2182
Ruth Haring mem TNM: 2000+ (7.2)
[Winslow,Elliott]
1.d4 d6 2.Bf4 London? 2...Nf6 3.e3
[3.Nc3!? The Jobava might not make sense with the bishop diagonal already cut off, but the idea is e2-e4 and transposition into a Pirc, when d6-d5 costs an important tempo. There was a time when Bf4 against the Pirc was thought to be nothing, but no more -- it's one of the three moves (Be3, Bf4, Bg5) that among other things contemplate setting up Qd2 and Bh6.]
3...Nbd7 4.Nf3 g6 5.Nc3
Now I'm really confused. And I might not be the only one. 5...Bg7 6.Bc4
Also an odd square for the London -- but with my knight on d7, he's got me worrying about Bxf7+! 6...0-0 7.h4?!
Everybody's 3400 engine these days, throwing the h-pawn up the board?
[No, actually Stockfish prefers one square less: 7.h3 with the "normal" line b6 8.0-0 Bb7 9.a4 a6 10.Re1 d5 11.Bf1 c5 12.Nb1 (!) Re8 13.Nbd2 and everything has come around (N/d2, P/d5) to just another (balanced) London System.]
7...c6

Black's already better (what is White doing?). 8.h5? Nxh5= 9.Bg5 Nhf6 [9...b5!]
10.Qd2 d5 11.Bd3 Re8 12.0-0-0 Qa5
I have a bad habit of sticking my queen out on a5, in the way of my pawns running down at White's king.
[12...b5!]
13.Kb1?
[But in any case, 13.Bh6 Bxh6 (13...Bh8!? ) 14.Rxh6 b5= gets there first.]
13...e5? I was thinking "Center counter
vs. wing attack" but better is "Faster wing attack vs. wing attack."

[ 13...b5+ 14.Rh4 b4 15.Ne2+- when all three implementations of the attack are quite good: (15...Ne4; 15...Rb8; 15...c5 )]

14.Bh6?! This doesn't cut it.

A) 21.Rxh7?? Bh5+;
B) 21.f3? Bh5+ 22.a3 (22.e4 dxe4 23.Bxe4 Qg5) 22...Qg7 (22...R8e7!? ) 23.e4 dxe4 24.Bxe4 f5 25.Bd3 Re3;

14...Bxh6 15.Rxh6 Qc7+=
[15...Ng4 16.Rh4 h5]

16.Nxe5
[16.Ng5]

16...Nxe5 17.dxe5 Ng4?!
[17...Qxe5 18.Rdh1 Bf5]
[17...Qxe5]

18.Rh4! Qxe5 19.Rdh1 h5!

The attack is fairly shut down; Black has a pawn. 20.e4 d4?
[20...dxe4 21.Nxe4 Bf5 22.f3! Bxe4 23.fxg4 Bxg2! and ...Bf3, keeping the defense.]

21.Nd1!± c5 22.f3 Nf6 23.g4 g5!

Out of nowhere Black gets desperate.

24.f4?!
[24.Rxh5! Nhx5 25.Rxh5 f6 26.Qg2± and double on the h-file, so the Jobava h-file attack after all!]


29.b3?! Kh8
[29...Bd7]

30.Nh3 Bd7 31.Rhf1 White is slipping in the ending... 31...Re3± 32.Rh4 Rae8

33.Kb2 b5?
[33...Re1 34.Rxe1 Rxe1 35.Nf4 Kh7 36.h6 b5]

34.Nf4
[34.Rg1!=]

34...Re1
[34...Rg3!±]

35.Ng6+

35...Kg7

(Diagram)
36.Rf2? and over the edge.
   [ 36.Rxe1  Rxe1  37.b4!= ]
36...Kh6!  37.Rg2  Ne4
   [ 37...Bc6! ]
38.Bxe4  R8xe4  39.Nf4  Be8  40.Rg8
Rf1  41.Ng2  Rhx4  42.Nxh4  Bxh5
One of those games that, when you put it through the engine ringer, it's not so convincing -- but at the time if felt like a good fight!
0-1

Cawthon,Jeremy David 1964
Yan,Ruiyang 2357
2023 FAll TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 05.09.2023
[Winslow,Elliott]

It's great to have Ruiyang back at a TNM! The bad news is, she's taking three byes in the last three rounds. But then the good news is, it's to play in the U.S. Women's Championship! (I think -- I should verify that.) Her first round game is her grinding away against another player that I don't think has ever played a TNM -- Jeremy was a star player at Lowell High School quite a few years ago when the Mechanics' had chess there; they've always had a well-attended "chess social" going on, with a lot of blitz and even some teaching. We may be going back there again this year? He looked to be holding on very well in this game, but some endgame slips (by them both) led to his demise.
1.e4  c5  2.c3  Nf6  3.e5  Nd5  4.d4
  8.exd6  Qxd6  9.0-0  dxc3
   [ 9...Be6 ]
0-0  13.Rad1  Bg4  14.Bxd6  Bxf3
15.gxf3

Bxd6  16.Rxd6  Rfd8  17.Rfd1  Rxd6
   [ 20...Rd8= ]
21.Nd5+=  Nxd5  22.Bxd5  Rc8  23.Kg2
b6  24.b3
     27.Rxc8  Nxc8  28.Kf3= ]
24...Rc2  25.Kf3  Nc6  26.a3  Nb8
27.Bc4  Nd7  28.Re3+  Kf6  29.Re8  Nc5
30.Rf8  Rc3+  31.Kg4  Ne6  32.Rh8  h6

(Diagram)
33.h4? g6+ 34.h5?!  
[ 34.f3 ]
34...gxh5+?!  
[ 34...Kg7! 35.Bxe6 ( 35.Ra8? f5+ 36.Kh4 g5+ 37.fxg5 hxg5#; 35.hxg6 Kxh8 ) 35...gxh5+ 36.Kxh5 Kxh8 ]
35.Kxh5

Ng7+??  
[ 35...Kg7 36.Rc8 Nxf4+-+ ]
36.Kh4!= Kg6 37.Rg8! h5 38.Bd5  
Rc5 39.Bf3  
[ 39.Bc4 ]
[ 39.Rd8 ]
39...Kf6

Rh3+! Classic liquidation tactic; the pawn endings are won for Black with that outside majority on the queenside. 45.Kxh3 Ng5+ 46.Kh4 Nhx7 47.Bf3 Nf6 48.Kg5 b5 49.Bc6 a6 50.Bb7 a5 51.Ba6 b4 52.axb4 axb4 53.Bc4 Ne4+ 54.Kxh5 Nd2 55.Bd3 b3 56.Kg5 b2 57.f6+ Ke6 58.Bf5+ Kd5 59.Kh6 Ne4 60.f3
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.e3 d5 3.b4
Felix's signature move so I wasn't too surprised 3...Bg4
[ 3...e6 SF prefers transposing into a slav structure as b4 is usually not a good move in those positions ]
4.Be2 e6 5.a3 Bd6 6.Bb2 0-0 7.c4!
A good move that asks a question to Black. If c6, White can push to c5 and get some play on the queenside. Black can also take, surrender the center and get the initiative. I heavily analyzed this position from my first game against Felix a couple TNM before so I knew both options were fine 7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 Nbd7 9.d4 Qe7 Preparing e5 under better conditions
[ 9...a5 Also good ]
[ 9...e5 I thought this was too premature but SF proves me wrong 10.dxe5 Bxe5 11.Bxe5 Nxe5 12.Qxd8 Rfxd8 I saw until here and thought that White is just going to grab my knight on e5 and be up a piece. If I had seen one move further I would had noticed they are hanging a Morphy mate... 13.Be2 ( 13.Nxe5?? What I saw Rd1# And what I missed ) 13...Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Be6 15.Nc3 Black keeps the initiative ]
10.Nbd2 e5! 11.dxe5 Bxe5 12.Qb3! Bxb2! Disrupting the annoying battery along the a2-f7 diagonal 13.Qxb2 Ne4
[ 13...c5 Probably better, playing on the queenside. I wanted to punish White for not castling though ]
14.0-0 Rad8 15.Nd4 White is threatening f3 15...Nxd2 16.Qxd2 Ne5
[ 16...c5 Still a move ]
17.Ba2 Nf3+! The idea behind Ne4. This is SF first line but in practice is not the easiest decision as White is going to get a lot of activity if I let them regroup which happened in the game. Practically I would had been better with continuing developing and putting more pressure on the queenside but my mind was already made up after Ne4. I also think not playing this move would had put me in a tough psychological spot as this is too tempting 18.gxf3 Bxf3
[ 18...Bh3?? 19.Kh1 Bxf1 20.Rxf1 Black's attack stops net and White is winning now as their pieces are almost ideally placed for the counterattack ]
19.Nxf3 Rxd2 20.Nxd2 White has a rook, a bishop and a knight against a queen and a pawn so in theory the position is still complex. In practice Black has to play only-moves to maintain the balance and prevent White from regrouping 20...Rd8
[ 20...Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Rd8 ( 21...Qd5+?? Felix told me after the
game this would had won the knight but he forgot that there's an annoying bishop on a2 ) 22.Nf3 Qf5 ]

21.Nf3 Rd6 My first real mistake of the game and is already positionally decisive. The idea is to move the rook to the h or g file and avoid exchanging it but it's way too slow
[ 21...Qe4!! At this point the correct plan is to realize that Black does not have enough material to win and has to settle for a draw 22.Nd4 ( 22.Rfd1?! If White still wants to play, however Black stands better as the queen is more mobile Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Kf8 24.Bd5 Qg4+ ) 22...Qg4+ 23.Kh1 Qe4+ And take the draw ]

22.Rfd1 Rg6+
[ 22...Qf6 I spent a long time analyzing this move 23.Rxd6?? ( 23.Kg2 This is the move that made me discard this variation. I thought that White will trade a pair of rooks and be better. However White's activity comes from the pair of rooks so exchanging one actually make the queen stronger as the remaining rook, bishop and knight need to find harmonious placement to cover each other so it was definitely the last change to save the game ) 23...Qxa1+ 24.Kg2 cxd6 ]

23.Kf1 The rest of the game is not that interesting as White's plan is very simple: double on the d file and brute force target f7. Black does not have any active plans at this point 23...h5 24.Rd4 Rc6 25.Rad1 g5 26.Rd7 Qe4 27.Rxf7 Re6 28.Bxe6 SF gives it as the only blunder from White but this is exaggerated as this is the fastest win.

28...Qxe6 29.Rd8+ Kxf7 30.Nxg5+ Hats off to Felix for playing a perfect defense → counterattack game. I had the initiative the entire game but he waited patiently until I slowly lost the

thread so kudos to him.

1-0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barreyro,Romeo Belmes</th>
<th>B10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raahemifar,Keyan</td>
<td>1380</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2023 Fall TNM: 1200-1599 (1.17) 5.9.23

[Winslow,Elliott]


Bg5 18.Qg3 Bxd2 19.Qxh4 0-0

(Diagram)
The problem is the outside majority. Stockfish is telling us "draw," but in practice Black is the one needing precision. **32...Kf8?**
37.f4? [37.g5!+-]
37...a5! 38.b5= Everything else *loses*
38...f6 39.Kf3 Kc7 40.h4 Kd6 41.g5

fxg5??
[41...f5= Total blockade. ]
42.fxg5! e5 43.dxe5+ Kxe5 44.Ke3
d4+ 45.Kd3 Kd5 46.h5
[46.b6 Kc6 47.Kxd4 Kxb6 48.Kd5+- ]
46...h6 47.g6 Kc5 48.Kc2 Kd5
49.Kd2 Kc5 50.Kd3 Kd5 51.b6 Kc6
52.Kxd4 Kxb6 53.Kd5 Kc7 54.Ke6
Kc6 55.Kf7
1-0

ew: Andrew is taking his game seriously: His real (not "published") rating is already 400, and even so this is one heckuvvan upset! Not quite a model of precision, but that could well come along shortly. Look out! 1.e4 Arrived 5 minutes late to the board, so I'm already in time trouble! 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 Knights readying their lances in the middle. 3.d4 Fighting for the center. 3...Nxe4 4.Nxe5 I considered 4.Bd3 here to develop with tempo, which in retrospect I think is better. I decided I wanted the bishop on c4 if Black would allow it. 4...Qe7?! Though there might be threats around Qb4+ or down the e-file if White can't get castled, I felt this was a positional mistake, blocking in the DSB. Black is going to have trouble castling anytime soon.
[4...d5 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.0-0 0-0= ] 5.Bd3 I considered 5. Bc4 here which is what I had wanted, but then had a brain cramp where I thought Qb4+ picks up the bishop. The knight on e5 defends! Missed a better move due to seeing ghosts.
[5.Bc4 Nd6 6.Bb3 Black is very cramped here. ] 5...Nf6 Black misses a chance to open up his LSB. White feels slightly better already. 6.0-0 Qd6 Avoid the peril of queen-king alignment on the e-file. I wonder if 6...Qb4 is better? Runs into c3, but after something like Qb6 at least Black's DSB has a destination on d6.
[6...Qb4 7.c3 Qb6 8.Bg5 Bd6 ] 7.Re1 Threatening a deadly double attack with Nc4+, and defending the pawn on d4. 7...Be7 The only good defensive resource, though the bishop remains pretty unhappy on e7 as things stand.
[7...Qxd4?? 8.Nf3+!+- ] 8.Bc4 Threatening the fork with Nxf7. 8...0-0 9.Nc3 I considered Bxf7+ here but decided to keep developing, given Black's space/development constraints.
my clock: I'm down nearly 1/3 of my time and we're only on move 10 (nearly 25 minutes over my usual "budget"). So I decide to trade pieces on f7, partly to simplify the position without untangling Black's queenside and partly to weaken Black's king safety. (In postmortem, opponent said he was terrified of Nb5 here where the queen is in real danger. I didn't give this proper consideration in-game. Let's see ...)

[ 10.Nb5 (ew: So much better now!) ]
Qb4 11.Bd2 Qa4 12.b3 Qa6
13.Nxc7+– Entirely forced queen hunt to this point, and we're winning the rook, plus the queen is still pretty misplaced. Much better than the route I chose, though it would have burned more clock (and risked errors) to calculate the entire forcing line.]

10...Rxf7
[ 10...Kh8 11.Bb3 Not any better. ]
11.Nxf7 Kxf7 Really the only advantage here for White is Black's open king. So the position is worse, but the clock pressure feels slightly eased. 12.Nb5 This was a better attacking move before I traded off my best pieces! Helps him get queen cleared out to free DSB, plus I'm not completing my kingside development which is neglecting my dynamic advantage. But I do fork the pawn on c7 which he has no way to defend, plus I'm defending my d4 pawn. Alternative option was Be3 but I didn't love blocking the e-file, and it's met by Qb4 which forks my knight and b2 pawn.

12...Qb4
[ 12...Qd5 13.Re5 Nxe5 14.Nxc7 Qc6 15.Nxa8 b6 16.dxe5 Qxa8= ]
13.Nxc7 Rb8 (! ew)

(by a lot more than 13...Rb8 - ew )
16...Nd4±]
14.d5 I had been waiting to push this pawn because I spotted a tactic of attracting the king with Rxe7 and then forking the queen with Ne5+, but it required displacing both knights which seemed a big lift. 14...Nd4 15.Bf4 Threatening a discovered attack on the rook (not Na6? which can be met by bxa6 and the queen defends the rook, but Ne6 where dxe6 Bxb8 exd5 leaves Black two points of material down but massively freed up). 15...d6 Again, not sure Black needed to defend against the discovered bishop attack. Simply Qb2 better here? What about Nxc2 which seems to win a pawn?

[ 15...Qxb2 16.Ne6 ? (ew)
(16.Be5+–; 16.d6+– ) 16...dxe6
17.Bxb8 exd5= (ew: 18.Rb1+ ) ]
[ 15...Nxc2 16.Qxc2 Qxf4= (ew No, 17.g3!± is still a healthy plus.) ]
16.c3
[ (ew) 16.Be3!–]
16...Qa5?! Black defends my attack on his knight by targeting my knight.

[ 16...Qc5 17.Be3! Qxc7 18.Bxd4± "But this is just B+N v R+P!" Yes, but here the rook and pawn matter. (Okay, I'm a little surprised as well - ew) ]
17.Qxd4 Taking with the queen was key here, gaining activity for the trade of knights. 17...Qxc7 18.h3 Here I wanted to activate my rook with Rd1 but it runs into Bf4 which is quite annoying. The knight can also be fairly dangerous on f4. So I decided to slow down a moment and play a prophylactic pawn move which also gives my king some luft in case my rooks need to abandon the back rank for an attack, which feels like it's imminent. 18...Bf5 19.Rad1 And now all my pieces are on nice squares, and I'm up a point of material but those pawns on d5/d6 are still kind
I think the purpose of this move is to target the a2 and d5 pawns? But it leaves the bishop on e7 only defended by the king ... 20.Rxe7+ "!!" (ew -- I *like* this shot! But...) I found this candidate check/capture quickly but spent 9 minutes calculating: not recapturing seems foolish after Bxd6, so Kxe7 Re1+ which forces another king move and no matter where he goes Bxd6 creates a monster passed pawn on d5 and allows a blistering attack down the e-file. I liked the position after Bxd6 so I made the move. 20...Kxe7

(Diagram)

21.Re1+??
[Here Andrew just didn't get to 21.Bxd6+!! Kxd6 22.Qf4+ Ke7 23.Qxb8 is a favorite sort of proverb of mine: "Queen and rook vs. a king in the open is a win." :-) (ew) ]
[(ew -- by the way, 21.g4!? is pretty good, but not on the scale of 21.Bxd6+!!) ]
21...Kd7 (?) (ew)
[21...Kf7! is safer and leaves d7 for minors (ew) ]
22.Bxd6?
[22...Qxd5 23.Bxb8 Qxd4 24.cxd4+- Seems like a very winning endgame for White. ]
[(ew Not just maybe: 22...Re8!= leads -- for White -- to just enough (two pawns vs. a knight) for equality.) ]
23.Qe5+ Now the rook falls and Black is in trouble. 23...Kc5 24.b4+!
At an earlier point in my chess development, I would have snapped up the rook instantaneously. But "if you see a good move, find a better one" caused me to scan the board and find this move after only a minute, winning the White queen. 24...Kc4 "If you see a good move (say, capturing your opponent's queen), find a better one." Qd4+ Kb5 Qc5+ Ka4/a6 Qxa5# so Black resigned following Qd4+. 25.Qd4+ 1-0
The Charles Bagby Memorial/Northern California State Championship was held at the Mechanics’ Institute from 1976 until 1987. IM John Grefe was clear 1st in 1981.
Above and below: scenes from the monthly Chess Social on Friday, August 4.
The Sizzling Summer Blitz on August 29. Above, in the foreground Joe Urquart is black vs. IM Ladia Jirasek, while in the background Henry Benaid is black vs. the tournament winner GM Vinay Bhat.
Attending the Beginners Class for Mechanics’ Members are Sheryl Kim and Darius Johnson.

IM Elliott Winslow teaching a class on Chess and Computers.

Photographs by Alan Benson, courtesy of chessdryad.com
The Chess Social on Friday, September 1.
Join the Chess Room for Chess Socials!
Free and encouraged for MI Members

5-6pm
First Fridays of the month:

October 6
November 3
December 1

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
In Memoriam: Richard Russel Shorman (1938-2023)

By Kerry Lawless

Richard Shorman was born on August 21, 1938 to Harry and Verna Shorman in Oakland, the eldest of four children. An early memory of Richard's was of the family housekeeper, Rowiner, reading Indian spiritual books to him.

Richard read his first book of chess when he was 15 years old. A little later, he started playing at the Oakland YMCA Chess Club run by George Koltanowski. In 1958, his first published rating by the Chess Friends of Northern California (CFNC) was 1555. In 1959, at Kolty's request, he became the editor of the Oakland YMCA Chess Bulletin (1959-1960), and officially joined the Hayward Chess Club. In early 1960, he played in his first and only USCF tournament in Portland, Oregon and received a 1757 rating. About this time, he came to an agreement with George Koltanowski to help write and edit some of George's daily chess columns in the San Francisco Chronicle. I don't know if Richard was the first to do this, but he wasn't the last.

Richard, a Kenpo Karate practitioner, joined the Army in 1960. Singled out as an outstanding boot camp cadet from among 3,000 men, he was recruited to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey to learn Russian, graduated in 1962, and finally leaving military service in 1966.

Richard started attending the Cherryland Café in Hayward. Harold James (proprietor and cook) had opened the Café in 1962, and it soon became a Bay Area chess hot-spot: Harold served up the food with a sarcastic wit, while Richard countered with chess and his own dry wit.

Richard resumed helping George Koltanowski with his column. While he was associating with George, Richard noticed how Kolty mowed down his simultaneous exhibition opponents tactically. This led Richard to start playing gambits, and his rating jumped to expert after only two or three CFNC tournaments.

Richard developed his writing skill during this period and enjoyed himself so much that he was loath to turn the column back to George, which eventually led George to one day exclaim in exasperation, “Why don’t you start your own column?” George then called the Hayward Daily Review and persuaded them to let Richard write a chess column, which then ran from 1967 to 1981. Richard’s column also ran in the Fremont-Newark Argus and the Dublin-Livermore-Pleasanton Herald & News from 1968 to 1974, while also occasionally ghost-writing, proofreading, and correcting Jude Acers' Berkeley Barb chess columns from 1972 to 1975.

In 1972 Richard discussed the Spassky-Fischer Match at Cal State Hayward, at the same doing behind the scenes Russian translations of Soviet chess publications for KQED's Friday and Saturday programs on the match.

Richard began teaching chess classes at Chabot Junior College in 1974. Attendance was high despite the dense curriculum: Pawn Endings by Maizelis, Masters of the Chessboard by Reti, and Chess the Easy Way by Fine were some of the required textbooks.
Richard served at various times as the Central California Chess Association's Publicity and League Director, and as Director and Instructor of the LERA late night chess group. Richard was the Hayward Chess Club's President, Instructor and Lecturer, and the Games Editor for Northern California publications *Chess in Action* and *Scacchic/Chess Voice*. Tournament Director of the Junior Divisions for Chess Friends of Northern California, Richard taught chess to thousands of East Bay adults and kids for over 60 years.

Richard was a major photo contributor to Northern California chess magazines from 1968 to 2023, and held the title of "Official Photographer" for both CalChess and ChessDryad.com.

Richard Shorman (Photo courtesy chessdryad.com)

Richard was a legendary member of the San Francisco Bay Area chess community where he developed and taught a "tactical" aggressive approach to chess. He leaves behind generations of past and current students who were enriched not only by his chess lessons but life lessons as well.

Editor's note:

Richard seemed to be everywhere, and at every tournament, during the 1970s as I developed as a player. I particularly remember a conversation with him where we both lamented our inability to no longer see the chess pieces as little wooden figures, but now could only see their possibilities, their geometric range. Here is a charming portrait of Richard Shorman and the Cherryland Cafe from the pages of *Chess Voice*, way back in April/May 1975.
The Chess Scuttlebutt

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

FIDE bans transgender women from competing in women’s events.

Chess.com joins lichess.org in cutting ties with the St. Louis Chess Club due to allegations of sexual harassment.

Sabrina Chevannes, another top woman player, speaks up against the ‘toxic culture’ in chess - and much worse.

Culture, hormones, endurance? A FIDE official wants more research into how gender might influence results in chess.

A Chess Olympiad for preschoolers was held in Poland.

Defeating 18-year old Indian wunderkind GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa in the final, Magnus Carlsen wins the 2023 World Cup.

GM Aleksandra Goryachkina wins the 2023 Women’s World Cup, defeating dark-horse IM Nurgyul Salimova in the final.

Apparently chess is now America’s favorite board game.

Arnold Schwarzenegger plays chess with a pig named Schnelly.

GM Vinay Bhat hangs out at the Mechanics’ Institute with columnist Katy Atchison of Broke-Ass Stuart. Vinay shares stories of growing up in the world of chess.

Elon Musk thinks chess is ‘too simple’, but we’ve yet to see him play a single game.

The Carlsen/Niemann affair is settled, and Carlsen says he will play Niemann again if paired up.

Hans then goes on Twitter and asks: “Did you miss me?”

Local star Laurie Qiu takes the Silver in the Under-10 Female section of the XXXIII Pan American Youth Festival held in Chicago.

Now you can replace the evaluation bar on lichess or chess.com with GM Hikaru Nakamura’s facial expressions.

The Pawn Shop Chess Club meets at Alamo Square Park in San Francisco and has 396(!) members.

And 300 ‘zillenials’ show up at a bar in downtown Manhattan to party - and play chess.

In a bombshell letter, WGM Jennifer Shahade resigns from U.S. Chess over their failure to adequately address the issues of sexual harassment and violence towards women in the chess world.

___________________________________________________________

Recent Games

A selection of games from around the world that have caught our attention.
D35

Goryachkina, Aleksandra 2557
Batsiashvili, Nino 2474

FIDE World Cup (Women) (4.2) 10.08.23


D78

Praggnanandhaa R 2690
Erigaisi Arjun 2710

FIDE World Cup 2023 (6.1) 15.08.2023


D83

Chasin, Nico 2450
Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar 2747

4th Mohammed VI Trophy 2023 (1.1)

The young American IM blunders into a cute tactic. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Rc1 c5 7.dxc5

Carlsen wins the 2023 World Cup. White's failure to get in c4 in the rook ending led to his downfall.


Carlsen wins the 2023 World Cup. White's failure to get in c4 in the rook ending led to his downfall.

Qb4?
[ 23...f5= ]
24.Bxh7 Kxh7 25.Ne4 Qe7 26.f5!
[ 26.f5! exf5 27.Nf6+ gxf6 (27...Kh8
28.Qxh6+! gxh6 29.Rxg8+ Rxg8
30.Rxg8# ) 28.Qxh6+ Kxh6 29.Rh3# ]
1-0

PPraggnanandhaa R 2707
C Carlsen,Magnus 2835
FIDE World Cup 2023 (8.3) 24.08.2023

Carlsen works his magic in the endgame. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4
Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.a4 d6 6.0-0 a5 7.Be3
Bxe3 8.fxe3 0-0 9.Nbd2 Ne7 10.Nh4
c6 11.Qe1 d5 12.Bb3 Qd6 13.Qg3
Nh5 14.Qg5 g6 15.Nf5 Bxf5 16.exf5
Kg7 17.Kh1 Qf6 18.Qxf6+ Nxf6
19.Qxg6 hxg6 20.e4 dxe4 21.dxe4
Rad8 22.Rf2 Rd4 23.Raf1 Neg8 24.c3
Ra8 28.g4 f6 29.Rg2 Nh6 30.g5 fxg5
31.Rxg5 Nf7 32.Rg2 Re6 33.Rd2 Rf6
34.Rxf6 Nxf6 35.b4 axb4 36.cxb4 Kf8
37.Kg2 Ke7 38.a5 Rh8 39.Re2 Nh5
40.Kg1 Nf4 41.Rd2 Rh3 42.a6 bxa6
43.Ba4 Rc3 44.Na5 Ng5 45.Rc2

0-1

□ Timo Leonard 2223
■ Alexander Grischuk 2736
The World Rapid Team Championship (1.3)

Black is clearly channelling Nimzovitch with 5...Bxc3+! and the eccentric looking
10... Kd8!? 1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.c4 d6
4.Nc3 c5 5.d5 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 e5 7.Ne2
Qe7 8.Ng3 h5 9.h4 Nh6 10.a4
Kd8!  11.a5  Kc7  12.Be2  Na6  13.Nf1
Bd7  14.Ne3  f5  15.exf5  gxf5  16.Bxh5
f4  17.Nf1  Rag8  18.g3  Nf5  19.gxf4
22.Kb3  Qxh1  23.Bxf4  Nf5  24.Bf7  Rg7
25.Be6  Qe4  26.Qd2  Rh4
0-1

Wesley So  2769
Victor Bologan  2574
The World Rapid Team Championship (1.9)

White finds a nice positional queen sacrifice to take control.  1.e4  e5  2.Nf3
Nc6  3.Bc4  Nf6  4.Ng5  d5  5.exd5  Na5
9.0-0  h6  10.Ne4  Nxe4  11.Bxe4  0-0
12.d3  f5  13.Bf3  e4  14.dxe4  fxe4
15.Be2  Qc7  16.h3  Qe7  17.Qd4  Rb8
18.a3  c5  19.Qd5+  Kh8  20.Nc3  Bf5
21.Be3  Rbd8

Nb7  25.g3  Qe6  26.h4  Bg4  27.Bxg4
Qxg4  28.Re5  Qg6  29.Nxe4  Re8
30.Rxe8+  Qxe8  31.Nc3  Qg6  32.Rc1
Qf5  33.b4  cxb4  34.axb4  a6  35.Ne2
Nd6  36.c4  Qg4  37.Nd4  Ne4  38.c5  g5
39.hxg5  Nxc5  40.c6  Nf7  41.Bf4  Nd6

42.Bxd6  Qxd4  43.Be5+  Qxe5  44.c7
1-0

Sarin Nihal  2684
Levon Aronian  2742
The World Rapid Team Championship (3.2)

Black falls into a curious zugzwang.
1.Nf3  d5  2.b3  Bf5  3.Bb2  e6  4.g3  Nf6
5.Bg2  Be7  6.d3  h6  7.0-0  a6  8.Nbd2
Bh7  9.c4  c6  10.a3  a5  11.Ra2  Nb7
12.Qa1  Ne8  13.Rc1  Bf6  14.b4  Nbd6
axb4  18.axb4  Ra4  19.Nh5  Rxa2  20.f4
Ra2  21.Rcc2  Rxb2  22.Rxb2  Ra1+
23.Kf2  dxc4  24=Nxc4  Nxc4  25.dxc4
Be4  26.b5  cxb5  27.Rxb5  g5  28.h4
gxf4  29.gxf4  h5  30.Bf3  Ra8  31.Ke3
Bxf3  32.exf3  Ne8  33.Rxb7  Nd6
34.Rd7  Nf5+  35.Kd2  Rf8  36.c5  f6

37.c6!!  fxe5  38.c7  exf4  39.Ke1  e5
40.Kf2  e4  41.fxe4  Ng3  42.Kf3
1-0


White needed nerves of steel to rebuff black's attack. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3
13. Nxe6! Rc8
   [ 13...fxe6 14.Qh5+ Kd8 15.Rfd1+ Kc8 16.Qf7+- ]
14. Qg4
1-0


(Diagram)
Black mistakenly opts for rook vs two minor pieces on the 16th move and falls under a powerful attack.

1.e4  e5  2.Nf3  Nc6  3.Bb5  a6  4.Ba4  Nf6  5.0-0  Be7
6.d3  b5  7.Bb3  d6  8.c3  0-0  9.h3  Re8
10.Re1  h6  11.a4  Rb8  12.axb5  axb5
13.d4  Bf8  14.d5  Ne7  15.Be3  Nxe4!?  
16.Ba7  Ra8?
[ 16...Bf5  17.Bxb8  Qxb8  18.Bc2  Nf6
19.Bxf5  Nxf5 with compensation for the exchange. ]
Qc8  20.g4  Qb7  21.Be3  Rxa1
22.Qxa1  Nxd5

Re5  29.Qc1  Ke8  30.Qh6  Qa6  31.Qh7
e3  32.Qg8+  Kd7  33.Qxf7+  Kc8
34.Nxe3  Rxe3  35.Qg8+  Kb7
36.Qxd5+  c6  37.Qd7+  Kb8  38.fxe3
Qa1+  39.Bd1
1-0

White's rarely played 8th move throws black for a loop.

Nf6  5.Nc3  a6  6.Bg5  e6
7.f4  Be7  8.e5!?  dxe5  9.fxe5  Nfd7
10.Bxe7  Qxe7  11.Qh5  0-0  12.0-0-0
g6  13.Qh6  Nxe5  14.Be2  Nbc6
15.Nxc6  bxc6  16.h4  Rb8  17.Qf4  f6
18.Ne4  c5  19.Rhf1  Kg7  20.h5  g5
21.Qg3  Qb7  22.h6+  Kxh6  23.Rxf6+
Ng6

(Diagram)

(Diagram)


(Diagram)
29.Re2
[ 29.Bxh4! Rxh4 (29...Bxh4 30.g4+-) 30.Nxh4 Bxh4 31.g4=]
29...Kc8 30.Ng5 f6 31.exf6 Bxf6
32.Ne4 Bd4+ Black, with the two bishops, gradually seizes control.
33.Kf3 Rh8 34.Ng5 Bf6 35.Rd2 Bd7
36.Be3 Re8 37.Kf2 Bf5 38.Nf3 Bc3
39.Rd1 Bf6 40.Rd2 Kb8 41.Re2 Rd8
42.Rd2 Rxd2+ 43.Nxd2 Bc2 44.Ke2
Kc8 45.Bf2 Kd7 46.Nf3 Bxb3 47.Kd3
50.Nh4 a4 51.g4 Be4+ 52.Kc3 c6
53.g5 fxg5 54.fxg5 Ke6 55.g6 Kf6
0-1

HansOnTwitch 3039
VladimirKramnik 2988
Live Chess Chess.com 02.09.2023

Kramnik, clearly incensed by Hans' win in the previous game, tries to use Carlsen's ploy - but Hans beats him to it.
1.e4 f6 2.d4 g5
[2...g5 3.Qh5#]

(Diagram)
Erigaisi Arjun 2712
Keymer,Vincent 2717
Tata Steel India Open Rapid 2023 (1.4)


Harikrishna,Pentala 2711
Gukesh D 2758
Tata Steel India Open Rapid 2023 (2.4)


(Diagram)

C45

Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime 2727
Keymer, Vincent 2717

Tata Steel India Open Rapid 2023 (4.1)
Free Women's Online Chess Class by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams

Every Sunday on Zoom from 10 am to 12 pm

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Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected, but not required. Registration is needed so we may send the links for players to join.

Questions? chessroom@milibrary.org / (415) 393-0110
IM John Donaldson

Two New Books by Everyman Chess

Strategic Play with 1.d4 by Milos Pavlovic (2023, 279 pages, $28.95)

The English Defense by Jose Gonzalez (2023, 319 pages, $29.95)

Everyman Chess (www.everymanchess.com)

Many amateur players today (and not just amateurs!) find opening theory unmanageable. It seems everyone and their brother has not only read the latest opening books but taken endless Chessable courses and watched innumerable YouTube videos. What is a chess player to do?

One useful piece of advice, offered by Lajos Portisch almost half a century ago in the classic book How to Open a Chess Game, is to lower one's expectations. Emphasizing simplicity and economy, the Hungarian great suggested the only task in the opening is to reach a playable middlegame.

This advice might sound like a cop out. Surely one should strive for a big, if not decisive advantage, shouldn't they? Or should they? With the democratization of opening knowledge, the days of the booming serve and subsequent short volley are pretty much over. Garry Kasparov and his massive opening assault have given way to Emanuel Lasker's aim to reach a playable middlegame.

While the goal in 2023 is to reach a playable middlegame, one additional aim is to reach a playable middlegame that feels comfortable and familiar. Such is the aim of a new book by the British publisher Everyman Chess.

Strategic Play with 1.d4 by Milos Pavlovic advocates for an opening repertoire based on 1.d4, 2.Nf3 and 3.g3. If this rings a bell it's because an earlier book by Christof Sielicki (Keep It Simple – 1.d4 published in 2019) proposed the same first three moves. The books have similarities but also important differences.

Keep It Simple – 1.d4 is structured like most theoretical works and covers all variations with the analysis invariably ending by move 15 to 20. Strategic Play with 1.d4 is arranged around model games. Both formats have their advantages. Keep It Simple – 1.d4 can be more theoretical (more on this later) while Strategic Play with 1.d4 presents entire games with annotations throughout.

Specific opening choices in the two books are often different. The Catalan is at the heart of both repertoires, but after 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6, Keep It Simple – 1.d4 advocates for 8.a4 while Strategic Play with 1.d4 recommends the rock-solid 8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Bg5.

Such choices typify the two books. Keep It Simple – 1.d4 is definitely the more theoretical. 8.a4 in the Catalan is a current main line while 8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Bg5 is known to be drawish when played by elite players.
The tendency to opt for the quieter, less theoretical lines in Strategic Play with 1.d4 can be seen in its recommendation against the Grunfeld. Both books opt for non-main line approaches against the King's Indian with Keep It Simple – 1.d4 recommending 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.b3 and Strategic Play with 1.d4 pitching 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.Nbd2.

Where they differ radically is if Black plays 5...d5. Here Strategic Play with 1.d4 continues to stay on the back roads with 6.Bf4 while Keep It Simple – 1.d4 jumps on the interstate highway by playing 6.c4 and entering the main lines of the Fianchetto Grunfeld.

In summary, both books are true to their aims. Keep It Simple – 1.d4 is, despite its title, aiming to get an opening advantage, albeit with a repertoire that is not as labor intensive as one based on main lines with 1.e4 or 1.d4. The author uses powerful computer analysis to come up with new ideas.

By contrast Strategic Play with 1.d4 has more modest aims. Following Portisch's advice, the aim here is to reach playable middlegames. While White players might not gain any objective advantage the idea is to reach positions they know better and are more comfortable with.

Both books offer more or less complete repertoires although I don't recall seeing anything against the Old Indian in Strategic Play with 1.d4. This book is more complete in its coverage of Hedgehog structures.

For whom is Strategic Play with 1.d4 aimed? Definitely not beginners of any age who need exposure to playing 1.e4 at the early stages of their career to learn basic chess principles (the importance of development, control of the center, king safety, etc.). Likely the correct audience is players rated roughly 1800 to 2300 who want to improve their positional understanding and/or desire an opening repertoire that demands little maintenance. The heart of this book is the 79 well-annotated games and the interactive questions the author poses.

The English Defense by Jose Gonzalez offers more than its title promises. It does indeed cover the English Defense (1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6) in comprehensive fashion but also the English Defense against the English opening (1.c4 b6).

One of the many new things I learned from this book is that White can take Black out of the English Defense after 1.d4 e6 with the move 2.Nf3. Here Gonzalez advocates for the Hungarian grandmaster Richard Rapport’s favorite Dutch line and one he has made popular with his success – namely 2...f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 d5 6.c4 Ne4.

To close out a complete repertoire the author spends his last 56 pages covering the French with the Fort Knox variation 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3/3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd7 (envisioning ...Bc6 and ...Bxe4) as the cornerstone. Once again, this book is arranged around well-annotated model games.

Combine The English Defense and Strategic Play with 1.d4 and you have a complete opening repertoire for White and Black. This would not be my choice for an ambitious, rapidly improving junior, but for an adult club player in the 1800-2300 range, with limited study time, this is a repertoire that could last them for the rest of their career.
Richard Hack
Tales from the Chess Café

The Chess Café met on four Mondays in August. Players presented games, questions about strategy, problems, puzzles, studies, and conversation about many topics, including two of the most prominent issues in the chess world, about which more below. On August 7, we struggled with one of the unusual chess problems Ray brings to the meetings. Mike Walder said he showed it to Moscow-born Azerbaijani GM Gadir Guseinov, who saw one move that didn't work, then said, “The only move is this,” and solved it in about 8 seconds. The endgame position led to both sides queening, with each player skewering the other, but given the move order, Black won.

The summer featured seven chess camps at the Mechanics’ Institute chess club, one of which had 21 kids participating. It was also the season of the World Cup, whose quarterfinals featured 4 Indian and 2 American players. It was finally won by Magnus Carlsen over Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, while Fabiano Caruana came in third. The latter two will enter the 2024 Candidates; at 18 the former will be the third-youngest Candidate ever. The Women’s World Cup went to Russia’s No 2 seed, Alexandra Goryachkina, who narrowly lost a world title match (8.5-7.5) to Ju Wenjun in 2020. One of the thoughtful Café participants said, “I'm not sure it's a good system. It seems like a ridiculous set-up.” I might agree because I don't like No. 1 in the world being decided by rapid and blitz games. One of us suggested that the World Championship be eliminated and make it more like tennis, where the top players are simply ranked as No. 1 or 2 or 3 in the world, etc. One of our world travelers, Quinn, showed a picture of a giant chessboard in Athens. She also wondered what her minimum rating would have to be to enter the Women's World Cup someday, and Alexey offered some advice.

A player brought up Hans Kmoch’s amusing parody of Nimzovich's bombast, “The Immortal Overprotection Game.” You can find it online. Chess.com notes that it first appeared in the Wiener Schachzeitung in February 1928. It was reprinted in *The Treasury of Chess Lore* (Dover, 1951), Fred Reinfeld, editor, which credits the English version to *Chess Review*, 1951.

Sophia once sent the Cafe a message from the Blitz Society in the 16th arrondissement of Paris. She later gave a good report on them, and I found the following online: “Choose one of the 27 tables with green and white tops [chess boards] and rack your brains! But you need some juice to keep up, so, you better order a board of cold cuts or cheese to share, some quality wine or a beer, and off you go and play another game! All this to well-fitting jazz music, because of the laid-back atmosphere making us travel to the 1930s. Pictures of famous players from the past hung on the walls end up convincing us to put the timer on. Every week, the bar sets up entertainments and tournaments to keep regulars busy!”


Alexey spoke about the U.S. Open that just took place in Grand Rapids. She mentioned some of the problems with voting at the meetings that took place during the tournament. A delegates’ meeting took the whole first day, deciding such things as who should represent areas like D.C. and Rhode
Island. Sophia mentioned that a lot of people got COVID in Michigan: “You were supposed to mask around people. I didn’t want to get on a plane because a lot of people with COVID were going to New York also.” She drove back with some other New Yorkers instead of waiting for the next plane.

Lichess was also discussed for recently withdrawing its affiliation with US Chess and the St. Louis Chess Club because of their failure to enforce rules against harassment of girls and women. The Lichess post received 450 comments: “A lot of muddled thinking,” said Paul. A good deal of information is provided at https://lichess.org/blog/ZNTniBEAACEAJZTn/breaking-the-silence about Alejandro Ramirez and Timur Gareyev, and the failure of US Chess to deal with allegations of their abuse of female players. One of the postings included in the blog is from Jennifer Shahade and says in part: “I notified the org [US Chess] at least four times of Alejandro’s alleged abuse of girls/women (including of me and a 15 year old) before he was paid to coach the Women’s Olympic Team. I pleaded he not be sent.” However, she and others were ignored by the federation. Ryan Velez, a former member of the executive board, told Lichess that US Chess can remove a coach through a majority vote. Velez went on to explain his specific concerns in a statement to Lichess: “I believe US Chess has a blind spot when it comes to dealing with titled players. . . . US Chess is generally an excellent organization with a vibrant chess culture. The staff who work there are amazing and implement policy, but they do not shape the policy (that is the job of the Executive Board). I hope my voice contributes toward positive change within US Chess.”

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch published an article on this matter which reported a statement by St. Louis Chess that “the Saint Louis Chess Club received no reports whatsoever of any alleged inappropriate conduct on the part of Mr. Ramirez that occurred while he was employed by” the club. However, the next paragraph quotes Jennifer Shahade, “a program director for U.S. Chess, [who] said she reported Ramirez’s assault to St. Louis Chess in October 2020, and again to St. Louis and U.S. Chess officials in phone conversations in 2021 and 2022.”

“Shahade and another accuser said they were interviewed by lawyers for both St. Louis and U.S. chess last fall after they filed formal complaints, but there was no follow-up. Since her tweet, Shahade said, 10 women have contacted her with accounts of sexual misconduct or assault against Ramirez.

“The Wall Street Journal this week [March 7, 2023] reported accounts from at least eight women who have accused Ramirez of sexual assault. Among those accusers was a third person who was younger than 18 at the time, and two women who said they woke up to Ramirez groping them in shared housing, including in a residence operated by St. Louis Chess.

“Susan Polgar, a chess champion who retired from Webster University in 2021 as the most successful college chess coach in U.S. history, said in a public statement that she heard ‘countless horrific stories,’ in addition to her own experience, about women facing mistreatment over her decades-long career. ‘No matter how often these situations were brought up, members of the brotherhood were protected,’ said Polgar, 53.”

The Journal also published an article on October 7, 2022 concerning the Niemann-Carlsen affair, with a focus on Chess.com’s investigation into cheating by Hans, but not by Magnus, even though video caught the then-World Champion taking a move back in a game with Alexandra Kosteniuk.

It was mentioned that Hans Niemann was recently reinstated to Chess.com. “A lot of peace was made,” noted Sophia. “It’s good for chess all around.” She wondered if FIDE will investigate Carlsen for hurting Hans’ reputation, and said she hopes New York will act and take youths cheating in money tournaments and other events off the site for six months or a year. Charles James said Nakamura will name other cheaters. Paul said his dream for Mechanics’ Institute is that Hans will come by again someday and show us his win over Magnus, which Niemann père on a recent visit said “would be beautiful.”

Some of the contests we watched were “model games,” said Paul. “Like watching Carlsen winning a won game . . . To know what good technique looks like and to model your play on it.” Someone else remarked that Nakamura analyzes his games on YouTube for 20 minutes right after they’re finished.

The term “novotny” was introduced to many of us on August 28. It was defined as a combinative motif where a piece moves to a square that is an intersection of two lines controlled by the opponent, like a diagonal and a file or a rank. I found the following in a book of 225 problems called Seven is the Limit, published in 1989 by a small publisher in Calcutta, which can be read on the Internet Archive, an interesting source of books, movies, and many other images and texts: “‘Nowotny’ theme – In Problem No. 24, the move of the White N, viz. 1.Nc7, blocks the different lines of action of two Black pieces enabling White to set up two threats. The capture of the N by another Black piece nullifies one of the two threats in turn, but not the other. The whole mechanism is known as the ‘Nowotny’ theme, after its expostulator.”

No. 24, attributed to Dr. Niels Hoeg and a Deutsche Schachblatter of 1927, has the following position: White Nd5, Qf6, Kg6; Black Ra7, Bb6, Kg8. After 1.Nc7, White’s queen mates on g7 if the bishop takes, and on d8 if the rook takes.

And that’s the way it is, September 5, 2023. Good night, and good luck. And thanks to those commentators who made these sign-offs their signatures.

Editor’s note: The Chess Cafe meets online via Zoom and was started during the Pandemic. The topic is chess and the chess-playing community, with people of all ages and skills participating. The Chess Cafe is free and open to all. You can join the conversation by registering here.
A New Puzzle in the Library

Every week or so Mechanics’ Institute's Head of Technical Services, Steven Dunlap, puts up a chess puzzle in the library for our members to solve.

Steven's own composition: “Checkmate by Assassin-Pawn.” 1.g4 is checkmate! Black cannot capture en passant with 1...hxg3 as the pawn on h4 is pinned by the rook at h1.

For those starting out in chess, Steven guides them to the US Chess Federation’s Official Rules of Chess (2023), page 21, where the En Passant capture rule is explained.

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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)
Tony’s Teasers

1. S. Loyd, 1857.
White mates in 3 moves.

2. S. Loyd, 1857.
White mates in 3 moves.
Tournaments, Classes, and Events

Mechanics’ Institute offers a wide range of chess tournaments, classes, and special events. Our offerings include a monthly Chess Social, free classes for women and Mechanics’ Institute members, an online Chess Café, chess camps for adults and children, and much more.

You can find a list of ongoing and upcoming tournaments here.

Offerings for adults and advanced players can be found here.
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Solutions

Tony's Teasers


2. S. Loyd, 1857. 1.Rb3! Ke5 (If 1...Kc4 2.Qc3# or 1...Kc5 2.Qb4#) 2.Re3! Kd4 (Or 2...Kf4 3.Qg3#) 3.Qc3#.

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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**Fall Tuesday Night Marathon (FIDE-rated)**
- Tuesdays, Sep 5–Oct 17
- 6:30 pm | 7 Rounds | G/60+5
- Members $65
- Non-Members $95

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**Monthly Scholastic Swiss**
- Saturday, September 9
- 10:00 am | 4 Rounds | G/30;d5
- Members $30
- Non-Members $35

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**Monthly Quads**
- Saturday, September 9
- 3:00 pm | 3 Rounds | G/30;d5
- Members $30
- Non-Members $35

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**51st Carroll Capps Memorial (FIDE-rated)**
- Sat–Sun, September 16–17
- 10:00 am | 4 Rounds | G/60+30
- Members $65
- Non-Members $95

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**Full Day Quads**
- Saturday, September 23
- 10:00 am | 3 Rounds | G/60+5
- Members $40
- Non-Members $45

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**22nd J.J. Dolan Memorial**
- Saturday, September 30
- 10:00 am | 4 Rounds | G/40;d5
- Members $40
- Non-Members $50